

RAFAL FELBUR

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2022- Wissenschaftlicher Assistent to the Chair of Buddhist Studies, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University.
- 2019-22 Postdoctoral research fellow at Leiden Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University. Core member of European Research Council project “Open Philology: the Composition of Buddhist Scriptures” <https://openphilology.eu/>.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 *Saving the Buddhadharma from Itself: A Bilingual Synoptic Critical Edition, Translation, and Study of Sūrata-paripṛcchā Texts*. Monograph under contract with Brill Publishers. 400 pp.
- 2022 “Crosslinguistic Semantic Textual Similarity of Buddhist Chinese and Classical Tibetan.” With Marieke Meelen and Paul Vierthaler. *Journal of Open Humanities Data*, 8(1): 23, pp. 1–14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/johd.86>.
- 2021 Review of *The Zhengzheng lun by Xuanyi. A Buddhist Apologetic Scripture of Tang China*, by Thomas Jülch. Monumenta Serica Monograph Series (Oxford and New York: Routledge, 2009). *Bulletin of Oriental and African Studies* 82.2. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0041977X21000513>.
- 2020 “Kumārajīva. ‘Great Man’ and Cultural Event.” In *Blackwell-Wiley Companion to World Literature*, edited by Ken Seigneurie, et alii. 12 pp.
- 2020 “Viśeṣavatīdhāraṇī.” Forthcoming in *Buddhist Manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection* (Vol. V). With Paul Harrison and Simon Wiles. 28 pp.
- 2018 *Treatises of Sengzhao (Zhaolun 肇論)*. Translation of T.1858, with notes and introduction. In *Three Short Treatises* (Berkeley: Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai English Tripiṭaka Project), 50–140.
- 2015 “Vimalakīrtinirdeśa.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Johnathan Silk, Vincent Eltschinger, and Oskar von Hinüber. 9 pp.
- 2015 “Sūtra Commentaries in Chinese until the Tang.” In *Brill Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Johnathan Silk, Vincent Eltschinger, and Oskar von Hinüber. Co-authored with Hiroshi Kanno. 16 pp.
- 2005 Translation of Zhaxi Dawa 扎西達娃, *Xizang: xi zai pisheng kou shang de hun* 西藏：係在

皮繩扣上的魂 . Warsaw: Dialog Academic Publishing (in Polish). 25 pp.

EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University. Dissertation Title: “Anxiety of Emptiness: Selfhood and Scripture in Early Medieval Sinitic Buddhism.” Dissertation Advisers: Paul Harrison, John Kieschnick, Stefano Zacchetti.
- 2007 MA *cum laude* in Chinese Languages and Cultures, Leiden University.
- 2006 Master’s Degree in Sinology, Warsaw University.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2023 “A New Tool for Critical Editions of Chinese and Tibetan.” Paper presented at conference “Materials, Media, and Methods: Digital Issues in East Asian Studies,” Heidelberg University, Feb. 5. 2023.
- 2022 XIXth Congress International Association of Buddhist Studies. Paper accepted, canceled due to Covid restrictions.
- 2021 “Earliest Chinese Response to *buddha-dhātu*?” Invited talk presented at the Dharmadhātu Workshop at Komazawa University, Tokyo.
- 2020 “Payload or Dead Weight? Preliminary Comments on the Authorship and History of the Xulai jing(s) 須賴經.” Invited talk presented at Heidelberg University, Jan. 21.
- 2019 “Problems with ‘Philosophy’ in the Study of Chinese Buddhism, with a Focus on Sengzhao.” Invited talk presented at Università degli Studi di Perugia, Nov. 28.
- 2017 “Canon Before the Canon in Chinese Buddhism.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Conference in Boston, MA., Nov 19.
- 2016 “Things and No-things in Chinese Buddhism: the Case of Sengrui.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy, University of Vilnius, Jun 10.
- 2014 “The Logic of Identity in Sengzhao.” Paper presented at the conference “*Gongsunlongzi* and other Neglected Texts,” University of Zürich, Switzerland, Sep 28.
- 2014 “Kumārajīva’s Reading of the *Lotus Sūtra*.” Paper presented at the conference “New Directions in Buddhist Studies,” UC Santa Barbara, March 8.
- 2013 “*Zhu Weimojie jing* 注維摩詰經: Kumārajīva’s use of *fanben* 梵本 and *bieben* 別本.” Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa* Workshop, June 2.
- 2011-12 Chief organizer of year-long inter-university workshop “Mythos & Logos,” Stanford Humanities Center, Sep 2011 – June 2012.
- 2011 Organizer of graduate conference “Sensual Faiths,” Department of Religious Studies, Stanford, May 13-14.
- 2011 Member of work group on the Skt. manuscript of the *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa* discovered in

