

Abstract

This thesis entitled "Undertakers and the Management of Corpses" aims to explore the status, roles and duties of the undertakers through the management of corpses and the meaning of death ritual in Mon Communities on the Mae Klong River Side, Ban Pong District, Ratchaburi Province. Moreover, the way the community defines undertakers and how the latter define themselves is so significant.

The study shows that undertakers in Mon Communities have no fixed or clear-cut status and role. There are some people who only have duties when someone in the village die. However, after the ceremony, no duty is to be continued. So their status is a liminal one.

The findings, then, undermine the current fixed understanding of the role of undertakers and will help us instead see how the fluid roles of these individuals and their communities weave people more deeply in their relationships and thereby strengthen their communities.