

## Emerging Themes in Theravāda Studies

March 22, 2018

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC  
Washington Room 6

8:30 - 8:45 **Welcoming Remarks**

8:45 - 10:00 Session One: **Literary Production, Ritual, and Political Authority in Sri Lanka and Burma**

**Erik Braun**, University of Virginia, Chair

Technologies of the Buddhist Court—Sri Lanka, 1100-1400

**Phillip Friedrich**, Bowdoin College

The Mahāvamsa and Competing Visions of the National Past in Sri Lanka

**Justin Henry**, Loyola University Chicago

Perceiving Processions of Power: Practices of Burmese Kings

**Charles Carstens**, Harvard University

*Milindapañha-attakathā*: Non-Normative Pali, Psychic Powers, and Control of  
the Canon in Twentieth Century Burma

**Anthony Scott**, University of Toronto

10:00 - 10:10 Break

10:10 – 11:00 Session Two: **Theravāda Connections to Other Buddhist Literatures**

**Jinkyong Choi**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Chair/Respondant

How Tight are Suttas Tied Together? On Distinctions Found Within Theravāda, Dharmaguptaka, and Mūlasarvāstivāda Nikāya/Āgama Literature  
**Charles DiSimone**, Buddhist Digital Resource Center

Experiencing Corpse Meditation: A Comparison of Depictions of Aśubhabhāvanā in the *Visuddhimagga* with those found in Vinaya Traditions  
**Nicholas Witkowski**, Nanyang Technological University

On Early Buddhist Epigraphic Donative Formulae in Sri Lanka and India: A Comparison  
**Matthew Milligan**, Georgia College & State University

11:00 - 11:10 Break

11:10 – 12:00 Session Three: **Theravāda Practices in Colonial Contexts**

**Thomas Borchert**, University of Vermont, Chair

Magical Monks, Invulnerability Spells, and the Rise of Thai Naval Power: Royal Endorsement of Siamese Saiyasat after Mongkut's Theravada Reforms  
**Richard Ruth**, U.S. Naval Academy

Investigating the Theravada Buddhist Civilizations in late Colonial Indonesia  
**Yulisant Yulianti**, Universiteit Leiden/Universitas Gadjah Mada

Eclipsed Buddhist Revivalists in Colonial Bengal  
**D. Mitra Barua**, Rice University

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 Session Four: **Emergent Theravāda Practices across Asia**

**Thomas Patton**, City University of Hong Kong, Chair

Spreading the Teachings in Northern Thailand: Interrogating 'Mission' through Buddhist Encounters  
**Brooke Schedneck**, Rhodes College

Turning to Southeast Asia: Han Chinese Practicing Theravada Meditation in Contemporary China  
**Elsa Lau**, Lancaster University

Of Sangha and State: on Theravāda Buddhism in Vietnam  
**William Noseworthy**, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Merit-making in Civil Society: Myanmar's Free Funeral Service Societies and New Humanitarianism  
**Mu-Lung Hsu**, Arizona State University

2:30 – 3:30 Session Five: **Sīmās: Histories, Practices, and Politics – A Roundtable Discussion**

Jason Carbine, Whittier College  
Erik Davis, Macalester College  
Pattatorn Chirapravati, Yale-NUS  
Anthony Irwin, University of Wisconsin - Madison  
John Marston, El Colegio de México

3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 – 5:00 Session Six: **Sāsana or Nation: reconfigurations of Buddhist identities in contemporary and global contexts**

Juliane Schober, Arizona State University, Chair

Buddhist Islamophobia: Transcending the Nation?  
Iselin Frydenlund, Norwegian School of Theology

What is the 'Nation' of 'Buddhist Nationalism' in Myanmar?  
Matthew Walton, Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi and Aye Thein, Oxford University

Changing Patterns of Influence: Contemporary State-Sangha Relations  
Susan Hayward, USIP/Georgetown University

Thai Pilgrimage to Myanmar: Buddhism and the Change of Thai Nationalism  
Neeranooch Malangpoo, University of Wisconsin - Madison

5:00 - 5:30 **Closing Remarks by Session Chairs**

We will continue the discussion at the annual business meeting of the **Theravada Studies Group** on **Saturday, March 24, 1-2:30 pm** in Wilson B. Please join us.

This conference is convened by the **Theravada Studies Group**, a professional organization affiliated with the Association for Asian Studies and the Theravada Civilizations Project. Information about the **Theravada Civilizations Project** can be found at **Theravadaciv.org**. We are grateful to the **Henry Luce Foundation** for supporting this project through its **Asia Responsive Grants Initiative**.