



CULTURE, MIND, AND SOCIETY

## Narrative Practice and Cultural Change

Building Worlds with Karma, Ghosts,  
and Capitalist Invaders in Thailand

Steven Grant Carlisle



# GHOSTS, LOVE, KARMA, AND THE NARRATIVE CONSTRUCTION OF REALITY

## Steven Carlisle, PHD

---

How do people use the ordinary events of daily life to organize a vision of a world that existed for eons before they were born and extends far beyond what they can possibly witness in a lifetime? And if everyone experiences reality slightly differently, then how can they negotiate coherent understandings that allow them to communicate with and make sense of the people around them? In *Narrative Practice and Cultural Change: Building Worlds with Karma, Ghosts, and Capitalist Invaders in Thailand*, Steven Carlisle developed a narrative-based practice theory to explore the balance Buddhists in Bangkok strike between individual difference and conformity. The goal was to find a way to talk about lives that are intelligent, emotional, self-aware, and often idiosyncratic, while also accounting for the forces that pull people toward conformity and make communication possible, in spite of those differences. The result is a new way of looking at the nature of belief, the negotiation of meaning, and grounding of social solidarity.

**Monday, May 16th, 2022,  
10:00-11:30**

Join via Zoom: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/97184539377?pwd=SzVLdXRoZUUwRVRhbFdxTnlxajZoUT09>