

# Author Biographies

## James A. BENN

James A. BENN is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies. His field of research is religion in medieval China (roughly fourth to tenth century, CE). To date he has concentrated on three major areas of interest: bodily practice in Chinese Religions; the creation and transmission of new religious practices and doctrines; and the religious dimensions of commodity culture. In particular, he has focused on self-immolation, Chinese Buddhist apocrypha, and the history of tea. He works with primary sources written in literary Chinese and his research engages with that of scholars who publish in English and French as well as in modern Chinese and Japanese. Although his work is grounded in traditional Sinology—a discipline based on knowledge of the literature, history, and culture of pre-modern China—his publications are also aimed towards scholars of Religious Studies.

## Robert L. BROWN

Robert L. BROWN is Research Professor of Indian and Southeast Asian Art at UCLA and Curator Emeritus of South and Southeast Asian Art at LACMA. He received his Ph.D. from UCLA. He studies broadly the art, cultures, and religions of South and Southeast Asia, in particular comparing them and tracing their relationships. Among his recent publications are *Carrying Buddhism: The Role of Metal Icons in the Spread and Development of Buddhism* (Amsterdam: J. Gonda Fund Foundation of the KNAW, 2014); an online scholarly catalogue: *Catalog of the Southeast Asian Collection at LACMA*, launched November 2013. ([seasian.catalog.lacma.org](http://seasian.catalog.lacma.org)); and ‘Gupta Art as Classical: A Possible Paradigm for Indian Art History’, in *Indology’s Pulse: Arts in Context* (Delhi: Aryan Books, 2020).

**CHEN Huaiyu 陳懷宇**

CHEN Huaiyu 陳懷宇 (Ph.D., Princeton University) is Associate Professor of School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He has numerous publications on medieval Chinese religious and cultural history, Silk Road Studies, and modern Chinese intellectual history. He has held fellowships from Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, Clare Hall of Cambridge University, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin (MPIWG).

**Jinhua CHEN 陳金華**

Jinhua CHEN 陳金華 is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a professor of East Asian intellectual history (particularly religions) at the University of British Columbia, where he also served as the Canada Research Chair in East Asian Buddhism (2001–2011). He has received numerous grants and awards from major funding agencies for his work on East Asian state-church relationships, monastic (hagio-)biographical literature, Buddhist sacred sites, relic veneration, Buddhism and technological innovation in medieval China, and Buddhist translations. Dr. Chen is a prolific author, having published six monographs, co-edited ten books, and written over seventy book chapters and journal articles.

**CHEN Lang 陳朗**

CHEN Lang 陳朗 is a research fellow at the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies. Before joining the University of Michigan, she was an assistant professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She received her Ph.D. in religious studies at Yale University and worked as a postdoctoral fellow for the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. She is working on her book project on Tiantai Buddhism in late imperial China.

### Max DEEG

Max DEEG is Professor in Buddhist Studies at Cardiff University. He received his Ph.D. in Classical Indology and his professorial degree (Habilitation) in Religious Studies at Würzburg University, Germany. His main research interest is in the history of Buddhism and its spread; he has researched and published extensively on Chinese Buddhist travelogues. His most recent publications are: *Miscellanae Nepalicae: Early Chinese Reports on Nepal—The Foundation Legend of Nepal in its Trans-Himalayan Context* (2016), and *Die Strahlende Lehre—Die Stele von Xi'an* (2018).

### Thomas H. HAHN

Thomas H. HAHN received his Ph.D. from Heidelberg University with a thesis on China's sacred mountains and alpine spaces. He has taught courses on regional planning, urban ecology and environmental history at Cornell University and UC Berkeley. His latest project addresses the conversion (by way of ISO certified administrative measures and infrastructural integration) of so-called sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) into national or UNESCO accredited global Geoparks in China.

### Alexander O. Hsu 徐恩熙

Alexander O. Hsu 徐恩熙 serves as adjunct assistant teaching professor for the Ansari Institute and the Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies. He is also the Ansari Institute's academic advisor and program manager. His research focuses on early Buddhist scriptures in medieval China and employs perspectives from manuscript studies, genre theory, and cultural history in order to examine how the use of texts reflects transformations in religious reading practices. Hsu's current book project examines why and how medieval Chinese Buddhists used anthologies to 'economize' their gigantic scriptural canon.

