

Reopening a Debate that Remained Dormant for a Century: Past and Present Approaches to “Universality” and the Contrast Between Contemporary Japanese and Taiwanese Buddhism

重啟休眠百年的論辯：藉當代日本與臺灣佛教的對比探討 「普同性」的今昔取徑

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This talk begins with the story of a Japanese monk who travelled to India and studied Sanskrit before succumbing to tetanus. It then focuses on the issue of “universality,” and on the philosophical prerequisites for reopening a constructive debate on its potential for scholarly usage.

I then discuss the contrast between contemporary Taiwanese Buddhism and its Japanese equivalent. One of my working hypotheses is that the Taiwanese religious landscape offers an ideal terrain to investigate the adaptability of tradition to the social fabric, as the unique involvement of volunteers contributes to a “symbiosis” between lay and monastic Buddhist communities.

主講人簡介：

蒙葦 (Michel Mohr)，瑞士籍，現為美國夏威夷大學宗教系副教授。蒙教授曾長住於日本二十餘年，精通日語，對日本佛教、禪宗思想研究深湛。2014 年其著作 *Buddhism, Unitarianism, and the Meiji Competition for Universality* 由哈佛大學出版社出版。蒙葦教授本年獲得漢學研究中心「外籍學人來臺研究漢學獎助」，來臺灣研究主題為「無國界禪：臺灣佛家社團的在家和出家的互惠關係」。他也希望藉此次來臺，對臺灣佛教目前的幾個主要宗派如中台山、法鼓山、佛光山、慈濟功德會等，進行更深入的探討。