

Transnational Asia

Speaker Series

Transferring the Transfer of Merit



Friday, April 8, 2022 @ 4 PM CDT

Kraft Hall, Room 110

Also online via Zoom for rice.edu affiliates only ([registration required](#))

One of the most elementary Buddhist practices is making a donation to the Buddhist establishment and then dedicating the resulting benefits to someone else. The transfer of merit is found across Asia and in many languages. This talk analyzes how this rich social drama became so widespread. After surveying the varieties of merit transfer, I focus on medieval Chinese liturgies and reflect on the problem of translating rituals across cultural and linguistic divides.



Stephen F. Teiser is D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and Professor of Religion at Princeton University. He utilizes manuscripts, art, and other cultural artifacts to understand the interaction between Buddhism and local forms of religious life. His books include *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China* (Princeton University Press, 1988), *The Scripture on the Ten Kings and the Making of Purgatory in Medieval Chinese Buddhism* (University of Hawaii Press, 1994), *Reinventing the Wheel: Paintings of Rebirth in Medieval Buddhist Temples* (University of Washington Press, 2006), and a forthcoming monograph on Buddhist ritual, *Yili yu fojiao yanjiu* 仪礼与佛教研究 (Sanlian chubanshe, 2022).

FACULTY HOST: Eric Huntington



RICE HUMANITIES

Chao Center for Asian Studies