



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Martin Adam



## What is Life? Buddhist Reflections on Artificial Consciousness

With the much-trumpeted possibility of Artificial General Intelligence looming on the proverbial horizon, it is important to recognize that its prospect raises serious questions about the nature of life and consciousness. I argue that the idea of creating machine-consciousness in a non-living environment is inconsistent with the basic philosophical commitments of Theravāda Buddhism, and thus with the worldviews of numerous south Asian societies.

**Martin Adam** teaches in UVIC's Religion, Society and Culture Program. His present research interests are centered on Buddhism and AI.

November 27, 2025  
CLE B017  
5:00–6:00pm PT

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