



Center for Japanese Studies 50th Anniversary *Hybrid Japan*

Tracing Japanese Buddhism: An International Conference September 24-27, 2009

[Tracing Japanese Buddhism: An International Conference \(Day 2, Part 1\) \(Video Archive\)](#)

[Tracing Japanese Buddhism: An International Conference \(Day 2, Part 2\) \(Video Archive\)](#)

[All 50th Anniversary Events Video Archive](#)

On Thursday, September 24, 2009, the three-day international conference on Japanese Buddhism hosted by the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley commenced with a welcome reception at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Duncan Williams (Chair, Center for Japanese Studies) and Richard Payne (Dean, Institute of Buddhist Studies) welcomed the over fifty scholars who came from around the U.S. and the globe to participate in this conference. On Friday, September 25th, the various keynote lectures and panel discussions began, featuring illustrious scholars from around the world who engaged in discussions on a variety of topics on Japanese Buddhism. In the evening, a gala banquet in honor of Shinnyo-en and the Shinnyo-en Foundation was hosted by the Center for Japanese Studies at the Berkeley Art Museum. UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau attended the gala, offering remarks on the innovative and meaningful support from Shinnyo-en, and Chief Bishop Mitsuo Nagatsuka of Shinnyo-en thanked the Chancellor and the UC Berkeley community for the wonderful partnership.

The conference continued on Saturday, September 26th, highlighted by the presentation of the Chancellor's Citation to Reverend Toshihide Numata, Chairman of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (The Society for the Promotion of Buddhism). The conference schedule included a fieldtrip to the Green Gulch Zen Center in Muir Woods, where participants were given a tour of the facilities before continuing their panel discussions. The evening ended with a Gala Dinner in honor of the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai at Yoshi's Jazz Club and Japanese Restaurant in San Francisco.

The final day of the conference, Sunday, September 27th, featured a film screening of *Okuribito* (Departures) by Yojiro Takita, winner of the 2008 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film that explored the rituals of funerary Buddhism through the life of a newly unemployed cellist who takes a job preparing the dead for funerals. The conference ended with a closing ceremony in the evening.

Event Program: September 24, 2009

WELCOME RECEPTION

Location: Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

WELCOME REMARKS

Duncan Williams (Chair, Center for Japanese Studies)

Richard Payne (Dean, Institute of Buddhist Studies)

TOAST

Koshin Ogui (Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America)

Event Program: September 25, 2009

LOCATION: TOLL ROOM, ALUMNI HOUSE, UC BERKELEY

TIME: 8:45AM- 5:15PM

OPENING REMARKS

Naoki Murata (Executive Director, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)

Duncan Williams (Chair, Center for Japanese Studies)

KEYNOTE LECTURE 1

"The Abhiseka Ritual and Imperial Successions in Early Heian Japan: Toward a Critique of the *Chingo Kokka* Theory"

Ryuichi Abe (Harvard University)

Chair: **Mark Unno** (University of Oregon)

Respondent: **Ikuyo Matsumoto** (Yokohama City University)

KEYNOTE LECTURE 2

"The Concept of 'True Dharma' in Japanese Buddhism"

Susumu Shimazono (University of Tokyo)

Chair: **Richard Payne** (Institute of Buddhist Studies)

Respondent: **Paul Groner** (University of Virginia)

DIALOGUE 1

"New Perspectives on 'Medieval' Buddhism"

Fumihiko Sueki (Nichibunken)

Brian Ruppert (University of Illinois)

Respondent: **Mark Blum** (SUNY, Albany)

PANEL SESSION 1: BUDDHISM IN MEDIEVAL JAPANESE LITERATURE

"Keepsake Robe/Robe of Liberation: Family Ties and Buddhist Renunciation in Medieval Japanese Literature"

Hank Glassman (Haverford College)



Abe Ryuichi giving his keynote lecture – day 1 of conference



Susumu Shimazono giving his keynote lecture – day 1 of conference

"Buddhism and Poetic Borrowings in Medieval Japanese *otogizoshi*: The Case Study of *Amida no honji*"

Monika Dix (University of Colorado)

"Extinguishing the Flame: *Tameyo no sôshi* and the Boundaries of Horror in Medieval Buddhist Fiction"

