CONFERENCE> Buddhist Identities in Twenty-First Century Asia - April 8-9th 2022, University of Cambridge

Discussion published by Chris Jones on Thursday, March 10, 2022

Buddhist Identities in Twenty-First Century Asia - April 8-9th 2022, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge.

With support from the Global Humanities Initiative at the University of Cambridge, the Faculty of Divinity and Selwyn College invite scholars and students to a conference devoted to the theme of Buddhist identities across twenty-first century Asia. Over two days, invited and selected speakers will address the evolving status of Asian Buddhist identities as they are constructed, negotiated and intersect with other commitments and affiliations in the globalized, technologized twenty-first century. Speakers will explore the character, changes and challenges of Buddhist identities in a range of contemporary Asian cultures, considering South, Southeast, Central and East Asian Buddhist contexts.

For registration and the complete schedule, visit https://tinyurl.com/cubuddhistidentitiesconference. An overview of the schedule is provided below.

We welcome and encourage in-person attendance by all interested parties, but request that all in-person attendees register online by April 1st 2022. The conference will also be broadcast via Zoom. The conference has some funds available to support student travel to the event; to request this, or to make other enquiries, please email cubuddhistidentities@gmail.com.

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Friday April 8th – Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

9.00–9.15 – Welcome and Introduction (Chris V. Jones, University of Cambridge)

9.15–10.15 – Buddhist Identity and Religious Others: the case study of postcolonial Sri Lanka (Elizabeth Harris, University of Birmingham)

10.15–10.45 – A Buddhist People? Identities and Interreligious Violence in Southeast Asia (Rafal K. Stepien, Nanyang Technological University - Presenting Remotely)

10.45–11.15 – Coffee break

11.15–11.45 – Sinhala Buddhist Identity in the 21st Century Ravana Movement (Justin Henry, Georgia College & State University)

11.45–12.15 – Constructing Buddhist Identity through a Devotional Ritual in Sri Lanka (Sorakkulame Pemaratana, University of Pennsylvania)

12.15–12.45 – Mutelu: Re-orienting Magic and Merit in Early Twenty-First Century Thailand
(Napakadol Kittisenee, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

12.45–2.00 – Lunch break

2.00–2.30 – The Challenges of the Myanmar Spring to the Sangha-Laity Linkage (Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, University of Essen - *Presenting Remotely*)

2.30–3.00 – The ‘Sangha Extraordinaire’: Exploring Theravāda Tai Jai Traditional Identity through the Zare (Olivia Porter, King’s College London)

3.00–3.30 – Cambodian Refugee Buddhists in Italy: Four Decades of Emplaced Identity-Making (Sophea Seng, California State University, Long Beach - *Presenting Remotely*)

3.30–4.00 – Coffee break

4.00–5.00 – “*All dhammas are without self...*” Buddhist identities in (an Arakanese) Context (John Clifford Holt, Bowdoin College)

5.00–5.30 – Discussion

Saturday April 9th – Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

9.00–9.15 – Welcome

9.15–10.15 – What is Dalit Buddhism? Exploring Discursive Practices on Society, Nationalism and Religion in Contemporary India (Johannes Beltz, Museum Rietberg, Zürich)

10.15–10.45 – Buddhist Modernities Converge: Ambedkar’s Legacy in India, Taiwan, and Japan (Jon Keune, Michigan State University - *Presenting Remotely*)

10.45–11.15 – Coffee break

11.15–11.45 – Caste and Contemporary Buddhism in Nepal (Cameron David Warner, Aarhus University)

11.45–12.15 – Group vs. Individual Identity in a Gelug Buddhist Monastic Community: A View from Inside (Dobdon Maksarov, SOAS London; Drepung Gomang Monastic University)

12.15–1.30 – Lunch break

1.30–2.30 – Where Buddhist identity goes (almost) without saying: religious specialists in Repkong (NE Tibet) (Nicolas Sihlé, Centre for Himalayan Studies, CNRS)

2.30–3.00 – National and International Dimensions of Chinese Buddhist Leadership: Ambiguities of ‘Sinicisation’ Processes in the Twenty-First Century (Carsten Krause, Hamburg University)
3.00–3.30 – Coffee break

3.30–4.00 – Entanglements in the Family: Negotiating Clerical and Familial Identities in Contemporary China (Gilbert Chen, Towson University - Presenting Remotely)

4.00–5.00 – When ‘Buddhists’ Convert to ‘Buddhism’: Conversion and Confessionalisation in Contemporary Chinese Communities (Adam Yuet Chau, University of Cambridge)

5.00–5.30 – Discussion