

## Scott A. Mitchell

Institute of Buddhist Studies  
2140 Durant Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94704

510.809.1449  
scott@shin-ibs.edu  
@djbuddha

### Education

---

Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies, 2008  
Dissertation: *Taking Refuge in the Dharma: Post-colonialism, ritual theory, and American Buddhist studies*

Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, M.A., Buddhist Studies, 2002  
Thesis: *Indra's Cyber Net: the impact of the Internet on the development of American Buddhism*, passed with honors

San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, B.A., Philosophy and Religion, 1999  
Senior Project: *The Kingdom is not Beyond a Single Thought: an inter-religious examination of Thomas' Kingdom of God and the Pure Land Sukhavati*

### Publications

---

#### Books

*The Oxford Handbook of American Buddhism*, with Ann Gleig. New York: Oxford University Press, under contract.

*Mid-Century Modern Buddhism: Japanese Americans, Beat Poets, and American Buddhism*, New York: Oxford University Press, under contract (2023).

*Methods in Buddhist Studies: Essays in Honor of Richard K. Payne*, with Natalie Fisk Quli. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.

*Buddhism in America: Global Religion, Local Contexts*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016.

*Buddhism Beyond Borders: New Perspectives on Buddhism in the United States*, with Natalie E.F. Quli. State University of New York Press, 2015.

## Journal Articles

“Reflections on Shinkō Mochizuki’s Pure Land Buddhism in China: A Doctrinal History,” *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies* 3:20 (2018): 477–83.

“The Stories We Tell: The Study and Practice of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism,” *Pacific World: the Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies* 3:19 (2017): 67-83.

“The Ritual Use of Music in US Jōdo Shinshū Buddhist Communities,” *Contemporary Buddhism* 15:2 (2014): 1-17.

“The Tranquil Meditator: representing Buddhism and Buddhists in US popular media,” *Religion Compass* 8/3 (2014): 81-89.

“‘Christianity is for Rubes; Buddhism is for Actors’: Media Representations of Buddhism in the Wake of the Tiger Woods Scandal,” *Journal of Global Buddhism* 13 (2012): 61-79.

“Locally Translocal American Shin Buddhism,” *Pacific World: the Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies* 3:12 (2010): 109-126.

“Sunday Morning Songs: English Language Gāthās in American Shinshū Temples.” *The Pure Land*. No. 22 (2006): 127-137.

“Shin Dharma Net as Virtual Dōjō.” *The Pure Land*. No. 20 (2003): 208-227.

## Book Chapters

“Drawing Blood: At the Intersection of Knowledge Economies and Buddhist Economies,” in *Buddhism under Capitalism: Historical Background and Contemporary Manifestations*, edited by Richard K. Payne and Fabio Rambelli. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022.

“Buddhist Practice in Europe and North America,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Buddhist Practice*, edited by Paula Arai and Kevin Trainor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.

“Buddhism and Media,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Richard K. Payne and Georgios T. Halkias. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

“English Language Sources on Chinese Pure Land Buddhism: a bibliographic essay,” in *A History of Pure Land Buddhism in China* by Shinko Mochizuki, translated by Leo

Pruden, edited by Richard K. Payne and Natalie Quli. Berkeley: Institute of Buddhist Studies and BDK America, 2016.

“American Shin Buddhist Music,” in *The Encyclopedia of Asian American Religious Cultures*, edited by Jonathan H. X. Lee, et al. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO Press, 2015.

“Buddhist Modernism as Narrative: A Comparative Study of Jodo Shinshu and Zen,” with Natalie E.F. Quli, in *Buddhism Beyond Borders: New Perspectives on Buddhism in the United States*, edited by Scott A. Mitchell and Natalie E.F. Quli. State University of New York Press, 2015.

“Buddhism, sacred music of,” in *Grove Dictionary of American Music*, 2nd Edition, edited by Charles Garrett, et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“Buddhism, media, and popular culture,” in *Buddhism in the Modern World*, edited by David McMahan. London: Routledge, 2012: 305-323.

“Siddhartha: Historical Buddha,” in *The Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore and Folklife*, edited by Jonathan H. X. Lee and Kathleen Nadeau. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO Press, 2011.

### **Annotated Bibliographies**

“Buddhism and the Beats,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Buddhism*, edited by Richard Payne. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“Buddhism in the West (North America and Europe),” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Buddhism*, edited by Richard Payne. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010; revised and updated 2018 with Thomas Calobrisi.

