Buddhism Today

In recent years, interest in Buddhism has grown considerably in both Asian and Western societies. Aspects of Buddhism are appearing in new cultural contexts as well as in different types of media and genres of literature, the visual arts, music, film and theatre across the world. We are also seeing the establishment and spread of New Religious Movements and other religious organizations that invoke Buddhism as the basis of their teachings or at least incorporate some elements thereof. Cultural adoption and transformation of this kind is taking place in many societies throughout the world in processes determined and influenced by numerous factors, relating to both individuals and the society as a whole.

With these developments in mind, the aim of this workshop is to examine current cultural and social processes of adoption and transformation and investigate their inter- and intracultural dynamics and entanglements, drawing on examples from Western and Asian countries to do so. Special attention will be paid to transformations in teachings, practices and organizational forms resulting from the movement, migration and exile of Buddhist individuals and organizations, as well as to how cultural responses to Buddhism, particularly those expressed in literature and film, are affecting forms of Buddhist theory and practice.

An International Workshop
Organized by Freie Universität Berlin and Peking University

Venue
Holzlaube, Freie Universität Berlin
Room 2.2051 and 2.2059
Fabeckstr. 23–25, 14195 Berlin

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Cultural Transitions of Buddhism Today

当代佛教的文化变异：
动态与纠葛

Dynamics and Entanglements

Workshop
December 10th-12th, 2015
December 10, 2015
Holzlaube, Room 2.2051

Welcome Address
13.45–14.00 Almut-Barbara Renger (Berlin)
Cultural Transformations of Buddhism Today. Dynamics and Entanglements

Cultural Shifts and Dynamics in Contemporary China: Between Tradition and Modernity
Chair: Chen Guangchen (Cambridge, Mass.)
14.00–14.30 Li Silong (Peking)
Buddhism Today: From Buddhist Religion to Buddhist Culture in Contemporary China
14.30–15.00 Discussion
15.00–15.30 Coffee Break
15.30–16.00 Liu Chengyou (Peking)
Confucian Ideas and the Localization of Buddhism in China
16.00–16.30 Cai Qun (Peking)
Chinese Buddhist Art: From Canonical Tradition to Contemporary Promotion – A Brief Introduction to the Rock-Pigment Buddha Image of Arya Avalokitesvara Academy
16.30–17.00 Discussion
17.00–17.30 Coffee Break

December 11, 2015
Holzlaube, Room 2.2059

Transcultural Processes and Entanglements in Asia and Beyond: Social Engagement and Economic Performance
Chair: Robekkah Ritchie (Berlin)
17.30–18.00 Michael Zimmermann (Hamburg)
Buddhism and Social Engagement: Modern Transformations or Back to the Roots?
18.00–18.30 Alexandra Stellmacher (Berlin)
Vipassana in Business – A Buddhist Meditation Technique to Improve Profitability?
18.30–19.00 Discussion
19.00 Dinner

Urban Transformations and Monastic Representations: Monks, Nuns and the Mundane World
Chair: Michael Kleinod (Bonn)
10.00–10.30 J. Brooks Jessup (Berlin)
Urbanizing the Dharma: Civic Transformations in Modern Chinese Buddhism
10.30–11.00 Patrice Ladwig (Halle)
‘The Empty Monastery’: Buddhism and the Transformation of Monastic Education in Laos between Urbanization and Rural Migration
11.00–11.30 Discussion
11.30–12.00 Coffee Break

December 12, 2015

Excursion
Chair: Wu Yuanying (Berlin)
10.00–14.00 Buddhism in Berlin
The Fo-Guang-Shan temple, founded in 1993, represents an integral part of Buddhism’s presence within the religious landscape of Berlin. Our excursion will give participants the opportunity to visit the different areas of the temple and to become familiar with its historical and cultural background. A guided tour will be followed by a group discussion and communal lunch in the grounds of the temple.