### George A. KEYWORTH

George A. KEYWORTH received his Ph.D. in Chinese Buddhist Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2011, he joined the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada as an Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies and East Asian Religions. After receiving tenure in 2017, he transferred to the Department of History, where he has been teaching courses in the areas of premodern Chinese and Japanese history, Asian Studies, the history of religion in East Asia, and comparative manuscript studies. Keyworth has published on topics ranging from 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 (\**Sūramgama-sūtra*, T no. 945) using Chinese and Khotanese Sanskrit sources from Dunhuang; esoteric Buddhism in Tang (618–907) and Song China; Zen Buddhism in Edo (1603–1868) Japan and the figures of Xinyue Xingchou 心越興壽 (Shin'etsu Kōchū, 1639–1696) and Kakumon Kantetsu 覺門貫徹 (d. 1730); and old Japanese manuscript Buddhist canons (*issaikyō* 一切經), especially from Nanatsudera 七寺 the Matsuo shrine 松尾社 canon kept at Myōrenji. He 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*. He has received grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada to support his research projects.

### Nelson Elliot LANDRY

Nelson Elliot LANDRY is a fifth year D.Phil. student at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford. He is working on a research project regarding the Tang dynasty scholar monk master Daoxuan (596–667) and the corpus of historical texts which Daoxuan authored that touch on supernatural themes, especially Daoxuan's later compilation of miracle tales, the *Ji Shenzhou sanbao gantong lu* 集神州三寶感通錄 [Collected Record of Miracles

Relating to the Three Jewels in China]. Landry completed his bachelor's degree at McGill University in 2014, where he obtained a double major in World Religions and East Asian Studies. Landry continued his studies at Peking University with the generous support of the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) where he took a one-year foundational course in Mandarin Chinese, and completed a three-year master's under the supervision of Professor Li Silong. Landry's master's thesis studied the narrative use of dreams in Huijiao's (497–554) *Liang Biography of Eminent Monks*, analysing these dream sequences to try and extrapolate on their role in the process of Sinification of Buddhism that is characteristic of North and South Dynasty Buddhism.

### LI Wei 李巍

Li Wei secured a doctoral degree from Peking University in 2020 and became a lecturer at He'nan University 河南大學. His research focuses on Buddhism's impact on the Chinese literary traditions. He obtained his master's degree with a thesis on the metaphors the Sanlun master Jizang (549–623) used in his commentaries on the *Mādhyamika Śāstra*, better known as *Zhonglun* [Treatise on the Middle Way] in the Sinitic Buddhist traditions. He is presently doing research on the Avadāna Literature in Six Dynasties, as an extension to his previous work on Buddhist literature.

### Michael NYLAN

Michael NYLAN is Sather Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley. She writes on a wide range of topics, early and modern, in more popular and more scholarly venues. She is deeply interested in human diversity and cultural changes over time. Most recently, she has been slogging through the *Documents* classic, writing with a co-author on the 'Four Fathers of History' (Herodotus and Thucydides, Sima Qian, and Ban Gu), and trying to make sense of classical learning during the early empires.

### Gregory SCHOPEN

Gregory SCHOPEN is an Emeritus Distinguished Professor at UCLA. His work focuses on Indian Buddhist monastic life. By looking beyond canonical materials in favor of less commonly used sources such as Indian Buddhist stone inscriptions, his numerous scholarly works have shifted the field away from Buddhism as portrayed through its own doctrines toward a more realistic picture of the actual lives of Buddhists, lives that were (and remain) deeply intertwined with the economic sphere. In 1985 he received the MacArthur Grant for his work in the field of History of Religion. In 2015 he was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### Jacqueline I. STONE

