

Michael J. Walsh

Vassar College
Associate Professor

July 2015

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Asian Studies Program

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EDUCATION

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| 2000 | Ph.D. Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara |
| 1994 | M.A. Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara |
| 1989 | B.A. (Hons) Pol. Science, Sociology, Religious Studies. Univ. of Cape Town |

PUBLICATIONS

- Book projects-in-progress: (1) *The Politics of the Sacred: Religion and the Nation-State* (2) *Buddha Worlds*
- 2014. Invited Review for *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 42/1 (2014). James Benn, Jinhua Chen, & James Robson (Eds.) *Images, Relics, and Legends: The Formation and Transformation of Buddhist Sacred Sites*. Cheektowaga, New York: Mosaic Press, 2012.
- 2014. Book chapter: "The Buddhist Monastic Economy" in *Modern Chinese Religion: Part One: Song-Liao-Jin-Yuan (960-1368)*. Edited by John Lagerwey and Pierre Marsone. Leiden: E.J. Brill. Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section Four: China, pp. 1268-1301.
- 2013. Invited Review for *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 39 (2011). *Early Chinese Religion: Part Two: The Period of Division (220-589 AD)*. Edited by John Lagerwey and Lü Pengzhi. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2010. 2 volumes. Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section Four: China, Volume 21-2.
- 2013. *Journal of Religion and Violence*. "States of Exception: The Violence of Territoriality, Sacrality, and Religion in China-Tibet Relations." Vol.1, No.1 (Spring 2013): 60-82.
- 2010. *Sacred Economies: Buddhist Monasticism and Territoriality in Medieval China*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- 2009. Walsh, Michael J. "Chinese Creation Myths," in David A. Leeming, *Creation Myths Of The World*, ABC-Clio Press.
- 2008. Walsh, Michael J. Invited Review for *China Review International*. Xing Ruan's *Allegorical Architecture: Living Myth and Architectonics in Southern China*. University of Hawaii Press, 2006.
- 2007. Walsh, Michael J. "The Economics of Salvation: Toward a Theory of Exchange in Chinese Buddhism." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. V.75, No. 2. June 2007. Oxford University Press.

- 2007. “Efficacious Surroundings: Temple Space and Buddhist Well-Being.” *Journal of Religion and Health*. V.46, No. 2. December 2007.
- 2004. Walsh, Michael J. Invited Review for *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 11 (2004): 103-106. John Kieschnick. *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- 2003. “Fojiao siyuan zhongtudi gongde yiji jiaohuan de keningxing [Land, Merit, and Exchange Possibilities in Buddhist Monastic Arenas],” in Sarah E. Fraser, ed. *Merit, Opulence, and the Buddhist Network of Wealth*. Shanghai: Shanghai Fine Arts Publishers [Hu Suxin zhujian. *Fojiao wuzhi wenhua. Siyuan caifu yu shisu gongyang*. Guoji yantaohui lunwenji. Shanghai: Shanghai shuhua chubanshe].
- 2001. Walsh, Michael J. Invited Review for *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 8 (2001): 75-77. Peter N. Gregory and Daniel A Getz, Jr., *Buddhism in the Sung*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1999.
- 2000. “Buddhism: Economics,” Johnston, William M. ed. *Encyclopedia of Monasticism*. Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 1996. “Chang’an,” Fagan, Brian M. ed. *The Oxford Companion to Archaeology*. Oxford University Press.

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS

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| 6/2012 | Elinor Nims Brink Fund award, Vassar College |
| 2010-2011 | Nominations for <i>Sacred Economies: Buddhist Monasticism and Territoriality in Medieval Buddhist China</i> . New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.
International Convention of Asia Scholars book prize; Toshi Prize in Buddhism from the University of California Berkeley Center for Buddhist Studies; Best First Book in the History of Religions from the American Academy of Religion; Joseph Levenson Book Prize for “Books on China Before 1900” from the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies. |
| 12/2011 | Elinor Nims Brink Fund award, Vassar College |
| 5/2009 | Research Committee Award, Vassar College |
| 8/2008 | Subvention for book publication; Research Committee, Vassar College |
| 4/2007 | Frances Fergusson Technology Fund Award, Vassar College |
| 6/2006 | Ford Scholars Program Award |

SELECTED SCHOLARLY AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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| 4/23/15 | “A Space of Compassion; Or, How to Visit a Buddhist Temple,” for the symposium, <i>Embodying Compassion in Buddhist Art: Image, Pilgrimage, Practice</i> , The Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. |
| 11.22-25/14 | “The Constitution of Religion in China and the Intimate Religious Life of the Nation,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California. |

