

Contributor Biographies

Justin BRODY is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. His main research is in artificial intelligence, specifically on the use self-models and neurosymbolic processing. A long student of Buddhism, he is also interested in interactions between Buddhist studies and mathematics as well as computer science. He is especially interested in dialogues between the latter disciplines and Buddhist philosophy as well as in ways to apply contemporary machine learning techniques to analyze Buddhist texts. He earned his doctorate in pure mathematics from the University of Maryland in 2009.

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, and co-edited over forty books, and written nearly one hundred book chapters and journal articles.

Douglas DUCKWORTH, Ph.D. (Virginia, 2005), is Professor at Temple University. Duckworth is the author of *Mipam on Buddha-Nature: The Ground of the Nyingma Tradition* (SUNY 2008) and *Jamgön Mipam: His Life and Teachings* (Shambhala 2011). He also introduced and translated *Distinguishing the Views and*

Philosophies: Illuminating Emptiness in a Twentieth-Century Tibetan Buddhist Classic by Bötrül (SUNY 2011). He is a co-author of *Dignāga's Investigation of the Percept: A Philosophical Legacy in India and Tibet* (Oxford 2016) and *Knowing Illusion*, vol. 1–2 (Oxford 2021). Duckworth is a co-editor of *Buddhist Responses to Religious Diversity: Theravāda and Tibetan Perspectives* (Equinox 2020) and *Readings of Śāntideva's Guide to Bodhisattva Practice (Bodhicaryāvatāra)* (CUP 2019). He also wrote *Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy of Mind and Nature* (OUP 2019) and translated two commentaries by Minyak Künzang Sönam on the *Way of the Bodhisattva: an overview of the Wisdom Chapter entitled The Profound Reality of Interdependence* (OUP 2019) and a forthcoming extensive commentary on the first eight chapters, called *The Great Hūm* (Wisdom 2025).

Jessica Marie FALCONE is a professor of cultural anthropology at Kansas State University. With a research orientation toward contemporary transnational Asian religious cultures, she has done fieldwork across Asia and its diasporas. Her first book, *Battling the Buddha of Love: the Greatest Statue Never Built*, about a controversial giant statue project in India, was published in 2018 by Cornell University Press. She is currently working on a monograph about the rich contemporary ritual and social life of a Soto Zen Buddhist temple in Hawai'i that was founded by Japanese migrants over a hundred years ago.

Imre GALAMBOS 高奕韻 specialises in the study of medieval Chinese manuscripts from sites in northwestern China. He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the University of California, Berkeley with a dissertation on the structure of Chinese characters in the pre-Qin period. For the following ten years he worked for the International Dunhuang Project (IDP) at the British Library, as a result of which his research gradually shifted to medieval manuscripts from Dunhuang. Between 2012 and 2023, he taught at the University of Cambridge, after which he became a professor at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. Among his main interests is the dynamics of the spread

of texts and manuscripts along the multilingual networks known today as the Silk Roads. His books include *Orthography of Early Chinese Writing* (2006); *Manuscripts and Travellers* (co-authored with Sam van Schaik, 2012), *Translating Chinese Tradition and Teaching Tangut Culture* (2015), and *Dunhuang Manuscript Culture* (2020).

Junling GAO 高峻嶺 is a pioneering scholar dedicated to interdisciplinary research in humanities and science, especially in the fields of Buddhism and neuroscience. Dr. Gao's consistent efforts have built a bridge between Buddhism and science. With a Ph.D. in Neuroscience and a Master's in Buddhist Studies, his work has gained widespread recognition in academia and the media. His neuroscientific paper on religious chanting was featured in the HKU VP(R)'s Pick on the HKU main webpage, while his research on mindfulness has been reported by Newsweek and other prominent outlets. In contemporary society, where scientific evidence is highly valued, Dr. Gao's persistent work in the lab of Buddhism Practice and Counselling Science at the Centre of Buddhist Studies has provided new theoretical and empirical support for the integration of Buddhist research and practice into modern life. This is particularly relevant in contemporary society for exploring and promoting the fusion of Eastern and Western cultural traditions. As people's mental stress keeps increasing in today's world, Dr. Gao's ultimate goal is to utilize wearable devices and big data analysis to assist in spiritual practice, emotion regulation, and mental health. Given the interdisciplinary nature of his research, Dr. Gao is actively seeking collaborations with experts in various fields for joint application on interdisciplinary research projects.

Peter D. HERSHOCK is Director of the Asian Studies Development Program and Education Specialist at the East-West Center in Honolulu, and holds a Ph.D. in Asian and Comparative Philosophy from the University of Hawai'i. His philosophical work makes use of Buddhist conceptual resources to address contemporary issues of

global concern. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books on Buddhism, Asian philosophy and contemporary issues, including: *Liberating Intimacy: Enlightenment and Social Virtuosity in Ch'an Buddhism* (1996); *Reinventing the Wheel: A Buddhist Response to the Information Age* (1999); *Chan Buddhism* (2005); *Buddhism in the Public Sphere: Reorienting Global Interdependence* (2006); *Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future* (2012); *Public Zen, Personal Zen: A Buddhist Introduction* (2014); *Value and Values: Economics and Justice in an Age of Global Interdependence* (edited, 2015); and *Philosophies of Place: An Intercultural Conversation* (edited, 2019). His current research, initiated as a 2017–2018 Fellow of the Berggruen Institute in China, focuses on the personal and societal impacts of the attention economy and artificial intelligence.

