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## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHENG YEN LECTURE

# “REPENTANCE IN THE FORMATION OF CHINESE BUDDHISM”

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Dr. Eric Greene, Assistant Professor of  
Religious Studies, Yale University

Dr. Eric Greene is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Yale University. He specializes in the history of medieval Chinese Buddhism, particularly the emergence of Chinese forms of Buddhism from the interaction between Indian Buddhism and indigenous Chinese culture. He is currently writing a book on the uses of meditative visionary experience as evidence of sanctity within early Chinese Buddhism.

**December 14, 2018**

**103 DHA**

**5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

The ritual activity that in China was known as *chanhui* 懺悔 – often understood to mean “confession” or “repentance” – was without doubt one of the central forms of Buddhist practice in medieval China. Despite this, scholars have often disagreed concerning, firstly, what “repentance” even means in the Chinese or Buddhist contexts, as well as the best way of understanding the relationship between Chinese Buddhist *chanhui* and its Indian Buddhist antecedents on the one hand, and pre-Buddhist Chinese religious ideologies on the other. In this talk Dr. Greene will attempt to offer some new ways of thinking about some of these questions that will help us understand how “repentance” came to serve within early medieval Chinese Buddhism (roughly 200-600 AD) not so much as one mode of Buddhist activity among many, but as a unifying frame for understanding the ultimate point of all forms of Buddhist practice whatsoever.