



薛玄 **Dixuan Yujing Chen, Ph.D.**

Religious Studies Department  
Grinnell College

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019-present Assistant Professor of East Asian Religions and Buddhist Studies, Religious Studies Department, Grinnell College, IA.
- 2017-2019 Visiting Assistant Professor of East Asian Religions and Buddhist Studies, Religious Studies Department, Grinnell College, IA.
- 2016-2017 Adjunct Faculty of Asian Religions, Humanities and Foreign Language Department, Santa Fe College, FL.

## EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D. in East Asian Religions, with specialization in Buddhist Studies, Department of Religion, University of Florida. Dissertation: "The Worship of Medicine Master Buddha in Medieval China." Dissertation advisor: Mario Poceski.
- 2006 M.A. in Philosophy of Religion, Department of Religious Studies, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. Thesis: "The Doctrine of Non-Duality Presented in the Scriptures Centered on Mañjuśrī."
- 2002 M.A. in Buddhist Studies, Yuan Kuang Buddhist College, Taiwan. Thesis: "The Two Truths and the *Pañcaviṃśatisāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras*."
- 1997 B.S. in Real Estate Studies, Land Management Department, Feng Chia University, Taiwan.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Religious healing beliefs and rituals
- Theories and practices of meditation in Buddhism
- Breathing techniques in Asian religions
- Women and gender in Buddhism

## COURSES TAUGHT AT GRINNELL

- East Asian Religions
- Zen Buddhism
- Buddhist Traditions
- Buddhism and Globalization
- Religion and Politics in Modern China
- Religion, Healing, and Health
- Religion and Food: Eating is Believing
- Mindfulness: The Art of Living
- Women and Religion

## COURSES TAUGHT AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- Religions of Asia
- Chinese Religions
- Buddhism in China

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023-2024 The Harris Faculty Fellowship (Project: How Meditation Became Medicine: Construction of Healing Meditation in Medieval Chinese Buddhism).
- 2023 Mellon Humanities in Action Grant Pedagogy Partnership, awarded to Grinnell by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



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| 2023       | Stanford University East Asian Library Travel Grant.   |
| 2022-2023  | Wabash Center Early Career Faculty Teaching Fellowship (Project: Forster Active Learning through Effective Classroom Discussion in Religious Studies). |
| 2018, 2019 | John N. and Mary K. Shephard Faculty Travel and Study Fund.  |
| 2015-2017  | Sarah Lee Doctoral Student Study Abroad Fellowship.  |
| 2015       | Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Research Enhancement Grant for Studying Dunhuang Arts.   |
| 2005, 2007 | Chue Feng Buddhist Art and Culture Travel Grant.   |

## PUBLICATIONS

- “More than Curing the Sick: A Re-Examination of Medicine Buddha Worship in Medieval China.” *Journal of Chinese Religions* 52, no. 1 (May 2024): 1-27. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/jcr.2024.a928799>
- “Inhaling Tradition, Exhaling Innovation: Controlled Breathing as Medicine in Tiantai Buddhism.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 10, issue 2 (Nov. 2024): 115-150. DOI: [10.1080/23729988.2024.2383510](https://doi.org/10.1080/23729988.2024.2383510)
- Review of C. Pierce Salguero and Andrew Macomber, eds. *Buddhist Healing in Medieval China and Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2020. In *Journal of Religion* 102, no. 3 (Jul. 2022): 434-436.
- Review of Yuhang Li, *Becoming Guanyin: Artistic Devotion of Buddhist Women in Late Imperial China*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2020. In *Journal of Religious History* 45, no. 4, (Nov. 2021): 689-691.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- Breathing for Balance: Chinese Buddhist Views on Life and the Body*. In progress; to be submitted to the University of Hawai‘i Press.
- Co-editor, *When Meditation Goes Wrong: Global Perspectives on Meditation Adverse Effects*. Co-edited with C. Pierce Salguero and Daphne Weber. University of Hawai‘i Press. Forthcoming in 2027.
- “Orthodoxy and Safety: A Taiwanese Buddhist Institution Responds to Meditation Adversities.” In *When Meditation Goes Wrong: Global Perspectives on Meditation Adverse Effects*, ed. C. Pierce Salguero, Dixuan Chen, and Daphne Weber. University of Hawai‘i Press. Forthcoming in 2027.
- “Reassessing *The Gateway to Meditation*: Textual History and Buddhist Medical Thought in Tang-Song China.” Accepted, forthcoming in Volume 39 of the *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies*.
- Co-translator, “Meditation Sickness in East Asia: Selections from Modern Dharma Teachers.” Collaborated with Francisco Figueroa Medina and Trang T. D. Nguyen. In *Meditation Sickness: A Sourcebook on the Dangers of Buddhist Practice*, edited by C. Pierce Salguero. University of Hawai‘i Press. In press, forthcoming in 2026.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “Culinary Bridges: Integrating Asian Religious Food in Pedagogy.” The Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS), Mar. 14-17, 2025.
- 2025 “Respiratory Healing: Chinese Buddhist Approaches to Managing Meditation Challenges.” Conference on “Religion, Medicine, and Science” at the Kripke Center for the Study of Religion & Society, Creighton University, Feb. 20-21, 2025.
- 2024 “Shengyan’s Views on Meditation Sickness within the Han Chinese Buddhist Context.”



