



Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



BUDDHISM IN DIALOGUE WITH CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

International and Interdisciplinary Conference
University of Hamburg

| 20-22 June, 2018
| Museum für Völkerkunde
| Großer Hörsaal
| Hamburg

Dear colleagues, dear students, dear guests,

The ongoing encounter between Buddhism and contemporary Western societies has already left a lasting mark on both parties, as happens in any open dialogue. Arriving in the “West”, Buddhism has been confronted with the values of European enlightenment and human rights, articulated within the paradigms of Judeo-Christian culture. Buddhism has often been described as a kind of philosophy and lifestyle. Buddhist voices have joined discussions of secular values, Buddhist-inspired mindfulness practices are penetrating therapeutic fields, while Buddhist communities have gained followers attracted to what they see as a more rational and “less religious” religion. Yet Buddhism clearly comprises an immensely diverse system of beliefs and practices that are themselves in the process of vast internal changes in response to new social realities.

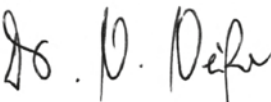
To explore these dialogical processes, this International and Interdisciplinary Conference “Buddhism in Dialogue with Contemporary Societies” brings together 20 scholars of Buddhism and senior Buddhist teachers from the three mainstream traditions of Buddhism, i.e. Theravāda, East Asian (including Zen), and Tibetan Buddhism. They will address such questions as:

- What can Buddhist thought and practice contribute to today’s world?
- How, and how much, can or should Buddhism adapt in order to make those contributions in new contexts?
- What, if any, must be considered to be core teachings or practices that cannot be subject to revision or adaptation?
- What strategies have Buddhist communities developed to protect core teachings while responding to rapidly changing technological, social, and material conditions?


To ensure a successful academic outcome of the conference, the first two and a half days will be dedicated mainly to listening to the presentations on five panels followed by an intensive exchange with the speakers, respondents, and faculty. In the afternoon of the third day, preliminary results will be summarized and discussed with the interested expert audience (among them practising Buddhists and teachers of Buddhism) as well as university students. Language: English; German translation if required.

We look forward to welcoming you in June




Prof. Dr. Wolfram Weiße
Akademie der Weltreligionen


Dr. Carola Roloff
Convenor


Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann
Numata Center for Buddhist Studies

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

09:00 Opening and Welcome

Panel 1: Buddhist Impulses for Intra-Buddhist and Interreligious Dialogue – Buddhism Between Tradition and Modernity

09:15 Presentations by Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück, Prof. Dr. Sallie B. King, and Prof. Dr. Volker Küster

10:45 Coffee/Tea break (15 minutes)

12:30 Discussion with speakers, respondents, and faculty

13:00 Lunch break

Panel 2: Philosophy and Applied Ethics

14:30 Presentations by Prof. Dr. José Cabezón, Ven. Dr. Dhammadinā Bhikkhunī, Prof. Dr. Jay Garfield, and Prof. Yangsi Rinpoche

16:00 Coffee/Tea break (30 minutes)

18:00 Discussion with speakers, respondents, and faculty

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Panel 3: Ethics and Meditation: Aggression, Violence and Peace

09:00 Presentations by Dr. Thea Mohr, Sander Tideman, Dr. B. Alan Wallace, and Sylvia Wetzel

10:30 Coffee/Tea break (30 minutes)

12:30 Discussion with speakers, respondents, and faculty

13:00 Lunch break

Panel 4: Impulses for Secular Domains – Mindfulness, Psychotherapy, Education, Pastoral Care, Medical Applications

14:30 Presentations by Prof. Dr. André van der Braak, Prof. Dr. Huimin Bhikshu, Prof. Dr. Janine Schipper, Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann

16:00 Coffee/Tea break (30 minutes)

18:00 Discussion with speakers, respondents and faculty

Friday, June 22, 2018

Panel 5: Engaged Buddhism – Contemporary Issues

09:00 Presentations by Ven. Miao Guang, Prof. Dr. Jan-Ulrich Sobisch, Christof Spitz, and Ven. Prof. Dr. Karma Lekshe Tsomo

10:30 Coffee/Tea break (30 minutes)

