

Contributor Biographies

Ester BIANCHI 黃曉星 holds a Ph.D. in ‘Indian and East-Asian Civilization’ from the University of Venice (co-tutorial Ph.D. received from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Section des Sciences Religieuses of Paris). She is a Professor of Chinese Religions and Philosophy and of Society and Culture of China. She is currently a contributor to the Research project ‘Chinese Buddhism in Globalization: States, Communities, and Practices of Religion’ (directed by Yoshiko Ashiwa and David Wank, Founded by the Henry Luce Foundation). Her research is centered on Sino-Tibetan Buddhism, Chinese Buddhist monasticism, Chinese Buddhism in Italy, and, more recently, the rediscovery of early meditation techniques in modern Chinese Buddhism. Ester Bianchi is the author of *The Iron Statue Monastery, Tiexiangsi: A Buddhist Nunnery of Tibetan Tradition in Contemporary China* (Firenze: Olschki, 2001), and of the first Italian translation of the *Gaoseng Faxian zhuan* (Perugia: Morlacchi 2013). Her co-edited volumes include the recent “*Take the Vinaya as Your Master*”: *Monastic Discipline and Practices in Modern Chinese Buddhism*, co-edited with D. Campo (Leiden: Brill, 2023).

Gloria (I-Ling) CHIEN 簡奕瓚 is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, U.S.A. Chien obtained her Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. She also holds a M.A. degree in Tibetan Buddhism from Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies, Dharma Drum Mountain, Taiwan. Chien conducts bibliographic analysis of the Tibetan Buddhist master Tokmé Zangpo’s (1295–1369) biographies and Collected Works in order to shed light on the cultural legacy of Tibetan Buddhist Lojong (mind training) meditation tradition. Chien’s peer-reviewed articles concern topics such as Tokmé Zangpo’s life

and Collected Works, Ignatian pedagogy, teaching Buddhism in higher education, and Chinese religions in the film *A Chinese Ghost Story* (1987). Inspired by her research on Tibetan Lojong meditation, Chien sought and obtained a certificate in the Cognitively-Based Compassion Training® contemplation program developed at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. To promote scholarly discussion on teaching Buddhism, she established and co-chaired the Buddhist Pedagogy Seminar at the American Academy of Religion (2019–2023).

Johnathan C. GOLD 喬納森 is Professor of Religion and Director of the Center for Culture, Society and Religion at Princeton University. A specialist in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, he is the author of *The Dharma's Gatekeepers: Sakya Paṇḍita on Buddhist Scholarship in Tibet* (2007) and *Paving the Great Way: Vasubandhu's Unifying Buddhist Philosophy* (2015), and he is co-editor, with Douglas S. Duckworth, of *Readings of Śāntideva's Guide to Bodhisattva Practice (Bodhicaryāvatāra)* (2019). In his current work he is developing a Buddhist approach to society, politics and education.

Sung-Eun T. KIM 金成恩 is an assistant professor at the Academy of Buddhist Studies, Dongguk University, and an assistant editor for the *International Journal of Buddhist Thought and Culture*. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Religious Studies at Seoul National University. Previously, he has held research posts at the University of British Columbia and Leiden University. His academic interests lie in the social history of Korean Buddhism during the Chosŏn dynasty period (1392–1910). In particular he is currently working on a project on the rise and formation of Korean Buddhism during the early seventeenth century from the perspective of institutional developments such as monastic education, system of cultivation, and socio-cultural foundations of support (funded by the Academy of Korean Studies). Some of his representative publications include an annotated translation, *Buddhist Apologetics in Early Modern Korea: Treaties and Memorials by Joseon Period Monks*

(2020); ‘Taming the Tiger of Hwadu Absolutism: Kanhwa Sŏn/Chan Practices Understood From the Perspective of Ritual Practice and Experience’ (2021); and ‘Korean Buddhist Adoption of Shamanic Religious Ethos: Healing, Fortune Seeking, and the Afterlife’ (2018).

Todd LEWIS 陸濤 is the Distinguished Professor of Arts and Humanities and Professor of Religion at the College of the Holy Cross. His primary research since 1979 has been on Newar Buddhism in the Kathmandu Valley and the social history of Buddhism. Since completing his Ph.D. (Columbia, 1984), Lewis has authored many articles on the Buddhist traditions of Nepal and a number of books. His translation, *Sugata Saurabha: A Poem on the Life of the Buddha by Chittadhar Hridaya of Nepal* (Oxford 2010), received awards from the Khyentse Foundation and the Numata Foundation. His most recent publication with Jinah Kim, is *Dharma and Punya: Buddhist Ritual Art of Nepal* (Brill 2019). Other writings have focused on the role of merchants in Buddhist history, Buddhist social history, and the history of Buddhist ritualism.

