

***News and Views Roundup:  
Buddhist Studies in Canada***

***Compiled by  
Paul Crowe,  
Simon Fraser University***



## Brock University

### Michael Berman

The Brock University Philosophy Department will include in its annual offerings numerous courses on Asian and Eastern Philosophy. In the fall term of 2015, Professor R. Singh will teach *PHIL 2P12 Introduction to Hinduism* and *PHIL 4/5V32 Mādhyamika Buddhism*, and Professor W. Chan will teach both *PHIL 2P17 Introduction to Chinese Philosophy* and *PHIL 5V35 Taoism*; and in the winter term of 2016, Professor R. Dalvi will teach *PHIL 2P13 Introduction to Buddhism*, Professor Singh will offer *PHIL 3P94 Gandhi and Non-Violence*.

The Brock Philosophy Department has many active researchers presenting papers at academic conferences and publishing peer reviewed works. In early October 2014, Professor M. Berman read his paper, “A Short Note on an Indirect Unity: Merleau-Ponty and Nagarjuna on the Human and Non-Human,” at the International Interdisciplinary Conference at the University of Pennsylvania, and has received a book contract offer for his current project, *Merleau-Ponty and God, Hallowing the Hollow*.

Professor W. Chan has seen the following printed recently: “The Philosophical Thought of Mencius,” in *Classical Confucianism* (edited by Vincent Shen, New York: Springer, 2014, 153-178), “Mou Zongsan’s Typology of Neo-Confucianism: Its Hidden Sources” in *Interculturality and Philosophic Discourse* (edited by Yolaine Escande, Vincent Shen & Chenyang Li; Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013, 147-162), and “Toward a Mahayana Phenomenology: Heidegger and Levinas,” in *Wading into the Stream of Wisdom, Essays in Honor of Leslie Kawamura* (edited by Sarah F. Haynes and Michelle J. Sorensen; Berkeley: BDK America, Inc. 2013, 53-68).

Professor Singh recently delivered the following papers: “Schopenhauer and Buddhism” at the IJAS Conference in Munich, Germany, June 2013, and “Europe’s Early Encounters with Eastern Thought” at the Euroacademia Conference in Athens, Greece, May 2014, and will be presenting “Death Contemplation in Heidegger’s Thought” at Douglas College in Vancouver, BC, in June 2015.; also he is working on a book titled “The Masters of Indian Thought.”

## University of Calgary

Wendi Adamek

Buddhist Studies at the University of Calgary was formerly located in the Department of Religious Studies and is now within the newly merged Department of Classics and Religion.

We welcome applicants for our MA and Ph.D. programs, please consult our website: <http://rels.ucalgary.ca/graduate>.

We are pleased to announce Chris Framarin's new book, *Hinduism and Environmental Ethics: Law, Literature, and Philosophy* (Routledge 2013). In addition, he has published articles in the journals *Environmental Ethics* 36/2 (June 2014) and *Philosophy East and West* 64/1 (Jan. 2014): 192-217. He also presented a paper at the Pacific Northwest Regional AAR/SBL/ASOR Meeting, and two papers at the Canadian Colloquium for Ancient Philosophy.

James Apple has been very active, having published articles in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 134/1 (June 2014), the *Annual Report of the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology* Vol. XVII (May 2014), and the *Bulletin of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy* (February 2014). He also published a book chapter, "Buddhism in Tibetan History," in the *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to East and Inner Asian Buddhism* (2014). In addition, conference papers were presented at the American Oriental Society Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, the AAR Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting at the University of Calgary, the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Congress 2014, the International Association for Buddhist Studies Congress in Vienna, and the Western Branch, American Oriental Society Annual Meeting at Stanford University. In the 2014-2015 academic year he is on leave with a SSHRC research grant.

Wendi Adamek published an article in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 21.2 (Fall 2014). She also published a chapter in *Cultural Crossings: China and Beyond in the Medieval Period* (Singapore, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2014). In addition, she has presented papers at the the University of Iowa, the Pacific Northwest Regional AAR/SBL/ASOR Meeting, the University of Hamburg, the Sheng Yen Education Foundation Annual Conference in Taiwan, and in December will be giving a talk at King's College, London.