12:30 Discussion with speakers, respondents, and faculty

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Summary of preliminary results & interdisciplinary responses by critical friends

15:30 Coffee/Tea break (30 minutes)

16:00 Questions from the audience (all 5 panels, 20 mins each) and conclusions

18:00 End of the Conference



VEN. DR. BHIKKHU BODHI

**Classical Buddhism and Secular Buddhism –
Two Roads to the Future of the Dharma**

Bhikkhu Bodhi, born in 1944, is an American Buddhist monk. He obtained a BA in philosophy from Brooklyn College (1966) and a PhD in philosophy from Claremont Graduate School (1972). After completing his university studies he traveled to Sri Lanka, where he received Buddhist novice ordination in 1972 and full ordination in 1973. From 1984 to 2002 he was the editor for the Buddhist Publication Society in Kandy, where he lived for ten years with the senior German monk, Ven. Nyanaponika Thera (1901-1994). He returned to the U.S. in 2002, and currently lives and teaches at Chuang Yen Monastery in Carmel, New York. Ven. Bodhi has many important publications to his credit, either as author, translator, or editor. These include *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha* (Majjhima Nikaya, 1995), *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha* (Samyutta Nikaya, 2000), and *The Numerical Discourses of the Buddha* (Anguttara Nikaya, 2012).



PROF. EM. DR. MICHAEL VON BRÜCK

**Dialogue or Communion? What Buddhists and Christians Can Contribute in
Responding to the Crisis of Humankind**

Michael von Brück, born in 1949, was head of the Interfaculty Program of Religious Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich/Germany from 1991-2014. He studied theology, indology and comparative linguistics at Rostock University, and Indian Philosophy and Religion at Madras University, specializing in Advaita Vedānta and Mahāyāna-Buddhism. Moreover, he received a four years training in Yoga at a Yoga institute in Chennai and studied Zen-Buddhism in theory and practice in Japan. He has been a visiting lecturer and professor at several German and American universities (Univ. of Hawaii, Univ. of California (Davis), Rice University, Harvard Center for the Study of World Religion etc.). Since 2014, he has been honorary professor at the Catholic University of Linz. Michael von Brück has written 15 major books and about 200 essays in journals all over the world on theology, Buddhism, Hinduism and the encounter of world religions.



PROF. DR. SALLIE B. KING

Otherness as a Challenge to Buddhism

Sallie B. King is Professor Emerita of Philosophy and Religion at James Madison University and Affiliated Faculty, Professor of Buddhist Studies, Department of Theology, Georgetown University, USA. She works in the areas of Buddhist philosophy and ethics; Engaged Buddhism; Buddhist-Christian dialogue; and the cross-cultural philosophy of religion. She is a Quaker-Buddhist peace activist, an advocate of interfaith dialogue, and a frequent participant, specifically, in the Buddhist-Christian dialogue movement. She is the author of *Being Benevolence: The Social Ethics of Engaged Buddhism* (Hawaii, 2005) and of *Socially Engaged Buddhism* (Hawaii, 2009), offering an inspiring example of how one might work for solutions to the troubles that threaten the peace and well-being of our planet and its people.



PROF. DR. VOLKER KÜSTER

The Arts of Buddhist-Christian Encounter

Volker Küster, born in 1962, studied theology in Heidelberg and Seoul (1982-1990); 1994 Dissertation, 1998 Habilitation, ordained as minister 1999; 2002-2012 Professor of Cross-cultural Theology, Protestant Theological University, Kampen, The Netherlands; since Oct. 2012, Prof. of Comparative Religion and Missiology, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany. He explores the interconfessional, intercultural, and interreligious dimensions of Christian faith by employing methods such as hermeneutics, aesthetics, communication theory, postcolonial critic and globalization theory. Perspectives of culture, religion, race, class, gender, and inclusion are involved in this multi-axial approach. His research on contextual and intercultural theology evolves along two lines: *dialog, conflict and reconciliation and visual art and religion*. Latest Monographs: *A Protestant Theology of Passion. Korean Minjung Theology revisited*, 2010; *Zwischen Pancasila und Fundamentalismus. Christliche Kunst in Indonesien*, 2016. Series Editor: *contact/zone. Explorations in Intercultural Theology*.

