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Original Thoughts
A Conference in Honor of

Jacqueline I. Stone

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Jacqueline I. Stone has transformed the study of Japanese religions and Buddhism. As a researcher, she has modeled innovative methods, meticulous scholarship, and cogent prose. She has urged us to reconsider the historical trajectory of Japanese Buddhism, and to wed its doctrinal and social history. As a teacher and mentor, Jackie is legendary. One alumnus put it aptly: “There is really no other way to say it: Jacqueline Stone is simply the best adviser on the planet.” She has trained the next generation of scholars with a rare combination of kindness and precision. In short, Jackie has forever altered the field and done so with unparalleled grace, compassion, and rigor.

Jackie began teaching at Princeton University in 1990 after receiving her Ph.D. from UCLA. She is the author of *Original Enlightenment and the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism* (1999) and *Right Thoughts at the Last Moment: Buddhism and Deathbed Practices in Early Medieval Japan* (2016), and the editor of *The Buddhist Dead: Practices, Discourses, Representations* (with Bryan J. Cuevas, 2007), *Death and the Afterlife in Japanese Buddhism* (with Mariko Namba Walter, 2008), and *Readings of the Lotus Sutra* (with Stephen F. Teiser, 2009), among other books. Her monographs have received major awards, including the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion and the Toshihide Numata Book Award in Buddhism. She was recognized for her teaching with the President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2018, and the Graduate Mentoring Award in 2014, which she shared with her longtime colleague Stephen F. Teiser. She has also served as the president of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions and co-chair of the Buddhism section of the American Academy of Religion. She is currently vice president of the editorial board of the *Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism* and serves on the advisory board of the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2018.

Friday, May 17, 2019

Welcome:

Introduction:

Keynote and Reception:

N101 Betts Auditorium School of Architecture

4:30 - 4:35 PM **Leora Batnitzky**,
Department of Religion Chair, Princeton University

4:35 - 4:45 PM
Jonathan Gold, *Princeton University*

4:45 - 7:00 PM
Jan Nattier, *Professor of Buddhist Studies, Indiana University (retired)*

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Jones Hall 202

Opening Remarks:

8:45 - 9:00 AM
Helen Hardacre, *Harvard University*

Session I:

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Positioning Japanese Buddhism

Chaired by:
Presenters:

Thomas D. Conlan, *Princeton University*
Timothy Benedict, *Kwansei Gakuin University*
Takashi Miura, *University of Arizona*
Jolyon Thomas, *University of Pennsylvania*
Mark Rowe, *McMaster University*
James Dobbins, *Oberlin College*

Respondent:

Session II:

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Transmission and Change in Japanese Buddhism

Chaired by:
Presenters:

Shaun Marmon, *Princeton University*
Brian Ruppert, *Bates College*
Asuka Sango, *Carleton College*
Levi McLaughlin, *North Carolina State University*
Lucia Dolce, *SOAS University of London*

Respondent:

Break: 3:00 - 3:15 PM

Session III:

3:15 - 5:15 PM

Distilling the Dharma in Medieval Thought and Practice

Chaired by:
Presenters:

William M. Bodiford, *University of California, Los Angeles*
Bryan Lowe, *Vanderbilt University*
Lori Meeks, *University of Southern California*
James Ford, *Wake Forest University*
Robert Sharf, *University of California, Berkeley*

Respondent:

Closing Remarks:

5:15 - 5:45 PM
Jacqueline I. Stone, *Princeton University*