



*Nirat Haripunchai*: the 16th century journey it describes and the 21st century journey to translate it (on Zoom)

Presenter: Chris Baker

Date: June 23

Time: 9:30- 11:00 AM

Fee: 200 THB

In 1517, a Lanna royal made a pilgrimage from Chiang Mai to Wat Phrathat Hariphunchai, the great reliquary in Lamphun, arriving at the full moon on 6 March. Along the way he composed a poem, now known as *Nirat Hariphunchai*. It was once considered very difficult, but Thai scholars have now made it more accessible, and Chris Baker and his wife Pasuk Phongpaichit have made a translation. In the poem, the author gives equal weight to his two devotions—one to the religion and the other to his lady-love. In this talk, Chris Baker will discuss this unusual combination, present excerpts from the translation, and tell of retracing the journey on its 505th anniversary.

Chris Baker is the honorary editor of the Journal of the Siam Society, a renowned historian and academic, and the author or editor of more than 15 books about Thai history, political economy, current affairs, and literature. Chris and his wife Pasuk have also translated many works of literature from Thai into English, the most ambitious of which was the translation of the Thai classic Khun Chang Khun Phaen. As a result of these efforts, Chris and Pasuk were awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Grand Prize in 2017 for their contribution to the preservation of Asian culture, the first couple to ever receive this prize. This will be Chris's third time presenting for our Lifelong Learning program and we are delighted to welcome him back!