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Dr Kathleen Gregory works in the School of Public Health at La Trobe University, in Melbourne Australia where she co-ordinates the Master of Counselling program. She is a registered counselling psychologist and maintains a private practice. She has been a student of the Venerable Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche for nearly twenty years and under his instruction, is a regular presenter at the Evam Institute's annual Buddhist Summer School, and bi-annual Buddhism and Psychotherapy Conference. She has been conducting an eight-week program on 'Buddhism and psychotherapy' at the Institute for the last three years. She has a MA in Psychoanalytic Studies and earned her PhD in 2009; her thesis was entitled *Parallel Readings: Western encounters with Buddhism*. She has a chapter on *Buddhism and Health* in the upcoming *Textbook of Spirituality and Healthcare* (Oxford University Press).

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The principal researcher for this paper, Dr Seiji Kumagai has worked as an Assistant Professor in the prestigious Hakubi Young Researcher Development Centre of Kyoto University. He is now a Full-time Lecturer in Kyoto Women's University. He has published some pathbreaking books among which is the highly acclaimed *The Two Truths of Bonism*. Dr Seiji has now started a long term research project on Bhutanese Buddhism in collaboration with Kokoru Institute and the Centre for Bhutan Studies.

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Since 1995, Christina Partsalaki has attended numerous international seminars in Europe and Mexico on alternative medicine, children with autism and special needs, and on pedagogical ways to work with youngsters according to their individual needs and environment. All her studies were focused in physical, emotional and mental ways of holistic healing with the intention of respecting and connecting with one's own nature and the natural environment.

Dr Françoise Pommaret

Dr Françoise Pommaret is an ethno-historian. She is the Director of Research at the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research, France) and research advisor at the Institute of Language and Cultural Studies (ILCS), Royal University of Bhutan. She has been associated with Bhutan in different capacities in the culture and education sectors since 1981, and has published numerous academic articles on various aspects of Bhutanese culture.

She was the co-editor and co-author of *Bhutan: Mountain fortress of the gods*, Serindia, London, 1997 as well as the co-editor and co-author of *Bhutan: Tradition and change*, Brill, Leiden, 2007. Her wide audience book in English is *Bhutan, a cultural guidebook*, Odyssey Guidebook, Hong-Kong (1990, reprint 2003, 2006, 2010) which has several languages editions. Dr. Pommaret has lectured intensively in numerous academic institutions around the world and has been guest-curator for several exhibitions.

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Dendup Chopel, Sangay Thinley and Dorji Gyaltsen are researchers at the Centre for Bhutan Studies. While Dorji Gyaltsen has received a traditional

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Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi

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Prof Siraporn Nathalang was born in 1956 in Bangkok, Thailand. She received her BA and MA in Thai literature from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and earned her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Arizona State University, USA in 1987. Her research interest has been on folklore, myth, ritual and folk religion, Thai Studies and Tai Studies (the study of Tai speaking people living outside Thailand).

She is a Professor of Folklore, Department of Thai and the Director of Thai Studies Center, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. In 2011, she was appointed by Thailand Research Fund to be a “senior research scholar” to conduct a three year research project entitled, *Creative Folklore: Dynamism and Application of Folklore in Contemporary Society*. Her publications specifically related to Buddhist studies are, for example, *An Analysis of Tai Creation Myths, Conflict and Compromise between the Indigenous Beliefs and Buddhism as Reflected in Thai Rice Myths* and *Dialogue between the Nature Gods and the Buddha: An Analysis of Various Myths of Tai Peoples in Southeast Asia and Yunnan, China*.

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Dr Supin Ritpen was born in 1958 in Chiangmai province, northern Thailand. She received a Bachelor's degree in Thai Studies from Faculty of Education (1979), a Master's degree in Lanna Language and Literature from Faculty of Humanities, Chiangmai University (1996) and a Ph.D. in Mekong and Salween River Basin Studies from Chiangmai Rajabhat University.

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Since 1988, he worked for the Monk Body in various positions as lecturer, planner and administrator. He served as a member of the National Assembly. He also served as the representative of the Monk Body in the Royal Advisory Council.

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Prof Shinkan Murakami

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