



Tübingen Korean Studies Lectures

튀빙겐 한국학 특강

Competing Transnational Buddhisms: Yu Guanbin's Contribution to Taixu's Buddha- ization Movement in 1920–30s Shanghai

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Wilhelmstraße 90 (Japanese Studies) | Room 7

Abstract: This talk concerns the work of the prominent Korean lay-Buddhist and entrepreneur Yu Guanbin (1891–1933) in Shanghai during the mid-1920s and early-1930s. Yu collaborated with the Chinese Buddhist reformer Taixu (1890–1947) in order to promote a transnational Buddhist discourse called “The Buddha-ization Movement” (fohua yundong). Yu also acted as a bridge between Korean and Chinese Buddhism by undertaking the project of rebuilding an 11th-century Korean temple, Koryōsa, in Hangzhou. In this talk, I examine how, due to the intersections and conflicts between national/transnational and religious/political visions, Yu’s engagement in these projects was a distinctive case of modern East Asian Buddhism.

Hwansoo Kim is an Associate Professor of Korean Buddhism and Culture in the Department of Religious Studies, with a joint appointment with the Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Department, at Duke University. He received his Ph.D. in the colonial history of Korean and Japanese Buddhism from Harvard University in 2007. His present research concerns colonial, modern, and contemporary Korean Buddhism from a transnational perspective. He is the author of *Empire of the Dharma: Korean and Japanese Buddhism, 1877–1912* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2013). His second book, under contract with Harvard University Asia Center, is tentatively titled *A Transnational History of Colonial Korean Buddhism, 1910–1945*.