



The University of Cambridge Department of East Asian Studies is pleased to announce the 2012 Chuan Lyu Lectures in Taiwan Studies.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please note that this is different from the usual Monday seminar series venue; there will be a tea reception in the Common Room in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at 4:30pm



2012 Chuan Lyu Lectures in Taiwan Studies

Lecture One: The Global Expansion of Taiwan Buddhism

Professor C. Julia Huang 黄倩玉教授

Professor of Anthropology, Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan
Monday, 14th May 2012, Seminar Room B16, Faculty of Law (Sidgwick Site), 5:00pm

This talk focuses on Buddhist revivalism in Taiwan, and its global expansion. It will consist of four parts. The first part briefly describes the historical background for the global position of Taiwan Buddhism since the 19th century. The second part describes Taiwanese Buddhism's significant revitalization since the 1980s and the ensuing global expansion. It provides an introduction to the three major groups that have significant development outside Taiwan: Tzu Chi (Ciji, Compassion Relief), Buddha's Light Mountain, and Dharma Drum Mountain. Incense Light Temple, one of the exemplary Buddhist women's initiatives will be briefly introduced. It highlights each major group's distinctive model of global expansion: Tzu Chi's humanitarianism, Foguan Shan's monastic order, and Fagu Shan's intellectualism. Part three summarizes the characteristics of the global expansion of Taiwan Buddhism: 1) Humanistic Buddhism and engaged Buddhism; 2) timing; 3) relations to the Taiwanese and Chinese diaspora; and 4) the role of women. I will rely heavily on my fieldwork in Tzu Chi's Malaysia division, focusing on how the local efforts in shifting from the initial diasporic development to ecumenical practice in a Muslim-majority society. The concluding Part four suggests that the global expansion of Taiwan Buddhism is a result of Buddhist universalism in the new conditions brought about by globalization: the transnational and diasporic population; the new concepts of, and models for, non-governmental organizations and faith-based organizations; and the increasing significance of the laity in world religions.



Dr. Huang is Professor of Anthropology at National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan. She had been a junior fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, a senior fellow at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religions, a visiting scholar at the Harvard-Yenching Institute, an affiliated scholar at the International Institute for Asia Studies in the Netherlands and a visiting senior research fellow at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Her research interests include religion, culture and globalization. She has conducted fieldwork on religion in Taiwan and among the Chinese in Malaysia and the United States, and on transnational marriage in southern Vietnam. Professor Huang's award-winning book, *Charisma and Compassion: Cheng Yen and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Movement* (Harvard University Press, 2009), examines the development and organization of a transnational Buddhist non-governmental organization (NGO) that originated in Taiwan. She has also published numerous articles in edited volumes and refereed journals, including *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Ethnology*, *Nova Religio*, and *positions*. She is currently working on an ethnography of engaged religions among the Chinese in Malacca, Malaysia.

For further information contact:

Dr. Adam Yuet Chau
University Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China
Department of East Asian Studies
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of Cambridge
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA, United Kingdom