

Emerging Themes in Theravāda Studies

March 22, 2018

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC

Washington Room 6

8:30 - 8:45 **Welcoming Remarks**

Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania

Helena Kolenda, The Henry Luce Foundation

Juliane Schober, Arizona State University

8:45 - 9:45 Session One: **Literary Production, Ritual, and Political Authority in Sri Lanka and Burma**

Erik Braun, University of Virginia, Chair

Technologies of the Buddhist Court—Sri Lanka, 1100-1400

Phillip Friedrich, Bowdoin College

The Mahāvamsa and Competing Visions of the National Past in Sri Lanka

Justin Henry, Loyola University Chicago

Perceiving Processions of Power: Practices of Burmese Kings

Charles Carstens, Harvard University

9:40 - 9:50 Break

9:50 - 10:50 Session Two: **Theravāda Connections to Other Buddhist Literatures**

Jinkyong Choi, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Chair/Respondant

How Tight are Suttas Tied Together? On Distinctions Found Within Theravāda,
Dharmaguptaka, and Mūlasarvāstivāda Nikāya/Āgama Literature

Charles DiSimone, Buddhist Digital Resource Center

Experiencing Corpse Meditation: A Comparison of Depictions of Aśubhabhāvanā in the *Visuddhimagga* with those found in Vinaya Traditions
Nicholas Witkowski, Nanyang Technological University

On Early Buddhist Epigraphic Donative Formulae in Sri Lanka and India: A Comparison
Matthew Milligan, Georgia College & State University

10:50 - 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Session Three: **Theravāda Practices in Colonial Contexts**

Thomas Borchert, University of Vermont, Chair

Magical Monks, Invulnerability Spells, and the Rise of Thai Naval Power: Royal Endorsement of Siamese Saiyasat after Mongkut's Theravada Reforms
Richard Ruth, U.S. Naval Academy

Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā: Non-Normative Pali, Psychic Powers, and Control of the Canon in Twentieth Century Burma
Anthony Scott, University of Toronto

Eclipsed Buddhist Revivalists in Colonial Bengal
D. Mitra Barua, Rice University

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 Session Four: **Emergent Theravāda Practices across Asia**

Thomas Patton, City University of Hong Kong, Chair

Spreading the Teachings in Northern Thailand: Interrogating 'Mission' through Buddhist Encounters
Brooke Schedneck, Rhodes College

Turning to Southeast Asia: Han Chinese Practicing Theravada Meditation in Contemporary China
Elsa Lau, Lancaster University

Of Sangha and State: on Theravāda Buddhism in Vietnam
William Noseworthy, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Merit-making in Civil Society: Myanmar's Free Funeral Service Societies and New Humanitarianism
Mu-Lung Hsu, Arizona State University

2:30 – 3:30 Session Five: **Simās: Histories, Practices, and Politics – A Roundtable Discussion**

Jason Carbine, Whittier College
Erik Davis, Macalester College
Pattaratorn Chirapravati, Yale-NUS
Anthony Irwin, University of Wisconsin - Madison
John Marston, El Colegio de México

3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 – 5:00 Session Six: **Sāsana or Nation: Reconfigurations of Buddhist Identities in Contemporary and Global Contexts**

Juliane Schober, Arizona State University, Chair

Buddhist Islamophobia: Transcending the Nation?
Iselin Frydenlund, Norwegian School of Theology

What is the 'Nation' of 'Buddhist Nationalism' in Myanmar?
Matthew Walton, **Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi** and **Aye Thein**, Oxford University

Changing Patterns of Influence: Contemporary State-Sangha Relations
Susan Hayward, USIP/Georgetown University

Thai Pilgrimage to Myanmar: Buddhism and the Change of Thai Nationalism
Neeranooch Malangpoo, University of Wisconsin - Madison

5:00 - 5:30 **Closing Remarks by Session Chairs**

We will continue the discussion at the annual business meeting of the **Theravada Studies Group** on **Saturday, March 24, 1-2:30 pm** in Wilson B. Please join us.

This conference is convened by the **Theravada Studies Group**, a professional organization affiliated with the Association for Asian Studies and the Theravada Civilizations Project.

Information about the **Theravada Civilizations Project** can be found at **Theravadaciv.org**. We are grateful to the **Henry Luce Foundation** for supporting this project through its **Asia Responsive Grants Initiative**.