



# The Syncretism between Thai and Chinese Cultures in Wat Koh Community Phetchaburi



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# **The presentation outline**

## **1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background and significance of the study**

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**1) History and way of life**

**2) Culture and traditions**

# Introduction

## Phetchaburi Thailand 佛丕府



[www.German-Thai-Link.de](http://www.German-Thai-Link.de)



# Phetchaburi, Thailand



# Background and Significance of the study



**Wat Koh Community  
Phetchaburi, Thailand**

**Ayutthaya period (1351-1767)**



**Goldsmith**

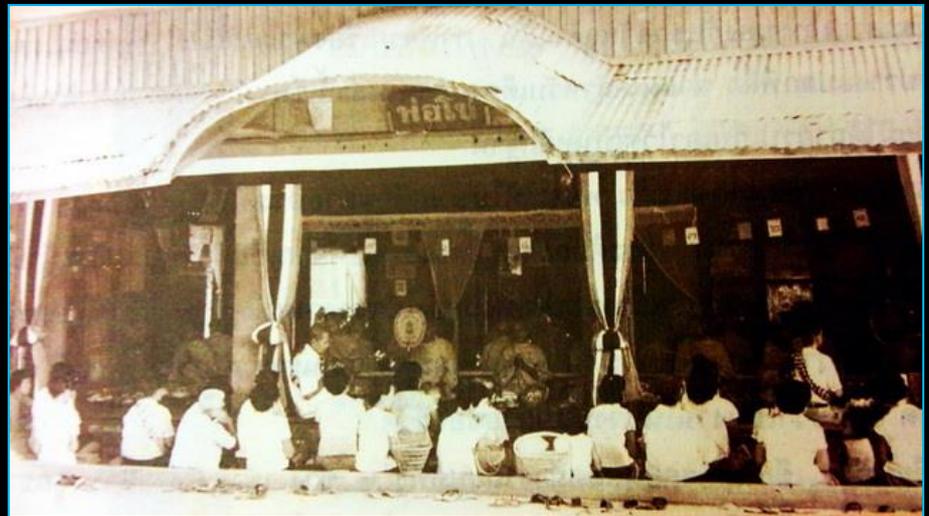


**Wood cavers**



**Traditional sweet  
cook**

# “Alive Ayutthaya”



# Background and Significance of the study



**Chinese Community**

# Background and Significance of the study



Way of life



Traditions



Chinese Shrines and Vegetarian houses

# Research objectives

To study

- History
- Way of life
- Traditions
- Shrines and Vegetarian houses

Thai-Chinese  
People

- Syncretism between Thai and Chinese cultures in Wat Koh community, Phetchaburi

# Research Methodology

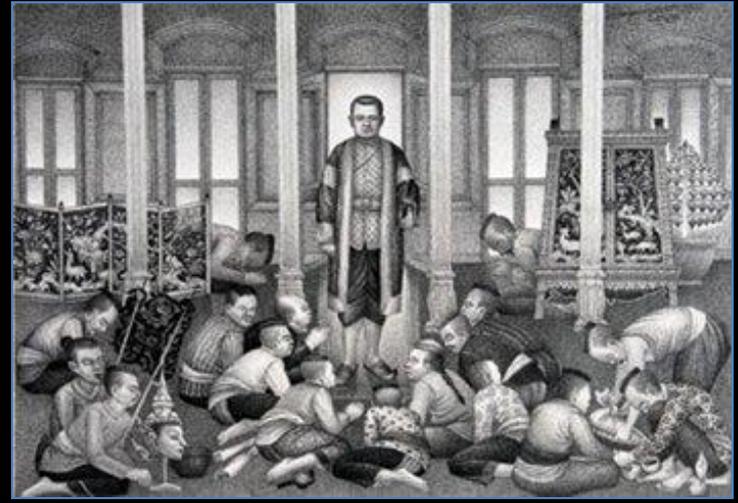


# Research results



# Research results

## History



# Research results

## Way of life



# Traditions

春节



Chinese new year ceremony

# Traditions

# 中元节



**Chinese Spirit festival  
Including Ting Krajard (Charity) festival**

# Traditions

齋



素食节

Vegetarian festival

# Traditions

## Dizhu Ye (地主爷) (House Protecting God)



# Research results

## Traditions

- Most of the samples still always attended the activities held in the shrines nearby according to Chinese tradition.
- Whereas some fully became Buddhists, paying respect to the Buddha image, giving alms to Buddhist monks, and making merits at Buddhist temples nearby.

