

## **Description of Fieldwork & Proposal Query** **Submitted by Michelle L. Clonch**

During two years of study at Pacifica, I have been learning that depth psychology is uniquely situated in relation to peacebuilding-reconciliation issues and they each have a responsibility to address the other's concerns. My summer fieldwork project responds to this emerging insight and is grounded in a unique cross-section of depth psychology, liberation practices, and engaged spirituality. Therefore, I will be traveling to Chiang Mai, Thailand to participate in a 10-day project, hosted by International Women's Partnership for Peace and Justice (IWP), called "Allies for Social Change: An International Engaged Buddhism and Peacebuilding Course for Women."

On their website, IWP describes themselves as "a spiritually based feminist organization working to support grassroots women's groups in South and Southeast Asia. IWP is guided by the principles of nonviolence and grounded in the integration of feminism, social action and spirituality for sustainability and transformation at the personal, community and society levels" (<http://www.womenforpeaceandjustice.org>).

In solidarity, I will be joining IWP in a particular project focused on creating a safe space for interdisciplinary dialogues and community networks to address peacebuilding and reconciliation concerns—through ally building—between women from the Global North (predominately Western countries) and the Global South (predominately South and Southeast Asia). As a carefully convened international community of women from differing backgrounds, wisdom traditions, social structures, and geography, we will share our dreams for peace and justice on the personal, collective, and world levels.

As a social justice activist, I am continually interested in how other activists embrace inner/outer peace under the often stressful and energy-depleting circumstances they are working within. My vision and idea for the fieldwork project is to investigate the process of creating the necessary psychic space to hold the seemingly polarized domains of *individual* practices/dialogues/peace/consciousness and *collective* practices/dialogues/peace/consciousness among actual others in the global community.

In particular, I hope the fieldwork will reflect a depth psychological understanding in two areas: the psyche-body-soul bridge between cultivating inner peace and harvesting outer peace, and the ways in which myth or images of peace inform peacebuilding-reconciliation work, if any. Thus, the focus of my depth psychological research inquiry is: "*In what ways are spiritually engaged activists bridging inner peace with outer peace in terms of structural and cultural changes? What myths or symbols of peace inform their work, if any?*"

I believe this fieldwork research project holds real promise to respond directly to and to propagate the dream of The Archives and Research Center. In this spirit, this query is submitted in the hopes of initiating a dialogue with the Center about possible opportunities for collaboration and assistance. Any financial funding provided by the Center would directly sponsor registration fees. The registration fee of \$500.00 covers 10 days of facilitation and training, food, accommodations, and transportation to and from the regional airport. Although I am personally funding the entirety of the research project with credit cards, I am only seeking financial assistance that will directly benefit and support the work of IWP.