

Economic Assimilation Among Non-Thai Households in Kanchanaburi: Does Village Context Matter?

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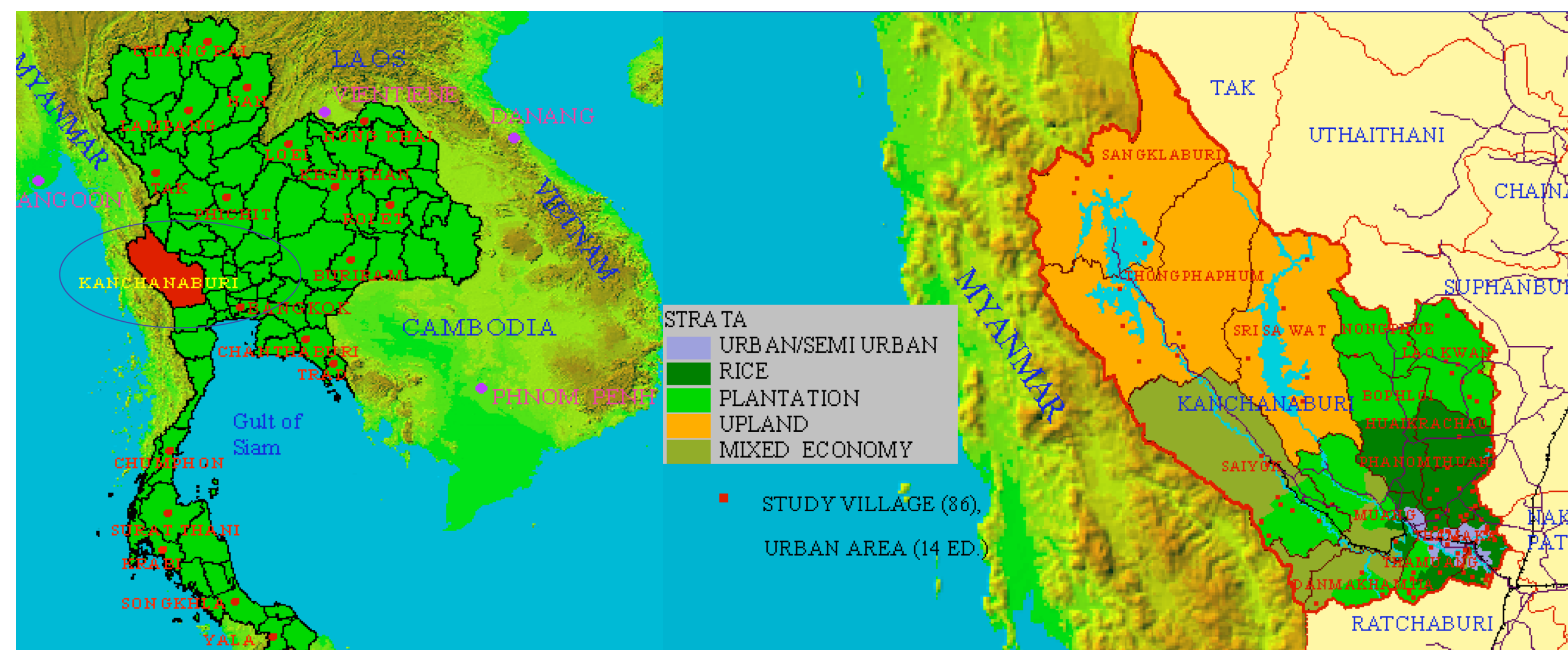
Research Questions

- To what extent does being non-Thai affect household economic status?
- Does living in villages where the majority is non-Thais affect household economic status?

Theoretical Background

- Applying assimilation theory (classic and segmented) and neighborhood concepts, this study hypothesizes that:
 - ❖ the non-Thais who have stayed longer in Thailand or who were born in Thailand are more assimilated to Thai culture than are newcomers
 - ❖ The economic assimilation among these migrants is conditioned on residential context as suggested by segmented assimilation theory and concepts of neighborhood effects

