

A Center for Qualitative Research at Rajabhat Institute

A Center for Qualitative Research was opened at Rajabhat Institute, Udon Thani (RIUT) North East Thailand, on the 8th of November 2002. RIUT is a university that was originally established as a Teacher's College in 1927 and offers extensive academic programs leading to Bachelor's and Master's degrees in many academic fields. At present there are more than fourteen thousand students at RIUT.

In Thailand, mainstream research in the social sciences has been quantitative until now, but there is a growing interest in qualitative research. The Center at RIUT provides information about qualitative research methods to students and academics. A second purpose is to facilitate contact between Thai and foreign scholars and academics interested in qualitative research.

Workshops and seminars focusing on qualitative research are planned during 2003. A seminar about *qualitative research, interview techniques, postmodernism and social constructionism* was conducted in the third week of January 2003 as the first formal seminar of the Center.

The center consists of the following core group:

Ms. Phattariya Nantalohit, lecturer
Ms. Raweewan Khamsom, lecturer
Ms. Suphalak Prasetsang, lecturer
Mr. Bundit Traisatmit, Center translator, English/Thai interpretation
Mr. Egill H. Bragason, Center coordinator
Mr. Douglas Quist, lecturer
Mr. Dan Keegan, Center computer and software consultant.

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