- 10/16/13 “Map is Territory: China’s Constitutional Sacralities and the Political Geography of the Sacred,” European University, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 12/15/12 “The Sacrality of the State and the Problem with Religion” for Chinese University of Hong Kong’s conference, The Construction of Contemporary China.
- 6/25/12 “The Buddhist Monastic Economy,” for Chinese University of Hong Kong’s conference, Modern Chinese Religion: Value Systems in Transformation.
- 4/11 “All the Tea in China,” for the panel: The Ways of Tea. The Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 11/10 “Territorial Religiosities: China, Tibet, and State Sacralization,” for Yale University’s, Religion and Politics Colloquium held by the MacMillan Center Initiative on Religion, Politics and Society. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 10/2009 “Visions of Buddhism in Colonial Missions to China,” for the Columbia Center for Buddhist Studies. Columbia University, New York.
- 2.11/09 “Stelae in Chinese Buddhism,” for the Artful Dodger presentation. The Francis Lehman Loeb Art Center. Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 9.19-21/08 “Sacred Space/Secular Territory: Tibet, China, and the Problem with Religion.” For the conference: The Sacred and the Secular. The School of Humanities, University of Southampton, United Kingdom.
- 10.12-13/07 “The Intimate Religious Life of the Nation: Visions of China in Colonial Missions.” Invited Public Lecture. Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 3.24-30/05 “From Cape to Canton: Religion, Cultural Contact and the Other in Nineteenth-Century China and Southern Africa.” The 19th World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Tokyo, Japan.
- 11.20-23/04 “Wickedness in High Places: Nineteenth-Century Missionary Descriptions of a Buddhist Monastery,” in the panel: Re-evaluating Missionary Sinology, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas.
- 3.18-20/04 “Monk and Monastery,” for the conference: Religion and Traditional Culture in China, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Laie, Hawaii.
- 3.17-19/03 “Buddhist Institutions: Past and Present,” for the conference: Religion and Traditional Culture in China, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.
- 5.18/02 “Religious Capital and Monastic Space in Song Buddhist China,” for the symposium: Buddhism and Society in the Song, University of California, Los Angeles, California.
- 11.17-20/01 “The Possibilities of Merit in Thirteenth-Century Chinese Buddhist Monastic Arenas,” in the panel: Merit and Exchange in Chinese and Indian Buddhism, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado.

6.27-30/01 “Land, Merit, and Exchange Possibilities in Buddhist Monastic Arenas,” for the conference: Merit, Opulence and the Buddhist Network of Wealth. Beijing University, Beijing, China.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- External reviewer: Skidmore College, Department of Philosophy and Religion
- Various book proposal reviews
- Interviewed by the United Nations correspondent for the China People’s Daily Newspaper on China-Tibet relations, March 9, 2009
- Reviewer: *Journal of Religion and Violence*
- Reviewer: *Material Religion: the Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*
- Reviewer: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- Reviewer: *Journal of Chinese Religions*
- Professional Affiliations: Association for Asian Studies, American Academy of Religion, Society for the Study of Chinese Religions
- Organized Conference Panels: “Merit and Exchange in Chinese and Indian Buddhism,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 17-20, 2001. “The Production and Maintenance of Religious Space in Pre-Modern China,” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, San Diego, March 9-12, 2000

SELECTED COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Service

7/15 - 7/18 Director, Asian Studies Program
8/14 - 6/16 Asian Studies Steering Committee
8/13 - 6/16 House Fellow, Raymond House
7/09 - 7/13 Chair, Department of Religion
1/12 - 6/13 Faculty Appointment & Salary Committee
1/12 - 6/13 President’s Cabinet
6/10 - 6/12 Asian Studies Steering Committee
6/09 - 1/12 Committee on Academic Technologies (Chair Fall ’11)
6/09 - 6/11 Committee on Committees (Elections Officer, ’09-’10. Chair ’10-’11)
8/07 - 6/09 Committee on Computing and Educational Technology
1/02 – 12/02 Committee on Research
9/01 - Pre-major advising, Major advising, Thesis advising

Courses Taught

- Religions of Asia
- Suffering in the World: a Cross-Cultural Exploration
- Regarding Religion: Approaches to the Study of Culture and Religion
- Imagining the Dao: Daoism and Chinese Culture
- The Buddha in the World
- Religion in China
- Buddhist Cultures
- Global Religiosities
- State and Religion in China
- Religion and the Body
- Department Colloquium
- Advanced Methods in the Study of Religion
- Senior Seminar: Critical Issues in the Study of Religion
- Religion, Critical Theory, and Politics - States of Emergency: Religion, Empire, Sovereignty
- Studies in Sacred Texts: The Imagined and Material in Chinese Textuality
- Violent Frontiers: Colonialism and Religion in the Nineteenth Century
- The Politics of Sacred Space