Authors

Dr Kathleen Gregory

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).

Correspondence: k.gregory@latrobe.edu.au

Prof Georgios T. Halkias

Dr Georgios Halkias is a visiting Professor at the Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong. He did his DPhil in Oriental Studies from the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford. His areas of research interest includes Pure Land Buddhism in India, Tibet and East Asia; Tibetan translations of Buddhist texts, canonical literature, and monastic lineages; Vajrayāna death rituals and meditation techniques; Indo-Sino-Tibetan traditions in Central Asian Buddhism; Buddhism vis-à-vis Hellenism and Islam; Buddhism in film and the media. He has many international research affiliations and published numerous scholarly works including the Luminous Bliss: a Religious History of Pure Land Literature in Tibet. With an Annotated Translation and Critical Analysis of the Orgyen-ling golden short Sukhāvatīvyūha-sūtra. University of Hawaii Press.

Correspondence: georgios.halkias@gmail.com

Dr Seiji Kumagai, Thubten Gawa, and Dr Akinori Yasuda

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.
Correspondence: seijiyamatodamashii@hotmail.com

**Dr David Lawrence Bell (Bei Dawei)**

BEI Dawei 貝大衛 has doctorates in philosophy (Unisa, 1999) and religious studies (CIIS, 1998), and masters degrees in Central Eurasian Studies (Indiana, 2000) and international management (Thunderbird, 1992). Since 2002, he has taught in the foreign language department of Hsuan Chuang University 玄奘大學, a private Buddhist institution in Hsinchu, Taiwan.

Correspondence: zlaod@hotmail.com

**Christina Partsalaki**

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 Francoise 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.

Correspondence: fpommaret@gmail.com

**Dendup Chophel, Sangay Thinley and Dorji Gyaltshen**

Dendup Chophel, Sangay Thinley and Dorji Gyaltshen are researchers at the Centre for Bhutan Studies. While Dorji Gyaltshen has received a traditional
Note on Authors

Buddhist education, Sangay Thinley has studied modern sciences and Dendup Chophel studied Western literature.
Correspondence: densore86@yahoo.com

Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi

Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi is the Director of the National Museum of Bhutan. After studying Buddhist Philosophy from the Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India, Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi worked as a Research Scholar in the National Library of Bhutan. He is a senior member of the Royal Civil Service of Bhutan and has contributed immensely in this capacity. His research interest includes poetry, philosophy, physics, environmental philosophy, history, culture, and the middle view or interdependent principle of Acharya Nagarjuna. He has also authored many philosophical and scholarly works among which are books like Invoking Happiness: Guide to the sacred festival of Bhutan and GNH (2011) and Mindful Living in Bhutan.
Correspondence: kadchigma@yahoo.com

Riamsara Kuyakanon Knapp

Riamsara is a PhD candidate in human geography at the University of Cambridge, England. She is currently affiliated to the Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) in Bumthang. She studies the relationship between environmental conservation, and Buddhist beliefs and practices in Bhutan. She has given various presentations on the conservation-Buddhism relationship, and most recently has been involved with the production of a documentary on the sacred national tree ‘Tsenden shing’ and editing a book on community forestry (Phuntsho et al., RGOB 2011). Riam has a professional background in international conservation, and a Masters in Environment, Society and Development. Riam is from Bangkok, Thailand.
Correspondence: rk391@cam.ac.uk

Prof Yoshinari Fuji

Prof Yoshinari Fuji was born in 1957 at Fukuoka, Japan. He received his PhD from Dongguk University (Seoul). He is now a Professor of Buddhist Studies at Ryukoku University (Kyoto). He researches on religious themes, especially thought and faith of Pure Land Buddhism, such as the thought of Wonhyo (617-686) in Korea and Shinran (1173-1263), Rennyo (1415-1499), and Saigo (1118-1190) in Japan. He also studies soteriology in a comparative perspective, including an analysis of Paul (10?-67?). He also investigates the current situation of Korean Buddhism. He has published The Pure Land Thought in Wonhyo, (Seoul:
Min-jok-sa, 2001) and The way to accomplish the Faith-in the case of Wŏnhyo and Shinran, (Kyoto: International centre of Hongwan-ji, 2004). Besides, he has published scholarly articles like A Conversation between Paul and Shinran and A Way to Remove Doubt about the Buddha’s Wisdom -Wŏnhyo and Shinran- In order to overcome the Nihilism in Contemporary Society in Japan.
Correspondence: morningcalm1191@yahoo.co.jp

Prof Siraporn Nathalang

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.
Correspondence: siraporn.n@chula.ac.th

Dr Supin Ritpen

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.

