

Thomas Bradford Newhall

Candidate in Philosophy, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA

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BIO

Researcher focusing on East Asian Buddhism. Born December 15, 1984 in Murray, Utah. Currently 37 years old residing in Los Angeles, California with wife and daughter. Pronouns: he/him.

EDUCATION

UCLA, Department Asian Languages and Cultures, Buddhist Studies Concentration. Los Angeles, California

Candidate in Philosophy, September 2021 – Present

Advancement to Candidacy, September 2021

Ph.D. Student, September 2018 – September 2021

- Advisor: Professor Robert Buswell
- Proposed Dissertation Title: “From Law, to Life, to Meaning: Daoxuan, the Vinaya School, and the Construction of a Buddhist Form-of-Life in China”
- Additional Committee Members: William Bodiford (Asian Languages and Cultures), Stephanie Jamison (Asian Languages and Cultures), Richard Von Glahn (History)
- Candidate for “Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities”

The University of Tokyo, Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies. Tokyo, Japan

Ph.D. Student, April 2016-August 2018

M.A., Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies, April 2016

M.A. Student, April 2014 - April 2016

Research Student, April 2013 – April 2014

- Advisor: Professor Kenryō Minowa 蓑輪顕量
- M.A. Thesis: *Dōsen ‘Shibunritsu Konmasho’ ni okeru kaitai ron to sono shisōshi teki haikei* 道宣『四分律羯磨疏』に於ける戒體論とその思想史的背景 (The intellectual and historical background of Daoxuan’s theory of the “essence of the precepts” as found in his *Sifenlü Jiemoshu*)

Foguang University, Department of Buddhist Studies. Jiaoxi Township, Yilan County, Taiwan

September 2010 - June 2012

M.A., Buddhist Studies: June 2012

- Advisor: Professor Yi-hsun Huang 黃繹勳
- M.A. Thesis: "A Study of the Nanshan Vinaya Tradition and Daoxuan's *Commentary on Conduct and Procedure*"

Oberlin College. Oberlin, Ohio

September 2004 - June, 2007

B.A. East Asian Studies (Major), Religion (Minor): June 2007

- Advisor: Professor James Dobbins
- Capstone Project: “D.T. Suzuki as a Product and Producer”

Thomas Bradford Newhall

RESEARCH

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles:

- 2018 “Doctrinal Debate in Tang-dynasty Vinaya Commentaries: the “Substance of the Precepts” in the works of Fali, Daoxuan, and Huaisu.” *Indogaku bukkyō gaku kenkyū* 印度學佛教學研究 66, no. 3. (March), 183-187.
- 2017 Jun Gong. “Politics in the Translation of Buddhist Texts: Timothy Richard and the Awakening of Faith.” Translated with Thomas Barrett. *Studies in Chinese Religions* 3, no. 1 (2017): 26-54.
- 2017 “Dōsen ‘Konmasho’ ni okeru kaitai-setsu no haikai ni tsuite” 道宣『羯磨疏』における戒体説の背景について (On the Background of Daoxuan’s Theory of the “Essence of the Precepts” as Found in His *Jiemoshu*). *Indogaku bukkyō gaku kenkyū* 印度學佛教學研究 65, no. 2 (March): 20-23.
- 2017 “International *Lotus Sūtra* Seminar (ILSS) 2016 Conference Report: Bodhisattvas in Action—Living the Lotus Sutra in Text, Image and History.” *Dharma World* 44. (Jan-June 2017): 29-35.
- 2014 “A Study of the Concept of *Jieti* ‘The Essence of the Precepts’ in Daoxuan’s (596-667) Vinaya Commentaries.” *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies* 27: 181-208.

Book Chapters:

- (Forthcoming) “From *bongaku* 梵学 to *indo tetsugaku* 印度哲学: The Development of Indology at Japanese Public Universities from the Meiji to the Taishō era.” In *Buddhism in Indo-Japan Relations*. Routledge.
- 2022 “The Development of Ordination Platforms (*jietan* 戒壇) in China: The Translation and Application of Spatial Boundaries (*sīmā*) within Buddhist Monasteries in East Asia from the 3rd to 7th centuries.” In *Sīmās: Histories, Practices, Politics*, edited by Jason Carbine and Erik W Davis. University of Hawaii Press, 2022.