R. Keller Kimbrough (University of Colorado)

Chair: **Lori Meeks** (University of Southern California)

Respondent: **D. Max Moerman** (Columbia University)

PANEL SESSION 2: NUMINOUS MATERIALS AND ECOLOGICAL ICONS IN PREMODERN JAPANESE BUDDHISM

Trees and Japanese Buddhist Sculpture: On Historical Shifts in Arboreal Material"

Kensuke Nedachi (Kyoto University)

"Aromatic Icons"

Yukio Lippit (Harvard University)

"The *Yakushi* of the Mountains: *Yakushi* Worship and Its Images in the Late Nara through Early Heian Periods"

Mae Sarai (Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)

"The Buddha-Body, Materiality, and the Environment: A General Look at the Representations of the Sacred in Japanese Buddhism"

Fabio Rambelli (Sapporo University)

Chair: **Lori Meeks** (University of Southern California)

Respondent: **Greg Levine** (UC Berkeley)

GALA DINNER IN HONOR OF SHINNYO-EN

Location: Berkeley Art Museum, UC Berkeley

Time: 6:00pm- 8:00pm

PANEL SESSION 2 SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT/SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT

Japanese Buddhist art from the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture

WELCOME REMARKS

Duncan Williams (Chair, Center for Japanese Studies)

UC Berkeley Chancellor **Robert Birgeneau**

REMARKS

Chief Bishop Mitsuo Nagatsuka, Head Minister and Administrative Director, Shinnyo-en Head

Temple/Chairman and President, Shinnyo-en Foundation

SLIDE PRESENTATION – "THE BEAUTIFUL EYE OF SHINJO ITO"

Margaret Miles (Graduate Theological Union, UC Berkeley)

Respondent: **Mark Blum** (SUNY, Albany)

Event Program: September 26, 2009

LOCATION: TOLL ROOM, ALUMNI HOUSE, UC BERKELEY

TIME: 9:00AM- 1:00PM

PANEL SESSION 4: MODERNITY AND TRANSNATIONAL JAPANESE BUDDHISM

"Modern Japanese Buddhism's Move Towards Transnational Asian Buddhism: Regional Connections, Mimicking Europe, and Cultural Initiatives"

Akeshi Kiba (Otani University)

"Overseas Propagation of Japanese Buddhism: A Comparative Study of the Nichiren Sect in Korea, Taiwan, Hawaii, and California"

Naofumi Annaka (Rissho University)

"The Flow of Japanese Buddhism around the Pacific: Japanese American Buddhists in Pre-war Japan"

Tomoe Moriya (Hannan University)

"Pre and Post-War Transnational Japanese Buddhism"

Takeshi Fujii (Gakugei University)

Chair: **Andrew Barshay** (UC Berkeley)

Respondent: **Richard Jaffe** (Duke University)

KEYNOTE LECTURE 5

"Japanese Buddhist Nationalism and Ideology During World War II"

Eiki Hoshino (Taisho University)

Chair: **Michihiro Ama** (UC Irvine)

Respondent: **Mark Blum** (SUNY, Albany)

LOCATION: PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE THEATER, UC BERKELEY

TIME: 1:15PM-3:25PM

FILM SCREENING

Okuribito (Departures) by Yojiro Takita (Shochiku, 2008, 131 mins, with English subtitles)

LOCATION: TOLL ROOM, ALUMNI HOUSE, UC BERKELEY

TIME: 3:45PM- 6:00PM

PANEL SESSION 5: CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE BUDDHISM

"Marginal or Marginalized: The Teachings of Contemporary Temple Buddhism"

Steven Covell (Western Michigan University)

"Temple Orbits: Issues in the Study of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism"

Mark Rowe (McMaster University)



"Local and Global Forces Shaping Contemporary Japanese Buddhism"

John Nelson (University of San Francisco)

"Questioning the Boundaries of Religious Activities: Pet Memorial Rituals and the Law in Contemporary Japan"

Barbara Ambros (UNC, Chapel Hill)

Chair: **Duncan Williams** (UC Berkeley)

Respondent: **Helen Hardacre** (Harvard University)

CLOSING CEREMONY

Co-sponsored by: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science,
Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai/Numata Foundation, Shinnyo-en Foundation