

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.

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

Convenor

Freie Universität Berlin
Institute for the Scientific Study of Religion
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Cultural Transformations of Buddhism Today

当代佛教的文化变异：
动态与纠葛



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.

Sponsored by Center for International Cooperation of
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der Freunde, Förderer & Ehemaligen der
Freien Universität Berlin e.V.



Fo-Guang-Shan Temple Berlin
柏林佛光山



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

Transcultural Processes and Entangle- ments in Asia and Beyond: Social En- gagement 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

December 11, 2015

Holzlaube, Room 2.2059

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

12.00–12.30 Lin Jian (Peking)

Monks in Chinese Pop Fiction: Their Interactions with
the Mundane World from a Modern Perspective

12.30–13.00 Robekkah Ritchie (Berlin)

Contemporary Transformations of the Representation
of Women Monastics in Thailand: The Asoke Case

13.00–13.30 Discussion

13.30–14.30 Lunch

Final Discussion

Chair: Almut-Barbara Renger (Berlin)

14.30 Across Spatial and Temporal Divides:
Transformations of Buddhist Beliefs, Practices,
Institutions and Identities in New Cultural Contexts

December 12, 2015

Excursion

Chair: Wu Yuanying (Berlin)

10.00–14.00 Buddhism in Berlin

The Fo-Guang-Shan temple (柏林佛光山), 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.