The nomination and inscription of a series of sites relating to early Buddhism in Korea and Japan and Shinto and Buddhism in Japan as UNESCO World Heritage raises a number of questions about the relationship between heritage and religion in East Asia. This talk will introduce several of these initiatives and explore what new light the research and public engagement they are stimulating is having on our understanding of the adoption of Buddhism in pen/insular East Asia. Specific examples include the Sacred Island of Okinoshima* and Associated Sites of the Munakata Region* and the Historic Landscapes of Asuka and Fujiwara* in Japan, and the Historic Areas of Baekje*, and Gyeongju*, Capitals and Tombs of Koguryo* in Korea. We will close with a preview of a new project planned for 2020, which set these questions in a more global context.

*To learn more about these historic sites please follow the links in the talk description on the FAMES website: www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on

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