Study Setting: Kanchanaburi, Thailand



Dataset

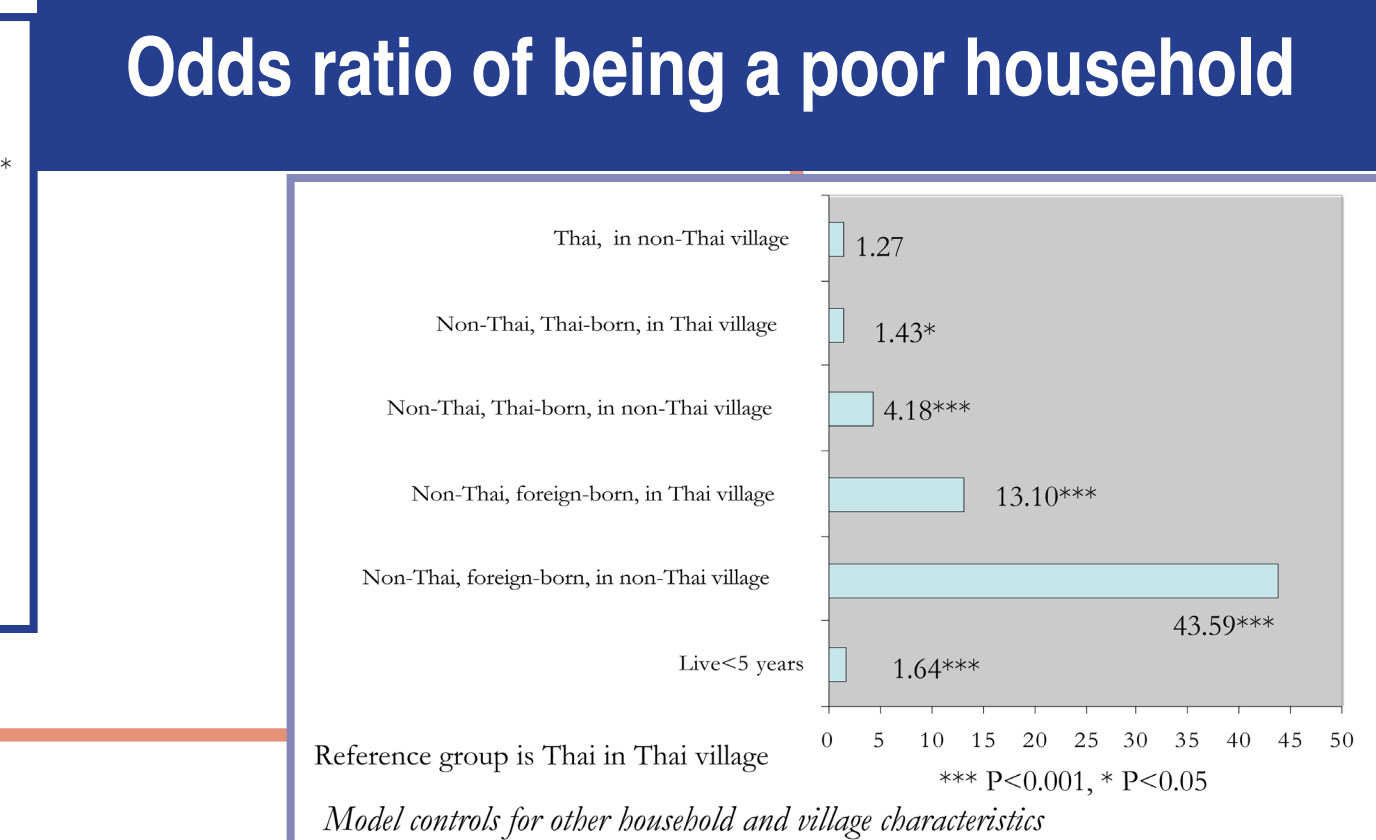
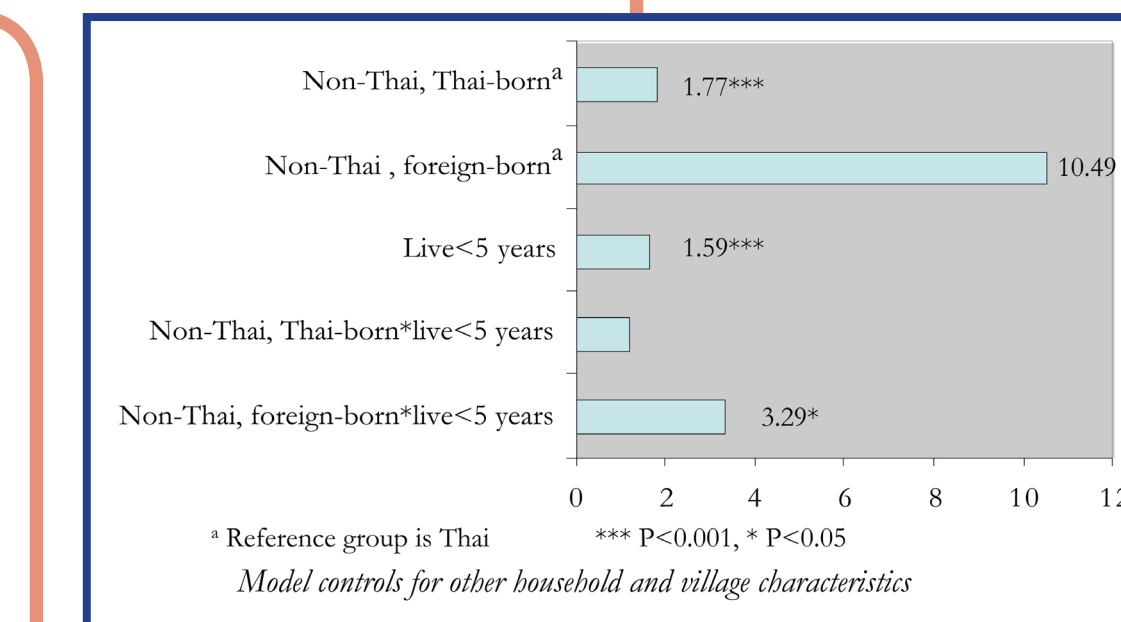
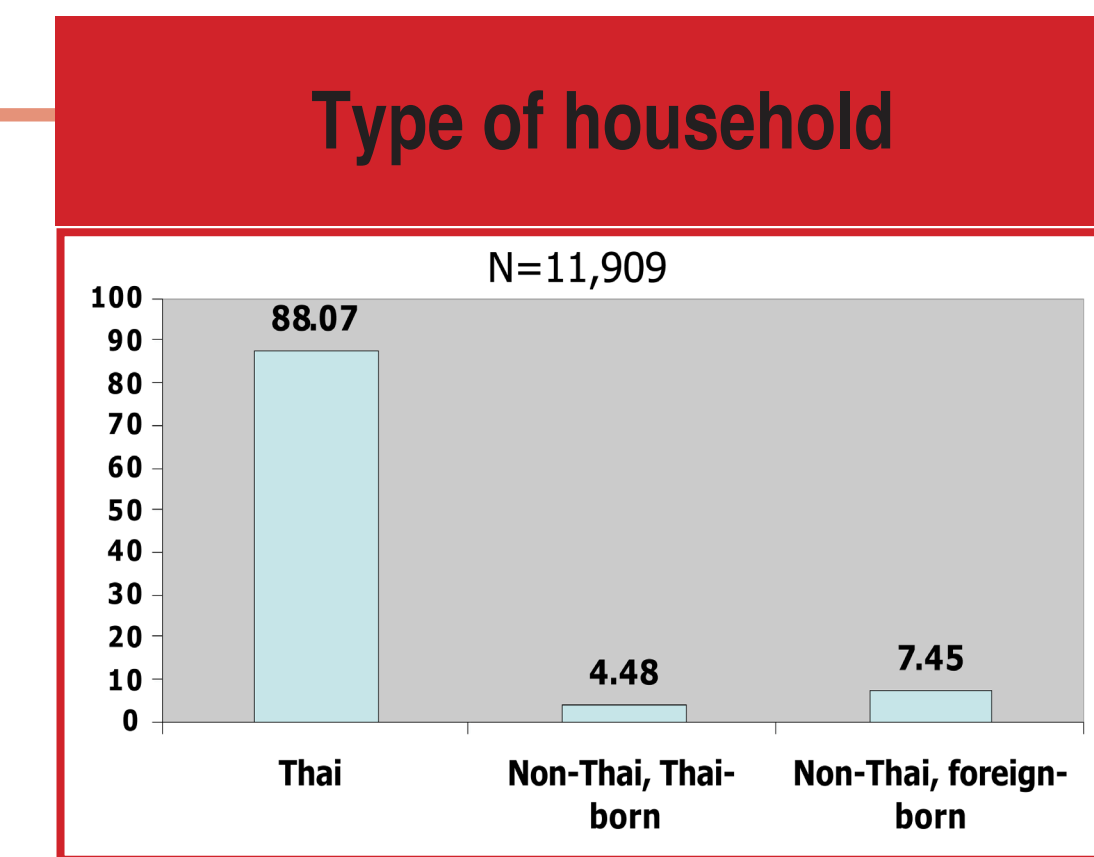
- Kanchanaburi Demographic Surveillance System (KDSS) in 2000 and 2004
- A census of 100 villages and urban communities throughout the 13 districts of Kanchanaburi

