

## Chongsuwat, Jane

RESEARCH AREA: Modern architectural history, postcolonial and Cold War geopolitics, development and infrastructure studies



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Jane is a researcher, historian, and educator working at the intersection of architecture, politics, and sociology, with a focus on the spatial implications of postcolonialism and nationalism in Thailand. Trained in architectural design, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Design (1st Class Honors, Design Excellence Award) from Chulalongkorn University's International Program in Design and Architecture (INDA), and a Master of Science in Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture (CCCP) from Columbia GSAPP.

Her master's thesis, "Performative Spaces: Nationalism and Decolonization in the Royal Architecture of the Ninth Reign in Thailand," examined how royal architecture under King Bhumibol Adulyadej (1946–2016) functioned as "architectural gestures" constructing a new monarchical identity and nationalism, moving across the Chitralada Palace, Dusit Palace, and the Grand Palace to examine royal agricultural and food products, the political use of royal charisma during Cold War anti-communist campaigns, and the mass rituals that bound citizens to the monarchy.

Her doctoral research extends this work into questions of development and infrastructure, asking how architecture, ritual performance, and material culture functioned as infrastructures of cosmological sovereignty in modern Thailand, in which Cold War development and anti-communist state-building reconstituted rather than displaced cosmological kingship. This includes tracing how development infrastructure, from agricultural projects to rural tours and roads, positioned the monarchy as the moral center of the anti-communist nation, and reading the Royal Project Foundation's highland stations — established under Cold War opium-replacement crop policy as a "sovereign ecology." She is also interested in the Foundation's afterlives in consumer infrastructure: its food products, rice crackers, and the retail architecture of its outlets in airports and shopping malls, as sites where a Cold War political project has been absorbed into everyday material and spatial culture.

Jane has over seven years of experience teaching architectural design and history/theory at INDA, Chulalongkorn University, where she has also served as Assistant Director, Second-Year Coordinator, and faculty member.