the Potala Palace, “Towards a Western Terminology for Buddhist Texts,” June-July 2011, Mangalam Institute, Berkeley.

TEACHING

- 2023- I design and teach courses at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University:
- ‘Religion and the State in China’ (Historical sources for the use of religion by the Communist Party for internal politics and global soft power.)
 - ‘Readings in Buddhist Chinese’ (Seminar on key religious texts in Chinese.)
 - ‘Madhyamaka Philosophy in Transcultural Perspective.’ (On a strand of Buddhist Philosophy that has impacted Western postmodern thought.)
 - ‘Buddhist Sanskrit’ (Introductory reading course.)
- 2022 I fulfilled requirements for ‘Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs’ (BKO) certificate, Leiden.
- 2019- I designed and taught a range of courses at Leiden University:
- ‘Chinese Buddhism’ (Survey course.)
 - ‘Canon and Culture’ (MA/PhD seminar. Issues of knowledge production in premodern religious contexts, and in transition to modernity.)
 - ‘Knowledge and Authority’ (MA/PhD seminar. Exploration of the postcolonial and genealogical ‘turns’ and their implications for the current state of scholarship.)
- At Leiden, I supervised 4 MA theses, as well as of one PhD thesis (in progress). I organized and led workshop sessions for writers of master’s theses and PhD dissertations.
- 2012 Teaching Intern (Religious Studies Department, Stanford University). Developed and taught upper-level course in reading medieval Chinese Buddhist literature.
- 2009-11 Teaching Assistant (Stanford University, Religious Studies Department). Taught and assisted in teaching a range of courses in Religious Studies. Recognized with ‘Centennial Teaching Award’ for achievements in teaching.
- 2007-08 Instructor in Premodern Chinese (Leiden University, Chinese Languages and Cultures).
- 2005 English teacher at Changsha No. 2 Foreign Language School, Changsha, P.R.C.

LANGUAGES

Chinese Classical	-	main research language
Chinese Modern	-	competent
Sanskrit	-	intermediate
Tibetan Classical	-	intermediate
Japanese	-	intermediate
Dutch	-	intermediate
German	-	reading knowledge
Italian	-	competent
French	-	beginning
Russian	-	reading knowledge
English	-	fluent
Polish	-	native

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2016-17 Chinese Institute for Buddhist Studies (CHIBS) Fellowship.
2015-16 Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.
2014-15 Freeman-Spogli Dissertation Grant in Chinese Studies.
2013 Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fellowship.
Academia Sinica Fellowship for Doctoral Candidates (declined).
2011 Centennial Teaching Assistant Award (Stanford).
2006-07 Huygens Scholarship Program Talent Scholarship (Holland).
2004-05 Ministry of Culture and Sport National Award for Academic Excellence (Poland).
2002-05 Warsaw University Scholarship for Academic Achievement.
2002-03 China Scholarship Council Scholarship.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion.
Association of Asian Studies.
International Association for Buddhist Studies.
European Association for Chinese Philosophy.
European Academy of Religion.

OTHER

Responsible for software-development in the Digital-Humanities project “Open Philology.” Building an open-source digital editing environment for the production of critical scholarly editions of textual Works available in multiple Texts, mainly Buddhist scriptures in Chinese and Tibetan, but with potential applicability for textual corpora in other languages and scripts.

Active reviewer for leading academic journals: *Religions*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, *T'oung-pao*.

Editor of *Mahāratnakūṭa Studies I*, inaugural volume of the Buddhist Open Philology Project (BOPP), forthcoming from Brill.