“Buddhism and globalization,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Buddhism*, edited by Richard Payne. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

“Buddhism in New Medias,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Buddhism*, edited by Richard Payne. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

### **Book Reviews**

*Silver Screen Buddha: Buddhism in Asian and Western Film*, by Sharon A. Suh. *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 31:3 (2016).

*Mourning the Unborn Dead: a Buddhist Ritual Comes to America*, by Jeff Wilson. *Journal of Global Buddhism* 11 (2010).

*North American Buddhists in Social Context*, edited by Paul David Numrich. *Journal of Global Buddhism* 10 (2009).

### **Other Writing**

“On Buddhist Praxis,” *The Ten Thousand Things Blog*, January 16, 2020. <http://blog.shinibs.edu/on-buddhist-praxis>

“Shin Buddhism is American Buddhism,” *Buddhadharma: the Practitioners Quarterly*, Winter 2018, <https://www.lionsroar.com/shin-buddhism-is-american-buddhism>

“The Moment: Yes, Buddhism is a religion,” *Lion’s Roar* 2 (3), July 2017, <https://www.lionsroar.com/yes-buddhism-is-a-religion>

“Every Crime and Every Act of Kindness: Cloud Atlas, review,” guest post on the *Shambhala SunSpace Blog*, October 29, 2012, <https://www.lionsroar.com/every-crime-and-every-act-of-kindness-cloud-atlas-reviewed>

“We’re all in this together: a Buddhist response,” part of an interfaith response to Brian McLaren’s *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World*, at the *Patheos Book Club*, September 25, 2012, <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/takeandread/2012/09/were-all-in-this-together-a-buddhist-responds-to-brian-mclaren>

“Stephan Colbert Brings His View of Buddhism to the ‘Nation’”, guest post on the *Shambhala SunSpace Blog*, September 11, 2012, <https://www.lionsroar.com/stephen-colbert-brings-his-view-of-buddhism-to-the-nation>

Guest Post: *One City, A Buddhist Blog for Everyone*, January 2010, <https://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/onecity/2010/01/the-buddha-is-my-dj.html>

### **Presentations**

---

Guest Lecturer: “Jōdo Shinshū and the Making of American Buddhism”  
Buddhist Study Center Summer Session  
Honolulu, HI (and neighbor islands), June 2022

Panelist: "Multi-Religiosity in the United States: Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim Perspectives"

Starr King School for the Ministry  
Oakland, CA (virtual), April 2022.

Guest Speaker: History and Culture Doctoral Seminar  
Graduate Theological Union  
Berkeley, CA (virtual), April 27, 2022

Panelist: "Critical Reflections on the Buddhist Modernism Paradigm"  
Buddhism in the West Unit  
American Academy of Religion  
San Antonio, TX (virtual), November 2021

Guest Lecturer: "Mid-Century Modern Buddhism"  
Duke University  
Durham, NC (virtual), October 12, 2021

"Mid-Century Modern: Jōdo Shinshū and the Making of American Buddhism"  
Invited Lecture, the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation  
Buddhism in Contemporary Society, University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC (virtual), March 2021

"The Future of American Buddhism"  
BCA Center for Buddhist Education  
August 1, 2020 (virtual)

Dharma Talk: Bodhi Day Service  
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin  
San Jose, CA (virtual), December 6, 2020

"Mid-Century Modern: Transnational Japanese-American Buddhism"  
Transnational Religious Expression: Between Asia and North America Seminar  
American Academy of Religion  
San Diego, CA, November 2019

"Artists, Activists, and Innovators: American Buddhists, Buddhist America"  
Invited Lecture  
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Public Speakers Series  
Palo Alto, CA, June 2019

“Mid-Century Transnational Japanese American Buddhism”  
Ryukoku University  
Kyoto, Japan, May, 2019

“The Stories We Tell: Making Meaning in the Study and Practice of Shin Buddhism”  
IBS Winter Symposium  
BCA National Council Meeting  
Phoenix, AZ, March 2019

“Mid-Century Modern: race and religion in the construction of modern American Buddhism”  
Buddhist Studies Group  
Annual Meeting of the AAR Western District  
Berkeley, CA, March 2018

Respondent: “Singing to Buddha: Buddhist Music in Contemporary Asia”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference  
Washington, DC, March 2018

