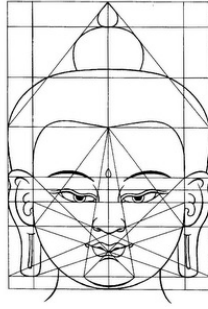


# **UKABS**

## **NEWS**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
UK ASSOCIATION OF  
BUDDHIST STUDIES**

**No. 1 WINTER 2014**



# **UKABS News**

www.ukabs.org.uk

**No. 1 WINTER 2014**

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*All UKABS members are invited to send in their recent research activities, publications, Buddhist seminars, or any other relevant news/information they want to disseminate to other members of UKABS through the newsletter. Please email to: [Pema.Clark@uea.ac.uk](mailto:Pema.Clark@uea.ac.uk)*

*Artwork reproduced with kind permission by Andy Weber*

## **UKABS COMMITTEE**

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# MEET THE COMMITTEE

## **CATHY CANTWELL** *ACTING PRESIDENT*



*Photo taken with Lama Kunzang Dorjee at Paro Taktsang,  
a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Paro, Bhutan, Dec 2013.*

Based at The Oriental Institute, the University of Oxford, Cathy has been an active member of UKABS since its inception and served as Secretary from 2008-2014. She specialises in Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhism, with particular interest in tantric ritual and meditative practice, focused mainly on the rNying-ma tradition. Her research covers different historical periods, from tenth century Dunhuang manuscripts to monastic practice today. She has worked on longevity rituals, sacred medicines, sacred art and imagery, ritual dance and all aspects of communal ritual performance. One recent research project focused on a famous rNying-ma tantra and its commentary (co-authored with Robert Mayer, *A Noble Noose of Methods, the Lotus Garland Synopsis: A Mahāyoga Tantra and its Commentary*, 2012, The Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, Vienna). Another current project is examining the development of tantric revelatory cycles, from an initial revelation, through its expansion into ritual manuals, and editing at the hands of subsequent lineage lamas:

[http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/tibetan\\_scriptural\\_revelations.html](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/tibetan_scriptural_revelations.html)

Voices from Oxford recently interviewed her about her fieldwork in Bhutan which was connected to this project:

<http://www.voicesfromoxford.org/video/tantric-buddhism-in-bhutan/435>



**HIROKO (KOKO) KAWANAMI**  
*SECRETARY*



Koko is senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University, UK. She trained as a social anthropologist and Buddhist scholar and has conducted research in Myanmar (Burma) since the mid-1980s. In 1986, she was initiated by Venerable Ashin Thittila (the author of *Essential Themes of Buddhist Lectures*) in Yangon and studied under him for 16 months. Her recent monograph is *Renunciation and Empowerment of Buddhist Nuns in Myanmar-Burma* (Brill, 2013). Currently her research interests focus on communal jurisdiction of non-ordained female renunciants in the southern Buddhist tradition; monastic education and dissemination of doctrinal knowledge; and orthodoxy and heretical movements in Myanmar Buddhism. Current research can be found on:

<http://www.acls.org/research/buddhistcollaborative.aspx?id=10705>

**CAROLINE STARKEY**  
*TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY*



Based at the University of Leeds, my doctoral research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, explores how the context of Buddhism in Britain has shaped the practices and experiences of

ordained women from seven Buddhist groups. In addition, with Dr. Emma Tomalin (University of Leeds), I have conducted the first national survey of Buddhist buildings in England, funded by English Heritage ([www.buildingbuddhism.wordpress.com](http://www.buildingbuddhism.wordpress.com)). My research interests include Buddhism in the West, religion and gender, and religion and the built environment.

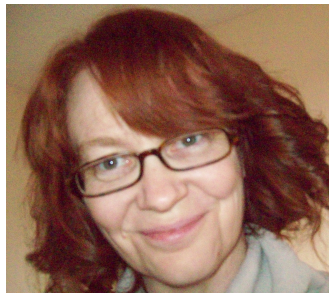
**PROF. PETER HARVEY**  
*GENERAL EDITOR OF UKABS JOURNAL,  
 BUDDHIST STUDIES REVIEW*