Non-Thai Household and Non-Thai Village

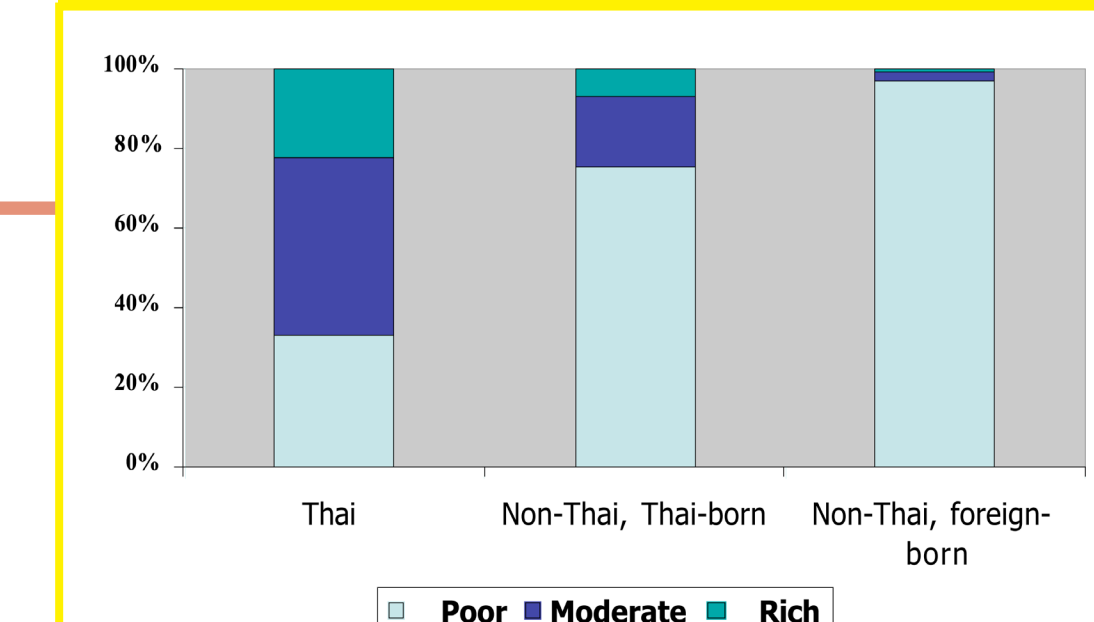
- Non-Thai household
 - ❖ Use country of birth and ethnicity of the household head to identify type of households, whether a household is:
 - Headed by Thai
 - Headed by non-Thai, born in Thailand
 - Headed by non-Thai, born outside Thailand
- Non-Thai village
 - ❖ a village where 50% of villagers or more are non-Thai by ethnicity

Measuring Household Economic Status

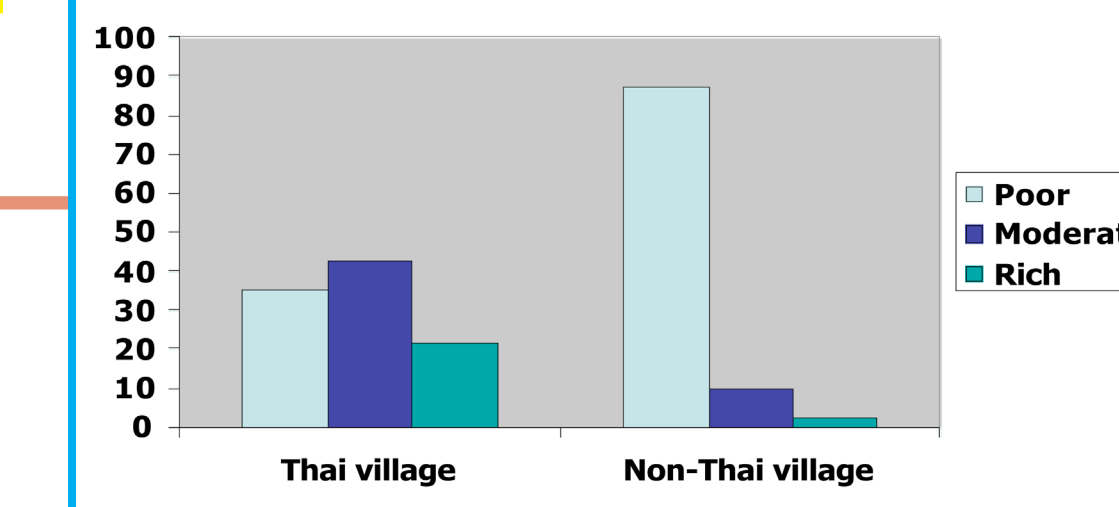
- Household asset index: PCA
- Classify household economic status into 3 groups
 - ❖ Poor (lower bound 40%)
 - ❖ Moderate (middle 40%)
 - ❖ Rich (upper bound 20%)



Type of household and household economic status



Living in non-Thai village and economic status



Some selected characteristics of household heads across type of household



Conclusion

- Significantly adverse effects of non-Thai ethnicity, foreign-born, shorter stay, and non-Thai village on household economic status
- Negative effects of non-Thai ethnicity are lessened if a person was born in Thailand or if a person spent a long period of time at the current place
- For non-Thais, living in a non-Thai village dampens a household's economic prospect, regardless of country of birth
- Results support the assimilation theory that non-Thais who have stayed longer or who were born in Thailand better adapt and better assimilate economically to the local Thais
- Village context plays significant roles in shaping a household's wealth, especially among non-Thai households, both Thai and foreign-born
- This study provides evidence that in an ethnically diverse context of Thailand, living in a village where the majority of population are non-Thais is associated with poor economic status, especially for non-Thai households