Political trakun are patrilineages that have distinguished themselves through engaging in politics over several generations by filling key positions of the state, such as the cabinet and parliament.

This thesis shows their evolvement over the course of history through the analysis of the cases of five political trakun. Particular events from these trakun’s lives and careers, such as marriages, election campaigns and funerals, function as lenses through which to critically reassess the intersection of seemingly disparate strands: the trakun and the state.

This study argues that political trakun have taken crucial positions in the Thai state over decades. In this way they have control of the state and amass resources which they can transform into economic and symbolic capital. This capital is used to win elections and to maintain the influential position of political trakun.