

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THAI KATHOEY FIELDWORK INTERVIEWS: GENDER VARIANCE

WALTER L. WILLIAMS

Professor of Anthropology  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles CA 90089- USA

Today's Date: June 7, 2007

Location of Interview: Ban Soua Kin Waw

Name: Toy

Pseudonym: Anuttala (flower)

Year of birth: age 36 born 1971

### FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Family ancestry:

Mother's Side: Ban Soua Kin Waw

Father's Side: Ban Soua Kin Waw

Age of Mother at birth:

Age of Father at birth:

I was born 36 years ago in 1971, into a farming family in this village near Maha Sarakham where I have lived my whole life. My family owns our own land, and besides growing rice and trees we have always had about five cows and five buffaloes. So while we did not have much money we were about in the middle of society in this village. I was the ninth child out of ten children of my mother and father. I have five older sisters, three older brothers, and one younger brother. My father was always very good to me, and I love him a lot. I love my mother also, but I have mixed feelings about her because she was a good mother most of the time but she would drink whiskey a lot and when she was drunk she would hit us children. All my brothers and sisters were always very nice to me when we were growing up, as were all my other relatives. But when one of my sisters got married, her new husband did not like ladyboys and was very nasty to me. That was when I was 20 years old, and he was prejudiced against me from the first time he met me. I hated him, and I refuse to talk to him all these years. My sister loved him a lot, and she did not stick up for me, so I have not been as close to her after that. But I remain very close to all my other relatives, who adore me.

### GENERAL SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD GENDER VARIANCE

Define in your own words what is a \_kathoe\_ \_\_\_\_\_

(it is important to use local term for Alternative Gender (KATHOEY below)

a male who wants to be a lady  
a man who loves a man is gay  
a gay could love both men and women  
but a kathoey loves only men. Only one time did I see a male who wants to be a lady,  
who is sexually attracted to women. There is no word in Thai language to describe  
someone like that.

There are only kathoey in this village, no gay men. Everybody here likes kathoey except  
for one or two. One man has a kathoey son, and he does not like that and prohibits the  
son from dressing in women's clothes. He hates his father because he does not accept  
him, and he will not even speak to his father.

One boy in Kaedam, he has a farang boyfriend, named Ming who dresses like a man to  
hide that he is kathoey, but people know that he is kathoey anyway.

Is that word acceptable to use in polite conversation?  
I do not feel good if someone calls me kathoey. Because I would prefer someone to call  
me a lady. Ladyboy is OK also.

I have a younger cousin who is ladyboy.[Quan]. Sometime Quan's father does not like  
Quan being ladyboy. And complains about him.

From my earliest memories I felt like I was a woman. When I was five or six years old, I  
remember seeing ladyboys. I went out with them and we all sang karaoke. I had a  
wonderful time with them. I had a very happy feeling to see those people who were like  
me. The school would not allow me to dress like a lady, but when I was at home I started  
dressing like a girl when I was ten years old. I stopped school when I was 13, because my  
family could not afford to send me to high school. After I stopped school I dressed in  
women's clothing all the time. When I was fifteen years old, I went to a temple festival  
and saw a young ladyboy my age dressed as a woman. I was very happy.

Did you have any particular skills or abilities as a child?  
I liked to put on face cream and body cream and wear makeup.  
Age 15 I wanted to be Miss Universe.

When I was ten years old I became sexually attracted to my teacher a man. I realized my  
attractions were to men. When I was 17 I had sex for the first time. He was 18 years old,  
very handsome, and he asked me to give him a massage. I started getting excited, and my  
dick got very hard. He told me what to do and I sucked him, and then he fucked me. It  
hurt me a lot since he had a big dick and it was my first time. Unfortunately, he had a  
sexual disease and he gave it to me. I had to go to the hospital and was sick for three  
months. I loved having sex with him, but it hurt so much. After I got well I went back to  
him, and we have been together as lovers up to the present. We have been together for  
almost twenty years. He has been very good to me, but two months ago this lady moved  
in with him and lives with him now. But the lady only wants him for his money, and so  
he likes me better. He makes 200 baht per day and she takes his money. I feel very  
jealous that he has her living there with him. Before she moved in, I was there at his

house. Now he wants to get rid of her and he has told her to leave, but he cannot force himself to make her move out because she has nowhere else to live.

I have sex with many men, but I never have the deep feelings of love that I have with my boyfriend. I like a change, so I enjoy with several men. Sometimes they give me money if I need it, and sometimes I give them money if they do not have any.

I get money from working in rice farming, and also I work cutting sugarcane. I can do any kind of work, I can paint a house. I also make money by giving massage.