Respondent: “Religiosity and Social Consciousness in the Buddhist Churches of America”  
IBS Winter Symposium  
BCA National Council Meeting  
Sacramento, CA, February 2018

Respondent: “Theory and Method in the Study of Transnational Religious Expression”  
Transnational Religious Expression: Between Asia and North America Seminar  
American Academy of Religion  
Boston, MA, November 2017

Panelist: “Mochizuki’s Doctrinal History of Pure Land Buddhism in China”  
International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies Annual AAR Symposium  
Boston, MA, November 2017

“Mid-Century Buddhist Engagements in America: the Berkeley Temple Newsletter 1939-1953”  
Ryukoku University Research Center for Buddhist Culture in Asia (BARC)  
Kyoto, Japan, July 2017

“Scrambled Eggs: At the Intersection of Buddhist Economies and Knowledge Economies”

Economics and Capitalism in the Study of Buddhism Seminar

American Academy of Religion

San Antonio, TX, November 2016

“The Life of a Song: Or, Why Are We Singing ‘Buddha Loves You’?”

Panel: Transnational Buddhisms: Meditation, Music, Memory, and Mobilization

Buddhism in the West Group

American Academy of Religion

San Antonio, TX, November 2016

Keynote Speaker

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple

Centennial Celebration

Denver, CO, October 2016

Respondent: Numata Lecture and 50th Anniversary of

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Berkeley, CA, August 2016

Presider: “Engaged Buddhism, US and Japan: Past, Present and Future”

Ryukoku University Research Center for Buddhist Culture in Asia (BARC)

International Workshop at Institute of Buddhist Studies

Berkeley, CA, March 2016

Presider: “Modern Constructions of Shin Buddhist Subjectivity”

Subjectivity in Pure Land Buddhism

XVII Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies

Berkeley, CA, August 2015

Dialogue Participant, respondent to keynote addresses by

David Vago and David McMahan

Mindfulness and Compassion: the Art and Science of Contemplative Practice

San Francisco, Ca, June 2015

Guest Lecturer: South Asian Buddhism, East Asian Buddhism

Introduction to Asian and Oceania Cultures and Faith Traditions, JST

Berkeley, CA, March 17, 2015; March 31, 2015

Dharma Talk: Nirvana Day Service  
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin  
San Jose, CA, February 15, 2015

“Japanese Buddhism in America”  
2015 Hua Yen Symposium on Buddhism  
Milpitas, CA, February 2015

Presider: “Buddhism, Capitalism, and Consumer Culture”  
Buddhism in the West Group  
American Academy of Religion  
San Diego, CA, November 2014

“The ritual use of music in US Jōdo Shinshū communities”  
17th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies  
Vienna, Austria, August 22, 2014

“An Overview of US Buddhist Traditions”  
BCA Ministers Continuing Education Program  
Berkeley, CA, March 21, 2014

“American Gāthā: the ritual use of music in US Jōdo Shinshū communities”  
Invited Lecture  
University of Nebraska Lincoln, March 18, 2014

“Buddhism in America”  
BCA Ministers Assistant Program  
Berkeley, CA, December 12, 2013

“Buddhist History: US”  
San Mateo Buddhist Temple study group  
San Mateo, CA, December 4, 2013

“American Gāthā: Shifting Identities in US Shin Buddhist Music”  
Panel: Creating and Negotiating New Forms of Buddhist Community, Identity, and Practice  
Buddhism in the West Group  
American Academy of Religion  
Baltimore, MD, November 2013



Presider: "Boarding the Maṇḍala's Gate: An Exploration of Science Fiction Encounters with Buddhism"

Religion and Science Fiction Group and Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group  
American Academy of Religion  
Baltimore, MD, November 2013

Presider: "(Re)Imagining the Founder: Shinran in Modern Japanese History"  
International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies Annual AAR Symposium  
Baltimore, MD, November 2013

Panel Presentation, Contemporary Buddhism and Islam  
Religion and Globalization, Dominican University  
San Rafael, CA, October 25, 2013

"An Introduction to American Buddhism"  
International Ministers Orientation Program  
Berkeley, CA, October 7, 2013

Dharma Talk: Autumn Ohigan Service  
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin  
San Jose, CA, September 22, 2013

"From Gagaku to Calypso: Shifting Identities in US Shin Buddhist Music"  
The Pure Land in Buddhist Cultures  
XVI Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies  
Vancouver, British Columbia, June 2013

