

**The Gender Group
Center for East and Southeast Asian Studies
Lund University
January 2007**

The Gender Group at the Center for East and Southeast Asian Studies has been active since the fall of 2003. Today the core Group includes Sidsel Hansson, Kristina Jönsson, Monica Lindberg-Falk, and Helle Rydstrom all of whom are affiliated with the Center. However, even other scholars from the Center and Lund University as well as visiting scholars participate in the Group's activities; e.g. Marina Svensson, Center for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Katarina Kinnvall, Political Science, and Kristina Göransson, Social Anthropology, all at Lund University).

Before being fully established as a functioning Group at the Center, the Group was part of a collaborative network which included individual Group members and scholars from the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies in Copenhagen (Cecilia Milwertz) and the Center for Asian Studies at Gothenburg University (Wil Burghoorn).

The Gender Group even provides the foundation for the MA course on Gender in Asia which is offered annually at the Center. Visiting scholars affiliated with The Group frequently give lectures at the Center and, in doing so, they offer new inspiration for students as well as scholars at the Center with an interest in gender issues.

Focus:

In individual projects and coordinated activities, the Gender Group examines the ways in which gender in Asia is configured at a local, national, and transnational scale. The wide range of understandings and practices with respect to the roles and powers of women and men are in the focus of the studies of the Gender Group. The Group explores theoretical, empirical, and methodological interventions in various social science fields in order to highlight how women and men of different ages, ethnicities, sexualities, and social backgrounds shape themselves as gendered persons, while simultaneously also being shaped by their culture. The group thus is concerned about the intersections between individual agency and cultural constitutions of women and men.

In refereed publications Group members have discussed critical gender issues in Asia such as gendered abuse, HIV/AIDS, poverty, education, crises management, and religious subordination and how various local strategies and agencies are employed in order to cope with gendered inequalities. Such academic work even relates to the level of policy implementation, as Group members collaborate with local NGOs, movements, and scholars in Asia that aim at equalizing the status of women and men within particular Asian societies.

Projects:

The work of the Gender Group is based on individually shaped research projects which, in turn, are intimately intertwined with various national and international activities that focus on gender issues:

S. Hansson (Assistant Professor); *Gender, Education, and Environment: Women's Activism, Self-Help and Informal Education in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, and Rajasthan in India.*

K. Jönsson (Assistant Professor); *Policymaking in a Globalizing World: HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia.*

M. Lindberg-Falk (Assistant Professor); *In the Wake of the Tsunami: An anthropological Study of Suffering and Ways to Recovery for People in Thai Coastal Villages.*

H. Rydstrom (Associate Professor); *Violences, Desires, and Genders in Vietnam.*

Networks:

- The Nordic Gendering Asia Network.
- Gender and Development Network (GADNET).
- The European Science Foundation Gender Network.
- The Gender—Vietnam Network.
- The Security Network.
- Sakyadhita: The International Association of Buddhist Women and Feminist Studies.
- Thai Gender Network (ASPSW).
- WomenPowerConnect (Indian Gender Network).
- HIV/AIDS Network, Göteborg University.
- HIV/AIDS Network, Lund University (HARNESS).
- SIDA Gender Helpdesk.
- Sino-Nordic Women and Gender Studies Conferences.

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, and Panels Organized by Group Members:

- The Focus Asia Workshop: “The Intersections between Desires and Violences” (Lund University, April 2007).
- Conference “Religion on the Borders” (Södertörn, April 2007).
- GADNET Workshop; “DreamCatcher” (Göteborg, May 2007).
- The Gendering Asia bi-annual Conference (Iceland, June 2007).
- International Convention of Asian Scholars (Kuala Lumpur, August 2007).
- “Configurations of Security” (Lund, November 2007).
- GADNET conference: “A World in Transition: New Challenges for Gender Justice” (New Delhi, December 2006).
- GADNET Workshop “Methodology, Gender, and Power” (New Delhi, December 2006).
- Panel on Women's Movements in Asia, EUROSEAS (Neapels, September 2007)

Book Series:

- The Gendering Asia Book Series (published by NIAS Press). Series editors Helle Rydstrom, Cecilia Milwertz, and Wil Burghoorn.

Relevant Publications (from 2003 when the Group was established and onwards):

S. Hansson

Forthcoming

- a** **Hansson, S.** (Together with C. Kinnvall). 'Gender, Multiculturalism, and Religious Discourse(s): Women as Symbols in Hindu Nationalism'. In H. Rydstrom (ed.). *Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting, and Recognizing Women and Men*. (Submitted).

Published

- 2004** **Hansson, S.** (Together with C. Kinnvall) (2004) 'Women as Symbols in Religious Nationalist Discourses'. *Chakra*, Vol.1, No. 1, pp. 7-30. (Peer-reviewed).
- 2003** **Hansson, S.** 'Genusrelationer vid Gangesfloden i Varanasi, Indien'. In C. Raudvere (ed.). *Stigma, Status och Strategier*. Studentlitteratur, Lund.

K. Jönsson

Forthcoming

- a** **Jönsson, K.** 'Gendered Inequalities: HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia'. In H. Rydstrom (ed.). *Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting, and Recognizing Women and Men*. (Submitted).

