

Editorial

Cultural Heritage, Social Structures, and Urban Transformations: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

As societies evolve in response to modernization, urbanization, and globalization, interdisciplinary research plays a critical role in understanding the dynamic intersections of culture, identity, and social transformation. The fifth issue of Journal of Exploration in Interdisciplinary Methodologies (JEIM) presents a compelling collection of studies that explore cultural heritage, gender roles, folklore, spirituality, and the urban landscape, offering a multidimensional analysis of contemporary challenges and opportunities in Thailand and beyond.

The first article, Cultural Heritage and Identity: An Anthropological Study of Hill Tribe Communities in Northern Thailand, by [Prayong Seanburan](#), examines the intricate relationship between cultural preservation and evolving identity among hill tribe groups. This study highlights how external forces, such as globalization and tourism, influence traditional practices while emphasizing the resilience of these communities in maintaining their cultural distinctiveness.

Next, Gender Roles and Social Dynamics: An Anthropological Perspective on Thai Traditional Family Structures, by [Theeraphong Meethaisong](#), explores how deeply rooted gender norms influence social behavior and family structures. The study presents an analysis of historical and cultural factors that have shaped gender roles in Thai society while assessing the impact of modernization on shifting family dynamics.

In, The Evolution of Thai Folklore and Oral Traditions: Preserving Narratives in a Modernized Society, by [Sanya Sasong](#), explores the preservation and adaptation of Thai folklore in contemporary contexts. As digital media transforms how cultural narratives are transmitted, this study highlights the challenges and opportunities of integrating modern storytelling methods with traditional oral traditions.

The fourth article, The Intersection of Buddhism and Animism in Thai Ritual Practices: An Anthropological Analysis, [Ratchaneechay Choeirod](#) investigates how Thai spiritual traditions merge Buddhism and animistic beliefs in ritual practices. The research underscores how these blended traditions serve as a foundation for cultural identity, social cohesion, and environmental consciousness in Thai communities.

Finally, Urbanization and Cultural Shifts: Anthropological Insights into Changing Community Life in Bangkok, by [Phramaha Mit Thiyapanyo and Kritsakorn Onlamul](#), examines the effects of rapid urban growth on social structures, traditional practices, and cultural identities in Bangkok. The research presents a critical analysis of how urban expansion alters community networks, economic opportunities, and cultural expression, calling for sustainable development policies that maintain cultural inclusivity.

Body of knowledge: This issue contributes significantly to the growing body of interdisciplinary research by addressing key socio-cultural and anthropological themes. The study on hill tribe communities deepens our understanding of the adaptability and resilience of cultural identity amid globalization. The examination of gender roles provides valuable insights into the evolution of traditional family structures in response to shifting societal



norms. The research on Buddhism and animism highlights the importance of spiritual integration in maintaining cultural continuity and social harmony. The exploration of folklore underscores the critical role of storytelling in preserving cultural identity, while the study on urbanization in Bangkok offers an essential perspective on balancing modernization with cultural heritage preservation.

Collectively, these contributions reinforce the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration in addressing contemporary social and cultural challenges. The **originality** of this issue (Vol.1 No.5, November 2024) lies in its holistic approach to analyzing the intersections between tradition, modernity, and socio-economic transformation.

As we continue to explore these critical issues, we invite scholars, educators, and policymakers to engage with these findings and contribute to the growing discourse on interdisciplinary methodologies. By fostering academic collaboration across diverse fields, we can develop more comprehensive and sustainable solutions for preserving cultural heritage and promoting social progress.

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