Alessandro POLETTO specializes in the social and religious history of premodern Japan, with an emphasis on Buddhism in the early medieval period (approx. tenth to the thirteenth century). He earned his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2020 with a dissertation entitled ‘The Culture of Healing in Early Medieval Japan: A Study in Pre-modern Epistemology’, in which he examined discourses and practices concerning healing and disease, with particular attention to the relationship between Buddhist healers and other technicians involved in the treatment of illness, namely court physicians and *onmyōji*. His other research and teaching interests include the understanding and ritual resolution of natural disasters in premodern East Asia, the history of the cultural exchanges between the Korean peninsula and the Japanese archipelago, and Buddhist material culture and archaeology in East Asia. Before joining Washington University in St. Louis as a lecturer in East Asian religions, he was a JSPS postdoctoral fellow at Kyoto University.

POON Chung-kwong 潘宗光 graduated from the University of Hong Kong. He obtained a Doctor of Philosophy degree and a

Higher Doctor of Science degree from the University of London. He was a postdoctoral fellow at The California Institute of Technology, University of Southern California and Toronto University. He devoted forty years of his life to university education. Before his retirement in January 2009, he served as Director/President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for eighteen years. Under his leadership, the former institution assumed full university status and became The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 1994. In 1985 and 1991, he was twice invited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to make proposals for the award of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. In 2005, he founded the Virya Foundation Limited (a registered non-profit charitable organization). Over the years, the Foundation has offered financial support to more than 2,000 Mainland students to complete an undergraduate education in China, and has helped them in personality and moral development. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Grand Bauhinia Medal (GBM), Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS), Justice of the Peace (JP) and Leader of the Year Awards (Education). He was a Member of the Legislative Council (1985–1991), and Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (1998–2013). After retirement, he dedicated most of his time and efforts to practising and promoting Buddhism, as well as charity work. His publications include *Heart Sutra and Wisdom of Life*, *Heart Sutra and Modern Management*, *The Lesson on Gratitude*, *Buddhism and Science*, *Buddhism and Pure Land Dharma*, and *Buddhism as I Know It* (Revised Edition).

Hin Hung SIK 釋衍空 was born in Hong Kong and studied in La Salle Primary School. For his secondary education, he went to Japan and graduated from the Canadian Academy in Kobe. In 1976, he graduated from The University of Oregon in the US with a double major in International Business and Computer Science. After returning to Hong Kong, he worked for his father in the business and financial sector. In 1990, he decided to dedicate himself to the study and promotion of Buddhist teaching and practices. He became a

Mahāyāna Buddhist monk and was ordained under the benediction of the Grand Master Ven. Sheng Yi. In 1993, he went to London and obtained an M.A. in Religious Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. He is a Founding Fellow of the Centre of Buddhist Studies of The University of Hong Kong and has served as its Director for almost ten years. He is currently the Senior Fellow of the Centre and Chairman of the newly launched Master of Buddhist Counselling programme. He also serves as the Managing Vice-President and Administrator-General of the Hong Kong Buddhist Association and has provided counselling services to the staff of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority for many years. Ven. Hin Hung specializes in Buddhist counselling and meditation. He has strived to make Buddhist teaching more ‘user friendly’ and relevant to people nowadays. His current research projects include Buddhist counselling, ‘Neuroscience of meditation’, and ‘Guangdong Yuqie Yankou’. He has published many books and journal articles on Buddhist counselling, Buddhist teaching, psychotherapy and Buddhist education.

SIK Hin Tak 釋衍德 is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the Centre of Buddhist Studies, the University of Hong Kong. He completed his Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from the University of Hong Kong in 2016 and was a postdoctoral fellow there. He also received training in Medicine (MBBS, University of Sydney), Counselling (MSocSc in Counselling, University of Hong Kong) and Psychology (M.A. in Psychology, Chinese University of Hong Kong). His research interests include mind-body-spiritual health, Buddhist psychology, Buddhist counselling/psychotherapy, Buddhist medicine/healing, and contemplative practice.

WU Shaowei 武紹衛 is an Associate Professor at Shandong University. His primary research areas include Sui-Tang history, Dunhuang Studies, and Buddhist history. He has published over twenty academic articles, including ‘A Study on the Literacy Rate of Buddhist

Monks in Dunhuang during the Late Tang, Five Dynasties, and Early Song Period’, ‘The Reasons for Dunhuang Monks Residing in Secular Families during the Late Tang, Five Dynasties, and Early Song Period: A Socio-Economic Perspective’, ‘The Unknown Monk’s Mountaineering Career: Daily Scripture Copying and Textual Criticism Activities of Monks in the Medieval Period’, and ‘From Veneration to Restriction: Two Eras in the Life of Monk Yihong during the Tang Dynasty’. His recent research interests focus on the production of Buddhist sutra copying in ancient China, the literacy rate among monastic communities, and the Huichang Persecution of Buddhism.

Ru ZHAN 湛如 is a professor in Peking University’s School of Foreign Languages, and the director of the Peking University Research Center for Buddhist Texts and Art. Additionally, he is a vice president of the Buddhist Association of China and vice president of the Peking University Oriental Research Institute. His areas of research include: Buddhist and Buddhist literature, the Indian Ministry of Buddhism, Dunhuang Buddhism, Buddhist system