We are also very pleased to announce the inaugural season of the new series of Numata Lectures in Buddhist Studies at the University of Calgary. Our first speaker (in September) was Professor Wendy Swartz of

Rutgers University, who presented “A Poet’s Repertoire in Early Medieval China,” on Buddhist and Lao-Zhuang thought in the works of Sun Chuo (314-371). In December we welcome Professor Burkhard Scherer, topic TBA, of Canterbury Christ Church University (U.K.), currently Numata Visiting Chair in Buddhist Studies at McGill University.

## Carleton University

Angela Sumegi

In March, 2014 the College of the Humanities Religion Program hosted The Annual Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Lecture: “Pali Buddhist Practices of the Self.” Renowned Pali scholar Steven Collins situated Buddhist meditation in the larger context of spiritual practices and technologies of the self. He began by noting that “the denial that there is an eternal, unchanging self does not invalidate ordinary language talk about self; ‘practices of the self’ refers to an area of mental/physical focus, not to an item of metaphysics.”

Collins is the Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He specializes in the social and cultural history of Buddhism in premodern and modern South and Southeast Asia, and in Pali language and literature. Among numerous other works in the field of Pali Buddhist Studies, Professor Collins is the author of *Selfless Persons: imagery and thought in Theravada Buddhism*, Cambridge University Press, 1982, and *Nirvana: concept, imagery, narrative*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

## McGill University

Victor Sōgen Hori

Professor Lara Braitstein spent the summer of 2014 at the Rangjung Yeshe Institute in Kathmandu, Nepal, developing her research on the life of the 10th Shamarpa Chōdrup Gyatso (1742-1792). Professor Victor Hori was on sabbatical leave during 2013-14. He spent three months at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture in Japan, two months as Visiting Researcher-in-Residence at VU University in Amsterdam and a term at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at University of Victoria in B.C. He worked on his SSHRC-funded research project “The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective.”

Hori's co-edited book, *Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada*, was published in August by McGill-Queen's University Press. The fellow editors are Professor John Harding of the University of Lethbridge and Professor Alexander Soucy of St. Mary's University. *Flowers on the Rock* is a sequel to *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada* (2010), the first collection of essays on Buddhism in Canada, also co-edited by Harding, Hori and Soucy.

The Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies for 2014 is Professor Burkhard Scherer of Canterbury Christ Church University in the U.K. where he is the chair in Comparative Religion, Gender and Sexuality. At McGill, he is teaching a course titled "Issues in Contemporary Buddhism(s)" and will be giving a public lecture on "Variant Dharma: Buddhist Queers, Queered Buddhisms" (the third event in the following series).

During fall term 2014, the Numata Foundation and the Faculty of Religious Studies are presenting a speaker series on Buddhism and Gender:

Ajahn Brahm

"Women and Gender Equality in Theravāda Buddhism"

October 20, 5:00 pm, Birks Heritage Chapel

Khenpo Sodargye

"Women in Tibetan Buddhism"

November 5, noon, Birks Heritage Chapel

Professor Bee Scherer

"Variant Dharma: Buddhist Queers, Queered Buddhisms"

November 19, 4:30pm, Birks room 111

## McMaster University

James Benn

There are currently six Ph.D. students in Buddhist Studies (three in Chinese Buddhism, three in Indian Buddhism), and two MA students (both in Indian Buddhism). Stephanie Balkwill (Ph.D. candidate) currently holds a Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Buddhist Studies, and Chris Jensen (Ph.D. candidate) holds a BDK Canada scholarship that supports his research in Kyoto.

We welcome applications to study at the Ph.D. or M.A. level, and interested students should consult the information on our website: <http://www.religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/graduate-program/admissions>

Shayne Clarke's (Indian Buddhism) recent book *Family Matters in Indian Buddhist Monasticisms* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2014) has attracted several positive reviews. James Benn (Chinese Buddhism) currently serves as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies. His new book is *Tea in China: A Religious and Cultural History* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2015). Mark Rowe is currently finishing a book on "non-eminent monks" which continues his successful research in contemporary Japanese Buddhism published in works such as *Bonds of the Dead: Temples, Burial, and the Transformation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism* (University of Chicago Press).