Jacqueline I. STONE is professor emerita in the Department of Religion at Princeton University, where she taught Buddhism and Japanese Religion for almost thirty years. Her chief research field is Japanese Buddhism of the medieval and modern periods. Her current research interests include traditions of the *Lotus Sutra*, particularly Tendai and Nichiren; the role of Buddhism in pre-modern Japanese identity formation; and modern reinterpretations of Buddhist thought. Her books include *Original Enlightenment and the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism* (2001 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Historical Studies category) and *Right Thoughts at the Last Moment: Buddhism and Deathbed Practices in Early Medieval Japan* (2017 Toshihide Numata Book Award); she has also co-edited several volumes of essays on the *Lotus Sūtra* and on death and dying in Buddhism. Stone has been president of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions and co-chair of the Buddhism section of the American Academy of Religion. Currently she is vice president of the editorial board of the Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and serves on the international advisory board of the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*.

### SUN Yinggang 孫英剛

SUN Yinggang 孫英剛 received his doctoral degree from Princeton University. He is currently Professor and Director of East Asian Religions at the University of Zhejiang, he also serves as a Deputy Director of Wutaishan International Institute for the Study of Buddhism and East Asian Culture, an Executive member of China's Society for Early Medieval History, and the Editor-in-chief of book Series 'Studies of International Buddhism and Chinese Religions'. His research spans over medieval Chinese history, Buddhist history, and intellectual history. In addition to more than seventy published journal papers, he is the author of *Shenwen shidai: Chenwei shushu yu zhonggu zhengzhi yanjiu* 神文時代: 讖緯、術數與中古政治研究 [The Chenwei Prophecy Texts and Medieval Politics] and *Sui-Tang Wudai shi* 隋唐五代史 [A History of the Sui-Tang and Five Dynasties], among other publications. He also serves on the editorial boards for several academic journals.

### WANG Jinping 王錦萍

WANG Jinping 王錦萍 is an assistant professor of History at the National University of Singapore. She is a social-cultural-political historian of pre-modern China, and holds a Ph.D. from Yale University (2011). Her research interests include Chinese history, Chinese religions, regional studies, and the Mongol-Yuan and Ming Empires. Her first book *In the Wake of the Mongols: The Making of a New Social Order in North China, 1200–1600* was published by Harvard in 2018. Wang is currently working on two new projects, 'Cultural History of Quanzhen Daoism' and 'Empire on the Ground: A Social History of Ming-Mongol Relations in the Northern Frontiers'.

### Albert WELTER

Albert WELTER's area of academic study is Chinese Buddhism, and he has published in the area of Japanese Buddhism as well. His main research focuses on the study of Buddhist texts in the

transition from the late Tang (ninth century) to the Song dynasty (tenth–thirteenth centuries). In recent years, he has published *Monks, Rulers, and Literati: The Political Ascendancy of Chan Buddhism* (Oxford, 2006), *The Linji lu and the Creation of Chan Orthodoxy: The Development of Chan's Records of Sayings Literature* (Oxford, 2008), and *Yongming Yanshou's Conception of Chan in the Zongjing lu: A Special Transmission within the Scriptures* (Oxford, 2011), in addition to numerous articles. His work also encompasses Buddhist interactions with Neo-Confucianism and literati culture. He just finished a project on the social and institutional history of Buddhism as conceived through a text compiled in the early Song dynasty, Zanning's *Topical History of the Buddhist Clergy*, published by Cambria Press in 2018. Stemming from this latter research interest, Professor Welter has also developed a broader interest in Chinese administrative policies toward religion, including Chinese notions of secularism and their impact on religious beliefs and practices, leading to a co-edited volume (with Jeffrey Newmark), *Religion, Culture, and the Public Sphere in China and Japan* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2017). He recently received funding from the Khyentse Foundation for a project, 'The Hangzhou Region and the Creation of East Asian Buddhism', in conjunction with Zhejiang University, the Hangzhou Academy of Social Sciences, and the Hangzhou Buddhist Academy. He also received funding from the American Council of Learned Societies (with the support of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation) for an international conference, 'Creating the World of Chan/ Sōn /Zen: Chinese Chan Buddhism and its Spread throughout East Asia'. Before coming to the University of Arizona, Welter was based in Canada, where his research projects were regularly supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.