



# A Pāli Cosmopolis? Making Buddhist Kingdoms Across the Indian Ocean in the Early Second Millennium

As intensifying trade connections drew Buddhist-oriented locations more closely together in the early second millennium A.D., emerging polities in what are now Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Burma/Myanmar leveraged trans-local Buddhist networks in support of local projects. Pāli as a scriptural-liturgical link language was central to such activities, but can we think of this Indian Ocean world as a Pāli Cosmopolis? This paper brings evidence from historical Southern Asia into conversation with work by Steven Collins, Sheldon Pollock, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam.

Faculty Host: D. Mitra Barua



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Mechanical Laboratory 209

Free and open to the public



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Anne M. Blackburn is Professor of South Asia Studies and Buddhist Studies in the Department of Asian Studies, and Director of the Cornell South Asia Program. She taught at the University of South Carolina before joining Cornell's faculty. Blackburn received her BA from Swarthmore College, and MA and PhD degrees from the University of Chicago. Blackburn studies Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia at the intersection of literary studies, intellectual history, and political economy, with a particular interest in Buddhist networks (literary, monastic institutional, political, and trade) linking Sri Lanka and mainland Southeast Asia before and during colonial presence in the region. Her publications include *Buddhist Learning and Textual Practice in Eighteenth-Century Lankan Monastic Culture* (Princeton, 2001), *Locations of Buddhism: Colonialism and Modernity in Sri Lanka* (Chicago, 2010), "Buddhist Connections in the Indian Ocean" (JESHO, 2015), and "Buddhist Technologies of Statecraft and Millennial Moments," (History and Theory, 2017). Research towards her current book project, *Making Buddhist Kingdoms Across the Indian Ocean, 1200-1500*, was supported by an ACLS Fellowship.