**Project Title:** Making Wonderland: the First Thailand Biennale

**Supervisors:** Professor Jiang Jiehong, Dr. Lawrence Green

Cultural partners:The Office of Contemporary Arts and Culture (OCAC), Ministry of Culture (Bangkok), and non-HE provincial organisations in Krabi, Thailand

**Project description**

This research project primarily focusses on the First Thailand Biennale, produced by the Office of Contemporary Arts and Culture (OCAC), the Ministry of Culture in Bangkok, opening in November 2018. As a national initiative of contemporary art, this is Thailand’s inaugural biennale to be staged outdoors on the natural sites in Krabi. It will provide a unique opportunity to study the artistic strategies for developing site-specific work in relation to conflicts between the global and the local, the artistic and the natural and, the innovative and the environmental. Different versions of ‘wonderland’ derive from different cultures, in the West as well as in the East, and today, the myth of the 'wonderland' continues. With this Biennale themed as *Edge of the Wonderland*, the project examines artistic responses to the notion of the wonderland, or precisely, to something between reality and fiction, the existent and the imagined, the material and the spiritual, the experienced and the unworldly, and ultimately, the known and the unknown. The study will also provide opportunities to explore ethical concerns in the development of the Biennale, and to critically study the impact of the globalised art world with its institution of biennials on the local society of Krabi and its culture, religion and environment.

**The project will focus on the following research objectives:**

* To investigate artists' creative strategy and innovative practice for site-specific installations on natural sites beyond conventional art venues in this first Thailand Biennale
* To develop an appropriate methodology to collect and analyse the experiences and perceptions of the visitors to the Biennale, and to examine the relationships between art and tourism;
* To explore the ethical issues during the curatorial and artistic development, and to critically study the impact of the globalised art world through the institution of biennials on the local society of Krabi and its culture, religions and natural environment.

Embedded in BCUs new STEAMHouse facility in Digbeth, Birmingham, amongst creative professionals and organisations in the city as well as working on the Biennale in Thailand, the successful applicant is being offered a unique opportunity to to showcase their research project and develop meaningful networks and relationships in the arts and cultural industries in both the UK and in Asia.