Wednesday Morning, June 20, 2018

Welcome and Panel 1:

**Buddhist Impulses for Intra-Buddhist and Interreligious Dialogue –
Buddhism Between Tradition and Modernity**

09:00 OPENING AND WELCOME

Dr. Carola Roloff, Convenor

Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann, Director Numata Center for Buddhist Studies

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Weiße, Founding Director Akademie der Weltreligionen

Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Weiße, Senior Research Fellow Religious Education and International Theology

09:15 PRESENTATIONS

Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Bodhi

Classical Buddhism and Secular Buddhism – Two Roads to the Future of the Dharma

Prof. em. Dr. Michael von Brück

Dialogue or Communion? What Buddhists and Christians Can Contribute in Responding to the Crisis of Humankind

10:45 COFFEE / TEA BREAK

11:00 Prof. Dr. Sallie B. King

Otherness as a Challenge to Buddhism

Prof. Dr. Volker Küster

The Arts of Buddhist-Christian Encounter

12:30 DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS, RESPONDENTS, AND FACULTY

Respondent:

Shaykha Halima Krausen

Research Associate Akademie der Weltreligionen, Universität Hamburg

13:00 LUNCH BREAK



PROF. DR. JOSÉ CABEZÓN

Buddhist Sexual Ethics and the Limits of Scriptural Authority

José Ignacio Cabezón is the XIVth Dalai Lama Professor of Tibetan Buddhism and Cultural Studies and Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara. He was a Tibetan monk for ten years, studying at Sera Monastery in South India for six of those years. The author or editor of fourteen books and dozens of scholarly articles, he has written on topics as diverse as Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan literature, Buddhist theology and the academic study of Buddhism, Tibetan ritual, and gender and sexuality in the study of Buddhism. His most recent work includes *The Just King* (Snow Lion Publications), a translation of Ju Mipham's *Treatise on Political Ethics* (*Rgyal po'i lugs kyi bstan bcos*), as well as a broad ranging monograph entitled *Sexuality in Classical South Asian Buddhism* (Wisdom Publications). He is currently working on a history of Sera Monastery.



VEN. DR. DHAMMADINNĀ BHIKKHUNĪ

**Experience & Epistemology of the Present Moment:
The Early Buddhist Perspective to Liberation**

Bhikkhunī Dhammadinnā, born in Italy in 1980, received monastic ordination in Sri Lanka in 2012. She has a background in philosophy and the classics. She studied indology, Indo-Iranian philology and tibetology at the University of Naples 'L'Orientale' and at the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology at Soka University in Tokyo. Dhammadinnā obtained her doctorate in 2010 with a dissertation on the early transmission of bodhisattva and Mahāyāna ideology in Khotan. Her research focuses on early Buddhist discourses in Pali, Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Chinese, the historical development of Buddhist meditative traditions in India, and monastic law. She is currently a research associate professor and the director of the Āgama Research Group in the Department of Buddhist Studies of the Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts in Taiwan. Alongside her academic studies, Bhikkhunī Dhammadinnā has been a practitioner of meditation since 1996.



PROF. DR. JAY GARFIELD

**Buddhist Contributions to Contemporary Ethical Reflection:
Selflessness and Moral Responsiveness**

Jay L Garfield, born in 1955, is Doris Silbert Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy, Logic, and Buddhist Studies and director of the Buddhist Studies and Logic programs at Smith College. He is also Visiting Professor of Buddhist Philosophy at Harvard Divinity School, Professor of Philosophy at Melbourne University and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at the Central University of Tibetan Studies. He has taught in Australia, Singapore, Japan, and Germany and is a regular lecturer at major universities, Buddhist Studies centers and research institutions around the world. Professor Garfield is author or editor of 25 books and over 150 articles and book reviews. His most recent books are: *The Essential Jewel of Holy Practice* (a translation of Patrul Rinpoche's text of that name, with Emily McRae, Wisdom Publications 2017); *Minds Without Fear: Philosophy in the Indian Renaissance* (with Nalini Bhushan, 2017); *Engaging Buddhism: Why it Matters to Philosophy* (2015).



