

The 5th Annual Sheng Yen Chinese Buddhist Studies Lecture

FSU Graduate Students Buddhist Studies Conference

November 10, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium, 103 Dodd Hall

Dr. Meir Shahar, Keynote Lecturer

Professor of Chinese Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University

"The Many Faces of the Chinese Horse God"

The Horse God (Ma'shen 馬神), also known as the Horse King (Ma'wang 馬王), was among the most popular deities of late-imperial China. The Horse God's ancestry extends back to ancient India as a descendent of the Horse-Headed Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara, whose cult was introduced to China through esoteric (Tantric) Buddhism. However, this Indian divinity was amalgamated into native Chinese religions and cultic practices by Chinese Muslims, the literati elite, and the Daoist clergy. The talk explores the interplay of Indian Buddhism and native Chinese religion as reflected in the Horse King's multiple identities.



Sponsored by: Florida State University Department of Religion, Lily Kung of The Great Compassion Organization, and the Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies