

# Contributor Biographies

**Céline CODEREY** is a socio-cultural anthropologist, Visiting Scholar and Lecturer at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Associate Researcher at the National University of Singapore. Her field of expertise spans from medical anthropology and anthropology of the body to anthropology of religion, but also to questions of identity in relation to performing arts, heritage making and temporalities. Her research is mainly focused on Myanmar and neighboring Southeast Asian countries, and on the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia. Her work has been published in *Medical Anthropology*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Asian Medicine*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* and she is the author of the upcoming book *The Power of Remainder: Politics and Poetics of Healing in Myanmar* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2026). Her teaching includes the courses *Biomedicine and Singapore society*, *Time and Life*, *Skin*, *The Sea is Us*, *Medical Anthropology*, *Pacific Island Cultures*, *Society and Environment*, and *Culture and Health*.

**Federico DIVINO** is a researcher at the University of Antwerp. His research focuses on Buddhist medicine, particularly within the broader context of the history of medical thought. His approach is deeply rooted in medical anthropology and the semantic history of the concept of illness. He has served as a professor at the Master's program in Death Studies at the University of Padua. He has contributed to the field through articles in medical history and religious studies journals, exploring early Buddhist medical

thought. Most of his work has been published in *AM. Rivista della Società Italiana di Antropologia medica* [Journal of the Italian Society of Medical Anthropology]. Furthermore, he examines modernity through an ethnographic lens, focusing on contemplative practice in clinical settings, which was the subject of a monograph published in 2021. Additionally, he investigates the relationship between contemplative practice and states of consciousness, an area of inquiry that formed the basis of his dual Ph.D. in Transcultural Studies and Social Sciences.

**Wei LI 李巍** received his Doctoral degree of Literature from Peking University and currently serves as an associate professor at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Henan University, where he also fulfills the role of a supervisor for master's students. His teaching portfolio includes courses such as 'The History of Classical Chinese Literature', 'Classical Chinese Literary Theory', and 'Fictions of the Six Dynasties', among others. His academic pursuits are centered 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. Additionally, he is actively involved in the translation of Buddhist scriptures into English, bridging cultural gaps and facilitating a deeper understanding of Buddhist teachings. 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 has led one National Social Science Fund project, one Provincial Social Science Fund project, and several other research projects.

**Liu QING 劉青** is an assistant professor at Hirosaki University in Japan. She obtained her Ph.D. from Kyoto University. Her research subjects are Chinese philosophy, medical thought in the early

modern period, and Taoist Thought. She has published ‘Formation and Development of Zhu Quan’s thought of Yangsheng-Focusing on Huorenxin and Shenyin’ in *The Journal of Eastern Religions* (2021); and ‘The spread of Huorenxin by Zhu Quan in Korea and Japan—Comparative study based on various versions’ in *Human and Environmental Studies* (2019). She co-authored the book *Multifaceted Examination of East Asian Traditional Medical Culture* (2024).

**Irene LOK 駱慧琪** is a Bye-Fellow and Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge; an Honorary Art Advisor and Researcher at the Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole of the University of Hong Kong; and a member of the Chinese Association of Dunhuang and Turfan Studies. Lok received her Ph.D. in Arts from the University of Hong Kong. Her research interests lie primarily in Buddhist studies and Dunhuang studies. She is the author of the award-winning monograph *Contemplating the Mind at Ease: The Origin of the Guanyin Festivals and Worship in Hong Kong* (2020). The book was selected for ‘The 1st Next Writer Publication Funding Scheme’ of the HKSAR Government and was subsequently awarded the ‘Publishing Award’ in the Social Science category of *3rd Hong Kong Publishing Biennial Awards* in 2021. Lok also published *Serendipity at Dunhuang* (2021), followed by its refined and expanded edition in 2025.

**Lu LU 盧鷺** holds a Ph.D. in Literature from Zhejiang University and is a Distinguished Associate Researcher at the Institute of Ancient Books of Zhejiang University. She teaches courses such as ‘Ancient Chinese’, ‘Introduction to Medieval Chinese Translations’, and ‘Philology’. Her research focuses on the history of Chinese vocabulary and the language of Buddhist scriptures. Lu Lu has led research projects, including the National Social Science Fund Youth Project ‘A Study on the New Elements of Early Translation Vocabulary from the Perspective of Indic-Chinese Language Contact’, and published numerous research papers, including ‘Language Models:

A New Method for Examining Chinese Buddhist Translations – The Case of An Shigao’ (2025), ‘Did Wu Zetian name “卍” as “Wanzi”? A Historical Reassessment’ (2024), ‘A Supplementary Note on the Nature of the T 602 *Da Anban Shouyi Jing* 大安般守意經’ (2022), ‘The Origin and Cause of the Aging Meaning of “*Shu* 熟”’ (2019), and ‘An Analogy of Pots in the *Dao di jing* 道地經 and its Sanskrit Parallel’ (2018).

