

**Wednesday 3 June**

**12:00 - 12:40pm**

Room: Block Y, Room Y304

**Presentation Title:** "One is one's own refuge": Learner Autonomy in Thai context

<b>Presenter / Co-presenters:</b>	Janchai Wongphothisarn, University of Exeter
<b>Presenter's Email:</b>	janchaiw@hotmail.com
<b>Theme:</b>	Learner and teacher experiences
<b>Presentation Type:</b>	Paper presentation

### **Abstract**

A fundamental concept that has gained worldwide attention in the field of language learning is that of learner autonomy which is seen as a critical constituent in the development of life long learners. In the Thai curriculum, autonomy is a new concept and its practice has had mixed outcomes. In order to improve learner autonomy in Thailand thus it is necessary to understand how learners and teachers perceive autonomous learning and the responsibilities of student and teacher alike. The study was carried out within a pragmatic paradigm using a mixed methodology of an interpretative case study and a quantitative survey study. The setting was at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok.

It has been found that when the students were asked about learner autonomy as constructed from standard western notions, they had a strongly negative attitude to the concept. However, when learner autonomy was reformulated in terms of Buddhist concepts with which they were familiar e.g., "One is one's own refuge", the students were overwhelming positive. The teachers were positive about learner autonomy but did not believe that their Thai students were suited to learner autonomy because of the traditional teacher-centered learning they received in earlier schooling.