

Special Issue

Buddhist Art Along the Silk Road and Its Cross-Cultural Interaction

Message from the Guest Editors

The Silk Roads, as vital conduits of intercultural exchange, witnessed the transmission of Buddhist art from India through Gandhara to Central Asia, China, and beyond. Current scholarship on Silk Road Buddhist art faces dual opportunities: the influx of new archaeological materials and a paradigm shift from single-civilization perspectives to cross-cultural interaction studies.

This Special Issue focuses on the genealogical development and intercultural evolution of Buddhist art along the Silk Roads between the 1st and 13th centuries CE. We seek to investigate how visual languages underwent translation and transformation across diverse regions and cultural contexts while transmitting associated belief systems and philosophical concepts.

Research areas may include:

- New archaeological discoveries of Buddhism along the Silk Road
- Cultural exchange and mutual influence between Chinese and Kushan Buddhist art
- Transmission routes and cultural origins of Buddhist art in China
- Studies on Buddhist cave temples
- Studies on Sino-Tibetan Buddhist art
- Artistic interactions of Buddhism in East Asia
- Foreign civilizational elements in Chinese Buddhist art

Deadline for abstract: 30 September 2025

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Message from the Editorial Board

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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