

Cultural Transformations 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

With an Excursion to the Fo-Guang-Shan Temple Berlin 柏林佛光山

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.

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