

**Thesis Title**      **Buddhism in Presentday Thai Society : A Comparative Study of Religious Belief among Scientists and Social Scientists**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research is a comparative study of religious belief among Thai scientists and social scientists in metropolitan Bangkok based on theory developed by Charles Glock and Rodney Stark with some moderations. The result of the finding shows that 66.9% of scientists and 61.1% of social scientists believe in the Buddha's enlightenment, law of karma, heaven and hell, and the reality of nibbana, the practices of charity [dana] morality [sila] and meditation [Samadhi]. It is

also found that 44% of scientists follow these practices whereas only 48.9% of social scientists are committed to such engagement. with regard to the understanding of Buddhist teachings [particularly those concerning man's happiness and nibbana] and to religious experience (i.e. the experience of mindfulness) 41.2% of scientists and 36.8% of social scientists have such understanding and whereas 55% of scientists and 48% of social scientists have such experience.

From the finding it may be concluded that religious belief of scientists in Presentday Thai Society is stronger than that of social scientists as seen in their understanding of the teachings, their practices and religious experience.