

Special Issue

The Question of Buddhist Environmentalism

Message from the Guest Editor

One of the most prominent manifestations of socially engaged modern Buddhism across both the Western and Asian regions is Buddhist environmentalism. Studies have also attested to the environmentally conscious practices of contemporary Buddhist communities across the globe. On the other hand, historians of Buddhism have pushed back on the conjunction between Buddhism and environmentalism, pointing out that Buddhist traditions do not exhibit environmental concerns or friendliness and, indeed, were not above participating in structures that exploited nature for human gains. Special Issue is to highlight contributions that consider the transition of Buddhism from its historical past to its current engagement with pressing ecological issues. Articles may take any number of directions, from countering the critics of Buddhist environmentalism via additional historical and textual sources, to descriptive accounts of how current Buddhist communities make the connection between past and present practices, to theoretical considerations of how to account for change and evolution within Buddhist traditions, to the role of ethical concerns in shaping living religious traditions.

Guest Editor

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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