

The Florida State University

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Religion

Sheng Yen Lecture Presents



Curing with Karma: Healing Liturgies in Chinese Buddhism

**Stephen F. Teiser
Princeton University**

Thursday, January 28th -- 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium (DHA 103)

The unprecedented corpus of medieval manuscripts unearthed in the northwestern Chinese desert town of Dunhuang in the early twentieth century divulged a trove of secrets about the practice of Chinese Buddhism. Among the thousands of liturgical texts created by local monks for the performance of rituals, almost two hundred separate manuscripts contain liturgies that were spoken aloud during healing rituals. This lecture introduces Dunhuang and its manuscripts, surveys cultures of healing in medieval Chinese Buddhism, explores how illness can be cured through karmic means, discusses the role of confession in curing, and reflects on the process of healing in Chinese Buddhism.

Stephen F. Teiser is D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and Professor of Religion at Princeton University, where he also serves as Director of the interdepartmental Program in East Asian Studies. He is interested in the interaction between Buddhism and indigenous Chinese traditions, brought into focus through the wealth of sūtras, non-canonical texts, and artistic evidence unearthed on the Silk Road.

