“To misunderstand Asia is to mischaracterize the entire global flow of information, people, and religious heritage.” With this pithy quote in mind, John Nelson launched a world-wide trip in 2013 that brought him to East, Southeast, South, and Middle Asian countries. The resulting account, far from a simple travelogue, is deeply informed by scholarship that explores “religious affiliation,” or how people negotiate their religious heritage in creative, neo-traditional, and sometimes radical ways. His talk will be illustrated by video and slides.

John Nelson is Professor Emeritus of East Asian Religions in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco. His research explores the interaction between religion and politics in East Asia.

5 October
5:00-6:00pm