Dr. Fumi Yao joined us in 2013 on a Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) postdoctoral fellowship. She is working on sutra texts embedded in sections of the monastic law code of the Mūlasarvāstivādins and is supervised by Dr. Clarke. She has recently secured additional funding that will bring her back to McMaster for another two years of research.

In 2013-14 we offered the following graduate seminars in Buddhist Studies in addition to first and second-year Sanskrit and Literary Chinese. Buddhist topics are also covered in our graduate seminars on East Asian Religions:

RS 711 / Topics in Buddhist Thought and History: Introduction to the Study of Indian Buddhist Epigraphy

RS 712 / Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts I: Translated Texts

RS 714 / Topics in Indian Buddhist Texts: Introduction to the Study of Monastic Law

RS 715 / Readings in Indian Buddhist Texts

RS 718 / Topics in Buddhist Studies: Recent Scholarship

McMaster University cooperates with University of Toronto in the Yehan Numata Buddhist Studies Program. In 2013-14 McMaster hosted the following events in that series:

Justin McDaniel (University of Pennsylvania)

Lecture: Architects of Buddhist Leisure

Friday, September 20, 2013

Rupert Gethin (Bristol University)

Reading Group: The Good, the Bad and the Undetermined: Reflections on the Theravāda, Sarvāstivāda, and Yogācāra Listing of Harms

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Alexander Von Rospatt (University of California Berkeley)  
 Lecture: Reflections on the Coexistence of Buddhist and Hindu  
 Traditions in the Historical Nepal. The Case of the Old Age Rituals  
 among the Newars  
 Friday, November 8, 2013

Nicolas Morrissey (University of Georgia)  
 Reading Group: On the Cult of the Lotus Sutra in India: A New  
 Interpretation of a 5th Century Painting from Ajanta  
 Friday, January 24, 2014

Anya Bernstein (Harvard University)  
 Reading Group: Buddhist Body Politics: Life, Death, and Reincarnation  
 in Transnational Eurasia  
 Friday, February 28, 2014

John Kieschnick (Stanford University)  
 Reading Group: Karma as a Historical Force in Chinese Buddhist  
 Historiography  
 Thursday, April 3, 2014

## University of Lethbridge

John Harding

Book Announcement

*Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada*. Edited by  
 John S. Harding (University of Lethbridge), Victor Sōgen Hori (McGill  
 University) and Alexander Soucy (St. Mary's University). McGill-Queen's  
 University Press, 2014.

<http://www.mqup.ca/flowers-on-the-rock-products-9780773543379.php>

*Flowers on the Rock* follows up an earlier book, *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, also published by McGill-Queen's University Press. The essays in these two books examine the dramatic growth of Buddhism in Canada. Individual chapters contain methodological critique of the study of Buddhism in the West, biographies of prominent Buddhist personalities, field reports of important Buddhist temples, and analytical reflection on currents within the study of Buddhism such as gender and multiculturalism.



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Alexander Soucy

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## Simon Fraser University

Paul Crowe

Simon Fraser University does not have a department of Religious or Asian Studies. Our teaching and research activities related to Buddhist studies take place in the context of the Department of Humanities and its Certificate of Religious Studies, the David See-Chai Lam Centre for International Communication, and our Asia-Canada program.

In the department of Humanities Paul Crowe offered a new third-year course on Buddhist ethics and contemporary society. The course took classical texts as a point of departure and then turned to consideration of challenges including reproductive rights, economic justice, sexuality, euthanasia, political activism, among others, through the lens/es of Buddhist ethics.

The SFU Faculty of Education hosted a forum titled "Ecology, Meditation and Meaningful Education". The forum was convened by Dr. Heesoon Bai (SFU Education) & Derek Rasmussen (SFU Education). Invited panelists were Dr. Mark Winston director (Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, SFU), Dr. Kimberly Franklin (Faculty of Education, Trinity Western U.), Dr. Robert Daum (Green College, UBC), Dr. Paul Crowe, (Humanities Department, SFU), Dr. Avraham Cohen (Counselling Programs, City University of Seattle). The keynote was given by Tarchin Hearne a Buddhist writer and teacher from New Zealand.