**William A. McGRATH** is the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies at New York University, where he teaches in the Department of Religious Studies. His research primarily concerns the historical intersections of religion and medicine in Tibet and he recently co-edited the volume *Histories of Tibet: Essays in Honor of Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp* (2023).

**Ching Hsuan MEI** 梅靜軒 is Associate Professor in the Department of Buddhist Studies at Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts, specializing in the study of Tibetan Buddhism, with a focus on history and culture. Over the years, she has directed several projects related to Buddhist mind-body healing, including the ongoing ‘Dharma Healing Database: Buddhist Medical Documentation Database Research and Construction’ project. Her recent research interests encompass Buddhist body concepts, Buddhist medical treatment, Sino-Tibetan Buddhist exchanges and dialogues, among others. She is the author of ‘In Between Spiritual Cultivation and Healing: Preliminary Studies on the Healing Practices of Chinese Buddhism from the Six Dynasties to the Tang’, ‘Longevity, Healing and Liberation in Treasure Literature of the rNying ma School in Tibet’, ‘Textual Analysis of Dunhuang Manuscripts: the five-spice taboo’, and various journal articles. Her monograph, *The Healing Methods of Chinese Buddhism*, was published in 2022.

**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 Premodern 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 archeology 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.

**Eviatar SHULMAN** is the Gail Levin de Nur Chair for Comparative Religion and Head of the Institute for the Study of History, Religion and Culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is member of the Departments of Comparative Religion and Asian Studies, where he teaches and studies Buddhist and Indian philosophy and religion. He has authored *Rethinking the Buddha: Early Buddhist Philosophy as Meditative Perception* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Visions of the Buddha: Creative Dimensions of Early Buddhist Scripture* (OUP, 2021), as well as many articles in leading journals. The latter monograph outlines a new approach to the composition of the early discourses (Suttas, Sūtras) attributed to the Buddha.

**Stuart Ray SARBACKER** is a Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Philosophy in the School of History, Philosophy, and Religion at Oregon State University, USA. His work centers on the relationships between the religious and philosophical traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, especially with respect to

mind-body discipline (*yoga*). He has written three books, including *Samādhi: The Numinous and Cessative in Indo-Tibetan Yoga* (SUNY Press), *The Eight Limbs of Yoga: A Handbook for Living Yoga Philosophy* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux), and *Tracing the Path of Yoga: The History and Philosophy of Indian Mind-Body Discipline* (SUNY Press). He is a co-founder of the American Academy of Religion's Yoga in Theory and Practice unit. Professor Sarbacker is an active yoga practitioner and teacher, having trained extensively in India, Japan, and the United States.

**Andrew SKILTON** was awarded his first degree at Bristol in 1988 and completed his doctoral thesis on the *Samādhirāja Sūtra* in Oxford, 1997. He has taught at a number of universities, including Cardiff, McGill, SOAS, King's College London, Dongguk University Seoul, and now Buddhist Studies, Pāli language and literature and Buddhist Sanskrit texts in Oxford. He was editor of *Contemporary Buddhism* for ten years. He has published articles and books including a translation and study of Śāntideva's *Bodhicaryāvatāra* (co-author Kate Crosby), *How the Nagas Were Pleased*, a translation of the Buddhist drama *Nāgananda*, plus *A Concise History of Buddhism*. Currently, he is writing an introduction to the study of Pāli, and researching aspects of the *boran kammathan* meditation tradition, the *vīthiccitta* in *Jie tuo dao lun* 解脫道論 (\*Vimuttimagga), and revising the *Dīpavaṃsa* from new manuscript evidence. He has recently been writing articles about rules on surgery in the vinaya, coercive control in the *Jātaka*, early Buddhist relations with the Jains, and monastic waterbottles.

**Alexander SOGO** is a Ph.D. candidate in East Asian Religions at Columbia University and an adjunct lecturer in Classical, Middle Eastern, and East Asian Languages and Cultures at Queens College City University of New York. His research examines the interactions between religion and the state in ancient Japan through a focus on the body. He is particularly interested in topics related to healing and

disability in the premodern world, and his current work emphasizes cultural responses to bodily abnormality, patterns of Buddhist social welfare, and the materiality of medical practice in early Japan.