Religious Studies 718  
Topics in Buddhist Studies: Recent Scholarship  
McMaster University, Term II 2020–21  
[last revised December 11, 2020]

Mondays 10:30–12:30  
Zoom

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Office—my house?  
Office hours—by appointment

Course Description
In this seminar we shall read and discuss a selection of recent important works on and around Buddhism and material culture (in English). In addition we shall survey trends in recent Buddhist Studies scholarship produced in other languages (Chinese, Japanese, French, German, etc.). Students will be required to write regular, short, critical responses to the readings in addition to a longer essay that reflects on the state of the field of material culture in Buddhist Studies.

Course Requirements
You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. I will assign one person to lead the discussion of each reading. You will write a short critical response (5-6 paragraphs) on each week’s readings that will be posted on the Avenue discussion board prior to our seminar meeting. The other requirement is a longer essay (ca. 20 pages) on the “state of the field” which will be due on April 23. A first draft of the paper is due on March 22. You will give an oral presentation on the state of the field on April 5 or April 12.

Class presentations and participation: 10%  
Critical responses: 15%  
Seminar Paper: 75%

Books and other resources
These books should be available for purchase (maybe second hand) or through the library in electronic form. I have not ordered copies for the Campus Store or placed them on reserve in the library.


*Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* Volume 33, Number 1, June 2020 Theme Issue: The Materiality of Koryŏ Buddhism

**two of these book are authored by men. The rest are written or edited by women.**

In addition to these books we shall also read articles that I may distribute to you electronically.

You should be familiar with the following important online resource:

**“East Asian Buddhist Studies: A Reference Guide”**

https://www.international.ucla.edu/buddhist/article/187139

You should also know that you have unlimited access through McMaster’s libraries to important online dictionaries for East Asian and Buddhist terms: http://www.buddhism-dict.net/

1. Monday, January 11, 2021

   Introduction and Organization

2. Monday, January 18, 2021

   Kieschnick, pp. 1–156.

3. Monday, January 25, 2021


4. Monday, February 1, 2021

   Gerhart, all

5. Monday, February 8, 2021

   The Materiality of Koryŏ Buddhism, all


7. Monday, February 22, 2021
8. Monday, March 1, 2021
Rambelli, pp. 1-128.

9. Monday, March 8, 2021
Rambelli, pp. 129-273.

10. Monday, March 15, 2021
Li, all

11. Monday, March 22, 2021
Shen, pp. 1-105

12. Monday, March 29, 2021
Shen, pp. 106-237.

13. Monday, April 5, 2021  Oral presentations

14. Monday, April 12, 2021  Oral presentations