In addition to publications related to Yuan dynasty golden elixir (*jindan*) alchemy and literati thought, and work on Chinese mobilities in relation to spirit-writing groups in Hong Kong and Canada, Paul Crowe published a chapter titled "Dharma on the Move: Vancouver Buddhist Communities and Multiculturalism" in Harding John S., Victor Sōgen Hori and Alexander Soucy eds., *Flowers on the Rock*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014.

## University of British Columbia

Jessica Main

Buddhist Studies at UBC: Reflecting on 2014 and Looking Forward to 2015.

It has been a busy year, and 2015 looks to be similarly vibrant. The two major centres for Buddhist Studies at UBC are “The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhism and Contemporary Society” (<http://buddhism.arts.ubc.ca/>) and the “UBC Buddhist Studies Forum” (sponsored by Tzu-chi Canada and other organizations, <http://blogs.ubc.ca/dewei/>). The UBC Buddhist Studies Forum brings scholars to UBC, hosts conferences, and in cooperation with overseas academic institutions, runs intensive international summer and winter programs in China. The RHNHFF Program in Buddhism and Contemporary Society is celebrating a new name and new institutional affiliation with The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation—joining the many institutions, programs, and people it sponsors to pursue the academic study of Buddhism, Chinese culture, and the arts. The RHNHFF Program supports undergraduate and graduate courses on Buddhism, and the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation Distinguished Speaker Series and Annual Conference. And finally, the Kameyama Lecture Series at the Department of Asian Studies helps to bring Buddhist studies scholars to UBC.

In 2013-2014, the UBC 2013 ICSCC-Fudan University Summer Program on Buddhism and Chinese Religions in August of 2013 (Shanghai, China), included seminars by Stephen Bokenkamp, John Kieschnick, Jinhua Chen, Seishi Karashima, and Barend J. ter Haar. From January to June 2014, UBC welcomed Professor André Laliberté (University of Ottawa) as the Visiting Chair in Buddhism and Contemporary Society while Jessica Main and Jinhua Chen were on research leave. Laliberté held a workshop on “Buddhism and the Work of Care” (April 2014) and a conference on “Buddhism and Politics in the Twentieth Century” (June 2014). Both he and Professor Rondao Lai (University of Southern California) presented public lectures on their recent research. As well, Laliberté hosted Venerables Xianli and Xianxun from Beijing Longquan Monastery in January 2014, and together with the Kameyama Lecture Series, organized a lecture by Brian Victoria. At the undergraduate level, Eiji Okawa and Dr. Gordon Djurdevic taught *Introduction to Buddhism* (ASIA 250) and the *Introduction to the Major Eastern Religions* (RELG 102) respectively.

Looking forward, we are pleased to welcome a large number of

Buddhist studies scholars to UBC to speak about their research: in conjunction with the Forbidden City Exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery (October 2014 to January 2015) co-sponsored by The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation, the BCS Program is pleased to present lectures by Shi Zhiru (October 2014), Patricia Berger (October 2014), and John Kieschnick (January 2015). The BCS Program will also host a lecture by David Loy (May 2015). The UBC Buddhist Studies Forum will be welcoming Mikael Adolphson (January 2015), Raoul Birbaum (February 2015), Paul Groner (April 2015), and Wendi Adamek (April 2015). Scholar of *Tang Buddhism*, Professor Lu Tongyan, Shandong University, will be a visiting scholar at UBC's Department of Asian Studies.

The coming year will also be busy with conferences, workshops, and symposia. The BCS Program and Kameyama sponsored a graduate workshop on the Ippen shonin e-den by Charlotte von Verschuer in November 2014. The following month, UBC Buddhist Studies Forum held its International Winter Program of Seminars and Fieldwork on Buddhism and East Asian Cultures at Mount Emei, Sichuan, China. In May of 2015, UBC will host the fifth annual Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation Conference on "Buddhism and Wellbeing," and the UBC Buddhist Studies Forum, will hold its Summer Program (July 2015) in Wuxi, China. Course offerings this year include *Introduction to Buddhism* (ASIA 250) and *Introduction to the Major Eastern Traditions* (RELG 102) taught by Jessica Main, *Chan Buddhism* (ASIA 385), *Chinese Buddhism* (ASIA 382), and *Readings in Chinese Religious Texts* (ASIA 511B) taught by Jinhua Chen.