

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)  
announces an Informal Talk

by

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**Inscriptions from Northern Thailand in  
Dhamma Script**



The region of present-day northern Thailand has had an eventful and interesting history. To understand the history and culture of today's Thailand and the neighbouring regions of northern Thailand, an accurate knowledge of the history of northern Thailand is essential. The exploration and study of language and writing of this region is an area of research which

may provide the basis for many other areas of history and social sciences. Northern Thailand has a very comprehensive, very well preserved and documented written culture. Stone inscriptions and inscriptions on mostly religious objects, in addition to manuscripts on palm leaf and on local paper (Samut Khoy) are the most important surviving written sources. Looking at the starting point in terms of region, history and written sources, corpus linguistic research as part of linguistics is a very good and proven method, to research and analyse the language of this region accurately. There are somewhat more than 1,200 documented objects, which carry inscriptions.

The current project is funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). It goes along with my dissertation on stone inscriptions of northern Thailand at the Humboldt University of Berlin. The project is a both chronological and typological follow-up to the dissertation. The main script type of the dissertations inscriptions is written in Fak Kham. Another used script type is the Dhamma Lanna script. The aim of the introduced project, is to linguistically examine the corpus of Dhamma Lanna inscriptions.

The lecture will give an introduction and overview of the current status of research. Discussed topics will go along with all main objectives of the project. One objective is a glossary of the entire vocabulary of all included Dhamma inscriptions. It is planned that the glossary will also have English translations in addition to the standard translation into modern Thai. The glossary will provide an introductory grammar to these inscription texts. Texts of included inscriptions will be translated into English. Relevant objects and inscription carriers will then be published in a separate catalogue. All these objectives will be part of this lecture.

**Monday, 18 June 2018 at 6 pm**

Room 0001, CSMC

