

Buddhism and Chinese Culture

Principle investigator (PI)

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This research project is based on my teaching the course “Buddhism and Chinese Culture” which I have taught for more than twelve years at the University of Hong Kong. It mainly discusses the Buddhist interaction with and impact on Chinese culture on all levels, including philosophy, morality, religions, language, literature, art, and architecture. As a result, Buddhism has successfully integrated into the traditional Chinese culture, and become one of its three pillars. The other two are traditional Chinese philosophical systems of thought namely Confucianism and Daoism. Aimed to give an introduction of Buddhist influence and impact on Chinese culture, the discussion of this book is divided into two parts: the first half takes the theoretical approach to the philosophical and moral issues, and the second half focuses on the thematic issues.

The first unique feature of this book is that it is a research-based textbook, with a comprehensive coverage of aspects in which Buddhism has influenced Chinese culture. The second feature is that some of these aspects have never been discussed in previous similar studies or scholarly books, such as the fourth Chapter “Buddhist and Confucian Attitude towards Life” and the fifth chapter “Buddhist and Chinese Ethics of Filial Piety”, etc. The table of contents are as follows:

1. Buddhist Impact on Chinese Culture: A Introduction, (completed)
2. Basic Buddhist Teaching, (completed)
3. Chinese Buddhism: a Historical Survey, (completed)
4. Buddhist and Confucian Attitude towards Life: A Comparative Study, (completed)
5. Buddhist and Chinese Ethics of Filial Piety, (completed)
6. Buddhist influence on Religions and Popular Beliefs, (completed)
7. Buddhist Influence on Chinese Language, (completed)
8. Buddhism and Chinese Visual Arts (complete a draft, need revision)
9. Chan and Chinese Culture, (complete a draft, need revision)
10. Guanyin: Chinese transformation of Avalokiteśvara, (completed)
11. Ullambana (ghost) Festival and Chinese Ancestor Worship, (completed)
12. Buddhist Influence on Chinese Diet (completed)

Selected Bibliography