

Department of Religion presents

Right Thoughts at the Last Moment: Buddhist Practices for the Time of Death

Jacqueline Stone

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A professor of religion at Princeton University since 1990, Jacqueline Stone is a scholar of Japanese Buddhism of the medieval and modern periods. Her current research areas include death and dying in Buddhist cultures, Buddhism and nationalism, and traditions of the Lotus Sutra, particularly Tendai and Nichiren. Her book *Original Enlightenment and the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism* received a 2001 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion. Her latest book, *Right Thoughts at the Last Moment: Buddhism and Deathbed Practices in Early Medieval Japan*, was published in 2016. She has been president of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions and co-chair of the Buddhism section of the American Academy of Religion. Currently she is vice president of the editorial board of the Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and serves on the advisory board of the Japanese Journal of Religious Studies.

Abstract:

In this talk, Professor Stone will draw from her recent book, *Right Thoughts at the Last Moment: Buddhism and Deathbed Practices in Early Medieval Japan*, to explore how the Buddhist ideal of dying with right mindfulness was appropriated, disseminated, and transformed in premodern Japan based on Chinese precedents, focusing on the late tenth through early fourteenth centuries. Enlivened by cogent examples, this study draws on a wealth of sources including ritual instructions, hagiographies, doctrinal writings, didactic tales, courtier diaries, historical records, letters, and relevant art historical material to explore the interplay of doctrinal ideals and on-the-ground practice.

Details:

Tuesday, November 13, 2018
5:00 - 6:30pm

4th Floor Lecture Hall
Alexander Library
169 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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