

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THAI LADYBOY FIELDWORK INTERVIEWS: GENDER VARIANCE

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Today's Date: June 18 , 2007
Location of Interview: Ban Soua Kin Waw

Name: Nan
Pseudonym: Ging

Year of birth: age 28

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Family ancestry:
Mother's Side: Isan
Father's Side: Isan

Age of Mother at birth: age 62
Age of Father at birth: age 58

Family social status father soldier mother homemaker

Where lived when growing up (anywhere other than native land?) Kaedam
Position in birth order: #_5_ out of __5_ total children
of older brothers: 2
of older sisters 2
of younger brothers: 0
of younger sisters: 0

Attitude and closeness of S (subject) toward Mother: I like my mother and feel very close to her.

Attitude and closeness of S (subject) toward Father: I like my father and feel close to him, but a little closer to my mother.

Attitude and closeness of S (subject) toward siblings: I love my sisters and brothers.

Attitude and closeness of S (subject) toward grandparents: none,

Attitude and closeness of S (subject) toward other relatives: all my relatives are very nice to me.

GENERAL SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD GENDER VARIANCE

Do you prefer to use the word kathoey, or ladyboy, or something else?

I prefer ladyboy

Define in your own words what is a _____

(it is important to use local term for Alternative Gender, androgynous or Transgender)

ex. mahu, fa'afafine, le-le, banci, baklak, kathoey, etc.)

A man that wants to be like a lady.

I am happy in my life to be a ladyboy, better than being a man.

My mother did not like a boy, and she wanted another daughter, and she raised me like a girl.

I accept myself as I am. And I do not want to make any other changes to myself.

When do you remember first seeing or meeting a ladyboy? Age 6

What was your reaction to that person? I felt happy because ladyboys have a good heart and became a good friend.

What are the reactions of other people in your community to a person who is a ladyboy?

People feel very good about ladyboys, and are happy when they see us.

There are many ladyboys in Isan. Not many places accept ladyboys as much as people accept us here. Because we want to be beautiful and popular. We all have many friends.

We are good workers and good people, and good heart, and everyone sees that.

I have never understood why some people in other countries do not respect ladyboys.

What are the reactions of non-Isan Thai to ladyboys? Same attitudes all over Thailand.

Did you ever travel to other areas outside your native Isan area?

I visited Laos for one week and found that Lao people like ladyboys

I visited Burma when I was 20 years old and went for one day, and found that Burmese people do not like ladyboys. Burma is very poor

Did you have any particular skills or abilities as a child?

I was good at studying in school. Especially science. I wanted to study English and French

I was good at cutting hair.

What kind of play did you enjoy doing as a child?
Reading books, especially fairy tales. Sleeping and eating and traveling to other villages.
I wanted to play with dicks.

Did you play mostly with boys, girls, both, or by yourself?
I wanted to play with boys,. But I played with girls in daytime and boys at night.

Did you see yourself as typical of other boys?
Were you in any way different from other boys?
If different, How?
I remember feeling like a lady from my earliest memories, from age six.

Did others see you as different from other boys?
Who? Mo, Fa, Sibs, friends
Everyone saw me as different,

If different, did they ever call you names? Called me kathoey and alien
What names?
How did you feel when they called you this? I did not let it bother me. I didn't mind.

Did your Mother try to encourage you to act like other boys, no
or did she allow you to act the way you wanted? She accepted me the way I am.
How much or little pressure?

Did your Father try to encourage you to act like other boys, no
or did he allow you to act the way you wanted?
How much or little pressure?

When you were an adolescent, what activities did you most enjoy doing?
I wanted to have a boyfriend to love and kiss and have sex.
In school I liked math, I wanted to learn English but I did not like the way they taught it here.

Who did you spend most of your free time with?
I stopped school at age 24. I went to Rajapat University majoring in marketing. I liked everything I took in university. I had a 2.2 grade point average for six years. I was taking drugs and it destroyed my brain. I thought I was beautiful and I did not have to study. I wanted a boyfriend

In adolescence, who were your closest friends?
(girls, boys, both, or none?) man

Did your Mother support your activities? yes

Did your Father support your activities? Yes

At what age do you remember feeling erotic thoughts as a child? I was attracted to men from when I was five years old, but I understood sex only by age 15, and knew that I wanted to have sex with men then.

Toward whom? Friend same age

What age did you first engage in sexual behavior? 19

How did you feel about this experience afterwards? I did not like the first time, because it hurt me. I felt like I was in hell.

Did you tell anyone? No

Did anyone ever force or coerce you to have sex when you did not want to? Yes at age 17 18 If yes, what age were you? What age were they? At a molum concert a man age 18 was drunk and he tried to have sex with me. I felt no good.

Did this experience change you afterwards? No long term effects.

Have you ever had any erotic desires for females? No never.

PRESENT SELF-IMAGE:

Describe your ideal lover:

Older 35 or older, I feel good.

Would you like to marry one person permanently,
or be single with different love partners?

Why?

I want to get married and have a family.

Do you think you can accomplish this ideal? yes

Would you like to change your body or personality in any way? No

What are the advantages to being a ladyboy? Feeling good, not upset.

Being a man would be no good for me. My mother wanted a daughter not a son.

What are the disadvantages to being _____? none

Do you ever feel depressed about being _____? No

Do you ever feel lucky, especially chosen, or blessed to be _____? yes

Why do you think you are _____?

I am beautiful like a lady.

Ideally, what would you like your life to be like when you are __ years old (give about 20 years into future)?

I want to have a buffalo farm, raise rice, and live there with my husband.

What would you like your life to be like when you are elderly?

I never thought about being old. I hope I can have someone to take care of me.

Who do you think will take care of you in your old age? My sister's son or daughter.

Have you ever thought about adopting children? Yes, I would like to adopt a son.

Is that ever done by ladyboys? no

KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER PEOPLES' AFFECTIONAL INTERESTS:

Are there other ladyboys you know?

Do you associate with them very much? Yes

Why? I like because they have good hearts.

If you have sex with males, how do they identify their own sexuality?

They see themselves as a man. Not as gay.