

DOTTORATO DI INTERESSE NAZIONALE IN STUDI RELIGIOSI

Ateneo e Dipartimento sede della borsa: Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia e sull'Africa Mediterranea

Proposta finanziata ai sensi del: DM 352 del 9 aprile 2022

Titolo del progetto formativo della borsa di dottorato: Theravāda, Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna: Texts, Rituals and Practitioners

Descrizione del progetto formativo della borsa di dottorato

Supervisore accademico (Responsabile Scientifico) Professoressa Francesca Tarocco
Supervisore aziendale Dr. Filippo Scianna

How has Buddhism changed through the centuries, mixing and integrating with different religious cultures? How has it changed since its encounter with modernity and the West? What does it mean today, and what did it mean historically, to “be Buddhist”?

Investigations into different forms of Indian, Chinese, Tibetan and other forms of Buddhism may be included in this research context, with particular attention to mutual influences between Buddhism and other religious and contemplative traditions, including Yoga, Vedānta and Tantra in India, but also Taoism, Bön and so forth in other Asian countries.

We welcome projects that address the following list of topics but are also open to other proposals:

- The processes of translation, assimilation and appropriation in the development of the different schools of the Asian Buddhist traditions
- The processes of translation, assimilation and appropriation in the development of the different schools of the Asian Buddhist traditions with particular attention to the Tibetan world, with an analysis of the intertwining of conservative elements, on the one hand, and the capacities of the Buddhist religious message to renew itself, on the other
- The transformation of Buddhism in modern times, resulting in the emergence of new forms of Buddhism in Asia and beyond
- Specific contexts of contemporary Buddhism, analyzed within a socio-anthropological perspective, with a particular focus on the community and other relational elements of the religious practice (the *saṅgha*, the master-disciple relationship, empowerments and other collective rituals, etc.)
- The tension between the original monastic vocation of Buddhism and its current secular declinations, as well as on the contrast between different ways of conceiving religious practice, between asceticism and social activism
- Popular Buddhism: Historical and Modern Case Studies
- Buddhism and Taoism
- Buddhism and Shinto
- Buddhism and Taoism in Late Imperial China
- Material and visual culture in Buddhist traditions

The scholarship will be offered to candidates that respond to the key requisites of the PNRR framework (environmental sustainability, sustainable development, equal opportunity and access to people with (dis)abilities) supported by Ca' Foscari University and the Department of Asian and North African Studies in collaboration with Ubiliber, the publishing company of Unione Buddhista Italiana. In particular, PHD candidates are expected to work to a high standard of language fluency in one or more Asian languages as well as English for academic purposes. The scholarship will include a minimum of six month textual and/or fieldwork training in collaboration with Ubiliber and the Unione Buddhista Italiana, and a minimum of six months to eighteen months training in a designated site outside of Italy, conducting fieldwork or research with a host university or other relevant institution. The University upholds the principles and practices of "Open science" e "FAIR Data".

Theravāda, Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna: Texts, Rituals and Practitioners

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