

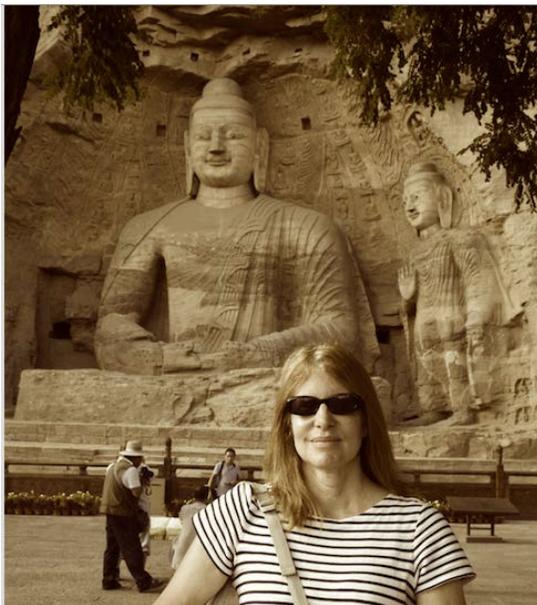
# COLLOQUIUM BY ELISE A. DEVIDO

NETWORKS AND BRIDGES: NUNS IN THE MAKING OF MODERN CHINESE BUDDHISM

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPT 2017

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

## *Networks and Bridges: Nuns in the Making of Modern Chinese Buddhism*



**Speaker:** Elise A. DeVido, Visiting Assistant Professor, Duke Kunshan University

---

### ABSTRACT:

Buddhist women have been building modern Chinese Buddhism for over a century and have been instrumental in the globalization of Buddhism. How did Chinese Buddhist nuns construct new professional networks, and what was their role as “bridges” among eras, people, institutions and regions in modern times? A preliminary foray into social-network analysis found new-style ties such as teacher-student; classmates; and colleagues in Buddhist organizations, in addition to the traditional ties of master-disciple. These new ties often bridged Buddhist schools and national borders. In addition, what are the reasons for Taiwan’s flourishing order of nuns and what are the networks of Taiwan nuns that have connected Taiwan, China, Japan, and Hong Kong? The mission of the nuns in this study has been

education: the key to the development of the nuns' order and one reason for the flourishing of Chinese Buddhism today.

---

BIO:

Elise Anne DeVido majored in Chinese History at Cornell University and received a doctorate in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University. She lived and worked in Taiwan for over ten years, including teaching history at National Chengchi University and National Taiwan Normal University. While serving as General-Secretary of the Taipei Ricci Institute for Chinese Studies, she began research on both Buddhism and popular religion in contemporary Taiwan. After publishing the book *Taiwan's Buddhist Nuns* she has since focused on the connections between Buddhism in China and Vietnam, utilizing Chinese, Japanese, French, and Vietnamese materials. Her research has been funded by several grants from the Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan, among others. She currently works on "the problem of nuns" in early twentieth-century China based on local archives, Buddhist journals, popular culture, missionary accounts, and gazetteers: a new way to understand local society and cultural discourse in Republican China. In addition she has begun a biography of Vietnamese monk Thích Nhất Hạnh.

At Duke Kunshan University, her courses include Globalization, Development, and the Chinese Economy; History of US-China Relations; and Women in East Asia.

This event is open to all and entry is on a first come, first served basis. For any queries email [yg73@duke.edu](mailto:yg73@duke.edu) or call 3665 7149.

Hope to see you all!