

PROJECT

BuddhistRoad aims to create a new framework to enable understanding of the complexities in the dynamics of cultural encounter and religious transfer in pre-modern Eastern Central Asia—a region that was the crossroads of ancient civilisations whose uniqueness was determined by complex dynamics of religious and cultural exchanges gravitating around an ancient communication artery, commonly referred to as the Silk Road.

The spread of Buddhism overrode the ethnic and linguistic boundaries along the Silk Road creating a civilisational whole, which despite its diversity, expressed a set of common Buddhist ideas from various cultural perspectives. One specific aspect of this process in Eastern Central Asia was the rise of the local forms of Buddhism. The project intends to investigate such Buddhist localisations between the 6th–14th centuries.

ONLINE CONFERENCE

The 3rd and final conference of the *BuddhistRoad* project, which has been creating a new framework to understand the dynamics of cultural encounter and religious transfer across premodern Eastern Central Asia, shares these aims, with first a new focus on the complex interactions between Buddhism and non-Buddhist traditions, and second a deepening of the traditional focus on Buddhist doctrines. Between the 6th and 14th centuries, as Buddhism continued to spread along the so-called Silk Road and strengthen its position in many of the nodes along the way, it encountered other religions, from both east and west, indigenous traditions of interacting with superhuman beings, and novel non-religious technologies. Buddhist travellers, missionaries and converts had to negotiate, accept, adapt, or reject these influences, and they all had impacts on local forms of Buddhism to a lesser or greater extent. A key part of the new Buddhist traditions created by these processes were altered worldviews, beliefs and creeds that were authorised by means of teaching and the passing down of orthodoxy. Thus, although doctrines and the impact of non-Buddhist influences are discussed on separate days of this conference, there is much scope for dynamic overlapping of topics and exciting cross-fertilisation of dialogue throughout the event.



Restoration of a Tang-Dynasty Christian image found in Dunhuang Cave 17, CC Wikimedia

VENUE

Online conference via Zoom.

CONVENER

Lewis Doney | lewis.doney@rub.de

ORGANIZATION

BuddhistRoad, Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
buddhistroad@rub.de | Phone +49 234 32-21683

FUNDING

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 725519).



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



By Vassil - Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3114842>

RUB

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

ERC Project BuddhistRoad Final Conference

ESTABLISHING OF BUDDHIST NODES IN EASTERN CENTRAL ASIA 6TH TO 14TH C.

Part III: Impacts of Non-Buddhist Influences and Doctrines

12-14 July 2021 | CERES | Online Conference

Convener: Lewis Doney



BuddhistRoad



ESTABLISHING OF BUDDHIST NODES IN EASTERN CENTRAL ASIA 6TH TO 14TH C. Part III: Impacts of Non-Buddhist Influences and Doctrines

MONDAY, 12 JULY 2020

Non-Buddhist Influences – Other Religions

13.00–13.15 **Welcome Addresses**
Volkhard Krech (CERES Director, Bochum) &
Carmen Meinert (PI *BuddhistRoad*, Bochum)

13.15–14.15 **Keynote Speech**
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Lewis Doney (*BuddhistRoad*, Bochum)
**ISLAMIC EXPANSION TO CENTRAL ASIA AND MUSLIM-
BUDDHIST ENCOUNTERS**
Michal Biran (Jerusalem)

14.15–14.30 **Tea Break**

Panel I Chair: Carmen Meinert (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

14.30–15.30 **The Christian Communities in Tang China:
Between Adaptation and Self-Identity** (15 min.)
Max Deeg (Cardiff)
Response (15 min.)
Bill Mak (Hong Kong)
Discussion (30 min.)

15.30–16.00 **Tea Break & Breakout Sessions**

16.00–17.00 **The Impact of Manichaeism and Native Religion on Uyghur
Buddhism** (15 min.)
Jens Wilkens (Göttingen)
Response (15 min.)
Yukiyo Kasai (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)
Discussion (30 min.)

17.00–18.00 **On the Presence and Influence of Daoism in the Buddhist
Material from Dunhuang** (15 min.)
Henrik H. Sørensen (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

17.00–18.00 **Response** (15 min.)
Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)
Discussion (30 min.)

18.00–18.30 **General Discussion**

TUESDAY, 13 JULY 2020

Non-Buddhist Influences – Indigenous Traditions

Panel II Chair: Dylan Esler (Bochum)

14.00–14.30 **Introduction to BuddhistRoad Project** (30 min.)
Carmen Meinert (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

14.30–15.30 **Towards Reconstructing a Medieval Library of Eurasian Medical
Knowledge: Two Accidental (?) Case-Studies** (15 min.)
Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim (London)
Response (15 min.)
Sam van Schaik (London)
Discussion (30 min.)

15.30–16.00 **Tea Break & Breakout Sessions**

Panel III Chair: Licia Di Giacinto (Bochum)

16.00–17.00 **Witch Women and Amorous Monkeys:
Non-Buddhist Substrata in Khotanese Buddhism** (15 min.)
Diego Loukota (Winnipeg, MB)
Response (15 min.)
Ruixuan Chen (Heidelberg)
Discussion (30 min.)

17.00–17.15 **Tea Break**

17.15–18.15 **Non-Buddhist Ritual Traditions of Tibet:
The Case of Nyen and Sadak Spirits** (15 min.)
Daniel Berounský (Prague)
Response (15 min.)
Lewis Doney (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)
Discussion (30 min.)

18.15–18.45 **General Discussion**

WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2020

Doctrines

Panel IV Chair: Yukiyo Kasai (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

14.00–15.00 **People, Places, Texts, and Topics:
Another Look at Chan Buddhism in Eastern Central Asia** (15 min.)
Carmen Meinert (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

Response (15 min.)
Dylan Esler (Bochum)

Discussion (30 min.)

15.00–16.00 **Exploring the Limits of Transgression:
The Eight Serious Downfalls in the Tangut Version** (15 min.)
Haoran Hou (Beijing)

Response (15 min.)
Romain Lefebvre (Arras)

Discussion (30 min.)

16.00–16.30 **Tea Break & Breakout Sessions**

Panel V Chair: Henrik H. Sørensen (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

16.30–17.30 **A Trace of Esoteric Buddhism in Old Uyghur Buddhist Texts:
A Case Study with the Old Uyghur Translation for the Buddhist
Term *wuti toude* 五體投地** (15 min.)
Yukiyo Kasai (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

Response (15 min.)
Jens Wilkens (Göttingen)

Discussion (30 min.)

17.30–18.30 **Textual Formats Bridging the Gap:
The Transmission of the *Pratītyasamutpādaḥṛdaya* in Dunhuang**
(15 min.)
Meghan Howard (Berkeley, CA)

Response (15 min.)
Henrik H. Sørensen (Bochum, *BuddhistRoad*)

Discussion (30 min.)

18.30–18.45 **Tea Break**

18.45–19.15 **Closing Discussion**