

University of British Columbia, British Columbia

Jinhua Chen and Jessica Main

UBC welcomed several new graduate students pursuing research related to Buddhism supervised by Nam-lin Hur, Jinhua Chen, Ted Slingerland, and Tsering Shakya. Biographical details of these current Doctoral and Masters students are available online at the Department of Asian Studies website (<http://www.asia.ubc.ca>). The number of undergraduate and graduate courses covering Buddhism (<http://ubcbuddhism.wordpress.com/program/teaching/>) is growing, with courses on method in the study of Asian religions and Theravāda Buddhism to be added in future years.

UBC regularly hosts special events and programs in Buddhist studies. Programs and lecture series that were active this past year include: (1) Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program, (2) Kameyama Lecture Series on Buddhist Studies, and (2) UBC-TCU-Renda Program on Buddhist Studies.

The Department of Asian Studies' Kameyama Lecture Series hosted several speakers over the past year: John McRae (Cheng-chi University, Taiwan) on early Chan history, Julie Iezzi (Professor of Hawai'i at Manoa) on Buddhism and Kabuki dance, James Benn (McMaster University) on the early history of tea in China, and Eun-su Cho (Seoul National University) on 19th century Korean Buddhism.

Jessica Main organized a series of special events for the Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program, made possible by the generosity of the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation. The series welcomed Michael Zimmermann (University of Hamburg), John McRae (partnered with Kameyama Lecture above), Phakchok Rinpoche (Taklung Kagyu Lineage), and Mark Unno (University of Oregon). Each lectured on Buddhism and social ethics: violence, social engagement, development, and inter-religious dialogue. The Program hosted its first full conference in October of 2010 titled "Buddhism in Canada: Global Causes, Local Conditions," featuring over twenty papers and two keynote speakers, Charles Prebish (Utah State University) and Raphaël Liogier (University of Aix-Marseille, France). More details about this program are available at the program's website (<http://ubcbuddhism.wordpress.com/>).

Jinhua Chen directed UBC's contribution to the UBC-TCU-Renda Program on Buddhist Studies. This three-year joint project between UBC, Tzu Chi University in Taiwan, and the People's University of China, held its third intensive summer session in July and August of 2010. More than sixty graduate students from fifteen countries and regions, including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada, United States, and a few countries in Europe, travelled to Suzhou and Sichuan for study. Seven international scholars were invited to teach seven seminars. More details about this program are available at the program's website (<http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/jchen/>).