M. Lindberg-Falk

Forthcoming

- a** **Lindberg-Falk, M.** 'Social Engagement and Gender Inequality in Thai Buddhism'. In H. Rydstrom (ed.). *Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting, and Recognizing Women and Men*. (Submitted).
- b** **Lindberg-Falk, M.** 'Dhamma, politik och utveckling: Socialt engagerad buddhism i Thailand'. *Chakra: Tidskrift för Indiska religioner*. (Submitted).

In press

- a** **Lindberg-Falk, M.** *Making Fields of Merit: Buddhist Female Ascetics and Gendered Orders in Thailand*. NIAS Press/Washington University Press. Gendering Asia Series. (Peer-reviewed).
- b** **Lindberg Falk, M.** 'Gender, Social Engagement and Religious Change in Thailand'. *Journal of Tai Culture*, vol. 19. (Peer-reviewed).
- c** **Lindberg-Falk, M.** 'Gender and Religious Legitimacy in Thailand'. In Qi Wang, K. Iwanaga, C. Milwertz, W. Burghoorn (eds.). *Gender Politics in Asia – Processes of Change & Empowerment*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press. Gendering Asia Series. (Peer-reviewed).

Published

- 2006** **Lindberg-Falk, M.** 'A Silent Undercurrent: The significance of Nuns' Socially Engaged Buddhist Practice in Thailand'. In K. Lekshe Tsomo (ed) *Out of the Shadows: Socially Engaged Buddhist Women*. Delhi: Indian Books Centre.
- 2005a** **Lindberg Falk, M.** "Flodvågen – Thailand: En nunnas reflektioner". *Chakra: Tidskrift för Indiska Religioner*, nr 3.
- b** **Lindberg Falk, M.** 'Genus och meritgivande allmosor i Thailand'. *Svensk Religionshistorisk Årsskrift*, vol. 14.
- 2004** **Lindberg Falk, M.** 'Thailändsk Bhikkhuni-sangha: Mor och dotter förändrar den monastiska ordningen'. *Chakra: Tidskrift för Indiska religioner*, nr. 1. (Peer-reviewed)
- 2003** **Lindberg-Falk, M.** 'Thailändska nunnor och kvinnliga munkar'. Förändring och utmaning av den buddhistiska ordningen. *Kvinnovetenskaplig tidskrift*, nr. 3/4: 25-38.

H. Rydstrom

Forthcoming

- a** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Introduction on Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting, and Recognizing Women and Men'. In H. Rydstrom (ed.). *Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting, and Recognizing Women and Men*. (Submitted).
- b** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Moralizing Sexuality: Young Women in Rural Vietnam'. To appear in M. Heintz (ed.). *Rethinking Morality in Anthropology*. Max Planck Institute, Leipzig and Bergh Publishers. (Submitted).
- c** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Compromised Ideals: Family Life and the Recognition of Women in Vietnam'. In H. Rydstrom (ed.). *Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting, and Recognizing Women and Men*. (Submitted).
- d** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Facing the Other: Recognition, Gender, and Inclusive Education in Contemporary Vietnam'. (Submitted).

In press

- a** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Proximity and Distance: Memories of the War between Vietnam and the USA'. To appear in *Journal of Anthropological Forum*. (Peer-reviewed, accepted).

Published

- 2006a** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Masculinity and Punishment: Men's Upbringing of Boys in Rural Vietnam'. Special issue on anthropology and children, edited by O. Nieuwenhuys and P. Reynolds. *Journal of Childhood*, vol. 13:3, pp. 329-348. (Peer-reviewed).
- b** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Sexual Desires and 'Social Evils': Young Women in Rural Vietnam'. *Journal of Gender, Place, and Culture*, vol. 13:3, pp. 283-303. (Peer-reviewed).
- c** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Bridging Pedagogical Traditions: Educational Traditions in Vietnam and Sweden'. (Together with T. Achen). *Pacific Asian Education Journal*, vol. 18:1, pp. 137-152. (Peer-reviewed).
- 2005** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Moral og 'Normalisering': Funktionshindrede Elever i Vietnamesiske Skoler' ('Morality and 'Normalization': Disabled Students in Vietnamese Schools'). *Svensk Religionshistorisk Årsskrift*, vol. 14, pp. 182-205.
- 2004a** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Female and Male 'Characters': Images of Identification and Self-Identification for Rural Vietnamese Children and Adolescents'. In L. Drummond and H. Rydstrom (eds.). *Gender Practices in Contemporary Vietnam*. Singapore: Singapore University Press. (Peer-reviewed).
- b** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Introduction'. (Together with L. Drummond). In L. Drummond and H. Rydstrom (eds.). *Gender Practices in Contemporary Vietnam*. Singapore: Singapore University Press. (Peer-reviewed).
- 2003a** **Rydstrom, H.** *Embodying Morality: Growing Up In Rural Northern Vietnam*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. (Peer-reviewed).
- b** **Rydstrom, H.** 'Encountering Hot Anger': Domestic Violence in Contemporary Vietnam'. *Violence Against Women*, vol. 9:6, pp. 676-697. (Peer-reviewed).