Emeritus Professor of Buddhist Studies, University of Sunderland and one of the two founders of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies, past secretary and President and currently one of the two editors of its journal, *Buddhist Studies Review*. Until my retirement in 2011, I developed and ran an online MA Buddhist Studies programme, whose material is now used by the online MA Buddhist Studies of the University of South Wales. Author of *The Selfless Mind: Personality, Consciousness and Nirvana in Early Buddhism* (Curzon, 1995); *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices* (Cambridge University Press, 1990, 2nd edn 2013); and *An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics: Foundations, Values and Issues* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). Research areas: Early Buddhist thought, Buddhist ethics, meditation theory. Currently editing an anthology of Buddhist texts, from Southern, Northern and Eastern Buddhism, to be published by Mahachulalongkorn University and made available for free to hotels around the world. Next project: a

work, *Spiritual Nobility in Early Buddhism: Noble Path, Noble Persons, and the Four True Realities that They See*. Next year's *Buddhist Studies Review* will be a double issue on Buddhism and Healing, based on papers at the 2014 conference. It will have an introduction by Geoffrey Samuel.

**DR. ALICE COLLETT**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR OF UKABS JOURNAL,  
BUDDHIST STUDIES REVIEW



Based in the department of Theology and Religious Studies at York St John University, Dr. Collett's special area of interest is women in early Indian Buddhism. Recent publications include *Women in Early Indian Buddhism: Comparative Textual Studies*:

<http://global.oup.com/academic/product/women-in-early-indian-buddhism-9780199326044?cc=gb&lang=en&tab=overview>

Also available at Oxford Scholarship Online:

[www.oxfordscholarship.com](http://www.oxfordscholarship.com)<<https://email.yorks.ac.uk/owa/link>

<https://email.yorks.ac.uk/owa/link>

**DR. SARAH SHAW**  
*BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR OF UKABS JOURNAL,  
BUDDHIST STUDIES REVIEW*



Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, member of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, member of Wolfson College, Oxford. She teaches on Buddhist subjects and research interests including Pāli texts about meditation, Abhidhamma, modern chanting traditions, and Jātaka and Dhammapada stories. She has written books on Buddhist meditation literature, art and narrative.

**PROF. ANN HEIRMAN**



**Ann Heirman**, Ph.D. (1998) in Oriental Languages and Cultures, is Professor at Ghent University (Belgium), where she is teaching Classical and Buddhist Chinese. She has published extensively on Chinese Buddhist monasticism and the development of disciplinary rules, including *Rules for Nuns according to the Dharmaguptakavinaya* (Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2002), *The Spread of Buddhism* (edited volume with Stephan Peter Bumbacher, Brill, Leiden, 2007) and *A Pure Mind in a Clean Body, Bodily Care in the Buddhist Monasteries of Ancient India and China* (Academia Press, Ghent, 2012, with Mathieu

Torck). At Ghent University, she is president of the Ghent Centre for Buddhist Studies, an international research centre that focuses on India and China.

### **DR. PETER SHARROCK**



Peter D Sharrock teaches at SOAS on the Buddhist and Hindu art of Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. He is a Project Board member of the new SOAS Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP). The first SAAAP symposium was held at SOAS in early December on the Banteay Chhmar temple built by Cambodia's first Buddhist king Jayavarman VII, who took the Khmer Empire to its apogee in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Banteay Chhmar contains some unique vestiges of Esoteric Buddhist iconography.

### **ROGER WRIGHT**



SOAS Buddhist Studies MA alumni, FRAS. Also a trustee of Jamyang Buddhist Centre, the FPMT Centre in London. An independent researcher, he is particularly interested in the Guhyasamaja tantra cycle, currently translating G/S commentaries from Sanskrit and Tibetan.

**MATT COWARD**  
**WEBSITE MANAGER**



I am Matt Coward the IT Officer for UKABS. I have been on the committee for just over one year and I am excited to see what the future holds for UKABS. I am currently a post-graduate student at York St. John University. My research looks at the way in which methods of communal performance (particularly Playback and Forum theatre) are being used as techniques for conflict resolution and mediation in contemporary Sri Lanka. If you have any queries about the UKABS website or would like to provide any feedback please feel free to contact me on: [m.coward@yorks.j.ac.uk](mailto:m.coward@yorks.j.ac.uk) or mobile 07800 502500.

**ELSA NGAR-SZE LAU**  
*POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE*



PhD candidate, Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, Lancaster University. I have worked on mindfulness and education, and I am also interested in transnational Buddhist meditation practices in contemporary Chinese societies.

