

The SSHRC grant started in 2013 and runs for five years. A major component of the grant is an international conference planned for 2016.

## University of Toronto

### Christoph Emmrich

The UofT/McMaster Numata Program facilitated the following events: In Fall 2012, Shaman Hatley (Concordia) talked about “The figure of the yoginī in the Tantric traditions of Medieval India” and Matthew Kapstein (Chicago/Paris) spoke on “Buddhist idealism in a Jaina perspective”. In Spring, 2013, Robert Campany (Vanderbilt) presented “The Incredible Vanishing Religion: Glimmers of Buddhist Imagination from Medieval China”, while Geoffrey Samuel (Cardiff) contextualized one of his works on Tibetan longevity rituals; Cristina Scherrer-Schaub (Lausanne) discussed her article “Tibet: An Archaeology of the Written” and Jens-Uwe Hartmann (LMU Munich) fielded questions about his study, “The Early Growth of Buddhism in India”. Fall 2013 saw Justin McDaniel (UPenn) sharing his work-in-progress on how (or how not) to study the Buddhist ornamental art of Thailand from a textual perspective and Alexander von Rospatt (UCBerkeley) described his ongoing research on the Kathmandu Valley Svayambhūcaitya, its origins and its sponsorship by King Pratapa Malla.

In Spring 2013, Jason Neelis (Wilfried Laurier) spoke on the impact of long-distance mobility and cross-cultural transmission between South Asia and Southeast Asia on Buddhism. In Fall 2013, the annual Lecture in the Arts, Histories, Literatures, and Religions of Burma, hosted by the Southeast Asian Studies Seminar, was delivered by Chie Ikeya (Rutgers), who spoke about her new research on intermarriage, religion, race, and nation in Burma (Myanmar). The Centre for Southeast Asian Studies also hosted Anne Hansen (Wisconsin) who reflected on death, love, and moral vision in viewing a modernist Khmer depiction of the Buddha’s *mahāparinibbāna*.

Geoffrey Samuel (Cardiff) was the Tung Lin Kok Yuen (TLKY) Distinguished Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies at the University of Toronto, Scarborough, in 2012-13. He taught undergraduate courses, supported graduate students in their ongoing research projects, led an undergraduate/graduate workshop, gave a talk on Buddhism and globalization, and organized a conference on Buddhism and science. Since Fall 2013, the position is held by Amy Holmes Tagchungdarpa and Kalzang Tagchungdarpa. April 5-6, 2013, Amy Holmes Tagchungdarpa

also organized, together with Jayeeta Sharma, a TLKY workshop on “Lamas, Spies, Gentleman Scholars, and Trans-Himalayan Traders: The Meeting of Religion, Colonialism, Politics and Economics in Twentieth Century Kalimpong”.

November 1-3, 2013 saw the second South Asian Religions Graduate Student Conference, “The Methods of Memory”, take place, with Rupert Gethin (Bristol University) giving the Numata-sponsored keynote lecture on “The Quest for the Historical Buddha and the Path to Enlightenment”. Buddhist Studies contributions were made by Cornelia Wolf Wilson (University of Chicago) on “Memory, Recognition, and ‘Divine Recognition’: An Examination of the Contrast between the Pratyabhijñā and Vijñānavādin Theories of Remembrance”, Bryan Levman (UofT) on “The Vicissitudes of Memory”, and Lydia Porter (Harvard University) with a lecture “On Philology and Tantric Studies: Meaning, Method and Interpretation”.

In summer 2012, SSHRC began funding a UofT-based project (\$182,000) titled “Once the Buddha Was a Girl; Girl Children and Young Women as Religious Agents between Burma and Nepal”. The research team comprises one primary investigator, Christoph Emmrich, and six research assistants based in Toronto, Lalitpur, and Yangon. Interviews aimed at recuperating memories as well as readings of textual and visual sources produced by Burmese and Nepalese girl children, women and men between the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries will be conducted to understand Buddhist-mediated adult agendas and children’s strategies instrumental in directing and shaping developments towards or resistance against standardised models of womanhood.

Early 2013 saw the formalization of an agreement, coordinated on the Canadian side by Frances Garrett, between research libraries at UofT and Columbia University. The agreement is expected to harness existing expertise in Tibetan collection services providing for jointly sponsored acquisitions trips for the purpose of enhancing the Tibetan collections at both universities, and a shared point of service for research consultations.

Matt King, UofT doctoral candidate in Buddhist Studies, won the China and Inner Asia Council Graduate Student Best Paper Prize, for a paper he delivered at the 2012 Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting. His paper was titled “‘Mongols’ in the Buddhization of Tibet and China: Late Mongol Readings of Tibetan-Language Sources.”

On January 8, 2013, former U of T Professor of Buddhism and Classical South Asian Languages and Literatures Anthony Kennedy Warder passed away at the age of eighty-eight. For several generations A. K. Warder’s magnificent *Introduction to Pāli* (1963; repr. 2001) has been,

for Anglophone students, the gateway to the world of South and Southeast Asian Buddhist literature

## **York University**

### **Peter Timmerman**

Peter Timmerman, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, has been serving as a member of the International Expert Working Group (IEWG) on the Government of Bhutan's Project on Well Being for the United Nations. He was a participant in the First Meeting of the IEWG for the New Development Paradigm (NDP) held in Thimphu, Bhutan from January 30 - February 2, 2013 and expects to be working on this project's relationship to Buddhist tradition as part of a continuing, larger project, on Buddhism and the Environment in the Face of Global Change.