PROF. YANGSI RINPOCHE

Words Like Gold: Traditional Buddhism in Dialogue with Contemporary Societies

Yangsi Rinpoche is a Professor of Buddhist Studies and President of the Maitripa College, a Tibetan Buddhist college founded in 2005 in Portland, Oregon. Rinpoche trained in the traditional monastic system for over twenty-five years, and in 1995 graduated with the highest degree of Geshe Lharampa from Sera Je Monastery in South India. He then completed his studies at Gyume Tantric College. In 1998, having the particular wish to benefit Western students of the Buddhadharma, Rinpoche came to the West teaching at Deer Park Buddhist Center in Madison, Wisconsin for five years. He is currently the Spiritual Director of Ganden Shedrup Ling Buddhist Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Spiritual Director of Dharma Friendship Foundation in Seattle, Washington. He is the author of *Practicing the Path: A Commentary on the Lamrim Chenmo* (Wisdom Publications).

Panel 2: Philosophy and Applied Ethics

Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Steffen Döll, Numata Professor for Japanese Buddhism, Universität Hamburg

14:30 PRESENTATIONS

Prof. Dr. José Cabezón

Buddhist Sexual Ethics and the Limits of Scriptural Authority

Ven. Dr. Dhammadinā Bhikkhunī

Experience & Epistemology of the Present Moment: The Early Buddhist Perspective to Liberation

16:00 COFFEE / TEA BREAK

16:30 Prof. Dr. Jay Garfield

Buddhist Contributions to Contemporary Ethical Reflection: Selflessness and Moral Responsiveness

Prof. Yangsi Rinpoche

Words Like Gold: Traditional Buddhism in Dialogue with Contemporary Societies

18:00 DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS, RESPONDENTS, AND FACULTY

Respondent:

Prof. Dr. Ephraim Meir

Professor of Jewish Philosophy, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, and guest professor for Jewish Dialogue Studies and Interreligious Theology at the Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg



DR. THEA MOHR

Crosscultural Communication Conflicts Between Traditional Buddhism in Asia and Modern Western Buddhism

Thea Mohr has studied economics (1974-1981) and was delegated to various Asian countries. From 1984-1988 she studied indology, theology and comparative religion at Frankfurt University. She completed her sanskrit studies at Lucknow University in India. From 1992-2001 she was author and director of numerous documentaries dealing with religious subjects, foremostly Buddhism. Since 1994 she is lecturer for religious studies at Goethe University in Frankfurt. Her PhD (2000) is an empirical survey of Sakyadhita International Conferences. From 2001 until today she is managing director of a social and welfare company in Frankfurt (Diakonie). She is a lecturer in ethics since 2007 at Darmstadt University and teaches crosscultural communication at Wolfsburg University of Applied Science. As a certified trainer of crosscultural communication she trains international teams as well as individual managers.



SANDER TIDEMAN

Lessons from Buddhism for How to Create a Sustainable (Business) World

Sander Tideman is specialized in leadership development for building sustainable organizations. He has been studying Buddhism since 1984 and has simultaneously worked in various business roles, both in the private sector and not-for-profit sector, on three continents. Currently he serves as managing director of Mind & Life Europe and is faculty member of the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University and co-founder of Flow Foundation & Impact Fund. He is author of a recent book: *Business as Instrument for Societal Change – In Conversation with the Dalai Lama*, published by Greenleaf 2016, which records two decades of dialogues he held with the Dalai Lama on the role of business and economics in society.



DR. B. ALAN WALLACE

**Restoring the Spirit of Radical Empiricism to Science and Religion:
A Buddhist View**

B. Alan Wallace, Ph.D., born in 1950, dynamic lecturer, progressive scholar, and one of the most prolific writers and translators of Tibetan Buddhism in the West, he, continually seeks innovative ways to integrate Buddhist contemplative practices with Western science to advance the study of the mind. Dr. Wallace, a scholar and practitioner of Buddhism since 1970, has taught Buddhist theory and meditation worldwide since 1976. Having devoted fourteen years to training as a Tibetan Buddhist monk, ordained by H. H. the Dalai Lama, he went on to earn an undergraduate degree in physics and the philosophy of science at Amherst College and a doctorate in religious studies at Stanford. With his unique background, Alan brings deep experience and applied skills to the challenge of integrating traditional Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with the modern world.