She is currently a lecturer in Sarapheepitayakhom School in Chiangmai, Thailand. Her current researches are, among others, The Shan (Kengtung) Princess, Songs for Tai Ethnic children, and Shan Festivals: An Analysis of Shan Ethnic Identity in the context of Chiangmai, Thailand under the Research Project, Creative Folklore: Dynamics and Application of Folklore in Contemporary Thai Society granted by Thailand Research Fund. Having extensive experiences through field trips in Shan State, Myanmar, Sipsongpanna, Yunnan, China and Laos, she also
researches and writes many pieces of documentary about Tai ethnic groups. Correspondence: meemee669980@gmail.com

**Prof Suchitra Chongstitvatana**

Professor Suchitra is the Director of the Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University. She did her PhD in Thai Literature from the University of London. Dr Suchitra’s areas of research interest includes modern Thai poetry, literary stylistic and Buddhist poetry. She has published a wide range of scholarly works including *Buddha Dharma in Modern Thai Poetry*, Chulalongkorn University Press, 2001. Correspondence: suchitra.c@chula.ac.th

**Lopen Gembo Dorji**

Lopen Gembo Dorji is the Secretary General of the Zhung Dratshang, the Monk Body of Bhutan. He has a Master’s Degree in Buddhist Studies from Tango Buddhist College and a Post Graduate Diploma in Leadership from East West Center, Hawaii. He also did research on Comparative Studies on Buddhist Traditions from Tokyo University.

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.

Apart from regular studies and training, Lopen Gembo Dorji received empowerments, authorizations and sacred instructions on the Drukpa Kargyud Tradition from His Holiness Je Tenzin Dhendrup (the 68th Je Khenpo), His Holiness the 7th Khamtrul Rinpoche Dongyud Nyima, Drubwang Sonam Zangpo, His Holiness Je Gaydun Rinchen (the 69th Je Khenpo), His Holiness Je Trulku Jigme Choedra (the 70th Je Khenpo), His Eminence Dralop Rinpoche Kuenlay Gyeltshen, His Eminence Dorlop Rinpoche Sonam Jamtsho, His Eminence Dralop Rinpoche Sangay Dorji and His Eminence Sendrak Rinpoche. Correspondence: gembodorji@gmail.com

**Prof Michel Mohr**

Michel Mohr is an Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at the University of Hawai‘i. After obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Geneva (Switzerland), he has spent almost twenty years in Kyoto doing research on Japanese Buddhism and Zen in particular. He has published widely on Chinese and Japanese religions and has a deep interest in universalist expressions of

**Prof Shinkan Murakami**

Dr Shinkan Murakami is a Professor Emeritus in Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan. He has a D.Litt. in Indian Philosophy and Buddhism. In his vast career, he has published numerous academic works including *A Study of the Sākhya-Philosophy and Realistic Epistemology of Indian Philosophy*. Correspondence: shinkan-murakami@mrj.biglobe.ne.jp

**Prof Guang Xing**

Guang Xing received his Ph.D. from School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. He is an Assistant Professor at the Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong and Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation. He is a Visiting Professor in Buddhism and Contemporary Society at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver 2007. His publications include *The Concept of the Buddha: Its Evolution from Early Buddhism to the Trikaya Theory* (Routledge 2005) and *The Historical Buddha* (Beijing Religious Culture Publication 2005). He is currently working on two monographs *Filial Piety in Chinese Buddhism and Buddhism and Chinese Culture*; besides he has published many papers such as *A Buddhist-Confucian Controversy on Filial Piety in Journal of Chinese Philosophy*. Correspondence: guangxingsu@gmail.com