**PEMA CLARK**  
*NEWSLETTER EDITOR, UKABS*



Currently a PhD candidate at the University of East Anglia working in the field of Buddhism and contemporary performance practice. Research interests include Buddhist performance methodologies including Japanese Noh theatre: treatises of Zeami; Rolmoe Tenchoe; Butoh; Ruth Zaporah's Action Theatre and Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche's Mudra Space Awareness; and contemporary performance practitioners including John Cage, Meredith Monk, Marina Abramovic, Bill Viola, Yoko Ono, Zhang Huan and Tehching Hsieh.



## NEWS

### NEW AWARD FOR BUDDHIST ACADEMICS IN EUROPE SEEKS NOMINATIONS

**December 31 Deadline** to Nominate Candidates for Khyentse Foundation Award for Outstanding PhD Dissertation in Buddhist Studies

(San Francisco, December 8, 2014) – In July of 2014, Khyentse Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the study and practice of Buddhism, announced the establishment of its Award for Outstanding Dissertations in Buddhist Studies. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2014. The award will be presented to the best PhD dissertation in the field of Buddhist Studies written in Europe, including the UK, that was published during the previous two academic years. The dissertation must be based on original research in the relevant primary language, and it should significantly advance understanding of the subject or Buddhist scriptures studied. The dissertation must be written in English. The award of US\$8,000 is intended to enable the recipient to further his or her research.

Accredited institutions that offer PhD programs in Buddhist Studies or Religious Studies in any European country are invited to nominate one dissertation that was completed during the academic year 2012-13 or 2013-14.

Nominations must include four separate documents:

- Letter of recommendation by a member of the faculty and/or the chair of the department or institution
- Summary of the dissertation in English (not more than 2 pages)
- One representative chapter of the dissertation



- Full contact details for the department and for the author of the dissertation

These documents should be submitted by email to [jun@khyentsefoundation.org](mailto:jun@khyentsefoundation.org)

## **Digital Editions of the Pali Canon Available!**

The Pali Text Society has announced the availability of digital editions of the PTS edition of the Pali canon. The files are being made available text by text for free download on GRETIL (Göttingen Register of Electronic Texts in Indian Languages):  
<http://gretil.sub.uni-goettingen.de/>

These files are based on the digital text input by the Dhammakaya Foundation, Thailand, 1989-1996 and are made available by the Pali Text Society for scholarly purposes only. In principle they represent a digital edition (without revision or correction) of the printed editions of the complete set of Pali canonical texts published by the PTS. While they have been subject to a process of checking, it should not be assumed that there is no divergence from the printed editions and it is strongly recommended that they are checked against the printed editions before quoting.

While the PTS edition of the canon can make no particular claim to authority or accuracy, its text is the one most widely used and quoted in the scholarly literature published over the last 125 years. The files include the page numbers and line breaks of the printed edition. For more details, please contact: Professor Rupert Gethin:  
[Rupert.Gethin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Rupert.Gethin@bristol.ac.uk)

# CONFERENCE REPORTS

## 17<sup>th</sup> International Association of Buddhist Studies Congress (IABS)

*Report on the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna, Austria, 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014*

by Naomi Appleton

This summer saw hundreds of scholars of Buddhism from around the world descend on the beautiful city of Vienna, Austria, for the three-yearly Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS). With a total of 35 panels and 25 sections, resulting in ten or more parallel sessions at any one time, over the course of five and a half days everything from the origins of Buddhism to its contemporary manifestations was talked about.

The venue – the ‘Juridicum’ – consisted of a large hall with plenty of room for mingling over coffee or browsing the many bookstalls, with a range of smaller rooms leading off it for the panels. This generally worked well, though air circulation was sometimes an issue, and the constant panel-hopping of attendees meant that disturbance during the first and last five minutes of each paper was inevitable. The location of the building was perfect, close to a large tram stop, and a short walk to the very centre of the city. Excursions on the Thursday afternoon were made very easy by this location, and restaurants in the vicinity provided plenty of options for dinner, while a nearby vegetarian establishment saved the vegans, who were overlooked by the conference caterers and their cheese-sandwich packed lunches. Conference fatigue could be easily cured by a short sojourn in one of the city’s stunning coffee-houses.

The quality of the papers was variable, with the challenging twenty-minute format being handled better by some scholars than others. Where time was left for discussion this often proved very fruitful, though there was also some overly aggressive questioning, which the present author found rather distasteful.