The American Academy of Religion Conference (AAR), San Diego, Nov. 23-26, 2024.

- 2024 “Respiration and Health: The Use of Restorative Breathing Skills to Cure Illness.” The Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS), Seattle, Mar. 14-17, 2024.
- 2023 “Assimilating Chinese Medical Knowledge into Buddhism: An Innovative Meditation in China.” The Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought, Nov. 11-12, 2023.
- 2023 “Religion and Health: The Emergence of a New Buddhist Meditation in Sixth-Century China.” The Association for Asian Studies: Western Conference, Oct. 5-6, 2023.
- 2023 “A Neglected History of Medicine Buddha Worship in China.” The Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs 2023, The University of Illinois, Sep. 29-Oct. 1, 2023.
- 2023 “Gender and Jealousy: Narratives of Fierce Women in Chinese Buddhism.” The 8th AAS-in-Asia Conference, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, South Korea, June 24-27, 2023.
- 2022 “Creating a Healing Meditation: Transformation and Acculturation of Buddhism in China.” The American Academy of Religion Conference (AAR), Denver, Nov. 19-22, 2022.
- 2022 “Healing Meditation: Zhiyi’s 智顗 Syncretism of Indian and Chinese Breathing Skills.” Ritual and Contemplative Practices in Chinese Religions (500 to 1500 CE), The Elling Eide Center, Florida, Mar. 4-6, 2022.
- 2021 “Gendered Prophecies: Foretelling Women’s Sex Change prior to their Achievement of Buddhahood.” Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion & Society of Biblical Literature, Apr. 10, 2021.
- 2021 “From Fertility to Identity: Women’s Participation in Medicine Buddha Worship in Tang China.” The Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS), Mar. 26, 2021. (Online)
- 2020 “In Hopes of a Safe Delivery: Buddhist Women in Tang China.” The 69th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA), Oct. 17, 2020.
- 2019 “Prophecies about Women’s Spiritual Attainment in the Early Chinese Buddhism.” Prophecy and Foretelling of Destiny in Buddhism, International Consortium for Research in the Humanities, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, Nov. 19-20, 2019.
- 2018 “Women’s Participation in Medicine Master Buddha Worship in Medieval China.” Wutai Conference on Identity & Network, Shanxi, China, Jul. 3-5, 2018.
- 2018 “Socially Engaged Women in Taiwan: The Ciji (Tzu Chi) Movement.” East Asian Studies Colloquium, Grinnell College, Mar. 6, 2018.
- 2017 “The Social Construction of Gender: Female Participation in Medicine Master Buddha Worship.” Gender & Performance in the Study of Religion Conference, University of Florida, Jan. 28, 2017.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- 2025 Panel organizer of “Asian Foodways: Cultural Maintenance and Ideological Shifts.” The Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS), Mar. 14-17, 2025.
- 2024 Panel organizer of “Meditation as Sickness, Meditation as Medicine.” The American Academy of Religion Conference (AAR), San Diego, Nov. 23-26, 2024.
- 2024 Panel organizer of “Healing in Chinese Philosophies, Literature, and Religions.” The Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS), Seattle, Mar. 14-17, 2024.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORKSHOPS

- 2025 “Open Educational Practices and Your Curriculum” Workshop, Aug. 4-6.
- 2025 “Commenting on Student Writing: Strategies and Best Practice” Workshop, Jun. 17-20.
- 2024 “The Pedagogical Purpose of the Literature Review and the Possibility of Ethical AI-Assisted Library Research” Workshop, Jul. 29-Aug. 2.
- 2024 Tutorial Instructors Workshop, Jun. 3-7.
- 2023 Faculty Success Program (FSP), offered by the National Consortium of Faculty Diversity and Development (NCFDD), Jul-Nov.
- 2022 “Teaching Annotation: Scholarly and Pedagogical Practice” Workshop, Jun. 7-9.
- 2022 “Designing Digital Assignments” Workshop, May 31-Jun. 2.
- 2021-22 Wabash Center Early Career Religion Faculty Teaching Undergraduates Workshop, Jul. 2021-Aug. 2022.
- 2021 “Global Kitchen in Liberal Arts” Workshop, Aug. 9-12.
- 2021 East Asian Buddhist World-making International Program, Aug. 14-16.
- 2021 Tutorial Instructors Workshop, Jul. 19-23.
- 2021 The Center for Mindfulness at UMass Memorial Health, Science & Wisdom of Emotions Summit, May 2-5.
- 2019 ACM Faculty Career Enhancement Program, Nov. 4.

## RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

- 2025 Archival research in the National Central Library, Taiwan, Jun. 2025.
- 2023 Research of Chinese and Japanese special collections in the Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University, Nov. 2023.
- 2023 Research of Chinese medical manuscripts in the East Asian Library, Stanford University, Mar. 2023.
- 2022 Archival research in the Academia Sinica, Taiwan, in the summer of 2022.
- 2018, 2019 Research of the rubbings of Buddhist steles in the Fu Ssu-nien Library’s collection, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, in the summer of 2018 and 2019.
- 2015 Field research of the Buddhist artworks preserved in the Mogao Grottoes, the Yulin Caves, and the West Thousand-Buddha Caves in China, Oct. 2015.
- 2014 Field research of extant sculptures and paintings of Medicine Master Buddha preserved at Japanese temples and museums in Nara and Kyoto, in the summer of 2014.
- 2012 Field research of contemporary monastic life in South Korean monasteries, the summer of 2012.
- 2007 Research of the mural paintings of the Kizil Caves and the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves, Xinjiang province, China, Sep-Oct 2007.
- 2007 Research of Buddhist iconography of the Mogao Grottoes, the Xiangtangshan Caves, and the Longmen Caves in China, Jun-Aug 2007.
- 2006, 2007 Research of the rubbings of Buddhist steles in the Fu Ssu-nien Library’s collection,



Academia Sinica, Taiwan, the summer of 2006 and the fall of 2007.

- 2006 Field research of the wall paintings of the Mogao Grottoes and the Yulin Caves in China, Aug-Sep 2006.
- 2005 Field research of the Buddhist artworks preserved in the Mogao Grottoes, the Maiji Mountain Grottoes, the Yulin Caves, and the Binglingsi Grottoes in China, in the summer of 2005.

### INVITED SPEECHES

- 2024 “Releasing Pain: The Development of Therapeutic Breathwork in Chinese Buddhism.” Grinnell College, Oct 1, 2024.
- 2024 “Taste of Belief: Food Speaks Our Values.” Presentation to the Board of Trustees at Grinnell College, Sep. 26, 2024.
- 2022 “Religious Identity in American Buddhism.” University of Florida, Nov. 7, 2022.
- 2018 “Goddess as a Filial Daughter: The Miaoshan Legend.” Grinnell College, Oct. 31, 2018.
- 2017 “Buddhist Monasticism in Modern China.” University of Florida, Mar. 27, 2017.
- 2013 “Buddhist Devotional Practices: Tradition and Transformation.” University of Florida, Apr. 15, 2013.

### PUBLIC TALKS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2019 “Buddhist and Catholic Monastic Traditions.” The Unitarian Universalists, IA, Apr. 28, 2019.
- 2017 “Buddhist Philosophy of Emptiness (*sūnyatā*).” Gainesville Buddhist Association, FL, Sep. 16, 2017.
- 2017 “The Bodhisattva Ideal in the Early Mahayana Development.” Atlanta Buddhist Group, GA, Jun. 7, 2017.
- 2016 “Visual Representations Inspired by the *Vimalakīrti Scripture*.” Yin Shun Foundation, NJ, Jul. 2-5, 2016.
- 2015 “The Teachings of Compassion in Mahāyāna Scriptures.” Atlanta Buddhist Summer Camp, GA, Jun. 26, 2015.
- 2015 “The Four Sublime States: Contemplation on Loving-kindness, Compassion, Sympathetic Joy, and Equanimity.” Gainesville Buddhist Association, FL, Mar. 7, 2015.
- 2014 “The Growth of Buddhism during the Northern and Southern Dynasties.” Bodhi Monastery, NJ, Jul. 5, 2014.

### SERVICE AT GRINNELL COLLEGE

- 2025 Fall-present Chair of East Asian Studies Concentration.
- 2024 Fall-present The Instructional Support Committee (ISC): supporting the successful completion of pedagogical objectives.
- 2021-2023 Cultural Film Committee: supporting film-oriented courses and programming.
- 2020-2022 Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC): assisting students with applications and candidacy for health-related careers.



2019-2020 Co-chair of Early Career Faculty and Staff (ECFS): providing resources and social opportunities for new members of the college community.

### **SERVICE IN THE ACADEMIC FIELDS**

2025-present Chinese Religions Unit Steering Committee of the American Academy of Religion (AAR).  
2025-26 Conversation Partners of “Community, Solidarity, and Democracy,” a community-based participatory research project sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation.  
2025 Service to preparing public-facing scholarship that incorporates community-engaged research at the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).  
2024-present Service on Executive Board, The Society for the Study of Chinese Religions (SSCR).

### **LANGUAGES**

Classical and Modern Chinese: reading, writing, and speaking fluency

Japanese: reading fluency

Sanskrit: reading ability with dictionaries

Pali: reading ability with dictionaries

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

ASIANetwork

International Association for Buddhist Studies

T’ang Studies Society

The Society for the Study of Chinese Religions (SSCR)

The Chinese Humanities & Arts Working Group at the University of Iowa (CHAW)

Women in the Study of Asian Religions