

About the Authors

Naman P. AHUJA

Naman P. AHUJA is Professor of art history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has curated a number of exhibitions on classical and contemporary art; most notably *The Body in Indian Art and Thought* (Europalia international, 2013). In collaboration with the British Museum, he co-curated *India and the World: A History in Nine Stories* (Penguin, 2017) at the National Museum, Delhi and CSMVS Mumbai. His writings have been translated into various languages, and have drawn attention to the foundations of Indian iconography and transcultural exchanges at an everyday, quotidian level. His latest books are *The Art and Archaeology of Ancient India, Earliest times to the sixth century* (Ashmolean Museum, 2018) and *Phanigiri: Interpreting an Ancient Buddhist Site in Telangana* (Marg Publications, 2021).

James A. BENN

James 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 my 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 disci-

pline 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 ULCA 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); and ‘Gupta Art as Classical: A Possible Paradigm for Indian Art History’, in *Indology’s Pulse: Arts in Context* (Delhi: Aryan Books, 2020).

CHEN Jinhua 陳金華

CHEN Jinhua 陳金華, a member of the Royal Society of Canada, is Professor of East Asian religious history at the University of British Columbia, where he also served as the Canada Research Chair in East Asian Buddhism (2001–2011). He has published 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.

Gérard COLAS

Gérard COLAS obtained a Ph.D. at Sorbonne-Nouvelle (Paris) for a thesis devoted to the techniques of architecture in selected Sanskrit texts. He then obtained a D. Litt. for a thesis on the Sanskrit Vaikhānasa corpus (ca. tenth century). Initially a specialist for Indian manuscripts at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, he was then

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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).

Margarita DELGADO CREAMER

Margarita DELGADO CREAMER, Ph.D., currently teaches at the University of Pittsburgh. Her experience studying and teaching in England, Peru, the United States, China, and the Philippines has led her to develop a penchant for understanding cultural interaction in its diverse expressions. With an academic background in Eastern and Western philosophy, she later on specialized on Asian religions with a focus on early Chinese Buddhism and its interaction with Daoism. Her latest research focuses on the relationship of spirituality, ethics and health in Buddhism, and the transmission of Buddhism to Latin-America.

GE Zhouzi 葛洲子

GE Zhouzi 葛洲子, born in February 1987, received his doctoral degree from the Historical Geography Research Center at Fudan University. He is currently an associate professor in the School

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Marko GESLANI

Marko GESLANI is Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina. His research considers the interface of Vedic ritual and astrology (*jyotiṣa*) in early medieval India. He is the author of *Rites of the God-King: Śānti and Ritual Change in Early Hinduism* (OUP, 2018).

Lilian HANDLIN

Lilian HANDLIN (M.A. Brown University; Ph.D. Hebrew University of Jerusalem 1977) was instructor in the Department of History and the Department of American Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1970–1977. Her interests focus on the intersection between social history and the history of ideas. She is the author and co-author of six books, including *George Bancroft: Intellectual as Democrat* (New York: Harper and Row, 1984) and *Liberty in America*, 4 volumes (Harper and Row, 1986–1994) co-authored with her husband, Oscar Handlin. Her published articles appeared in the *American Scholar*, the *New England Quarterly*, the *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings*, *Perspectives in American History*, the *Journal of Burma Studies* and other publications. She is currently working on a monograph investigating early Burmese quests for and yearnings after heavenly real estate, prompted by a once popular canonical Pali text, titled *Vimanavatthu* [Stories of Heavenly

Mansions], part of the *Khuddhaka Nikaya Sutta Pitaka*. Dr. Lilian Handlin is also a member of the Harvard University CAMLab.

John Stratton HAWLEY

John Stratton HAWLEY—informally, Jack—is Claire Tow Professor of Religion at Barnard College, Columbia University. His most recent books on India’s bhakti traditions are *A Storm of Songs: India and the Idea of the Bhakti Movement* (Harvard, 2015), *Sur’s Ocean* (with Kenneth Bryant, Harvard, 2015), a poem-by-poem commentary called *Into Sur’s Ocean* (Harvard Oriental Series, 2016), and *Krishna’s Playground: Vrindavan in the 21st Century* (Oxford, 2020). He is the co-editor of two recent volumes bearing on bhakti: *Text and Tradition in Early Modern North India* (Oxford, 2018) and *Bhakti and Power: Debating India’s Religion of the Heart* (University of Washington and Orient BlackSwan, 2019). *A Storm of Songs* received the A. K. Coomaraswamy Book Prize of the Association for Asian Studies in 2017; *Sur’s Ocean* received the A. K. Ramanujan Book Prize for Translation of the Association for Asian Studies in 2018. Jack has received multiple awards from NEH, the Smithsonian, and the AHS. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and a Fulbright-Nehru Fellow, and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