With so many parallel sessions there was usually something available on a subject within one’s own field. Particular highlights for me, apart from my own panel (on Buddhist narrative genres), included a panel on intertextuality, another on interactions between Buddhism and other religions, and a range of papers on early Buddhism. However, the wealth of offerings did have a downside in that I felt unable to get my usual exposure to areas of more tangential interest, such as the art of Southeast Asia, or the translation challenges of Mahāyāna sūtras (the latter panel in any case being so overcrowded there was nowhere to

sit). Past IABS Congresses have provided me with a broader education, rather than simply feeding my specific research interests, and this one was an exception in that regard, though through no fault of the conference itself!

The conference opened and closed with a reception. Unfortunately a delay to my journey (or rather the journey of my luggage – thanks AirFrance!) meant I missed the opening reception, which was by all accounts in a beautiful location in the old University building. The closing reception involved us all piling onto trams and travelling out to a delightful beer garden. The spirit was upbeat and the conversation lively.

With the closing reception on the Friday evening, participants started to disappear the following morning, thinning the audience for the Saturday panels greatly. One wonders if the format needs adjusting – five and half days of solid conferencing is too much for most people, however enriching the content.

It was announced that the next IABS Congress will take place in Toronto in 2017.

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*Report on Continental European Universities at the Seventeenth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna 2014*

by Ann Heirman

The Seventeenth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies took place in Vienna from 18 to 23 August 2014. This conference is one of the main fora for researchers engaged in a variety of Buddhist studies. The conference in Vienna was exceptionally rich, with a wide range of topics. Consequently, although there was plenty of opportunity to change between lecture rooms, some overlaps inevitably occurred. This is maybe unfortunate, but it also shows the overwhelming presence of interesting topics, with high level presentations.

The IABS conference is held every three years, and rotates between venues in Asia, America and Europe. This year the event took place in Europe, which allowed quite many European colleagues to attend. Research, however, is certainly no longer a regionally isolated occupation, and many panels and sections of the conference included colleagues from all over the world. Scholars working in European institutions can thus be found in very diverse fields of study. At the Vienna conference, they presented papers on philology (including history of texts and textual tradition, manuscripts studies, and the history of canonisation), philosophy (such as the development of Buddhist thought), social studies (including gender and ethics), history, contemporary Buddhism, art and

anthropology. A lot of attention was devoted to regional developments and to the spread of Buddhism, with a major focus on the Silk Road.

A large conference like the one in Vienna is an excellent opportunity to present and discuss new findings with a broad and international audience. In the following, a short overview of topics addressed by continental European colleagues is given – with my apologies to those colleagues whose contribution I missed.

A major topic certainly is Buddhist philosophy, especially Indian and Tibetan philosophy, but also several East Asian issues, that are studied at quite many universities, including Berlin, Budapest, Copenhagen, Freiburg, Ghent, Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Krakow, Leipzig, Louvain-la-Neuve, Lublin, Munich, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zagreb and Zürich. Another topic often included in university studies is art and architecture, presented by colleagues from Aarhus, Bonn, Budapest, Göttingen, Hamburg, Munich and Vienna, with a major focus on India and Tibet. Buddhism in the Himalaya remains a strong feature of the universities of Bonn, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Munich and Vienna, with several presentations at the IABS conference. Manuscript studies were represented at Vienna mainly by Munich University, but equally by the universities of Berlin, Budapest, Freiburg and Leiden.

In addition, several European centres of Buddhist studies presented a particular focus of their work. Such panels included the broad contribution on Tocharian studies put together by the Department of Asian Studies of the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, a department that equally convened a panel on Indian textual studies. Another interesting project on iconography and textual studies on the Silk Road was presented in Vienna by a panel convened by Bochum University, as part of the research centre on *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe*. Also the international consortium *Fate, Freedom and Prognostication* at Erlangen University presented its results on East Asian Buddhism. Furthermore, a panel on material culture and contact between Buddhists and ‘others’ was put together by the *Ghent Centre of Buddhist Studies* at Ghent University in collaboration with the John Carroll University in Cleveland. Other foci were ‘Buddhism and society’ at Leiden University, anthropology in Paris, gender studies at Hamburg University, European contemporary Buddhism at Copenhagen University, and the study of rituals (Guanyin) at the universities of Cologne and Heidelberg.