LI Jingjing 李晶晶 is Assistant Professor (Universitair docent) at Leiden University’s Institute for Philosophy. She received her Ph.D. from McGill University in 2019 and has been working at Leiden University ever since. She is the author of *Comparing Husserl’s Phenomenology and Chinese Yogācāra in a Multicultural World: A Journey beyond Orientalism* (Bloomsbury 2022). Currently, she is working on the project ‘A Lost Pearl: Feminist Theories in Buddhist Philosophy of Consciousness-only’, which has been awarded a Veni Grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

LI Wei 李巍 (born in 1991) received his Doctor degree of Literature from Peking University and currently serves as an associate professor at the Chinese Language and Literature Department at Henan

University, where he also fulfills the role of a supervisor for master's students and undergraduate students. His academic pursuits are centred on Buddhist *Avadāna* literature, the history of Classical Chinese literature, and the literary theories of the Six Dynasties. His research delves into the intricate relationship between Chinese Buddhism and literature, exploring topics such as novels, poems, and Buddhist biographies in early medieval China. He authored a translated work and published numerous research papers in prestigious journals, including *World Religions Research*, *Religions*, and *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies*. He also leads one National Social Science Project and one social science project funded by the Henan Provincial Government.

Jackson MACOR 明考寂尊 is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Group in Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley specializing in the reception of Madhyamaka thought in East Asia. He previously received a B.A. in Mathematics, a B.A. in South Asian Languages and Civilizations (2017), and an M.A. in Divinity (2020) from the University of Chicago, supplemented by language study in India and Japan. His doctoral research is focused on the writings of the Sui dynasty exegete Jizang (549–623). He currently resides in Tokyo, Japan as a research fellow at Komazawa University.

Kiril SOLONIN 索羅寧 earned his doctorate from St. Petersburg University. Since the early 1990s, he was working on the issues of the Tangut language, and Tangut and Sino-Tibetan Buddhism. He worked in several institutions in Russia, Germany, USA and China. He is currently a professor in the School of Chinese Classics at Renmin University of China.

SHEN Weirong 沈衛榮 (Ph.D., Bonn University, Germany, 1998) is Professor of Philology in the Department of Chinese Language

and Literature at Tsinghua University. His expertise is in Tibetan and Buddhist History. His major publications include *Leben und Historische Bedeutung des ersten Dalai Lama* (Institut Monumenta Serica, 2002), *The Philological Studies of Tibetan History and Buddhism* (西藏歷史和佛教的語文學研究) (Shanghai guji chuban she 上海古籍出版社, 2010), and *Rescuing History from Tantric Sex* (從演揲兒法中拯救歷史：元代宮廷藏傳密教史研究) (Zhonghua shuju 中華書局, 2022).

TAN Yingxian 談穎嫻 is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research focuses on state and Buddhism in late sixth and early seventh century China, particularly during the Western Wei-Northern Zhou and Sui periods. Her doctoral dissertation explores the relationship between the emperors and the saṅgha in the Sui dynasty, analyzing perspectives from both sides.

Rev Madipola WIMALAJOTHI THERO 羅維摩 (Ph.D., The University of Hong Kong) is currently a recipient of the Dissertation Year Fellowship (DYF) at The University of Hong Kong. He previously held the prestigious Hong Kong Ph.D. Fellowship (HKPF) and Hong Kong University Presidential Scholarship (HKU-PS) for his doctoral research, which took place from 2020 to 2023. His doctoral thesis, titled ‘A Study of the Vimativinodanīṭikā with a Critical Edition and an Annotated Translation of its Bāhira-nidāna-vaṇṇanā’, received high praise from the thesis examination committee, who ranked it as excellent research. As a result, he was awarded the DYF for the academic year 2023–2024. Rev Madipola Wimalajothi Thero holds a B.A. (First Class) honours degree in Pali Studies, which he obtained in 2015. He also completed his MPhil degree in Theravāda Vinaya from the University of Peradeniya in 2019. During his academic journey, he had the opportunity to be an exchange student at Dongguk University in 2014, under the Global Korea Scholarship Programme, and at the University of South-Eastern Norway in 2018,

under the NOPART Scholarship Programme. His research primarily focuses on Theravāda Vinaya, Ṭīkā literature, and textual criticism.

WU Wei 吴薇 is an Associate Professor at the Department of Religion, Emory University. She received her B.A. from Peking University in 2005 and her MA from The University of Hong Kong in 2009, and earned her Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University in 2017. She specializes in Chinese Buddhism and her research interests also cover religious transmission; religion and gender; religion and environment; and interaction between Buddhism and Daoism. She is the author of *Esoteric Buddhism in China: Engaging Japanese and Tibetan Traditions, 1912–1949* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2024). The book sheds light on cross-cultural and trans-regional religious transmission, specifically showing how esoteric Buddhist traditions have shaped the Chinese religious landscape.