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**Ruth-Inge in 2003**

**Locations in Thailand**

Bangkok (working for the National Museum), Chiangmai (teaching English at the University of Chiang Mai), traveling extensively to and throughout Thailand (collecting data for dissertation and other books. books



**Ruth-Inge in 1962**

**Thai Name**

Ruchi ("light, splendor")

**Research fields:**

Comparative Religion  
Consciousness Studies  
Psychological Anthropology  
Ethnomedicine

**Current passion**

Teaching, writing, providing and protecting the space for humanity and creativity to emerge

**Highlights since Peace Corps Training:**

At the time you went to Thailand, my father took ill and I went back to Berlin (Germany) to care for him. After two months, I took him home from the hospital and he lived another two years. Then my mother needed assistance and I stayed with her for another two years.

When she died in 1967, I returned to Berkeley and began to study at the University of California. Taking one exam after another, I was granted my B.A. in Anthropology in 1969, my M.A. in Asian Studies in 1971, and my Ph.D. in Asian Studies in 1974. I wrote my dissertation on "The Role of the Sangha in Modern Thailand."

I taught Indian Religions at Mills College, and spent, in 1978/79, another year in Southeast Asia on a Fullbright-Hays Research grant. This research is reflected in my book "Trance and Healing in Southeast Asia Today" (White Lotus, Bangkok, 1988/1997).

In 1981, I founded Independent Scholars of Asia, Inc. and have served as its national director now for over 21 years, networking, promoting Asian experts, publishing three annual newsletters and also the research of our members..

Since 1984, I am also calling the Annual International Conference on the Study of Shamanism and Alternative Modes of Healing in San Rafael, CA, publishing the proceedings, which contain the essays of 40 experts and the transcribed discussions.

Since the 70's, I have conducted fieldwork in Burma, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, investigating religious practices and the work of traditional healers. I also traveled extensively through Europe (Austria, Azores, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland), Australia, Asia (Bali, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Java, Korea, Nias, Sumatra, Taiwan), Africa (Egypt, North Africa), the Americas (Guatemala, Mexico), and New Zealand.

I speak five modern European languages – German (mother tongue), English, French, Italian and Spanish; two classical ones – Greek and Latin; and four Asian languages – Thai, Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit.

I am a member of eleven professional organizations and hold license in acupuncture (Singapore), Reiki I and II (Los Angeles), and Chinese Herbal Medicine (Taoist Foundation, San Francisco).

I have published six books, e.g., my dissertation (published in Taiwan), “Tham Khwan, How to Contain the Essence of Life” (my Masters Thesis; Singapore University Press, 1982), “Shamans of the 20th Century” (Irvington, 1991), “Fire from Heaven: The Nature and Function of Rituals” (Greenwood, 2000), “The Light in the Dark, the Search for Visions” (Independent Scholars of Asia, Inc., 2001) and edited twenty books.

I also published over one hundred essays in professional journals.

**PLEASE NOTE that in the following I leave out information that has been mentioned above.**

"Who are the Shamans of the 20th Century," in *What is a Shaman? Shamans, Healers, and Medicine from a Western Point of View*, eds Amelie Schenk and Christian Raetsch. Berlin, Germany: Verlag fuer Wissenschaft und Bildung, 1999, pp.85-96.

"Multiplicity in Cross-Cultural Perspective," in *The Plural Self, Multiplicity in Everyday Life*, eds John Rowan and Mick Cooper. London: Sage Publications, 1999, pp.151-167.

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"The Relevance of Shamanism in the 21st Century: Has Shamanism Become Something Else?" in *Proceedings of the Bi-Annual Meeting of the International Society for Shamanic Research*, September

1-8, 1997, Chantilly, France.

"The Process of Being," in *Proceedings of the 14th Annual International Conference on the Study of Shamanism and Alternative Modes of Healing, Phoenix Rising V, August 30 to September 1, 1997, Santa Sabina Center, San Rafael, California*, ed. Ruth-Inge Heinze. Berkeley, CA: Independent Scholars of Asia, Inc., 1997, pp.7-13.

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"Signs and Symbols, Myths and Archetypes," in *Proceedings of the 13th Annual International Conference on the Study of Shamanism and Alternative Modes of Healing, August 31 to September 2, 1996, Santa Sabina Center, San Rafael, CA*, ed. Ruth-Inge Heinze. Berkeley, CA: Independent Scholars of Asia, Inc., 1996, pp.7-26.

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"Life Patterns of Women Active in Parapsychology," in *Women and Parapsychology, Proceedings of the International Conference of the Parapsychological Foundation, Dublin, Ireland, September 21-22, 1991*, eds Lisette Coly & Rhea White. New York: Parapsychological Foundation, 1994, pp.194-208 and 214-217.

"Alternate States of Consciousness," in *Silver Threads*, eds Jean Millay, Dean Brown and Beverly Kane. New York: Praeger, 1993, pp.201-209.

"The Dynamics of Chinese Religion: A Recent Case of Spirit Possession in Singapore," in *Chinese Beliefs and Practices in Southeast Asia*, ed. Cheu Hock-Tong. Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications, 1993, pp.187-197.

"The Relationship between Folk and Elite Religions: The Case of Thailand," in *The Realm of the Sacred, Verbal Symbolism and Ritual Structure*, ed. Sitakant Mahapatra. Delhi, India: Oxford University Press, 1992, pp.13-30.

"Role et Fonctions actuels des chamanes en Asie du Sud-Est: les etats alterne de la conscience," in *Diogene*, 158. (Paris, Gallimard, Avril-Juin 1992):119-129; [English translation: Providence: Berg Publishers, 1992, pp.133-144.

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"The Element of Spontaneity in Precognition, Telepathy, and Channelling," in *Spontaneous Psi, Depth Psychology and Parapsychology* (Proceedings of the International Conference of the Parapsychology Foundation, Berkeley, 1987), eds Betty Shapin and Lisette Coly. New York: Parapsychology Foundation, 1992, pp.82-99.

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"Chapter 7 - Ruth-Inge Heinze," in *Childlessness Transformed, Stories of Alternative Parenting*, ed. Jane English. Mt.Shasta, CA: Earth Heart, 1989, pp.57-63.

"The Multiplicity of Being: Multiple Personality or Possession," in *Proceedings of the 4th Annual International Conference on the Study of Shamanism and Alternative Modes of Healing*, ed. Ruth-Inge Heinze. Berkeley, CA: Independent Scholars of Asia, Inc., 1989, pp.1-11; also AASC Newsletter, 4:4 (December 1988):1-9.

"Profile 6," in *Shape Shifters*, ed. Michele Jamal. New York/London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Inc., 1987, pp.68-81.

"Consciousness and Self-Deception, The Art of Undeceiving," in *Saybrook Review*, 5:21 (Fall/ Winter 1985):11-27.

"Walking on Flowers in Singapore," in *Psi Research*, 4:2 (June 1985):45-60.

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"Socio-Psychological Aspects of Thai-Muslim Bomohs in Pattani," in *Muslims in Thailand*, ed. A. Forbes. Aberdeen: University of Aberdeen Press, 1983.

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"Development of Early Buddhist Sects," *Visakha Puja* (Bangkok, 1972).