Encyclopedia and Dictionary Entries:

- 2020 “Konmasho” 羯磨疏 and “Kaihonsho” 戒本疏. In *Butten kaidai jiten* 仏典解題辞典. 3rd ed. Tokyo: Shunjūsha.
- 2012-Present Entries for the Digital Dictionary of Buddhism. <http://buddhism-dict.net/credits/lists/newhall-list.html>

Other Publications:

- 2021 “Online Resources for Buddhist Studies and the Development of Digital Humanities, Past, Present and Future: An Interview with Charles Muller, Editor of the DDB and CJKV-E Dictionaries.” *The Digital Orientalist*. Dec. 21, 2021 <https://digitalorientalist.com/2021/12/21/online-resources-for-buddhist-studies-and-the-development-of-digital-humanities-past-present-and-future-an-interview-with-charles-muller-editor-of-the-ddb-and-cjkv-e-dictionaries/>

Thomas Bradford Newhall

2014 Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (website). Translation.
<http://www.jaibs.jp/en/>

Presentations:

- March 2022 “One Nation Under Buddha: The Political Ideology of the “True Precept Platform” (*honmon no kaidan*) in Nichiren Buddhism.” 20 minute presentation for Nation/Nationalism/Subjectification/Critique panel at Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii.
- November 2021 “5, 6, 7, 8, Group the Rules to Keep Them Straight: Categorizing the Buddhist Precepts in Daoxuan’s (596–667) Vinaya Commentaries.” 25 minute presentation for “Buddhists Count” Panel at American Academy of Religions (AAR) Annual Conference. San Antonio, Texas.
- November 2021 “Vaipulya’ Precepts Platforms: The Political and Economic Implications of a Buddhist Ritual Space in China.” 25 minute presentation for AAR “Negotiations of Religious Space: Focus on Economics” Panel. Virtual.
- September 2021 “Partially in Accord With the Greater Vehicle: Reading the *Four Part Vinaya* as a Mahāyāna text in Daoxuan’s Commentaries.” 30 minute presentation for “Reading Mahāyāna Scripture” Hybrid Conference hosted by Oxford University.
- April 2021 (With Jon Feuer) “Teaching Writing through Buddhism.” 20 minute presentation for “Teaching East Asia in the Humanities” Virtual Conference hosted by UC Berkeley.
- February 2021 “What are Vaipulya Ordination Platforms? Becoming a “monk” in Tang-dynasty China.” 20 minute presentation for “Mapping the Territory” Virtual Conference at UCLA.
- March 2020 “How Can a Ritual Change One’s Identity? A Look at Daoxuan’s Theories of the ‘Essence of the Precepts’ in Relation to Buddhist Monastic Ordination” 20 minute presentation for a panel on “Ordination and Other Rites of Passage in Buddhist Traditions at the 2020 AAR Western Region. Virtual.
- June 2019 “The Development of Ordination Platforms (*jietan* 戒壇) from the 3rd to 7th centuries.” 30 minute paper presentation at the “Woodenfish Forum 2019: Monasticism and Monastic Codes Across the Buddhist World” Conference. Gold Coast Hotel, Hong Kong.
- December 2017 “From *bongaku* 梵学 to *indo tetsugaku* 印度哲学: The Development of Indology at Japanese Universities.” Slide presentation at the *Nichiin kōryū ni okeru bukkyō* 日印交流における仏教 (“Buddhism in India-Japan Relations”) Symposium. Ryūkoku Univeristy, Ōmiya Campus, Kyoto, Japan.
- October 2017 “The Development of Ordination Platforms (*jietan* 戒壇) in China: The Translation and Application of Spatial Boundaries (*sīmā*) within Buddhist

Thomas Bradford Newhall

Monasteries in East Asia from the 3rd to 7th centuries.” 2-hour Paper presentation and Discussion at Tokyo Buddhist Discussion Group. Tokyo, Japan.

