Buddhist Texts as Lived Objects

Jingjing Li

Thursday, November 19
5:00-6:00pm PST
Meeting URL: https://uvic.zoom.us/j/96971529046?pwd=a1JWRkJYWVUxbUpmYUVPeGhPSHFGdz09

The concept of ‘fabricated texts’ is used to describe a class of literature whose origin is unreliable and untrustworthy. Over the years, scholars have tried to prove whether certain texts are authentic or not. Upon doing so, they deem these fabricated texts to be worthless. Focusing on biographies of several Buddhist monks that are said to have dubious origin, I hope to rediscover the value of fabricated scriptures insofar as they are not passive documents but lived objects that actively express the cultural life, sociopolitical discourse, and religious space of Chinese communities across time and space.

Jingjing Li is an assistant professor at Leiden University’s Institute for Philosophy. She teaches courses on concepts of selfhood, feminist theories in East Asian philosophies and Buddhist philosophy.

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