



## **Editor's Foreword**

### **— Contemplating the Dharma Realm, Sustaining the Continuum of Civilizational Exchange**

Dear Scholars, Researchers, and Esteemed Readers,

Buddhist studies constitute not only a vital dimension of human spiritual civilization but also a significant intellectual pathway for examining the deep interconnections between Eastern philosophical traditions and contemporary social transformations. In an era marked by the intertwined advancement of globalization and digitalization, interactions between religion and culture have intensified, while modes of knowledge production continue to evolve. Within this broader context, Buddhist studies have increasingly assumed a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and transcontextual orientation.

The Asia-Pacific region, as a crucial locus for the transmission and historical evolution of Buddhism, encompasses diverse intellectual lineages, varied forms of religious practice, and multiple socio-cultural settings. Together, these elements form a dynamic and fertile academic field for contemporary Buddhist studies.

*Asia Pacific Buddhist Studies* (APBS), guided by the scholarly commitment to “tracing canonical sources, reflecting upon contemporary realities, and fostering dialogue between Chinese and Western intellectual traditions,” is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal rooted in the Asia-Pacific region and oriented toward a global readership. The journal is dedicated to advancing Buddhist studies through both theoretical deepening and methodological innovation. It places particular emphasis on the transformation and application of Buddhist thought in contemporary contexts, while exploring the intrinsic interrelations among canonical interpretation, doctrinal systems, institutional formations, and cultural expressions. Grounded in rigorous textual scholarship, the journal advocates the integration of philosophical analysis, anthropological perspectives, and historical methodologies, with the aim of cultivating a productive and interpretively rich dialogue between tradition and modernity.

The journal focuses on key areas including Buddhist philosophy, canonical studies, sectarian thought, monastic education, the sociology of religion, and the interaction between Buddhism and regional culture. At the same time, it attends to the public value and contemporary relevance of Buddhism, addressing issues such as ethical formation, social governance, cultural identity, and cross-civilizational exchange. APBS encourages problem-oriented research approaches and promotes theoretical development grounded in careful textual interpretation and fieldwork, thereby advancing Buddhist studies from the mere elucidation of knowledge toward the generation of meaning.

The journal is organized into the following sections: Special Contributions, Canon and Doctrinal Studies, Buddhist History and Institutions, Comparative Sectarian and Intellectual Traditions, Buddhism and Social Development, Ethnic and Regional Buddhism, Buddhist Education and Transmission, and Cross-

Cultural Buddhist Studies. Through this multidimensional framework, it seeks to present a comprehensive intellectual landscape of Buddhist studies. Emphasis is placed on methodological rigor and coherence of argumentation, and the journal welcomes original contributions that combine intellectual depth with engagement in contemporary concerns.

Scholarship is grounded in the pursuit of truth; the study of the Buddhadharma lies in the elucidation of principles. To this end, the journal adheres to the following guiding principles:

First, a commitment to scholarly integrity. Rooted in canonical sources and guided by methodological rigor, the journal upholds academic standards while striving to balance analytical depth with engagement at the research frontier.

Second, an emphasis on problem-oriented inquiry. Scholars are encouraged to engage with concrete contemporary conditions and to address critical issues arising in both present-day society and the spiritual dimension of human life, ensuring that Buddhist studies remains responsive to its time.

Third, a commitment to openness and integrative dialogical. On the basis of respect for diverse academic traditions and cultural contexts, the journal promotes exchange and mutual learning across disciplines, languages, and regions, positioning Buddhist studies as a vital bridge for civilizational dialogue.

The establishment of *Asia Pacific Buddhist Studies* (APBS) reflects the collective efforts of scholars from numerous Buddhist institutions and research organizations across the Asia-Pacific region, and is made possible through the trust and support of its authors, reviewers, and readers. We sincerely invite colleagues from both the religious and academic communities worldwide to participate in this shared endeavor—to deepen understanding through critical reflection, to broaden intellectual horizons through scholarly integrity, and to generate new possibilities of thought through pluralistic dialogue.

Buddhist studies concern not only the interpretation of the past but also the construction of meaning for the present and the future. While an academic journal serves as a medium, it also bears the responsibility of sustaining intellectual continuity and enabling civilizations to reflect upon one another. It is our aspiration that *Asia Pacific Buddhist Studies* (APBS), amid the complexities of the contemporary world, will remain grounded in its foundations while opening new horizons, and will serve as a vital platform connecting traditional wisdom with the modern world.

With this inaugural issue, we offer these reflections in a spirit of shared commitment with colleagues across the field.

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