disturbing conventions

DECENTERING THAI LITERARY CULTURES

EDITED BY RACHEL V. HARRISON

FOREWORD BY THONGCHAI WINICHAKUL

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Contents

Not	e on Transliteration and Referencing	xi
For	eword: Decentering Thai Studies Thongchai Winichakul	xiii
Ack	nowledgements	xxi
Intr	oduction: Theoretical F(r)ictions: Cultures of Criticism,	
	Modes of Colonialism and Thai Literary Studies Rachel V. Harrison	1
Part	t I: Implication, Influence and the Colonial West	35
1	The Royal Society of Literature, or, the Birth of Modern	
	Cultural Authority in Thailand Thanapol Limapichart	37
2	Through the Literary Lens: Vajiravudh's Writings and	
	Siam's Negotiations with the Imperial West Thosaeng Chaochuti	63
3	Mummies, Sex and Sand: Bangkok Gothic and the	70
	Adventure Fiction of "Victorian" Siam Rachel V. Harrison	79
Part II: Conceptualising Thai Modernity through Its Others: The Rural-Urban Divide		101
4	Luk Isan (A Child of the Northeast): Techniques of	
	Composition and Issues of Ethnic Culture Nopphorn Prachakul	105
5	Orientalisation from Within and Consuming the Modern	
	World: Rural-Urban Contact in Thai Popular Literature of the 1970s	111
	Janit Feangfu	111
Part	III: Individuality, Noncomformity and Sexuality: Reading	405
-	Against the Grain	137
6	Chat Kobjitti's The Verdict and Somsong's Appeal Chusak Pattarakulvanit	147

CULTURAL STUDIES

"Located at the crossroads of postcolonial studies, literary theory and world literature, *Disturbing Conventions* opens a fascinating field of contemporary literary production and theoretical reflection. This wide-ranging collection should be read by anyone interested in thinking freshly about the uses and transformations of global theory in a complex and contested local environment". —DAVID DAMROSCH, Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Literature, Harvard University

"Disturbing Conventions challenges head-on the conservative nationalist ideology that has dominated Thai literary studies, assembling for the first time in one volume many of the leading figures bringing critical theoretical perspectives to Thai cultural studies and comparative literature... In throwing down the gauntlet to postcolonial studies to incorporate semi-colonial societies into a genuinely global critique of imperialism, this book places modern Thai literature centre stage in debates on the direction of twenty-first-century critical theory".

-PETER A. JACKSON, Professor of Thai Cultural Studies, Australian National University

"Through an extraordinarily lively critical conversation and path-breaking analytical work, Disturbing Conventions pokes at taboos in Thai literary culture, unearths alternative genealogies and suggests new methodologies and avenues of enquiry. A must-read for anyone interested in critical Asian studies, Disturbing Conventions offers exciting possibilities for comparative work in cultural studies". —FRANCESCA ORSINI,

Professor of Hindi and South Asian Literature, SOAS University of London

Disturbing Conventions draws the study of Thai literature out of the relative isolation that has to date impeded its participation in the wider field of comparative and world literature. Predominantly penned by Thai academics, this collection decentres Thai literary studies in order to move beyond the traditionalist, conservative concerns of the academy, which have, until relatively recently, foreclosed the use of "Western" theory in the study of Thai literature. This book introduces new frames of analysis to the study of Thai literature to bring it into dialogue with debates in wider fields and the world beyond its national borders. As a result, *Disturbing Conventions* offers an essential contribution to the comparative study of world literature and Asian cultural studies.

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