

Special Issue

Transnational Buddhist Networks in Early Modern East Asia: Mobility, Materiality, and Inter-Religious Exchanges

Message from the Guest Editors

The time-frame is focused on a period of rapid change, namely the post-sixteenth century, the period after the Great East Asian War (1592–1598) that involved the three powers of East Asia, China, Korea, and Japan. Buddhism in the East Asian region changed in many ways, responding to the new socio-political and historical circumstances in order to stay relevant in a new world. This specific period from the beginning of the seventeenth century to the start of the twentieth century corresponds to the last imperial dynasty of China, Qing (1644–1912), which in turn corresponds with the late Choson period (1600–1910) of Korea and with the Japanese Edo (1603–1868) and Meiji (1868–1912) periods.

The main question addressed is, “What forms of ‘Buddhist’ network and exchanges were there?” So far, little attention has been given to the interactions that took place with the neighboring Buddhist brothers and sisters between the three major traditions of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese monastics. Moreover, the issues of over-emphasis on Buddhist doctrine and scriptures rather than Buddhist material objects and the interaction and exchanges with other religious traditions.

Guest Editors

Dr. Sung-Eun Thomas Kim

Academy of Buddhist Studies, Dongguk University, Seoul 04620, Republic of Korea

Prof. Dr. Yong-tae Kim

East Asian Buddhist Literature Translation, Dongguk University, Seoul 04620, Republic of Korea

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Editors-in-Chief

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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

Caritaswissenschaft und Christliche Sozialarbeit, Theologische
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79098 Freiburg, Germany

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