




Chinese Buddhism in Globalization: State, Communities, and Practices of Religion
Seminar Series, Religions in Globalization Webinar 6

Disciplines of the Body

Peter van der Veer

Director Emeritus, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious
and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen; and University Professor Emeritus, Utrecht University

Friday, September 29, 2023 at 21:00 - 22:15 (Japan Standard Time)



We invite you to participate in the sixth webinar of the online seminar series Religions in Globalization, which is part of the project Chinese Buddhism in Globalization: States, Communities and Practices of Religion. The project is funded by the Henry Luce Foundation and based at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo. For more information about the project, please visit the project website at: <https://cbg-project.com>


To participate please register online at: <https://forms.gle/6SbbmUfRCwZr9LgEA>

We will then send you the Zoom link

Here is the webinar starting time for other time zones;

- Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) 12:00
- US, New York (EDT) 8:00
- Europe (CEST) 14:00
- HK, Singapore, Taiwan 20:00
- Australia, Canberra 22:00

Sincerely,
Yoshiko Ashiwa (Project PI), GRIPS
David Wank (Project Co-PI), Oriental Library



Title: Disciplines of the Body

Speaker: Dr. Peter van der Veer, Director Emeritus, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen; and University Professor Emeritus, Utrecht University

Time: Friday, September 29, 2023, at 21:00-22:15 (Japan Standard Time)

Talk Abstract:

I will discuss the body as the object and the instrument of religious and secular disciplines in China. My discussion is partly inspired by theories of Granet and Mauss and partly by theories of the socialization (or nationalization) of the body. I will focus on the connections between ritual acts and techniques of the body. As such, I want to argue against an opposition between “meaning” and ‘practice’ as well as against the opposition of certain ‘inner states,’ such as sincerity, on the one hand, and ‘ritual’ on the other. My discussion will suggest that ritual practice implies the learning of certain symbolic and affective connections, and thus aims at producing specific attitudes, virtues, and competences. It further wants to examine the ethical implications of religious and secular ritual for the conduct of life (Lebensführung). Crucial to this examination is the concept of ‘discipline.’

Speaker Bio:

Peter van der Veer is Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen as well as University Professor Emeritus at Utrecht University. He is an elected Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has worked on the comparative study of religion and nationalism in India and China. Among his publications are *Gods on Earth* (1988), *Religious Nationalism* (1994), *Imperial Encounters* (2001), *The Modern Spirit of Asia* (2013), and *The Value of Comparison* (2016)