The above not only shows the variety of continental European Buddhist studies, but also the focus of the various centres. As mentioned above, the universities nowadays work in a very international context, and present their results in many workshops and conferences. This will undoubtedly also be the case at the next Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies in three years. An event to look forward to.

*The 17th IABS Congress in Vienna—a report from a postgraduate student*

by Elsa Ngar-sze Lau<sup>1</sup> (PhD candidate, Lancaster University)

Unlike attending the 16th Congress at Dharma Drum Mountain (DDM) in Taipei three years ago, I had mixed feelings on the flight to Vienna for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014. I recalled that last October I decided to submit an abstract for presenting a paper at this conference. While three panels had rejected me due to limitation of panel quota, fortunately my abstract was finally examined and accepted for presenting at the section 'Contemporary Buddhism' by the congress planning committee. It was exciting that I would have a chance to attend the lectures of some world-renowned scholars and to meet up my friends from various countries. Yet it was indeed my first time giving a presentation as a postgraduate student at such a high standard conference. Inevitably some doubts came to my mind, 'How many people will attend my session? Will they raise some challenging questions that I could not give any response? ...'

Due to my delayed flight and confused direction, I was quite nervous for my late arrival for the keynote speech offered by Professor Ernst Steinkellner on Dharmakirti's translated statement. Yet having chats with teachers and friends from the UK, Europe, Hong Kong and Taiwan over the enjoyable reception in the garden of the University of Vienna, which was found by Duke Rudolph IV 650 years ago, I almost forgot the anxiety of my coming presentation.

Unlike many one or two-day conference, the IABS is the biggest Buddhist studies conference in the world. There were generally 10 to 13 panels/sessions arranged at the same time. Ideally I would have liked to attend all papers, however practically I had to make a choice for attending those presentations which were more related to my research including "Contemporary Buddhism", "Buddhism and Society" and "Towards an Anthropology of Buddhism". Amazingly they were arranged at the same lecture theatre number 11, where I gave my presentation 'Becoming lay meditation teachers in contemporary Chinese Societies: cases in Hong Kong and Taiwan' on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. As the environment was familiar to me, I felt more relaxed at my session. Unexpectedly there were nearly 20 people attending my paper, and after my presentation there was one positive response and a simple question. I secretly smiled to myself, 'It is over!' This was a good lesson to me--it was not necessary to be over-worried.

Out of my expectation, the organizer had assigned me to help chair the section following my presentation. It was not only a valuable learning experience to facilitate the speakers, but also an enjoyable process to learn from an unfamiliar

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<sup>1</sup> The author has contributed a few articles to Buddhistdoor International for a special issue on the 17<sup>th</sup> IABS Congress, see <http://newlotus.buddhistdoor.com/en/news/d/41940>

topic. For instance, in her paper 'The Rhetoric of Zen in Contemporary Korean Buddhism:

Pomnyun's Quote', Hyekyung Jee investigated how Pomnyun, a Korean monk, demonstrated the rhetoric of Zen in a modern approach via insightful discourse and mental shock with audience. Scott Mitchell, whose paper 'The Ritual Use of Music in U.S. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Communities', examined the ritual use of music and gāthā in U.S. Jōdo Shinshū communities.

Like many participants, I ran between classrooms during the very short breaks in a rush to attend the papers I had prioritised. Hence I rarely attend the whole panel or section except "Gender in Buddhism", which was impressive. Although that was not an organised panel, all presenters including Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Yasmin Cho, Reiko, Ohnuma, John Powers and Carola Roloff had given quality papers with interesting stories. Certainly, there were many other fascinating presentations that I was regrettably unable to attend due to the clashing schedule.

Both Rebecca and Daisy, postgraduate students, told me that they benefited from attending even though they did not present papers this time. Daisy Cheung, who is a PhD candidate at Hamburg University working on Indian tantric Buddhism, joined the IABS for her first time. She did not present any paper at the conference as she was not ready for that. To her, the most impressive panel was "Reconstructing the History of Late Indian Buddhism (Part II): Relationship between Tantric and Non-Tantric Doctrines", which was closely related to her own field.

