

# Eric Greene

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Yale University, Department of Religious Studies	2022–present
Director of Graduate Studies, Council on East Asian Studies (2021–present)	
Core faculty member: The Council on East Asian Studies; Yale Buddhist Studies Initiative	
Affiliate faculty member: Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures; Yale Program in Medieval Studies	
Assistant Professor, Yale University, Department of Religious Studies	2015–2022
Lecturer, University of Bristol (UK), Department of Religion and Theology	2012–2015

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## AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

Medieval Chinese Buddhism (ca. 100–1000 AD); the transmission of Buddhism to China;  
Chan/Zen Buddhism; Buddhist meditation; Chinese translations of Indian Buddhist literature;  
Chinese Buddhist scholasticism

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## EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D. (Buddhist Studies)	2012
Visiting research student, Kyoto University	2009–2010
University of California, Berkeley, M.A. (Asian Studies)	2006
University of California, Berkeley, B.A. (Mathematics)	1998

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- 2021a     *Chan Before Chan: Meditation, Repentance, and Visionary Experience in Chinese Buddhism.*  
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- 2021b     *The Secrets of Buddhist Meditation: Visionary Meditation Texts from Early Medieval China.*  
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

## Articles and Chapters

- 2023 “The Decline and Fall of Chinese Buddhist Literary Historical Consciousness.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 143.1. *In press*.
- 2022 “Reading Indian Literature in Fourth-Century China: Gleanings from a Newly Available Commentary to the Oldest Chinese Translation of the *Vimalakīrti Sutra*.” *T’oung Pao: International Journal of Chinese Studies* 108.1-2: 36–97
- 2020 [2017] “The *Dust Contemplation*: A Newly Discovered Yogācāra Meditation Treatise from the Dunhuang Manuscripts of the Kyo-U Library.” *The Eastern Buddhist* 48.2: 1–50
- 2018a “The ‘Religion of Images’?—Buddhist Image Worship in the Early Medieval Chinese Imagination.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 132.3: 455–484
- 2018b “The *Scripture on the Secret Essentials of Meditation*: The Authority of Meditation in the Kaiyuan Era.” In *Buddhist Stone Sutras in China: Sichuan Province 4*, edited by Martin Bemmman and Sun Hua (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz): 75–92.
- 2017a “Doctrinal Dispute in the Earliest Phase of Chinese Buddhism: Anti-Mahāyāna Polemics in the *Scripture on the Fifty Contemplations* (*Wu shi jiao ji jing* 五十校計經).” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 40: 63–109
- 2017b “Atonement of *pārājika* Transgressions in Fifth-century Chinese Buddhism.” In *Rules of Engagement: Vinaya Texts and Contexts*, edited by Susan Andrews and Jinhua Chen (Bochum: Projekt Verlag): 363–402
- 2017c “Healing Sicknesses Caused by Meditation: ‘The Enveloping Butter Contemplation’ from the *Secret Essential Methods for Curing Meditation Sickness*.” In *Buddhism and Healing in East Asia*, ed. by C. Pierce Salguero (New York: Columbia Univ. Press): 373–381
- 2016a “A Reassessment of the Early History of Vegetarianism in Chinese Buddhism.” *Asia Major* 29.1: 1–43
- 2016b “The *pratyasamutpāda* Formula in the Translations of An Shigao and the Writings of his Chinese Followers,” in *Text, Philosophy, and History: Abhidharma Across Buddhist Scholastic Traditions*, edited by Bart Dessein and Weijen Teng (Leiden: Brill): 248–278
- 2016c “Visions and Visualizations: In Fifth-century China and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Experimental Psychology.” *History of Religions* 55.3: 289–328
- 2016d “Seeing *Avijñapti-rūpa* – Buddhist Doctrine and Meditative Experience in India and China.” In *Buddhist Meditative Traditions: Comparison and Dialog* (*Fo jiao chan xiu chuan tong: bi jiao yu dui hua* 佛教禪修傳統：比較與對話), edited by Kuo-pin Chuang 莊國彬 (Taipei: Dharma Drum Publishing Corporation): 107–170
- 2014 “Healing Breaths and Rotting Bones: On the Relationship between Buddhist and Chinese Meditation Practices during the Eastern Han and Three-Kingdoms Period.” *Journal of Chinese Religions* 42.2: 144–183
- 2013 “Death in a Cave: Meditation, Deathbed Ritual, and Skeletal Imagery at Tape Shotor.” *Artibus Asiae* 73.2: 265–294
- 2008 “Another Look at Early Chan – Daoxuan, Bodhidharma and the Three Levels Movement.” *T’oung Pao: International Journal of Chinese Studies* 94: 49–114