HOU Haoran 侯浩然

HOU Haoran 侯浩然 is currently a ‘Shuimu Scholar’ 水木學者 postdoctoral fellow at the School of Humanities, Tsinghua University. His Ph.D. is from the Institute for Indology and Central Asian Studies at Leipzig University, Germany, and his doctoral thesis entitled ‘Play of the Great Compassionate One: Life and Works of the Fourth rGyal dbang ’Brug chen Kun mkhyen Padma dkar po’ (July 2020, submitted at Leipzig University) was devoted to the study of the autobiography of the renowned ’Brug pa bKa’ brgyud pa hierarch Kun mkhyen Padma dkar po (1527–1592), one of the most influential figures in sixteenth century Tibet. Hou was awarded a three-year grant (Feb. 2016–Jan. 2019) from the German Research

Foundation (DFG) for his doctoral research project. His academic interests focus on Tibetan hagiographical and historical writings and on the Chinese, Tibetan and Tangut Tantric texts excavated at the site of Kharakhoto. He has published several papers on Tibetan Buddhism and the Kharakhoto documents, and has co-authored a monograph, *Wenben yu lishi zangchuanfojiao lishixushu de xingcheng he banzangfoxueyanjiu de jingou* 文本與歷史:藏傳佛教歷史敘事的形成和漢藏佛學研究的建構 [Texts and History: The Making of Tibetan Buddhist Historical Narratives and the Construction of Sino-Tibetan Buddhist Studies] (Beijing: Zhongguo zangxue chubanshe 中國藏學出版社, Beijing daxue chubanshe 北京大學出版社, 2016) with Professor Shen Weirong 沈衛榮 of Tsinghua University.

Alexandra KALOYANIDES

Alexandra KALOYANIDES is an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where her teaching focuses on Buddhism. She researches Burmese religions and American religious history. Her book, *Objects of Conversion, Relics of Resistance* (forthcoming from Columbia University Press), examines the religious history and material culture of the nineteenth-century American Baptist mission to Burma. Her writing has appeared in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Material Religions*, *Journal of Global Buddhism*, *Church History*, *Journal of Burma Studies*, *Religions*, *Asian Ethnology*, *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review*, and *Marginalia Review of Books*.

Jeffrey KOTYK

Jeffrey KOTYK is an Associate Researcher at the University of Bologna, Ravenna Campus, in the Department of Cultural Heritage, where he is running an EU-funded project, SINO-IRAN, which examines Sino-Iranian religious, material, and cultural relations in antiquity. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 2009 and went on to do a M.A. degree in Buddhist Studies at Komazawa University in Tokyo, Japan, before completing a doctorate at Leiden

University in 2017. His past research has dealt with a variety of topics, including Buddhist astrology and cosmology in East Asia, as well as historiography, and cultural relations between China and Japan. He has investigated the gradual integration of astral figures into the Buddhist pantheon and its related iconography in mandalas, wall murals, and manuscripts, both in China and Japan. This research has extended into the history of astronomy and calendars in East Asia, with a particular focus on the eighth-century monk Yixing. He has published in venues such as *T'oung Pao*, *Asia Major*, *Brill's Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, and *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*. In addition to academic research, he has translated numerous books and papers of figures such as the late Master Sheng Yen of Dharma Drum Mountain. His forthcoming book is titled *Sino-Iranian and Sino-Arabian Relations in Antiquity: China and the Parthians, Sasanians, and Arabs in the First Millennium*.

LIU Cuilan 劉翠蘭

LIU Cuilan 劉翠蘭 is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She graduated from Harvard University with primary Ph.D. training in Buddhist Studies and secondary training in documentary filmmaking. As a scholar, she writes extensively on Buddhism and law. Her research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals including 'Buddhism in Court: Clerical Privileges and Jurisdiction of the Buddhist Clergy in Indian Buddhism' in *History of Religions*; 'The Fall of a Chinese Buddhist Monk: Law and State Governance of Buddhism in Post-Imperial China' in the *Journal of Law and Religion*; 'Hybrid Courts and Hybrid Laws: The Legal Governance of Buddhism in Imperial China' in the *Journal of Chinese Religions*; 'Merit-Making or Financial Fraud? Litigating Buddhist Nuns in Early 10th Century Dunhuang' in the *Journal of the International Association of Religious Studies*; and 'Reciting, Chanting, and Singing: The Codification of Music in Buddhist Canon Law' in the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*. In 2017, she also co-edited the volume titled *Rules of Engagement: Medieval Traditions of Buddhist Monastic Regulation*. As a filmmaker, her 83-

minute documentary film *Young Jigme* has been screened at the 2014 Jean Rouch International Film Festival in Paris, France.

