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## Introduction

Wendi L. Adamek

University of Calgary

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# Introduction

Wendi L. Adamek  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Organized by the Dharma Drum Vancouver Centre in collaboration with the University of Calgary Numata Chair in Buddhist Studies, the “Buddhism and Social Change” workshop that inspired these papers was convened in September 2019. The workshop was designed to address areas of dialogue between Buddhist practice and the complex social and environmental crises and transitions we currently face. Speakers and discussants addressed social change through the lenses of their respective fields, drawing from sociology, philosophy, economics, psychology, cultural studies, all inflected by Buddhist teaching and practice. Topics raised in the papers and discussion sessions included Chan practitioners as agents of social change, Buddhism and resilient systems, transforming social karma, EcoDharma and a new Buddhist path, modern subjectivities and social change, and how a “Buddhist economics” might work. Discussion was especially focused on questions of how to practice in the context of global social upheaval, which of course has grown even more acute since the workshop was held a year ago. A key point that readers of this volume might consider and discuss for themselves is: “How do you see the work of beneficial and equitable social, economic, and political change (which involves making distinctions) mesh with the work of Buddhist practice goals (like action arising from nondual wisdom)?”