



LGBTQ+ Youth Perspective in Northern Thailand



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LGBTQ+ Youth

The aim of this study was to explore the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in northern rural Thailand. In a country where non-normative gender and sexuality is tolerated but not openly discussed, Photo Voice methodology was chosen to allow a marginalized group the opportunity to share their experiences.

We explored:

- Religion
- Culture and traditions
- Familial and peer relationships
- Self-expression
- Levels of acceptance
- Institutional oppression
- Situational openness



Outcomes

- Design and implementation of a research project
- Utilizing Participatory Action Research methodology
- Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Skills Developed

- Data collection
- Youth organizing
- Cultural consciousness
- Cultural relevance

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- Ms. Pirakorn Seekham
- Dr. Berit Ingersoll-Dayton
- The participants, who created this project entirely.

• Note: All photos were taken by participants.



Career Connections

- Social Work practice utilizing the arts
- Research around global human rights
- Program development with a focus on cultural fit

Advice

- Learn about the culture as much as possible before you leave the U.S.
- Live like a local
- Be flexible

Lessons Learned

- The extreme importance of building interpersonal relationships and the time commitment that requires
- Navigating systems cross-culturally
- The ability to think on my feet
- Listening to the desires of the community

Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai Thailand

- Located in South East Asia
- Population of about 68 million
- Official language is Thai
- Only country in Southeast Asia that has not been colonized by the west
- 94% of the country is Buddhist
- 50% of population live in rural areas
- Nick-named “ Land of Smiles”

Connections

SW510: Critical Intersectionality (helped me understand my own identities and look at others as complex intersectional individuals)

SW521: IP Individuals, Families, Groups (gave me facilitation skills to really listen and work with groups)

SW648: Issues Global Practice (prepare and utilize knowledge specific to Thailand)

WS531: LGBTQ Studies Seminar (introduced me to a huge amount knowledge in the realm of LGBTQ issues and Queer theory).