SYLVIA WETZEL

**The End of Violence is the Path of the Bodhisattvas.
Potential Contributions of Mahāyāna Buddhism to Modern Politics**

Sylvia Wetzel, born in 1949, has experimented with paths to inner and outer liberation since 1968 and has practiced Buddhism since 1977, mainly in the Tibetan tradition. For fifteen years she was board member of the German Buddhist Union and for twelve years editor of the Buddhist Quarterly «Lotusblätter» (lotus leaves). She helped inaugurate the International Association of Buddhist Women Sakyadhita (Bodhgaya 1987), is founding member of the Network of Western Buddhist Teachers (Dharamsala 1993) and is currently President of the Buddhist Academy Berlin Brandenburg (Berlin 2001). With her critical and creative approach to European culture and gender issues, the author and Buddhist meditation teacher is one of the pioneers of Buddhism in Europe since the mid-eighties.

Panel 3: Ethics and Meditation: Aggression, Violence and Peace

Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann, Professor for Indian Buddhism at the Asien-Afrika-Institut of the University of Hamburg

09:00 PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Thea Mohr

Crosscultural Communication Conflicts Between Traditional Buddhism in Asia and Modern Western Buddhism

Sander Tideman

Lessons from Buddhism for How to Create a Sustainable (Business) World

10:30 COFFEE / TEA BREAK

11:00 Dr. B. Alan Wallace

Restoring the Spirit of Radical Empiricism to Science and Religion: A Buddhist View

Sylvia Wetzel

The End of Violence is the Path of the Bodhisattvas. Potential Contributions of Mahāyāna Buddhism to Modern Politics

12:30 DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS, RESPONDENTS, AND FACULTY

Respondent:

Dr. Sumon Kamal Tuladhar

University of Tribhuvan, Nepal

National Lead for Research project titled, «Insecurity and Uncertainty: Marginalised young people's living rights in fragile and conflict affected situations in Nepal and Ethiopia», funded by ESRC DFID.

13:00 LUNCH BREAK



PROF. DR. ANDRÉ VAN DER BRAAK
Reimagining Zen in a Secular Age

André van der Braak, born in 1963, is professor of Buddhist philosophy in dialogue with other worldviews at the Faculty of Theology of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. He is also a certified Chan teacher in the Maha Karuna Chan tradition. From 1981 to 1986 he studied at the University of Amsterdam, majoring in clinical psychology (comparing psychoanalysis and Buddhist insight meditation using Ken Wilber's model), as well as comparative philosophy (graduating with a thesis on Nietzsche and Buddhism). He is director of a Buddhist chaplaincy program, and coordinator of the international research projects «Multiple Religious Belonging» and «Religion and Social Cohesion» (with Renmin University of China). He published i.a. *Nietzsche and Zen: Self-overcoming Without a Self* (2011) and co-edited *Religion and Social Cohesion: Western, Chinese and Intercultural Perspectives* (2015).



VEN. PROF. DR. HUIMIN BHIKSHU
Cultivating Good Habits (*śīla*) and Resetting the Mindset (*śamatha, vipaśyanā*) in this Era of Disruptions: the Mind-life (*āśraya*) & Environment (*ālabhana*) Curriculum in Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts

Ven. Huimin, born in 1954, is a Taiwanese Mahāyāna Buddhist bhikshu (monk), and a professor of Buddhist studies. He graduated from Taipei Medical College with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy (1975). Ordained in 1979, he subsequently obtained his M.A. (1989) and Doctor of Letters (1992) at University of Tokyo. Now he is president of Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (Taiwan), director of Chinese Buddhist Electronic Text Association (CBETA), emeritus professor of Taipei National University of the Arts, and abbot of Seeland Monastery (Taiwan). He is currently engaged in three research projects: "A Research on the Linked Open Data of Chinese Literature: Using the Buddhist Canon Catalogs and the Textual Organization (Kepan 科判) as an Example", "The Effects of Mozhaio Meditation with EEG/HRV Biofeedback Training" and "A Translation Project of the Sanskrit text of Mahāyāna-Sūtrālamkāra (Chapter 17, 11, 9)".