Rebecca Fong, a PhD candidate from Durham University, told me that she selected to attend the panel/sections on Buddhist epistemology and logic, particularly Madhyamaka and Yogācāra. The most impressive presentation to her was a philosophical discussion on whether Madhyamaka is a form of nihilism. It is interesting to clarify the position of Madhyamaka as nihilism, if it was understood in terms of eliminativism and non-foundationalism, as compatible to its theory of the two truths. This presentation then proposed a more flexible interpretation of the Mādhyamika refutations of other doctrines. Besides, she also attended panels related to translation studies and soteriological role of meditation.

As postgraduate students, we agreed that attending the IABS Congress offer us great advantages to our study and academic career as it provided a platform to update the latest research trends in Buddhist studies, to explore other areas, to attend lectures of famous scholars, to meet up old friends and build connections. Overall speaking, the 17<sup>th</sup> IABS Congress was well organised that we have learnt a lot from both formal presentations and informal conversations over coffee breaks. Yet it was a pity that there was no concession of registration fee for full-

time students who may have difficulty to afford. Anyhow, we look forward to the next IABS Congress in Toronto in 2017.

Acknowledgement: I would like to express my gratitude to Daisy Cheung and Rebecca Fong for the information they kindly shared.

# CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

## **The 4th International Conference Buddhism & Australia**

**26-28 February, 2015** in Perth, Western Australia

The IC Buddhism & Australia is pleased to invite abstracts for panel sessions and individual papers for the 4th International Conference Buddhism & Australia. The conference investigates the history, current and future directions of Buddhism in Australasian region and will be held on 26-28 February, 2015 at the University of Western Australia, in Perth. The conference is a platform for scientists and Buddhists to present their recent and latest researches and to complete each other by revealing different aspects and materials on Buddhism; to consider future directions of Buddhism so that Buddhist education continues to be responsive to the needs of learners in changing times across diverse contexts. The organizers are open to proposals for contributions on Buddhist history, philosophy, texts as well for proposals on any related theme.

### **Special focus for Buddhism & Australia 2015: Buddhist Symbols and Symbolism**

All Buddhists, scholars and members of the general public interested in Buddhism are invited to attend this coming conference. Researchers across a broad range of disciplines are welcomed as well as pre-formed panels discussions. Working language will be English. The time for paper presentation is 30 min including Q&A time. Papers presented at the conference will be published on conference website. Copyright owner for published papers will be Buddhism & Australia Inc.

**Conference Registration** To register your participation, please contact the Organizing Chair Marju Broder by the following email [info@buddhismandaustralia.com](mailto:info@buddhismandaustralia.com)

Payment of the conference fee of 600 AUD should be made by December 25, 2014. Registration fee will include: participation in all sessions for 3 days, printed conference materials, lunches and coffee breaks during the conference.

**The accommodation** package is available by request.



**The Ghent Centre for Buddhist Studies** (Ghent University, Belgium), organizes a Permanent Training Program in Buddhist Studies. This is a series of lectures on diverse Buddhist themes. The venue of these lectures is the *Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde* (KANTL), Koningstraat 18, 9000 Gent, Belgium (<http://www.kantl.be>). The lectures take place eight Tuesday evenings from 19.30 to 21.30 pm.

The following lecturers are on this year's program: Christoph Anderl (UGent, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Belgium, March 10), Erika Forte (Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany, March 17), Petra Maurer (München, Germany, March 24), Berthe Jansen (Universiteit Leiden, the Netherlands, March 31), Gudrun Pinte (UGent, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Belgium, April 21), Esther-Maria Guggenmos (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, April 28), Petra Kieffer-Pülz (Die Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur, Mainz, Germany, May 5) and Oliver Freiburger (the University of Texas, Austin, US, May 12). More details and further information can be found on our website (<http://www.cbs.ugent.be/node/409>).

## 2015 Spalding Symposium

The 40<sup>th</sup> Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions will be held in Edinburgh on **10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 2015**.

The theme this year is 'dialogue', by which we mean discussion, conversation, debate, argument, and communication between and within the religious traditions of South Asia. Our purview includes both religions of South Asian origin wherever in the world they are being practised, and those of non South Asian origin present within South Asia. Papers will be presented based upon all research methods, including textual, historical, ethnographic, sociological and philosophical.

The Symposium fee, including food and accommodation, will be £190, with a non-residential rate of £65. Registration details will be sent separately.

