

## Where the Texts Lead Us

# Rethinking the Textual Approach to Buddhist Studies: Issues and Methodologies

(資料に導かれる仏教研究；問題提起と方法論)

### Multidisciplinary Symposium at the University of California, Santa Barbara

Organized by the Japanese research group on “International perspectives on interdisciplinary research on Japanese Buddhism” (多分野複合の視角から見た日本仏教の国際的研究) (JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A)).

Co-organized by UC Santa Barbara Shinto Studies Chair and UC Santa Barbara Buddhist Studies Program.

Co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies and the Department of Religious Studies, the East Asia Center, and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center at UC Santa Barbara.

Participants: Ōkubo Ryōshun (Waseda University), Minowa Kenryō (Tokyo University), Sonehara Satoshi (Tohoku University), Jose Cabezon (UCSB), Fabio Rambelli (UCSB), Dominic Steavu (UCSB)

Date: November 15, 2015

Location: McCune Conference Room, Humanities and Social Studies Building 6F, UC Santa Barbara.

Presentations and discussions will be made in Japanese and in English.

#### **Schedule**

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Opening addresses by Ōkubo Ryōshun 大久保良峻 and Fabio Rambelli

10:10–11:00 Minowa Kenryō 13世紀日本における写本の論義資料 “Manuscript copies of Japanese materials regarding doctrinal debates from the thirteenth century”

11:00–11:50 Sonehara Satoshi 日本近世仏教と『大成経』  
“Early modern Japanese Buddhism and the Taiseikyō”

11:50–13:20 Lunch Break

13:20–14:10 Dominic Steavu (tentative title) “The Adept as Object: On the Conflation

between Practitioner and Ritual Implement in Chinese Buddhism” モノとしての修行者—中国仏教における修行者と仏具の一体化について

14:10–15:00 Jose Cabezon (tentative Title) “Degrees of Theoretical Sophistication in the Indigenous Treatment of Gender in the Indian Buddhist Textual Corpus” イン  
ド仏典における土着ジェンダー論の理論的展開

15:00–15:30 Coffee Break

15:30–16:20 Fabio Rambelli (tentative Title) “Where the Texts Take Us: Three  
Examples of Interpretation of Japanese Buddhist Sources in a Semiotic Perspective”  
資料の彼方へ—記号論的な観点による日本仏教資料の解釈の三事例

16:20–17:10 Ōkubo Ryōshun 初期日本天台に関する若干の基本的問題——時間  
論を中心に—— Some Basic Problems in Early Japanese Tendai : Theories about  
Time

17:20–18:00 Discussion.

Contact: Fabio Rambelli [rambelli@eastasian.ucsb.edu](mailto:rambelli@eastasian.ucsb.edu)

## Where the Texts Lead Us

### **Textual Studies Graduate Student Workshops**

University of California, Santa Barbara

Friday, November 14, 2015, 9:30am – 5:30pm

IHC Research Seminar Room, Humanities and Social Studies Building  
(HSSB) 6F Room 6056

①Kikuchi Hiroki 菊地大樹 *The Hijiri and Kingship in Aristocrats' Diaries: Reading the Gyokuyō* 公家日記にみる聖（ひじり）と王権—『玉葉』を読む— 9:30am – 11:30am

②Uejima Susumu 上島 享 *Hand-sealed Oaths: Materials Related to the Peacock Sutra Ritual* 手印起請—孔雀經法関係文書— 1pm – 3pm

③Yoshida Kazuhiko 吉田一彦 *Reading Dōji's Hagiographies in Kaifusō and Shoku Nihongi* 道慈伝を読む—『懷風藻』と『続日本紀』— 3:30pm – 5:30pm

## **Symposium Abstracts**

### Jose Cabezon (tentative Title) "Degrees of Theoretical Sophistication in the Indigenous Treatment of Gender in the Indian Buddhist Textual Corpus"

Some Indian Buddhist texts (Pali and Sanskrit works) posit what it means to be male, female and neuter stipulatively with little second-order reasoning for their views. A few works do provide this second-order reflection. However, the most sophisticated theoretical treatment of gender in Buddhist literature occurs in the Abhidharma corpus. I will explore these various degrees of "theoreticality" in various genres of Indian Buddhist texts.

### Fabio Rambelli (tentative Title) "Where the Texts Take Us: Three Examples of Interpretation of Japanese Buddhist Sources in a Semiotic Perspective"

This paper is an exploration of interpretive possibilities of texts that problematize denotative meaning, original context, and alternative contextualization. I will explore three instances based on increasing interpretive interventions: (i) definitions of the primordial god in Buddho-Shinto texts, (ii) semiotic models in Shingon hermeneutics, and (iii) investigations on "love" in Buddhist sources.

### Dominic Steavu (tentative title) "The Adept as Object: On the Conflation between Practitioner and Ritual Implement in Chinese Buddhism"

On the basis of esoteric ritual manuals from the medieval period, this presentation will examine how Buddhists identified with the ritual objects they used and, in some cases, became those very objects. The cosmograph and incense burner are two among the implements considered. The role of touch as a catalyst in overcoming the ontological barrier between practitioner (subject) and tool (object) will also be examined.