PROF. DR. JANINE SCHIPPER
Social Dharma: How Buddhist Principles Radically Alter our Understanding of Self and Society

Dr. Janine Schipper (Ph.D. Sociology, Boston College) is professor of sociology at Northern Arizona University. She was executive editor of *Humanity and Society* from 2011-2014, devoted to publishing work on social justice, scholar/activism, and public sociology. She is the author of *Disappearing Desert: The Growth of Phoenix and the Culture of Sprawl* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008) and co-author of *Teaching with Compassion: An Educator's Oath for Teaching from the Heart* (Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming). Dr. Schipper's research and published articles focus on Buddhist sociology and environmental sociology. She also published a seminal piece on Buddhist Sociology entitled "Toward a Buddhist Sociology: Its Theories, Methods and Possibilities" (*American Sociologist* 2012), is a guest teacher at the Flagstaff Insight Meditation Community and facilitates workshops on compassion and mindfulness practices.



PROF. DR. MICHAEL ZIMMERMANN
How to Study Buddhism: Content, Scope and Function of the Study of Buddhism at Universities in Europe

Professor Zimmermann studied Classical Indology, Tibetology and Japanology at the University of Hamburg. His dissertation dealt with the origin of the buddha-nature theory in India. Four years of his PhD studies were spent at universities in Kyoto and Tokyo. He later worked for the Nepalese-German Manuscript Preservation Project of the German Research Council (DFG) in Hamburg and Kathmandu where he also directed the Nepal Research Centre from 2002 to 2003. After four years as assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies of Stanford University (USA) and director of the Stanford Center for Buddhist Studies, he became professor for Indian Buddhism at the Asien-Afrika-Institut of the University of Hamburg in 2007. His research focuses on all aspects of Mahāyāna Buddhism in India, in particular its textual-historical dimension, based on the study of primary sources in the Buddhist canonical languages of India, Tibet, and China. He is also interested in questions of Buddhist ethics such as the relation of Buddhism to political ideas and violence. He is co-director of the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at Hamburg University.

Panel 4: Impulses for Secular Domains – Mindfulness, Psychotherapy, Education, Pastoral Care, Medical Applications

Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Knauth, Protestant Theology and Religious Education, Universität Duisburg-Essen

14:30 PRESENTATIONS

Prof. Dr. André van der Braak

Reimagining Zen in a Secular Age

Prof. Dr. Huimin Bhikshu

Cultivating Good Habits (*śīla*) and Resetting the Mindset (*śamatha, vipaśyanā*) in this Era of Disruptions: the Mind-life (*āśraya*) & Environment (*ālamana*) Curriculum in Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts

16:00 COFFEE / TEA BREAK

16:30 Prof. Dr. Janine Schipper

Social Dharma: How Buddhist Principles Radically Alter our Understanding of Self and Society

Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann

How to Study Buddhism: Content, Scope and Function of the Study of Buddhism at Universities in Europe

18:00 DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS, RESPONDENTS, AND FACULTY

Respondent:

Prof. Dr. MHEd Telse A. Iwers

Vice Dean for Study, Teaching and Examination System, Faculty of Education, Area of Pedagogical Psychology



VEN. MIAO GUANG

Chinese Buddhism in Contemporary Society: Revitalization and Innovation

Ven. Miao Guang, born in 1977, is currently serving at Fo Guang Shan Institute of Humanistic Buddhism as both a fellow and Deputy Chancellor for International Affairs. She is also the director of the Fo Guang Dictionary of Buddhism English Translation Project. She is the personal English interpreter of Venerable Master Hsing Yun, and also serves as the English secretary at Fo Guang Shan Founding Master's Office. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Asian Studies, University of New South Wales and went on to complete her Master in Buddhist Studies at Fo Guang University.