We are delighted to announce our keynote lectures for the Symposium:

Prof. Stephen C. Berkwitz (Missouri State University): 'So Near Yet So Far: Sri Lankan Strategies for Superseding Indian Cultural Forms'

Prof. Uma Chakravarti (National Fellow, Indian Council of Historical Research): 'Contentious Dialogues: Three Moments From an Argumentative Past'

If you would like to participate in this exciting anniversary symposium please see the website:

[www.spaldingsymposium.org](http://www.spaldingsymposium.org)

## **International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU)**

### **Call for Papers**

The IABU was formed on May 28th, 2007, upon the culmination of the first ever symposium of Buddhist Universities held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. The symposium was a part of the celebrations at the United Nations Day of Vesak, organised by Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University and sponsored by the Royal Government of Thailand. (The link to the 2009 Conference is broken, and we will try to provide the collection of articles at a later time.)

The IABU SECRETARIAT OFFICE is proud to present the details for our next major Buddhist conference. See immediately below:

United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations Dates: **27-31 May 2015**

Location: Bangkok, Thailand (Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Main Campus in Wangnoi, Ayutthaya)

Main Theme: Buddhism and World Crisis Discussing the sub-themes: • Buddhist Response to Social Conflict • Buddhist Response to Environmental Degradation • Buddhism and ASEAN Community • Buddhist Response to Educational Crisis

Please adhere to the deadline date:

Final Full-Article Deadline: **28 February 2015**

Invitations to Conference, sent by: 07 March 2015

We must have your fully-perfected articles by the final deadline date to ensure that the article is considered for publication and presentation. Approval of one's abstract does not mean acceptance into the publication or presentation – as we reserve the right to screen your final version of the article. Once the academic peer-review committee completes their selections, and the editors have completed any additional formatting/revisions – deadline dates are established to ensure the issuing the publication to all of our venerable dignitaries, observers, delegates, panelists and students, etc., for the conference, in a timely fashion.

**PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES** • Submitted papers are referred and selected on the basis of quality and relevance to the main theme and sub-themes of UNDV 2015 conference and celebrations. • Submitted Papers should be additionally readied for verbal-presentation (articles may be readied for PowerPoint presentations, rather than just reading from one's article). • Papers should be from 8-12 pages, submitted in the preferred font: 'Times EXT Roman' (for papers with Pāli/Sanskrit diacritic markings). • Please download this font: <http://www.bcca.org/services/fonts/> - and compose your article in this font. Articles will be returned if there are any undisplayed diacritical-markings. • Papers may be rejected for specific circumstances, but may be rewritten, following committee recommendations.

PLEASE SEND ALL ABSTRACTS and FINAL PAPERS to the Manager of the IABU Secretariat – there are no other coordinators operating on our behalf: Dr. Dion Peoples: **dion2545@hotmail.com**

If you are invited to attend our international conference, your arrival should be on 27 May 2015, and departures begin on 31 May 2015). Any additional longer-term shall be from your own expenses. Invitation notifications to accepted scholars for presenting at the UNDV 2015 Conference and Celebrations will be sent by 07 March 2015. Economy-class airfare will be reimbursed upon arrival, and food and hotel-accommodations near MCU-Wangnoi Main Campus, Ayutthaya will be sponsored by MCU – only for scholars with approved articles.

## **14th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women**

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

**June 23-30, 2015**

"Compassion and Social Justice"

### **Call for Workshops, Short Films, & PowerPoint Presentations**

Buddhist women have made many contributions to the spiritual and social lives of their communities. Nevertheless, Buddhist women are frequently excluded from the processes that shape their communities, such as negotiations among governments, scholars, religious leaders, and social structures. Decision makers and social justice movements may be unfamiliar with Buddhist women's contributions, while Buddhist women may remain disconnected from the larger issues that affect their daily lives. The 14th Sakyadhita Conference will be an opportunity to dialogue about creating better connections and to explore how compassion and spiritual development can help shape a more just and peaceful world.

Proposals are being accepted for workshops, short films, and PowerPoint presentations on the topics listed below, related to women and Buddhism.

