

Göttingen East Asia Research Salon

哥廷根東亞學者沙龍



**Between Faith and Truth:  
The Historical Writing of Buddhism in Modern China**

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UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN  
Centre for Modern  
East Asian Studies

# The 9th East Asia Research Salon

## Between Faith and Truth: The Historical Writing of Buddhism in Modern China

### Abstract:

The historical writing of Buddhism in modern China, as one part of the revival of Buddhism and reform of historiography, developed under the dual impact of Chinese scholarly traditions and Western intellectual trends. Most outstanding historians and Buddhist scholars such as Hu Shi, Chen Yinke, Tang Yongtong, Lü Chen, were all attracted by this topic. Due to their different historical viewpoints and religious commitments, this branch of study quickly gained in diversity and complexity, closely linked with almost every significant phenomenon in the process of the modernization of Chinese scholarship.

My research is mainly focused on the modern historical expression of Buddhism, seeking to illustrate why Buddhism became the object of historical writing at this particular moment; how it was organized, formed an academic discipline and gained legitimacy in the new knowledge system and ideological orders. I also want to show how the historiographical developments influenced Buddhism, which tried, by way of controlling or modifying its resources and discourses and by adapting to the historical framework, to fit in the modern category of “religion”.



Since 2013, Peng Tsintsin has been a PhD candidate at the Centre of Modern East Asian Studies (CeMEAS), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany. The title of her dissertation is “Between Faith and Truth: Historical Writing of Buddhism in Modern China”. She is further conducting a research project under the title “The Historiography of Buddhism in Late Qing and Republican Era”.  
2010-2013 M.A. in Theory of Literature and Art, School of Liberal Arts, Nanjing University  
Research project: Chinese literature and national identity

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## Program

### Time, Place

March 7th, 17 p.m., KWZ, Conference Room, 0.701  
Heinrich - Düker - Weg 14, 37073 Göttingen

### Commentators

Dr. Julia C. Schneider  
Department of East Asian Studies

Prof. Dr. Katja Triplett  
Department of East Asian Studies

### Program

Presentation of research project (max. 20 minutes)  
Comments (max. 10 minutes)  
Discussion

## **Present your research project**

Presenting your PhD and/or research efforts to your peers and faculty members will give you valuable feedback and support your research with additional ideas. It introduces you to a network that can be very helpful with your career and future research projects.

## **Contact**

The East Asia Research Salon welcomes new participants and the opportunity to initiate and develop mutual research projects.

Please feel free to contact us!

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