**Prof Zhihua Yao**

Prof Zhihua Yao is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, United College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He has a PhD from Boston University. His dissertation was titled *Knowing that One Knows: The Buddhist Doctrine of Self-Cognition*. His areas of specialization are Buddhist Philosophy, especially Abhidharma, Yogācāra and Buddhist epistemology, Phenomenology, especially Heidegger, Husserl and their comparison with Eastern philosophy, and Philosophy of Religion, especially comparative philosophy of religion. Professor Yao has published numerous scholarly works on these themes. Correspondence: zyao@cuhk.edu.hk
Note on Authors

**Prof Norihisa Baba**

Dr Norihisa Baba is an Associate Professor at The Institute for Advance Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo. He has done his PhD from the University of Tokyo in Buddhist Studies.
Correspondence: norihisa@ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp

**Prof Albert Welter**

Prof Albert Welter is the Chairman of Department of Religion and Culture, University of Winnipeg. His 1987 PhD dissertation was titled *The Meaning of Myriad Good Deeds: A Study of Yung-ning Yen-shou and the Wan-shan l’ung-kuei chi*. His primary research interest include the History of Chinese & East Asian Buddhism (especially the development of Chan in the Five Dynasties [906-959] and Song dynasty [960-1278]), and the relationship between Buddhism and Society in China (especially the relation between Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism). In his long career, he has published numerous books including *Yongming Yanshou’s Conception of Chan in the Zongji cong lu: A Special Transmission within the Scriptures*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Correspondence: a.welter@uwinnipeg.ca

**Dr Tsui Chunghui**

Dr Tsui Chunghui is a Teaching Consultant at the Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong. Dr Chunghui has a PhD from the University of Hong Kong. Her fields of specialization are History of Chinese Art (Dunhuang and Silk Road), Buddhist Manuscripts from Dunhuang and Turfan, Chinese Art and Archeology and Chinese Calligraphy. She has delivered many lectures based on these themes. She has authored a children’s education series book and was the author of *Ancient Chinese Art* and *Collection Monthly Magazine* from 2001 to 2004. She has several scholarly articles to her credit and has been regularly contributing to community services.
Correspondence: chunghui@hku.hk

**Dr Tianshu Zhu**

Tianshu Zhu received her Ph.D in Buddhist art, with specialization in Buddhist art in Central Asia, China and India, from the Ohio State University in USA. She is an Assistant Professor of art history in the Department of History at University of Macau, Macau (China). Her research addresses topics of Buddhist art in relation to religion, and of the relationship between religious texts/doctrine and visual representations. Recently she also started to dabble in Chinese popular
religion. She has published articles on themes such as representations of Jātakas, cosmological Buddha, the wheel of life, *Indra’s visit to Amitabha and fifty Bodhisattvas*. She is completing a manuscript on emanated figures in the aura.

Correspondence: tszhu@umac.mo

Prof Karen C Lang

Karen Lang is a Professor of Indian Religions in the Department of Religious Studies and a two-time Director of the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Virginia, USA. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism and reading courses in Sanskrit, Pāli and Tibetan languages. Her publications include *Four Illusions: Candrakīrti’s Advice on the Bodhisattva Path* and *Āryadeva’s Catuṣṭaṭaka: On the Bodhisattva’s Cultivation of Merit and Knowledge*, as well as numerous articles on Buddhist philosophy and literature. She has been a member of the translation team that produced the first English translation of Tsongkhapa’s *The Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment*. Her primary research and translation interests focus on the work of the seventh-century Indian Buddhist philosopher, Candrakīrti.

Correspondence: kcl@cms.mail.virginia.edu

Prof Kenyo Mitomo

Prof Kenyo Mitomo was born on April 5, 1945. He is a Professor at Rissho University, Tokyo. He is the Head of Comprehensive Studies of the Lotus Sutra and organizer of various academic associations. He has published the *The Study of Abhidharmadīpa, Sanskrit Manuscripts of the Saddharmapundarika-sūtra* and *The Buddhism living in the Modern Society*, etc.

Prof Mitomo has won the Academic Award of the Japanese Association of Indian & Buddhist Studies, the Special Academic Award of Dr. Suzuki Daisetsu Foundation and the Buddhakunupakan Award of Excellence of Thailand.

Correspondence: buddhstkenyo@msn.com