

# Author Biographies

Ernest Billings (Billy) BREWSTER

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Ernest Billings (Billy) Brewster is currently a lecturer at Iona College, Department of Religious Studies. His research interests include combining philology with a doctrinal-historical approach to key ideological developments in early medieval Chinese Buddhism. He received his doctorate from the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University in 2018, for a dissertation treating the history of medieval Chinese Buddhist doctrinal conceptualizations of death and dying. During the academic year of Fall 2018–Spring 2019, he was Sheng Yen Education Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow in Chinese Buddhism at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Department of Asian Studies.

Max DEEG

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Max Deeg, Professor in Buddhist Studies in the School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University. Prof. Deeg is specialising in Buddhist history and the spread of Buddhism from India to Central Asia and East Asia. He has a special interest in Buddhist narratives and their role and function for the construction of historical identities in Buddhist communities. His latest monographs are on Buddhist foundation myths (2016) and a German annotated translation of the Sino-Christian inscription of Xi'an from the eighth century (2018). He is currently working on a new multi-volume English translation and an extensive commentary of Xuanzang's *Da Tang Xiyu ji*, the 'Records of the Western Regions of the Great Tang'; the first volumes will be published with the support of a 2020 Grant for Critical Editions and Scholarly Translations of the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation. Professor Deeg is also one of the Principal Inves-

tigators on the research project ‘The Xuanzang Trail’, funded by the Bihar Heritage Development Society in Patna, Bihar.

### Mark DENNIS

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Mark Dennis is Professor of East Asian Religions at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas where he teaches courses in Buddhism, mindfulness, Daoism and Confucianism, religion and violence, and world religious traditions. He also directs the university’s Contemplative Studies program. Mark earned his Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies at the University of Wisconsin in 2006, focusing on early Japanese Buddhism, and has a Ph.D. minor in Japanese literature. He lived in Japan and India for eight years where he studied Buddhism and Hinduism, and has traveled widely in Asia. His first book was a 2011 English translation of the *Shōmangyō-gisho*, a Buddhist text written in classical Chinese attributed to Japan’s Prince Shōtoku. Mark is co-editor, with Darren J. N. Middleton, of *Approaching Silence: New Perspectives on Shusaku Endo’s Classic Novel* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2015) and *Navigating Deep River: New Perspectives on Shūsaku Endō’s Final Novel* (SUNY Press, 2020).

### George A. KEYWORTH

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George A. Keyworth is Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan, in Canada. He received his Ph.D. in Chinese Buddhist Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Keyworth has received grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada to support research about and the publication of peer-reviewed articles on Northern Song dynasty (960–1127) Chinese Chan Buddhism and the figure of Juefan Huihong 覺範惠洪 (1071–1128); Japanese pilgrims to Song China (e.g., Jōjin 成尋 [1011–1081]); apocryphal Chinese Buddhist scriptures and the particular case of the *Shoulengyan jing* 首楞嚴經 (\**Śūraṅgama-*

*sūtra*) using sources from Dunhuang and Japan; esoteric Buddhism in Tang (618–907) and Song China; Zen Buddhism in Edo Japan and the figure of Kakumon Kantetsu 覚門貫徹 (d. 1730); and old Japanese manuscript Buddhist canons, especially from Nanatsudera 七寺, Amanosan Kongōji 天野山金剛寺, and the Matsuo shrine 松尾社 canon kept at Myōrenji 妙蓮寺. Dr. Keyworth is currently working on two books, tentatively titled: *Zen and the Literary Arts*, and *Copying for the Kami: A Study and Catalog of the Matsuo Shrine Buddhist Canon*.

### Richard D. MCBRIDE II

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Richard D. McBride II is Associate Professor of Asian & Near Eastern Languages at Brigham Young University. He earned a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA (2001), specializing in Korean and Chinese Buddhism and early Korean history. He was a Fulbright Senior Researcher in Korea in 2007–2008, and since 2016 he has been associate editor of the *International Journal of Buddhist Thought & Culture*, published by the Academy of Buddhist Studies, Dongguk University. His research interests include Buddhist cults in medieval China and Korea (roughly the fifth to the twelfth centuries), particularly the use of *dhāraṇī* (Buddhist spells and codes); doctrinal Buddhism in medieval China and Korea; Chinese and Korean wonder tales and Buddhist hagiography; Buddhist cultural exchange between Song China and Koryō Korea; and kingship and institutional history in early Korean state of Silla (ca. 300–935). He is the author of *Domesticating the Dharma: Buddhist Cults and the Hwaōm Synthesis in Silla Korea* (2008), *Doctrine and Practice in Medieval Korean Buddhism: The Collected Works of Ŭich'ōn*, Korean Classics Library: Philosophy and Religion (2017), and *Aspiring to Enlightenment: Pure Land Buddhism in Silla Korea* (2020). He is the editor of *State and Society in Middle and Late Silla* (2010), the editor and primary translator of *Hwaōm I: The Mainstream Tradition* (2012), and the editor and translator of *Hwaōm II: Selected Works* (2012) and *The Culture and Thought of Koguryō* (2018).

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Asuka Sango (Princeton University, Ph.D.) is an associate professor and chair of the Religion Department at Carleton College, and co-chair of the Japanese Religions Unit of the American Academy of Religion. Sango's chief research field is Japanese Buddhism of the medieval period. She is the author of *The Halo of Golden Light: Imperial Authority and Buddhist Ritual in Heian Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2015), and her current research areas include Buddhist debate in medieval Japan, and dreams and gossip in Heian court society (794–1185).

**Henrik H. SØRENSEN**

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Henrik H. Sørensen holds a Ph.D. from the University of Copenhagen (1988), and is a specialist in East Asian Buddhism and material culture, as well as in the Esoteric Buddhist traditions of China and Korea, especially its pre-Tantric formations. He was a co-founder of the academic journal *Studies in Central and East Asian Buddhism*, and is currently project-coordinator of the ERC project BuddhistRoad with focus on the Buddhist cultures on the Silk Road and their interrelationship based at the CERES Institute, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany (2017–2022).

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Brian Steininger (Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University) was educated at Macalester College, the University of Tokyo, and Yale University. His book *Chinese Literary Forms in Heian Japan: Poetics and Practice* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2017) examined composition and literary exchange within tenth-century officialdom. He is currently researching the impact of commerce with Yuan China on scholarship and media technologies in medieval Japan.

**Leonard W.J. VAN DER KUIJP**

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Leonard W.J. van der Kuijp is a Professor of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies at Harvard University. He works in Indo-Tibetan intellectual history, Buddhist Studies, and Sino-Tibetan relations of the pre-Ming period. He was the recipient of a MacArthur and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

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Guo Wu 伍國 is associate professor at Allegheny College, USA. He obtained his Ph.D. in Chinese history from State University of New York in 2006 and has been teaching at Allegheny College, where he offers a wide range of courses in Chinese and East Asian history. He also serves as the chair of the college's Chinese Studies program. His main research fields include Chinese intellectual history, Southwestern borderland studies, and the Chinese Communist movement. He has published two books, *Zheng Guanying, Merchant Reformer of Late Qing China and His Influence on Economics, Politics, and Society* (2010) and *Narrating Southern Chinese Minority Nationalities: Politics, Disciplines, and Public History* (2019), in addition to a number of peer-reviewed journal articles in the above-mentioned fields.