

Special Issue

Beyond the Mainland: Buddhist Communities in Maritime Southeast Asia

Message from the Guest Editor

Maritime Southeast Asia conjures the image of the Malay Archipelago, consisting of the Muslim-majority states of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei, as well as the Catholic Philippines and East Timor. Singapore, on the other hand, is deemed an anomaly because of its predominant Buddhist and Chinese population. Scholars tend to highlight the cultural and historical differences between mainland and maritime Southeast Asia by emphasizing the religious contrast between mainland Theravāda Buddhism and maritime Islam and Catholicism when conceptualizing the religious diversity of Southeast Asia as a region. Recent scholarship over the past decade has started to pay more attention to the presence of Buddhist communities in the Islamic Malay world, the Catholic Philippines, and the Chinese-majority Singapore. Building on these recent studies, this Special Issue aims to bring together a collection of articles that examines the diverse beliefs and practices of Buddhist communities in the maritime Southeast Asian states. It invites empirical and theoretical contributions on any aspect of Buddhist traditions in the maritime region of Southeast Asia since the nineteenth century.

Guest Editor

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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