Presider: "Blurred Borders: Pan-Asianism, Transnationalism, and Buddhist Identities"  
Buddhism Section  
American Academy of Religion  
Chicago, IL, November 2012

"Buddhism in the American Media Imagination"  
10th DANAM Conference  
Dharma Academy of North America  
Chicago, IL, November 2012

"American Buddhism: Challenges and Opportunities for Shin Buddhism in US"  
BCA Ministers Assistant Program  
Berkeley, CA, October 6, 2012

“Contemporary Lay Practice in American Shin and Zen Buddhist Communities,”  
With Rev. Dr. Daijaku Judith Kinst  
Symposium: Domestic Dharma; Beyond Texts, Beyond Monasteries  
Institute of Buddhist Studies  
Berkeley, CA, September 2012

Guest Lecturer: “East Asian Buddhism”  
Introduction to Asian and Oceania Cultures and Faith Traditions, PLTS  
Berkeley, CA, April 12, 2012

“Sex, Lies, and Buddhism: Buddhism in the Media Imagination”  
Conference on Spirituality, Political Engagement, and Public Life  
Social Science Research Council  
Columbia University, New York, June 2011

Guest Lecturer: “East Asian Buddhism”  
Introduction to Asian and Oceania Cultures and Faith Traditions, PSR  
Berkeley, CA, November 16, 2010

“Buddhism in America”  
BCA Ministers Assistant Program  
Berkeley, CA, May 8, 2010

“Buddhism, Pop-culture, and the Homogenization of the Dharma”  
XIV Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies  
Kyoto, Japan, June 2009

“Historical Development of American Shinshu Gāthās”  
IBS Winter Symposium at the BCA National Council Meeting  
Irvine, CA, February, 2009

“The End of American Buddhism: Toward a Transnational Perspective”  
Buddhism in the West Consultation  
American Academy of Religion  
Chicago, IL, November 2008

Moderator, Panel: “Challenging the Boundaries: Problems of Essentialization in the  
Studies of Asian American Religions”  
Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative conference, (Re)Defining Religious  
Studies: The Next Decade of APARRI

Berkeley, CA, August 2008

“Taking Refuge in the Dharma: Ritual and the Study of Buddhism in the West”  
XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Ethnography  
Section

Atlanta, GA, June 2008

“Reading the Dharma Talk as Ritual: a Status Report”

Buddhist Studies Group

Annual Meeting of the AAR Western District

Berkeley, CA, March 2007

“Sunday Morning Songs: English Language Gāthās in American Shinshu Temples”

XII Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies

Tokyo, Japan, September 2005

“Shin Dharma Net as Virtual Dōjō ”

XI Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies

Berkeley, CA, September 2003

## **Teaching & Service**

---

Core Faculty, Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai Professor of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhist Studies, Institute  
of Buddhist Studies

2009-present

Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs, Institute of Buddhist Studies

2016-present

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Institute of Buddhist Studies

2013-2015

Core Doctoral Faculty, Graduate Theological Union

2012-present

## **Professional Affiliations & Service**

---

### **Steering Committee Member**

Buddhism in the West Group, Steering Committee

American Academy of Religion

2014-present, Co-chair, 2018-present

International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies, North American District  
Steering Committee Member and Treasurer  
2009-present

Transnational Religious Expression: Between Asia and North America Seminar  
American Academy of Religion  
2017-2021

Economics and Capitalism in the Study of Buddhism Seminar  
American Academy of Religion  
2015-2017

The Asia Project at the Graduate Theological Union  
Managing Board Member 2011-2020; Chair 2013-2015

#### **Editorial Committees**

Oxford Encyclopedia of Buddhism, Senior Editor  
2015-present

Pure Land Buddhist Studies Series of the University of Hawai'i Press, Editorial  
Committee Member  
2014-present

*Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, Editorial Committee Member  
2010-present

*The Pure Land: Journal of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies*, Editorial  
Committee Member and Chair  
2011-present

*The Journal of Global Buddhism*, Editorial Board Member  
2021-present

#### **Memberships**

Association of Asian Studies  
American Academy of Religion  
International Association of Buddhist Studies  
International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies

## **Fellowships & Grants**

---

Newhall Teaching and Research Fellowship, 2003-2004

## **Research Languages**

---

Modern Japanese, written

French, written

Revised July 2022