

**The Center for Southeast Asian Presents**



## **“A ‘Foreign’ Woman in the Siamese Harem: Princess Dara Rasami and the Politics of Performing Ethnic Difference during Siam's Fifth Reign”**

This talk will shed new light on Siam's famous Fifth Reign, which is typically known as Thailand's era of "self-modernization" under King Chulalongkorn. At the same moment Siam began to undertake becoming "siwilai" (civilized), the practice of royal polygamy was reaching its apex, with over 150 consorts in King Chulalongkorn's palace. Leslie's talk will focus on one royal consort who was not herself ethnically Siamese: Princess Dara Rasami.

Dara played an important political role by cementing the loyalties of her home kingdom, Lan Na, and Siam -- but ultimately it was her role in shaping the Siamese perception of the people of Lan Na (now northern Thailand) which may have had a greater impact.

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**12 Noon, Friday, November 6, 2009**

**Room 206, Ingraham Hall**

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