

University of Lethbridge

John Harding

McGill-Queen's University Press published *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, edited by John S. Harding, Victor Sogen Hori, and Alexander Soucy, in March 2010 (<http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2497>). In the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Lethbridge, John Harding used this edited volume in Fall 2010 for a new course, "Modern Buddhism and Buddhism in Canada." This seminar relates Buddhism in Canada to Modern Buddhism worldwide with emphasis both on cross-cultural currents between Asia and the West that have shaped this tradition and the various forms, traditions, and unique contexts in which Buddhism has become a local presence within Canada's increasingly diverse religious landscape.

The University of Lethbridge community also benefited from an October 2010 guest lecture by Raphaël Liogier, who is Director of the *Observatoire du religieux* and Masters Program for Religion and Society at the University of Aix-Marseille, France. This presentation explored how his early work on Buddhism in the West revealed patterns and processes of cultural globalization, which prompted insights that have informed his larger sociological theories about the nature of religion and belief in advanced industrial countries.

Other activities are related to organizing conferences or participating in panels and workshops about Buddhism. The University of Lethbridge hosted the annual conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) in early October 2009 and John Harding presented "*Crises and Adaptations of a Jōdo Shinshū Temple in Canada*" for this gathering. Away from Lethbridge, Harding presented "*Buddhism, Canada, and the Western Frontier*" at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in Montreal in November 2009 and "*Modern, Global Buddhism(s): Theoretical and Methodological Reflections*" at the "Researching Buddhism and Modernity: Conceptual and methodological issues" workshop in Skagen, Denmark in June 2010. Finally, in terms of conference activity related to Buddhism, Harding was one of the organizers for the conference "Buddhism in Canada: Global Causes, Local Conditions," held at the University of British Columbia as part of the Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program funded by the

Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation. This conference at UBC also received support from SSHRC and the Numata Foundation subsidized the travel of graduate students presenting in this forum.