PROF. DR. JAN-ULRICH SOBISCH

The Art of not taking yourSelf too serious

Having studied Tibetology, Classical Indology, and philosophy at the University of Hamburg, **Jan-Ulrich Sobisch** researched and published chiefly on indigenous Tibetan Buddhist traditions. Among his major publications are books on Tibetan theories of harmonizing the vows of *śrāvakas*, bodhisattvas and mantra adepts, historical documents describing the reception and transmission of teachings in Tibetan lineages, and a study of the Indian and Tibetan literary history of the Hevajra Tantra and the connected Path with Its Fruits cycle. From the University of Munich, he moved on to Copenhagen University, where he received tenure in 2006, and began to focus on the early 'Bri gung bKa' brgyud pa tradition. In 2015, he discovered an exceptional manuscript of that tradition, carbon dated to 1267-1290. In 2016, he was granted the Humboldt Research Award in recognition of his achievements in research and returned to Germany. He presently works at the Centre for Religious Studies at Ruhr-University, Bochum.



CHRISTOF SPITZ

All Conditioned Things are Impermanent, Except for Buddhism?

Christof Spitz, born in 1955, teaches Buddhist philosophy and meditation. He has been a translator of classical Buddhist texts and an interpreter for various Tibetan teachers including H.H. the Dalai Lama for nearly 40 years. He lived as a monk for 13 years from 1981 to 1994. Together with Geshe Thubten Ngawang, he designed, translated, and taught a seven year curriculum of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist studies for lay students and monastics at the Tibetisches Zentrum e.V. in Hamburg from 1988 to 2012. He is co-editor and co-author of the anthology «Achtsamkeit: Ein buddhistisches Konzept erobert die Wissenschaft», published as a result of the International Congress of Mindfulness 2011, hosted by the Tibetisches Zentrum and the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hamburg. Since 2013 Christof Spitz is part of the "Netzwerk Ethik heute" that developed and offers an interdisciplinary wisdom training.



VEN. PROF. DR. KARMA LEKSHE TSOMO

Matching Concepts, Transgressing Boundaries: Buddhist Transmission Strategies in the International Buddhist Women's Movement

Karma Lekshe Tsomo is a professor of Buddhist studies at the University of San Diego. She studied Buddhist philosophy in Dharamsala, India, for 15 years and received a doctorate in comparative philosophy from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research interests include Buddhist feminist philosophy, neuroethics, Buddhist social theory, death and afterlife, interreligious dialogue, and Buddhist transnationalism. Among her publications are *Into the Jaws of Yama: Buddhism, Bioethics, and Death*; *Sisters in Solitude: Two Traditions of Monastic Ethics for Women*; and ten edited volumes on women in Buddhism. She is a founder and past president of Sakyadhita International Association of Buddhist Women as well as the founder and director of Jamyang Foundation, a volunteer organization that supports study program for Himalayan nuns and Marma girls in Bangladesh.

Panel 5: Engaged Buddhism—Contemporary Issues

Moderation:

Dr. Carola Roloff, Senior Researcher for Buddhism and Dialogue, Universität Hamburg

9:00 PRESENTATIONS

Ven. Miao Guang

Chinese Buddhism in Contemporary Society: Revitalization and Innovation

Prof. Dr. Jan-Ulrich Sobisch

The Art of not taking yourSelf too serious

10:30 COFFEE / TEA BREAK

11:00 Christof Spitz

All Conditioned Things are Impermanent, Except for Buddhism?

Ven. Prof. Dr. Karma Lekshe Tsomo

Matching Concepts, Transgressing Boundaries: Buddhist Transmission Strategies in the International Buddhist Women's Movement

12:30 DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS, RESPONDENTS, AND FACULTY

Respondent:

Dr. Carsten Krause

Research Fellow at the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies, University of Hamburg

13:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 Summary of preliminary results & interdisciplinary responses by critical friends

15:30 COFFEE / TEA BREAK

16:00 Questions from the audience (all 5 panels, 20 mins each) and conclusions

18:00 End of the Conference

VENUE

Museum für Völkerkunde | Rothenbaumchaussee 64 | 20148 Hamburg



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<http://www.voelkerkundemuseum.com/>

ARRIVAL WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Museum für Völkerkunde can be reached by public transport.