## Other Publications

- “The many lives of Ajātaśatru: from ancient Indian Buddhism to modern Japanese psychotherapy.” Featured review of Michael Radich, *How Ajātaśatru Was Reformed: The Domestication of “Ajase” and Stories in Buddhist History*. *China Review International* 20.3-4 (2013 [2016]): 245–251
  - Trans. from Japanese. Ibuki Atsushi, “Vinaya and the Chan School.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 1.2 (2015): 105–130.
  - Review of “Zen Buddhist Rhetoric in China, Korea, and Japan, edited by Christoph Anderl.” *China Review International* 19.4 (2012 [2015]): 564–568
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## INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Invited presentation. “Text, Vision, and Ritual in the *Scripture on the Contemplation of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*.” At the workshop “Image – Text – Reality in Buddhism: Interrelation and Internegation,” May 23–25 2022, University of Zürich.
- 2022 Invited lecture: “Did Early Chinese Buddhists Understand their Scriptures? - What the Earliest Chinese Buddhist Commentaries Show Us.” University of Ghent, Ghent Center for Buddhist Studies. May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 2022 Invited presentation, “What the Shaanxi Bronze Images Tell Us.” Roundtable discussion at the workshop “Workshops on the Earliest Chinese Buddhist Statuary.” UCLA, Center for Chinese Studies, February 24-25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 2021 Invited lecture: “Reading Indian Literature in Early Medieval China: How the First Chinese Buddhists Read Their Scriptures.” UCLA, Center for Buddhist Studies, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- 2020 Invited lecture: “Chinese Buddhism during the Han, Three Kingdoms, and Western Jin.” Dunhuang Foundation (via Zoom), part of the series “Religions of the Silk Roads.” October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- 2020 Invited lecture: “Jū’ni innen no kanyakugo: Anseikō yaku kyōten ni chūmokushite” 十二因縁の漢訳語：世高譯經典に注目して (“Chinese Translations of the Twelve Causal Links: Focusing on the Scriptures Translated by An Shigao”). Delivered in Japanese. Komazawa University (Tokyo). September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- 2020 Invited presentation. “Strategies of Objectification in the Interpretation of Visions: Freud’s *The Interpretation of Dreams* and Buddhist Meditation Manuals from Fifth-century China.” At the workshop *Visualization in Buddhist Traditions*. University of Cambridge, Faculty of Oriental Studies (April 2020; *postponed*)
- 2020 Invited lecture: “The Language of Emotion: Chinese Translations of Buddhist Theories of Sense Perception and Desire in the Han and Three Kingdoms Period (ca. 150–180 CE).” University of Michigan, Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, February 25, 2020.
- 2019 Invited presentation: “Visions in and of Early Chan Buddhism.” Third China-U.S.A.-Canada Buddhist Forum, New York City (October 11–12, 2019)
- 2019 Invited presentation: “The Linguistic and Cultural Translation of Buddhist ‘repentance’ in China, 200-600 AD.” At the workshop *Writing and Reading Buddhist Translations in Medieval*