- September 2017 “Shotō ni okeru kaitairon no henyō: Hōrei, Dōsen, Kaiso no ‘Shibun ritsu’ chūshakusho wo chūshin ni” 初唐に於ける戒体論の変容——法礪・道宣・懷素の『四分律』注釈書を中心に.” 20 minute paper presentation at the 67th meeting of the Japanese Association for Indology and Buddhist Studies (*Nihon Indogaku bukkyō gakkai* 日本印度學佛教學會). Hanazono University, Kyoto, Japan.
- August 2017 “Daoxuan’s Life and His Vinaya Commentaries: An Overview of Materials Available.” 30-minute slide presentation at the 18th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS). Toronto, Canada.
- March 2017 “The History of Indology at the University of Tokyo and of Indian Studies in Japan.” 20-minute slide presentation at “Buddhism in Indo-Japan Relations” Conference. Delhi University, New Delhi, India.
- November 2016 “Enkyō, buntsū daijō to Dōsen no kaitai ron” 「円教」「分通大乘」と道宣の戒体論. Paper presentation at *Tabunya fukugō no shikaku kara mita Nihon bukkyō no kokusaiteki kenkyū* 多分野複合の視角から見た日本仏教の国際的研究. Qita chan si Temple 七塔禪寺, Ningbo, China.
- October 2016 “The ‘essence of the precepts’ in Daoxuan’s *Jiemoshu* and the twilight of the *shelun* School.” Paper presentation for the 3rd University of Chicago--University of Tokyo Joint Graduate Workshop on Japanese Studies. Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (*Tōyō bunka kenkyūjo* 東洋文化研究所). Tokyo, Japan.
- July 2016 “Dōsen *Konmasho* ni okeru shūji kaitai setsu no haikei ni tsuite: Shōronshū no tasogare ni okeru yuishiki shisō” 道宣『羯磨疏』における種子戒体説の背景について——撰論宗の黄昏に於ける唯識思想. 1-hour paper presentation and discussion for the *Higashi ajia bukkyō kenkyūkai teirei kenkyūkai* 東アジア仏教研究会・定例研究会 (“Regular meeting of the Association for East Asian Buddhist Studies”). Tōyō University, Tokyo, Japan.
- June 2016 “Dōsen *Konmasho* ni okeru shūji kaitai setsu no haikei ni tsuite: Shōronshū no tasogare ni okeru yuishiki shisō” 道宣『羯磨疏』における種子戒体説の背景について——撰論宗の黄昏に於ける唯識思想. 20 minute paper presentation for the Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies Intramural Conference (*Intetsu inbun kenkyūshitu kenkyū reikai* 印哲印文研究室研究例会). University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.
- March 2016 “The ‘Essence of the Precepts’ in Daoxuan’s *Jiemoshu* and the Twilight of the *Shelun* School.” 1-hour Paper presentation and discussion at the Tokyo Buddhist Discussion Group. Tokyo, Japan.

Thomas Bradford Newhall

June 2013 “The Theory and Meaning of the Ordination Ceremony in Chinese Buddhist Monasticism A Study of *jieti* 戒體 ‘The Essence of the Precepts.’” Two-hour presentation for the Tokyo Buddhist Discussion Group. Tokyo, Japan.

TEACHING

Fall 2019 – Present Teaching Assistant. “Introduction to Chinese Religions.” (2 quarters) “Introduction to Buddhism (Writing II Seminar)” (6 quarters) “Religion in Classical India” (1 quarter). UCLA. Los Angeles, California.

Summer 2019 Course Reader. “Introduction to Buddhism” UCLA. Los Angeles, California.

November 2017 – July, 2018 Lecturer. “Reading Gyōnen's *Hasshū Kōyō*: A Classic Introduction to East Asian Buddhism” (*Higashi ajia bukkyō nyūmon: eigo de Gyōnen no Hasshū kōyō kōdoku* 東アジア仏教入門：英語で凝然の『八宗綱要』講読). The University of Tokyo Young Buddhists Association (*Tokyo daigaku bukkyō seinen kai* 東京大学仏教青年会). Tokyo, Japan.

SERVICE

University Service:

2021 – 2022 UCLA Graduate Student Association (GSA), Representative to the Graduate Council (GC).

2021 – 2022 UCLA Asian Languages and Cultures Graduate Student Council, Faculty Meeting Representative.

2020 – 2021 UCLA Graduate Student Association (GSA), Representative to the Committee on International Education (CIE).

2020 – 2021 UCLA Asian Languages and Cultures Graduate Student Council, Council Chair.

Conference Organization:

Winter 2021 Co-Organizer. “Mapping the Territory: Religion, Place, and Space in Asian Humanities”

June 2019 Program Coordinator. “Woodenfish Forum 2019: Monasticism and Monastic Codes Across the Buddhist World” Gold Coast Hotel, Hong Kong.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

November, 2021 AAR Annual Meeting Travel Grant. \$500.

June 2021 UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies Sasakawa Fellowship. \$7,000.

June 2020 UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies Sasakawa Fellowship. \$7,000.

Thomas Bradford Newhall

April 2015- August, 2018 *Mombukagakusho* (Japanese Ministry of Education) Scholarship.
¥450,000 monthly.

August 2017 *Fuse gakujutsu kikin gakujutu shōrei hi* 布施学術基金学術奨励費 (Fuse Foundation Academic Scholarship). ¥100,000 Travel stipend.