MA Xu 馬旭

MA Xu 馬旭 is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Lafayette College (Easton, USA). She completed her Ph.D. degree at University of California, Irvine with a specialization in late Imperial Chinese popular religions, cultures, and gender issues. She received her master degree in Chinese Literature from Stanford University. Her research interests include East Asian religious traditions, interfaith studies, women and gender studies, Ming-Qing literature, book history, and spatial studies. Her ongoing book project *Boudoir, Buddha, and Body: Reimagining Women's Religious and Social Spaces in Late Imperial China* offers a new window into women's spatial, social, and spiritual positioning in late imperial China by reconsidering women's interactions with various physical and imagined religious spaces. She has published articles and book reviews in peer-reviewed journals in both the U.S. and Taiwan concerning women's literacy and religiosity, mourning writings, religious syncretism, and fictional narratives in the Ming-Qing era.

Yagi MORRIS

Yagi MORRIS holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from SOAS, University of London, specializing in medieval Japanese religiosity. Her dissertation 'The *Kinpusen Himitsuden*: Space, Myth and Ritual in a Medieval Cultic Site' examines the intertwining of esoteric Buddhist imperial liturgies and the cultic framework of the Ōmine Mountains in a text written for the legitimation of the southern court's emperor and situated at the crossroads of religious and political realities. In her work, she attends to the innovative and creative potential embedded in moments of crisis and tries to understand how it effects the religious landscape. She is also broadly interested in sacred landscapes and pilgrimage practice and in the relations between religion and the environment. From October 2021, she will

be a Japan Foundation research fellow at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto, where she will continue her work on medieval texts, rituals and landscapes and begin a new project pertaining to contemporaneous pilgrims on the *Shikoku henro*.

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.

Aleksandra (Sasha) RESTIFO

Aleksandra (Sasha) RESTIFO completed her Ph.D. at Yale University and her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oxford. Her interests lie at the intersection of literature, aesthetics, and Jain mendicant culture. Her current book project explores how the relationship between cognition and emotions is conceptualized in Jainism in relation to different spheres of life: mental health, aesthetics, devotional ritual, and artistic expression. Her recent publications include a study of an aesthetic theory authored by two Jain monks, ‘Demystifying Kashmiri Rasa Ideology: Rāmacandra–Guṇacandra’s Theory of Aesthetics in Their *Nāṭyadarpaṇa*’, and an article on the significance of aesthetic performance in Jain devotionalism, ‘Aesthetic Pleasure in the Worship of the Jina: Understanding Performance in Jain Devotional Culture’.

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 favour 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.

David SHULMAN

David SHULMAN Shulman is Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University. He specializes in the cultural and intellectual history of Southern India, with particular interest in the early modern period (sixteenth to nineteenth centuries), and in the poetry and poetics of Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam, and Sanskrit. Carnatic music is his abiding passion.

Eviatar SHULMAN

Eviatar SHULMAN is Gail Levin de Nur Professor for Comparative Religion and Chair of the Department of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main field of research is Indian Buddhism, and in recent years the Pali tradition. His recent book, *Visions of the Buddha: Creative Dimensions of Early Buddhist Texts* (Oxford University Press, 2021) offers a new theory for the composition of the early discourses attributed to the Buddha, and continues his earlier re-conceptualization of the early tradition in *Rethinking the Buddha: Early Buddhist Philosophy as Meditative Perception* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

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 premodern 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*.

Martin J. VERHOEVEN

Martin J. VERHOEVEN received his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, focusing on the American encounter with Asian religions. He was a Visiting Scholar at Stanford under a Ford Fellowship and later, a Buddhist monk for eighteen years. He previously taught as Adjunct Professor of History & Phenomenology of Religions at Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley; and, is currently Professor of Buddhist Classics at Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

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, Dr. Welter was based in Canada, where his research projects were regularly supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

ZHANG Xing 張幸

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ZHAO Shanshan (Alice) 趙珊珊

ZHAO Shanshan (Alice) 趙珊珊 received her M.A. in Religious Studies from McMaster University (2019) and B.A. in Asian Studies from the University of British Columbia (2017). She was a news reporter of the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* (2016–2019), and is currently a freelance translator. Her research interests include Chinese Buddhist biographical writing, Dharma protection and protectors in the Continued Biographies of Eminent Monks, and especially how females were portrayed in the context of Dharma protection in Buddhist biographies.

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ZHAO You 趙悠 is currently assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University. Her doctoral thesis focuses on the figure of Vimalakīrti from the Indic to the Chinese context. Apart from the transmission of Buddhism in the second–fifth century, she also has special interests in early Indian metaphysics and linguistic philosophy. Her recent publications include: ‘The Wheel Unturned: A Study of the *Zhuan falun jing* (T109)’ (*JLABS*, 2020); ‘Time in Early Indian Philosophy: From Patañjali to Bhartṛhari’ (*Foreign Philosophy*); she is also a co-translator of *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture* by John Kieschnick.