**Proposals (250-500 words in length) should be submitted by July 15, 2014,** upon which a notification of acceptance will be sent from the committee. Final descriptions are due by August 15, 2014, for translation into various languages. See website for ideas on themes: [www.sakyadhita.org](http://www.sakyadhita.org)

Proposals should include sender's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information. All proposals must be the original, unpublished work of the presenters. All speakers and workshop presenters must register for the conference. Any requests for special dates for presentations must be included with the proposal. Please send to: [indonesia2015@sakyadhita.org](mailto:indonesia2015@sakyadhita.org)

**Sponsorship is available** for participants from developing countries who have never attended a Sakyadhita conference. For an application form, email [indonesia2015@sakyadhita.org](mailto:indonesia2015@sakyadhita.org) Applications must be received by June 1, 2014. We regret that conference funding is limited and sponsorship depends on donations received.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Domestic Devotions in the Early Modern World, 1400-1800**

#### **An Interdisciplinary Conference**

**9-11 July 2015 University of Cambridge**

Across faiths and regions and throughout the world, the home was a centre for devotion in the early modern period. Holy books, prayer mats, candlesticks, inscriptions, icons, altars, figurines of saints and deities, paintings, prints and textiles all wove religion into the very fabric of the home. While research into religious practice during this period often focuses on institutions and public ceremonies, it is clear that the home played a profound role in shaping devotional experience, as a place for religious instruction, private prayer and contemplation, communal worship, and the performance of everyday rituals. The ERC-funded research project *Domestic Devotions: The Place of Piety in the Italian Renaissance Home* will be hosting this three-day international interdisciplinary conference in July 2015. The project team invites proposals for 20-minute papers that explore domestic devotions in the early modern world. Papers may consider this theme from a variety of perspectives, including material culture studies, art and architectural history, gender studies, theology, religious studies, economic and social history, literary studies, musicology, archaeology and anthropology. Topics may include, though are not limited to

- \_Religion, ritual and belief in the home
- \_The use of images, objects or books in private devotion
- \_Daily life and life cycles
- \_The relationships between collective (e.g. institutional or non-familial) devotion and private devotion
- \_The role of the senses in spiritual experience
- \_The production and ownership of religious objects found in the home
- \_Gender, race or age and devotional life
- \_Policing and regulating household religion
- \_Encounters between different faiths and traditions in domestic context
- \_Domestic devotional spaces
- \_Music in domestic devotion
- \_Devotional literature

Plenary speakers will be Debra Kaplan (Bar-Ilan University), Andrew Morrall (Bard Graduate Center) and Virginia Reinburg (Boston College).

Please email abstracts of no more than 300 words to Maya Corry at mc878@cam.ac.uk, Marco Faini at mf531@cam.ac.uk, and Alessia Meneghin at am2253@cam.ac.uk by **7th January 2015**. Along with your abstract please include your name, institution, paper title and a brief biography. Successful applicants will be notified by 7th February 2015. For further information on Domestic Devotions see our website <http://domesticdevotions.lib.cam.ac.uk/>. The conference will take place at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. College accommodation will be bookable nearer the time. Registration fees (tbc) will be kept as low as possible and graduate bursaries will be available to help with costs.

## UKABS Annual conference 2015

Dates: 15-16 July 2015 (two full days).

Theme: "Monastic community and society: Buddhist precepts and communal law"

Conference Venue: The Storey at Lancaster

Conference fee: £60 or £30 for students and unwaged (includes two lunches and refreshments)

Speakers: Petra Kieffer-Puelz, Monica Lindberg-Falk, Nirmala Salgado, and many others.

## Call for papers:

If you want to present a paper at the UKABS conference, 300 words abstract should be submitted to the following email address:

[h.kawanami@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:h.kawanami@lancaster.ac.uk)

**Deadline: 15 February 2015**

## RECENT EVENTS

**SAAAP Symposium on Banteay Chhmar**

**Saturday 6 December 2014**

**Khalili Lecture Theatre in SOAS main building**



Banteay Chhmar is the last great ancient Cambodian temple to emerge from the tropical forest. The restoration effort by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (MCFA) and the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) is now yielding data that is changing our understanding of how the Khmer Empire grew to be one of the greatest powers in Asia by the year 1200. The scale of Banteay Chhmar's construction and its hydraulic engineering suggest it was then a twin hub of the late Angkorian Empire, along with the capital Angkor. Its politico-military relief carvings indicate a key role in maintaining order, extending borders and supporting the world's first known hospital network. This symposium was the first sponsored by the **SOAS Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP)**. It brought together scholars from Asia, the US and Europe as well as representatives of the GHF UK heritage conservation organisation. GHF is restoring the monument with Ministry experts and training a team of Cambodian conservationists for the sites of all northwest Cambodia.