

# Kevin Buckelew

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

*Topics:* Chinese Buddhism, with a focus on Chan (Zen) Buddhism, apocryphal scriptures, and the relationship between Buddhism and Daoism

*Themes:* gender and masculinity; embodiment; authority; agency and responsibility; metaphor and figurative language; conceptions of work, debt, and moral obligation

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Northwestern University, Department of Religious Studies

2019– Assistant Professor

2018–19 Weinberg College Fellow

## EDUCATION

Columbia University, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Ph.D., 2018; M.Phil., 2014; M.A., 2011

Advisors: Chün-fang Yü, Bernard Faure, Zhaohua Yang

Columbia University, Department of Religion

M.A., 2009

Sarah Lawrence College

B.A. in the Liberal Arts, 2007

## RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- 2016–17      Academia Sinica, Institute of History and Philology, Taiwan  
2015–16      Kyoto University, Institute for Research in the Humanities, Japan  
2012          Renmin University, Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Religious Theory,  
                    China

## NON-DEGREE EDUCATION & TRAINING

### Summer Language Intensives

- 2011          Princeton in Ishikawa, Kanazawa, Japan  
2010          International Chinese Language Program (ICLP), Taipei, Taiwan  
2008          Columbia in Beijing, China

### Academic Workshops

- 2017          “Space and Cyberspace” GIS Mapping Workshop, Dharma Drum Institute of  
                    Liberal Arts, Taiwan. Led by Professor Marcus Bingenheimer. June 5–16  
2014          NEH Seminar on Daoism, University of Colorado, Boulder. Led by Professors Terry  
                    Kleeman, Stephen Bokenkamp, and Chang Chao-jan. July 14–August 1

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2018–19      College Fellowship, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern  
                    University  
2016–17      Fulbright U.S. Student Program (IIE) Fellowship, Taiwan  
2016–17      Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (declined)  
2017          Matching Travel Award, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
                    and Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures  
2017          Student Travel Grant, Columbia University Graduate Student Advisory Council  
2015–16      Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) Dissertation Research Fellowship, Japan  
2011          Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
2011          Departmental Prize Fellowship, Columbia University Department of East Asian  
                    Languages and Cultures  
2011          Departmental Honors for M.A. Thesis, Columbia University Department of East  
                    Asian Languages and Cultures  
2010          Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, Taiwan Ministry of Education

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Discerning Buddhas: Authority, Agency, and Masculinity in Chan Buddhism.* New York: Columbia University Press (Sheng Yen Series in Chinese Buddhist Studies), 2025.

*Buddhist Masculinities.* Co-edited volume with Megan Bryson. New York: Columbia University Press, 2023.

### Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

“Transcendents in Translation: Buddhist Affordances for Imagining *Xian* 仙 in China.” *Journal of Chinese Religions* 51, no. 2 (2023): 171–205.

“Possessing Enlightenment: Sorcery, Selfhood, and Tragic Responsibility in a Chinese Buddhist Apocryphon.” *Numen* 70, no. 4 (2023): 337–368.

“Ritual Authority and the Problem of Likeness in Chan Buddhism.” *History of Religions* 62, no. 1 (2022): 1–48.

“Becoming Chinese Buddhas: Claims to Authority and the Making of Chan Buddhist Identity.” *T'oung Pao* 105, no. 3–4 (2019): 357–400.

“Pregnant Metaphor: Embryology, Embodiment, and the Ends of Figurative Imagery in Chinese Buddhism.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 78, no. 2 (2018): 371–411.

### Book Chapters (peer-reviewed)

“How Chan Masters Became ‘Great Men’: Masculinity in Chinese Chan Buddhism.” In *Buddhist Masculinities*, edited by Megan Bryson and Kevin Buckelew (New York: Columbia University Press, 2023), 51–77.

### Book Reviews

Review of *The Women Who Ruled China: Buddhism, Multiculturalism, and Governance in the Sixth Century*, by Stephanie Balkwill. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 145, no. 1 (2025): 213–215.

Review of *Embodying Xuanzang: The Postmortem Travels of a Buddhist Pilgrim*, by Benjamin Brose. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 52, no. 2 (2024): 261–264.

Review of *Chan Before Chan: Meditation, Repentance, and Visionary Experience in Chinese Buddhism*, by Eric M. Greene. *History of Religions* 61, no. 4 (2022): 423–25.

Review of *The Records of Mazu and the Making of Classical Chan Literature*, by Mario Poceski.  
*Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* (February 2019).

Review of *Daoism in Japan*, ed. Jeffrey L. Richey. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*  
79, no. 1 (February 2016): 225–27.