

Cambodian Society and Buddhism since 1993



បណ្ឌិត សំ ហៀ
Dr. Sam He

បដិមាស៊ីមហាប្រសិត និងចេតិយ
Isimahaprasuet's statue and Stupa



ប្រឹក្សាចារ្យ កែវ បាមា
Elder layman Koe Bamar



15:00-16:00

Transnationalizing Buddhism:
Cambodian Temples, Student Monks
and Pilgrims in Sri Lanka and India

speaker

Prof. John Marston

El Colegio de México/Center for
Khmer Studies

In this paper I explore different ways in which Sri Lanka and India have become a locus of attention and activity for Cambodian Buddhists. I look at three interrelated phenomena: Cambodian monks going to study in the countries, pilgrimage/tourist groups visiting sacred sites, and the building of Cambodian-style temples. These pilgrimages, the financial support of student monks, and fund-raising for temple projects, all involve, not only Cambodians from Cambodia proper, but the wider diaspora community in Europe, the United States, and Australia, so the transnationalism of the phenomena has its own triangular complexities. I attempt to understand how this developed and what, in social terms, it implies.

BIO

John A. Marston is a professor-researcher at the Center for Asian and African Studies of El Colegio de México in Mexico City, and is currently a Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap, Cambodia. He completed a doctorate in anthropology at University of Washington in 1997. He has published three edited volumes on Cambodia and the anthropology of Southeast Asia: *History, Buddhism and New Religious Movements in Cambodia* (University of Hawaii Press), *Anthropology and Community in Cambodia* (Monash



University Press), and *Ethnicity, Borders, and the Grassroots Interface with the State* (Silkworm Books), and his book *Budismo y Sociedad en el sureste de Asia* was published in 2020 by El Colegio de México. He has numerous articles in books and scholarly journals.

2023 **Nov. 9 (THU)**

15:00-17:30 (JST)

Tonantei (Room 201),

2nd Floor, Inamori Building, CSEAS, Kyoto University

16:00-17:00

Emerging New Type Buddhist Lay
Leaders in Rural Cambodian "vat"
(temple communities): Modernity,
Knowledge Transmission, "Putthichak"

speaker

Prof. Satoru Kobayashi

CSEAS, Kyoto University

This paper explores the recent change in Buddhist practice in rural Cambodia. Cambodian Buddhism suffered discontinuity during the Pol Pot period but started reconstruction at the beginning of the 1980s. It has enjoyed rapid development since the 1990s, too. Buddhist lay leaders called "achar" have always been central to this historical process and significantly contributed to reconfiguring Buddhist activities in its society. However, based on the research in a province, a new type of "achar" started to emerge in rural "vat". The paper explores this phenomenon's background for understanding Cambodian Buddhism's contemporary transformation.



17:00- Discussion