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Burmese Migrant Workers and its Religious Ritual in Thailand

Since the mid of 1990s, the waves of 2 million Burmese migrants have been on the move across the border to Thailand. The paper focuses on the southern region of both countries and talks about the crucial period of 2000-2008 when the biggest influx of migrant population entered Ranong, Thailand from Kawthaung, Burma. It will analyze the living of the migrants outside the borders of the “homeland” and inside the borders of “another host country”.

By so doing, this paper focuses on the religious rituals of the Burmese migrant workers, with the particular elements of everyday life and social spatial in the border city. My paper looks into Buddhism and the politics of identity formation when the Burmese erects Thai Buddhist temples as their own places that they can practice their own religious rituals. The paper also aims to examine if it creates any effect to Buddhism within Thai society.