- China*. University of Oxford, Faculty of Oriental Studies. September 22–23, 2019.
- 2018 Invited lecture: “Chinese Buddhist Approaches to Repentance,” Department of Religion, Florida State University. December 15, 2018.
- 2018 Invited lecture: “Repentance in the Formation of Chinese Buddhism,” Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University. March 5, 2018.
- 2018 Invited lecture: “From *chan* to Chan: The Semiotics of Visionary Experience in Medieval Chinese Buddhism.” University of California, Berkeley, Center for Buddhist Studies. February 22, 2018.
- 2016 Invited lecture: “The Religion of Images? – Buddhist Image worship in the Medieval Chinese Imagination,” Department of Art History and Architecture, Harvard University. September 17, 2016.
- 2016 Invited presentation: “Buddhist Image Worship in the Medieval Chinese Imagination.” Dunhuang Conference on Sutra Transmission and Translation, Dunhuang Research Academy, Dunhuang, China. June 2016.
- 2015 Invited presentation. “On some Chinese adaptations of Indian rituals for the atonement of grave transgressions.” At the workshop The Sinification of Buddhist Practices in Early Medieval China (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris), April 16, 2015.
- 2014 Invited presentation: “Kanjian wubiao se: chanding yu jielü” (看見無表色：禪定與戒律). Delivered in Chinese. English title: “Seeing *avijñapti-rūpa* – meditation and the precepts in India and China.” At the conference: “The International Conference on Buddhist Meditative Traditions: Comparison and Dialogue,” Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Jinshan (Taiwan), October 2014.
- 2014 Invited presentation: “The incorporation of the term *qing* 情 into the technical vocabulary of Chinese Buddhism during the Wu-kingdom period.” At the workshop Mapping the Religious Landscape of the Wu Kingdom, University of Oxford, Faculty of Oriental Studies, September 20-21, 2014.
- 2014 Invited Presentation. “Anti-Mahāyāna Polemics in the Earliest Phase of Chinese Buddhism.” At the conference “Chinese Buddhism and the Scholarship of Erik Zürcher,” University of Leiden, February 2014.
- 2013 Invited Lecture. “Trance or mind-training? The influence of 19<sup>th</sup>-century debates about religious experience on the Western interpretation of Buddhist meditation.” School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, December 2013.
- 2013 Invited Lecture. “Buddhist Visionary Meditation Practices: In Fifth-century China and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Europe.” Yale University, November 2013.
- 2013 Invited presentation: “Atonement of *pārājika* transgressions in fifth-century Chinese Buddhism.” At the conference “Vinaya Texts and Transmission History: New Perspectives and Methods,” Research Institute for Oriental Studies, Peking University (Yongfu temple, Hangzhou), August 2013.
- 2013 Invited presentation. “Sense perception and desire in the translations of An Shigao and the writings of his Chinese followers.” At the conference “Early Buddhist Scholasticism in India, Central Asia, and China,” Ghent University, July 2013.

- 2013 Invited Lecture: “Sense perception and desire in early Chinese Buddhist texts.” University of Oxford, Faculty of Oriental Studies, April 2013.
- 2013 Invited Lecture: “Visions and Visualizations in Fifth-century Chinese Meditation Texts and 19th-century Experimental Psychology.” University of Chicago, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, April 2013.
- 2010 Invited Lecture: “Zenpiyōkyō no tekisuto rekishi” 禅秘要經のテキスト歴史 (“The Textual History of the *Secret Essentials of Meditation*”). Delivered in Japanese. International College of Postgraduate Buddhist Studies (Tokyo), March 2010.
- 2009 Invited Presentation: “Bones like White Jade: Meditation, Healing, and the Contemplation of Impurity in Early Chinese Buddhism.” International Symposium on Monks and Medicine,” People’s University (Remin daxue), Beijing, December 2009.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2022 “Impossible to Understand Translations and Their Chinese Commentaries.” Paper presented on the panel “New Perspectives on the Sinicization of Buddhism,” 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (Seoul), August 17-21, 2022.
- 2022 Respondent on the panel “First Books in Chinese Religions” (responding to Geoffrey Goble, *Esoteric Buddhism: Amoghavajra, the Ruling Elite, and the Emergence of a Tradition* [Columbia University Press, 2019]). Association of Asian Studies annual meeting, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2022.
- 2021 Respondent to the panel “Buddhists Count: Premodern Buddhist Commentators Reckon with their Traditions” (Buddhism Unit / Indian and Chinese Religions Compared Unit). Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (San Antonio), November 20-23, 2021.
- 2017 “What are ‘Meditation Texts’ and What do we do with Them?” Paper presented on the panel “The Literatures of Contemplation.” 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (Toronto), August 22, 2017.
- 2015 “The Authority of Meditation in the Kaiyuan Era.” Paper presented on the panel “Politics, Imperial Institutions, and Religion in Imperial China.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2015.
- 2014 “Material visions – *avijñapti-rūpa* in practice.” Paper presented on the panel Arguing with Meditation. 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (Vienna), August 2014.
- 2013 “Visionary Meditation Texts in Fifth-century China.” Paper presented on the panel Text, Vision, and Visualization in Early Medieval China. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Baltimore), November 2013.
- 2012 “Visions and Visualizations in fifth-century Chinese meditation and 19th-century experimental psychology.” Paper presented on the panel “Recent Research in Chinese Religion.” Society for Study of Chinese Religion, November 2012.
- 2011 “Death in a Cave: The ‘Meditation’ Cave at Tape Shotor.” Paper presented as part of the panel Buddhist Cave Sites and Ritual Practice. 16<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Jinshan), June 2011.