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religions (AAR) 2011-Present

International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) 2011-Present

Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (JAIBS) 2014-Present

Higashi Ajia Bukkyō Gakkai 東アジア仏教学会 [Association for East Asian Buddhist Studies]
2015-Present

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Japanese. Fluent speaking ability and academic writing ability

- Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), Level 1 (*ikkyū* 一級), 12/2014

Modern (Mandarin) Chinese. Intermediate conversational ability and reading comprehension

Classical (Literary) Chinese. Advanced reading comprehension

Classical (Literary) Japanese. Intermediate reading comprehension

Sanskrit. Intermediate reading comprehension

Pāli. Intermediate reading comprehension.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012 – Present Freelance Translator (Japanese to English) and Editor.

2012 – Present Contributor, **Digital Dictionary of Buddhism.** (<http://www.buddhism-dict.net/>)

2009 – 2010 **Guest Services Manager**, Hotel Freedom Inn. Kutchan, Hokkaido, Japan.

2007 – 2009 **Assistant Language Teacher (JET Program)**, Oita Prefectural Board of Education, Hita City, Oita Prefecture, Japan.

2003 – 2007 **Sound Recording and Reinforcement Engineer**, Oberlin College Concert Sound, Oberlin, Ohio.

VOLUNTEER, ACADEMIC TRAVEL, AND OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

2013 – 2018 Member, Tokyo Buddhist Discussion Group, Tokyo, Japan.

2014 – 2015 Founding Member, **Tokyo Buddhist Studies Group**, Tokyo, Japan.

2013 – 2015 Leader and Organizer, **English Buddhist Studies Reading Group**, Tokyo, Japan.

Summer 2018 Participant, **University of Michigan Medieval Komonjo Workshop 2018:**
Commoners and Authority in Medieval Japan. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Thomas Bradford Newhall

- November, 2016 Participant, *Tabunya fukugō no shikaku kara mita nihon bukkō no kokusai teki kenkyū* 多分野複合の視角から見た日本仏教の国際的研究. Tiantai, Hangzhou, and Ningbo, China.
- August, 2015 Participant, **From the Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Cultures**. Shanghai, China.
- March, 2015 Participant, *Minowa Sensei dōkō busseki sampai no tabi* 蓑輪先生同行仏跡参拝の旅. Northern India and Delhi.
- August, 2014 Participant, **Woodenfish “Buddhism in China—Connecting with the Source Program”** with Professor Daniel Stevenson at Mt. Tiantai. Tiantai, China.
- 2010 & 2012 Staff Member, **Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program**. Fo Guang Shan Monastery. Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- 2010 & 2012 Copy Editor and Translator, **Foguang Illustrated Buddhist Arts Dictionary**, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- August, 2010 Staff Member, **Woodenfish Huayan Buddhism and Mt. Wutai Program**. Shanxi Province, China.
- August, 2007 Participant, **Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program**. Fo Guang Shan Monastery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- January, 2004 Participant, **Immanence and Transcendence in Buddhism Winter Term**. with Professor James Dobbins. Kyoto, Japan.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Aikido (Japanese Martial Arts). 2004 – 2009, 2014- Present

- Received *Nidan* (Second-degree Black Belt) Tokyo, December 2016
- Received *Shodan* (Black Belt) Ohio, May 2007
- Trained in several schools in the US and Japan.
- Co-taught Aikido ExCo class at Oberlin College (2006-2007)

Assistant Lead Sound Engineer, Olga Neuwirth’s “Lost Highway”. Oberlin College and Columbia University. 10/06-02/07

- Helped organize sound equipment for new-music opera “Lost Highway” premiered at Oberlin College’s Finney Chapel and Columbia University’s Miller Theater.

Photography. 1996 - Present

- Exhibited a portfolio of black-and-white photographs (2003).
- Maintain a portfolio of digital photographs of travels, mainly around Asia.

Computers

- Familiar with HTML, CSS, Bash, Python, LaTeX.

Thomas Bradford Newhall

Skiing. 1987-Present

- Experienced skier, with racing, backcountry and teaching experience.
- Certified “Level 2” (*nikyū* 二級) by the Ski Association of Japan.

Travel, &c.

- Have travelled in Japan, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Canada, Mexico, the UK, France, Italy, and throughout the US.
- Ran the Tokyo Marathon, February 2014.
- Completed the Shikoku (Japan) 88-temple pilgrimage (*Shikoku Hachijūhakkasho Junrei* 四国八十八ヶ所巡礼) August - September, 2013.