

Kevin Buckelew

Department of Religious Studies
Northwestern University
Crowe Hall 4-137
1860 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

kevin.buckelew@northwestern.edu
(847) 467-1746

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

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

FELLOWSHIPS AND 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 Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai (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

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- “Ritual Authority and the Problem of Likeness in Chan Buddhism.” *History of Religions*, forthcoming.
- “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 Reviews

- 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*, edited by Jeffrey L. Richey. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 79, no. 1 (February 2016): 225–27.

TEACHING

Northwestern University

“Introduction to Buddhism,” “Chan/Zen Buddhism,” “Religion and the Body in China,” “Paying Attention” (first-year seminar)

New York University

“Introduction to Buddhism,” Fall 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Picturing the Patriarchs: Aesthetic Cultures of Portraiture in Song-dynasty Chan Buddhism.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, conducted virtually. November 29–December 10
- 2019 “Fictive Kinship and the Paradox of Mastery in Song-dynasty Chan Buddhism.” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Denver. March 21–24
- 2018 “Exemplifying Heroism: Inspiration, Imitation, and the ‘Great Man’ in Song-dynasty Chan Buddhism.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver. November 17–20
- 2017 “Buddhist Rhetorics of Productivity and Debt at the End of Medieval China: ‘Inner-Worldly Asceticism’ and the Chan Tradition.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston. November 18–21
- 2017 “Buddhist Pastoral: ‘Farming Chan’ as Aesthetic, Work Ethic, and Identity in Middle-Period China.” Second Conference on Middle Period Chinese Humanities, Leiden University, The Netherlands. September 14–17
- 2017 “How Chan Masters Became ‘Great Men’: Masculinity and the Aesthetics of Heroism in Middle-Period Chinese Buddhism.” XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto. August 20–25
- 2017 “Refiguring Buddhahood at the End of Medieval China: Aesthetics, Authority, and the Shape of Liberation in the Chan Tradition.” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Toronto. March 16–19
- 2016 “Signifying Greatness in Chinese Buddhism: How the Chan Tradition Reinterpreted the Canonical Marks of Buddhahood.” Buddhism & East Asian

Cultures Young Scholars' Forum, Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts,
Taiwan. December 15–16

- 2016 “Reconsidering the ‘Rhetoric of Heroism’: From the *Lengyan jing* to the Rise of Chan Buddhism in China.” “Encounters and Intersections in East Asian Religions,” Columbia University Graduate Student Conference, Bukkyō University, Kyoto. June 19
- 2012 “Expanding Buddhho-Daoist Studies into Late Imperial China: The Case of Wu Shouyang.” Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University. February 11
- 2011 “Chronotope and the ‘Fetus of the Sage’ in Medieval Chinese Buddhist Literature.” “Buddhist Dynamics in East Asian Religions,” a Columbia University Graduate Student Conference, Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto. June 18
- 2009 “Compassion and Emptiness in the Chan Buddhist Tradition.” “Belief Matters,” Department of Religion Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University. April 2

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 “Song Chan Abbacy Inauguration Documents.” Zen Reading Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, conducted virtually. November 29–December 10
- 2019 “Acting like a Buddha in China: Contingency and Unlikeness in Chan Buddhist Ritual.” The University of Chicago Center for East Asian Studies. November 20
- 2017 “‘What is the Buddha?’: Authority, Encounter Dialogue, and Ritual Efficacy in the Song-dynasty Chan Tradition.” Fulbright Taiwan Thought Leader Series, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, Taipei, Taiwan. May 17
- 2015 “Possessing Enlightenment: Demons, Difference, and Intentionality in Medieval Chinese Buddhism.” Kyoto Asian Studies Group, Japan. December 14