

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Religion at FSU

The Second Sheng Yen Buddhist Lecture Series



“Taking Critical Buddhism Seriously”

Dr. Robert Sharf

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

5:30-6:30pm

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Both premodern Buddhists and certain modern buddhologists have attempted to reform Buddhism from the inside out. This talk examines two specific Buddhist reforms—the eighth-century reform by Heze Shenhui (670-762) on Southern Chan and the mid-1980s “Critical Buddhism” reform by Hakamaya Noriaki and Matsumoto Shirō. Dr. Sharf explores the philosophical and ethical issues these reforms raise and argues that they are not only germane to a better understanding of the history of East Asian Zen, but also shed light on the category of “Buddhist modernism” and the Buddhist inspired meditation practices popular in the West today.



Robert Sharf is D. H. Chen Distinguished Professor of Buddhist Studies in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also Chair of the Center for Buddhist Studies at UCB and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, the *Journal for the Study of Chinese Religions*, the *Journal of Religion in Japan*, and the Kuroda Institute Series published in conjunction with University of Hawai'i Press.