



FSU Department of Religion
Buddhist Studies

First Annual Sheng Yen Buddhist Studies Lecture

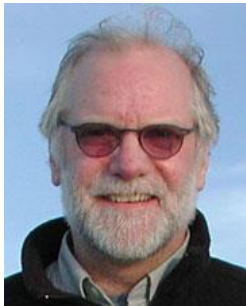
Remapping Buddhism as a World Religion

Gyōnen's (1240-1321) *Essentials of the Eight Sects (Hasshū kōyō 八宗綱要)* and Modernist East Asian Agendas

By Dr. Daniel B. Stevenson

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, 4-6pm.

Student Services Building, Room 201 (874 Traditions Way)



Daniel Stevenson, The University of Kansas. Ph.D., Columbia University, 1987. His primary research interests include Buddhist ritual, literary/exegetical, and institutional practice in China, particularly as exercised in Tiantai and Pure Land circles; the construction of Buddhist values and identities in relation to the larger field of Chinese religious options, and the role that ritual plays therein.

Prior to the late-nineteenth century, the *Hasshū kōyō* 八宗綱要 (*Essentials of the Eight Sects*) by the Japanese monk Gyōnen 凝然 (1240-1321) was a largely neglected text. Brought out of obscurity and popularized by Meiji-era Japanese Buddhist reformers, it was picked up by their modernist Chinese Buddhist counterparts and introduced to European scholars intent on the nascent study of Buddhism as a "religion." The narrative grid of the *Essentials of the Eight Sects* in this way became foundational to a contemporary meta-discourse of Buddhism, modernity, the nation state, and "world religions" that continues to play out—often contestedly—on the global and regional stage to this very day. In a word, this talk will explore the curious tale of how Gyōnen's inconspicuous little text came to shape the very way in which we imagine, teach, and talk about Buddhism as a religion today, East and West.