

Special Issue

Mahāyāna Buddhism and World Affairs

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue focuses on the possible contribution of Mahāyāna Buddhism to contemporary conflict resolution. Scholars of international relations (IR) are well aware that the contemporary world is full of uncertainty and unpredictability. Additionally, in this context, there is a growing expectation for Buddhism to provide an alternative cosmology for world peace. However, it must be acknowledged that applying Mahāyāna Buddhist teachings to contemporary issues is not an easy task, as it is marred by a dark history. Similar research projects in the past have been made possible by positioning the dark history that Mahāyāna Buddhist history tells us of as if it did not exist. This dark history refers to the Mahāyāna Buddhist organizations' history of war collaboration described typically, but not limited to, by Brian Victoria in *Zen at War*. Conversely, studies that address these dark records have argued as if Mahāyāna Buddhism had no potential to contribute to contemporary conflict resolution. For them, Mahāyāna Buddhism is not qualified to talk about contemporary international conflicts.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Kosuke Shimizu

Dr. Pei-ying Lin

Prof. Dr. Fumihiko Sueki

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 July 2023)



Religions

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Impact Factor 0.6
CiteScore 1.3



mdpi.com/si/134469

Religions
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

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Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

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