- within a 10-minute walk from the train and metro station Dammtor
- within a 10-minute walk from the metro station Hallerstraße
- within 30 minutes from Hamburg Airport (via Dammtor)

Map: <http://www.voelkerkundemuseum.com/47-1-How-to-find-us.html>

PARTICIPATION

The conditions of participation and the online registration form for the International and Interdisciplinary Conference «Buddhism in Dialogue with Contemporary Societies» can be found here:

<https://mi3.lambdalogic.de/unihamburg-online/BDCS2018.do>

If you have any further questions, please see contacts on next page.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

Participants can book the hotel room together with their online registration or separately.

For online reservations with Universität Hamburg Marketing GmbH (contact information below), **full credit card payment or bank transfer is required**. After successfully making reservations, you will receive written confirmation by e-mail.

Hotel	Cat.	Single Room / Night	Double Room / Night	Breakfast
1. Mercure Hotel Hamburg Mitte	****	148 €	-	incl.
2. Mövenpick Hotel Hamburg	****	159 €	179 €	incl.
3. Radisson Blu	****	163 €	-	incl.
4. Baseler Hof	****	148 €	180 €	incl.
5. Hotel Alster-Hof	***	95 €	150 €	incl.
6. Hotel Bellmoor	***	105 €	150 €	incl.

If you wish to book your hotel room on your own, convenient accommodations can be found here:

<http://www.sub.uni-hamburg.de/bibliotheken/ueber-uns/organisation-der-bibliothek/hotels-in-der-naehe.html>

For general information, please contact: <http://www.hamburg-tourism.de/>

ATTENDANCE FEE (without catering, including registration fee)

	Early booking all three days	Late booking (after 22.04.2018) all three days
Guest auditors:	125 Euro	155 Euro
Guest students:	65 Euro	85 Euro

CONTACT

Programme and Details see:

<https://www.buddhismuskunde.uni-hamburg.de/bdcs2018>

Online Registration: bdcs2018@uni-hamburg.de

Projektteam Kongressmanagement

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Support speakers and participants:

Akademie der Weltreligionen Sekretariat Laura Eichinger and Evgenia Perel

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ORGANIZERS



Akademie der Weltreligionen

The Academy of World Religions, founded in June 2010 as a new institution within Hamburg University, is jointly run by Hamburg University's Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Humanities. Theological concepts from Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Alevism do not merely coexist at the Academy of World Religions; they dialogically engage each other within the context of an academic discourse.

<https://www.awr.uni-hamburg.de/>



Numata-Zentrum für Buddhismuskunde

The Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hamburg was founded in 2007 under the umbrella of the university's Asien-Afrika-Institut. The Center promotes and connects academic research and teaching and increases the public's knowledge of and access to information about Buddhism.

<https://www.buddhismuskunde.uni-hamburg.de>



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SPONSORS



The "Studienstiftung für Buddhismus" (Foundation for Buddhist Studies) was founded in 1987 and is based in Hamburg. It promotes cross-traditionally the knowledge of Buddhism. The exclusive and immediate purpose of the foundation is the promotion of academic research, the promotion of Tibetan culture and religion, the promotion of the Buddhist religion worldwide, and the transfer of knowledge of these subject areas, especially in the German-speaking world. This is in particular done by funding (1) qualified translations of Buddhist scriptures, (2) orders of Buddhist nuns, (3) training of Dharma students, and (4) conferences or lectures and its participation.



The exclusive and immediate purpose of the Gustav Prietsch Foundation is to serve aspirations of genuine and active tolerance, especially in the field of religious matters. The foundation aims to foster the understanding of the individual for religious and philosophical questions as well as the understanding between the different confessions, religious communities and philosophical directions.



The Garchen Foundation is dedicated to the promotion of Tibetan Buddhism in teaching and practice and supports the continuation of the Tibetan Buddhist religion, philosophy and literature. The foundation is closely linked to the Drikung Kagyu School, an authentic tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, and its teachers.



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The Dr. Nelly Hahne Foundation is a foundation of civil law with the seat in Stuttgart. The purpose of the foundation is among others the promotion of religion and international understanding.

The International and Interdisciplinary Conference «Buddhism in Dialogue with Contemporary Societies» is to be jointly held by the Academy of World Religions and the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hamburg in cooperation with the Studienstiftung für Buddhismus, co-funded by the following foundations. The support of all esteemed organizations is gratefully acknowledged.