# Research results

## 6 Shrines and vegetarian houses



# Research results

## 6 Shrines and vegetarian houses

### The Chinese Gods



**Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva**  
(大愿地藏菩萨)



**Goddess of Mercy**  
(观世音菩萨)



**Ben Tou Gong**  
(本头公)

# Research results

Syncretism between Thai and Chinese cultures  
in Wat Koh community Phetchaburi



The murals on the wall of Wat Koh Temple

# Research results

Syncretism between Thai and Chinese cultures in Wat Koh community Phetchaburi



The murals on the wall of Wat Koh Temple

# Syncretism between Thai and Chinese cultures in Wat Koh community Phetchaburi



**Thai angel in Chinese costume**

# Syncretism between Thai and Chinese cultures in Wat Koh community Phetchaburi



The murals on the wall of Wat Koh Temple

# Politics of Men's Hair in Chinese History

(a condensed timeline)



## Antiquity to Ming Dynasty

(prior to Queue Order in 1645)

### Long, uncut & bound hair:

social control, Confucian filial piety, Han Chinese culturalism, virility

### Cutting hair / tonsured head:

anti-social control, unfilial to parents, uncivilized, barbarian



## Qing Dynasty

(1644 - 1912)

### Tonsured head & queue:

social control, symbol of Han Chinese submission to Manchurian authority

### Full hair / short hair:

anti-social control, treason to Manchurian government = execution



## Republic of China

(after Revolution of 1911-12)

### Short hair:

social control, nationalism, liberation from Manchu oppression, Westernization

### Tonsured head & queue:

anti-social control, backwardness, deviant, loyalist to former Qing regime



# Research results

## Syncretism between Thai and Chinese cultures in Wat Koh community Phetchaburi



Wat Koh museum

# Discussion

## History and way of life



**Qing dynasty of China  
(1644-1912)**

# Discussion

## Culture and traditions

- 1) Chinese social context having no expectation or coercion for the descendants to practice
- 2) Economic limitation hindering the complete maintenance of various rites due to the high cost
- 3) Chinese people with Thai education thinking that their Chinese rites could be substituted by Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist rites
- 4) Chinese youths having no accurate understanding on their Chinese festivals
- 5) Educated Chinese people having so high tendency to assimilate to Thai culture that they did not like practicing pure Chinese rites.

# Discussion

## Culture and traditions



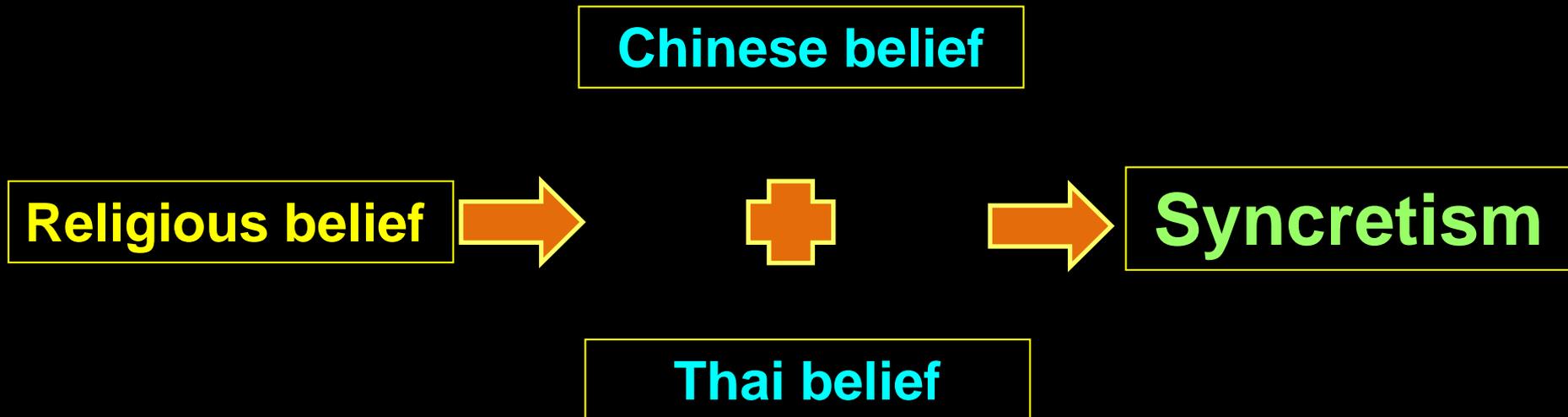
**“City Pillar God”**  
(城隍公)



**“Old Father”**  
Buddha image

# Discussion

## Culture and traditions



# Discussion

## Culture and traditions



The 2-way process of assimilation

# Wat Koh Community Phetchaburi, Thailand

