

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Center for Buddhist Studies

Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

Organizes an

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

BUDDHIST PHENOMENOLOGY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Between February, 15th, 16th and 17th of 2018

Theme of the Conference

It is well known that Buddha began his investigation into the mysteries of life by his acute awareness of the painful aspects of his immediate experiences. His encounter with disease, old age, death and its sorrowful effects were instrumental in developing a whole philosophy based on the fact of suffering (duḥkha). In fact the first noble truth, mundane as it sounds, is in actuality a profound truth uttered under the Bodhi tree of enlightenment.

Our life and world are intertwined with not only experiences but problems and dilemma of perceptions and sensations, believing and knowing and action and agency. It is in this direction that the various schools of Buddhism explain, in distinct ways, the meaning of experiences and their relation to our mind and the nature of the person who seeks this understanding. Self liberation or nibbāna is said to be the goal and consequence of such an inquiry when taken to its logical end and the path or māgga is the eight fold noble path. It is said that, the 'the components of the Eightfold Path are divided among the three forms of training as follows: correct action, correct speech, and correct livelihood are part of the training in ethics; correct effort, correct mindfulness, and correct concentration are included in the training in concentration; and correct view and correct intention are associated with the training in wisdom' (Lopez Donald, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Eightfold-Path>).

We invite papers on the following themes and are confident that scholars working from their respective areas of expertise will significantly contribute to the continuing debate and discussions on Buddhism and Philosophy.

- *How does the path of ethics (dhamma) which involves a deep transformation of all aspects of one's mental life, give rise to wisdom (pañña)?*
- *What do the varieties of Buddhism, spread all over the world, have to offer in terms of models for social change and individual transformation?*
- *How significant and useful are Buddhist concepts of insight (pañña), suffering (dukkha) and temporality (anityatā) for philosophical inquiries?*
- *How is the self to live in a meaningful way amidst the fact of constant change?*
- *To what extent are we really in control of our present and future lives?*
- *The impact of phenomenological and existential awareness of our surroundings on our moral world views.*
- *Engaged Buddhism and the impact of Buddhist philosophy in transforming our social world in terms of egalitarianism and social justice.*
- *The impact of Buddhist culture on other religious and cultural traditions around the world.*
- *The significance of the various kinds of literature available on the myths and stories depicting Buddhist philosophy seen for example in the dialogues of MilindaPrašna.*
- *The importance and varieties of meditative practices in Buddhism.*
- *The enrichment of Art, Architecture and Aesthetics from a Buddhist perspective*

This conference aims at throwing some light on these and many related issues. We are confident that scholars will work in their respective areas of expertise that will significantly contribute to the continuing debate and discussions on Buddhism and Philosophy.

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF PAPER

Teachers & Research scholars and students working in the field of Buddhism are welcome to send their abstracts on the above theme and related areas, in a soft copy or before 20th January 2018. Abstracts (maximum word length 500) can be sent in MS word format to buddhiststudiesudp@gmail.com. Decisions on abstracts accepted for paper presentation will be communicated by the 25th January, 2018 after a review. Full papers (maximum word length of 3000) that are accepted will have to be sent to the above mentioned email id by Feb 5th, 2018.

- *All those who wish to participate in the conference may kindly register for the Conference by paying the fee and submitting the attached form duly filled.*
- *Teachers, scholars and students who wish to attend the Seminar without presentation are also welcome and need to register.*

Dates of submission:

- *Last Date of Abstract submission: 20th January 2018*
- *Last Date of Full Paper submission: 31st January 2018*
- *Last Date of Registration: 5th February 2018*

Registration Fees:

- *Indian Delegates from Academic Institution/ Employed Students : Rs. 1500.00*
- *Regular full time Students (B.A, M.A, MPhil, PhD) :Rs. 750.00*

Registration fees can be paid through Cash/ D.D. of any Nationalized Bank in Favor of Finance and Account Officer, University of Mumbai, Payable at Mumbai.

The DD can be sent to the following address along with registration form duly filled.

*The Center for Buddhist Studies,
Department of Philosophy,
1st Floor, Jnaneshwar Bhavan, Kalina Campus, Vidyanagari,
Santacruz (E), Mumbai University, Mumbai– 400098*

Cash amount can be paid (between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) along with registration form duly filled.

Important Note to all participants:

Third day session (Saturday 17th Feb, 2018) will be held at Pagoda Auditorium (Vipassana Institute, Pagoda, Gorai, Mumbai) and participants will need to make their own travel arrangements. More details will be provided during the Conference.

About the Center for Buddhist Studies:

The Center for Buddhist Studies is a new interdisciplinary initiative of the University of Mumbai at the Department of Philosophy that commenced during the academic year 2014-15. It attempts to generate interest (through courses) and pursue rigorous research (through Workshops, Seminars and Publications) in Buddhism. The participants in this initiative include both academicians with expertise in Buddhism and students (who are interested in pursuing Buddhism either from the point of view of its practicality or its theoretical foundations). This initiative is committed to the inextricable link between theory and practice in the pursuit of academic research programmes. The Buddhist Studies programme has so far pursued its aims through National and International workshops, seminars and short courses in Classical and Contemporary Buddhism, Buddhist Ethics and Vipassana meditation. Mrs. BaljitLamba, (Vipassana Meditation Centre Mumbai), among several others have conducted Workshops that have been well-received by the academic community. This initiative aims at taking forward the Department's Diploma and Advance Diploma Course in Buddhist Studies and Vipassana course (being conducted for almost two decades), M.A, M.Phil and PhD degree programmes towards interdisciplinary research in the texts and practices of Buddhism.

For Further Information Contact:

Dr. Archana Malik-Goure, (Coordinator)

Or

Mr. Mahesh Ursekar, (Research Assistant) at

Email: buddhiststudiesudp@gmail.com

Dept of Philosophy: Landline: 022-2652733

*The Center for Buddhist Studies
Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai
Organizes
International Conference
On
Buddhist Phenomenology, Culture and Society
Dates: February, 15th -17th, 2018*

Registration form

Full Name:

Designation:.....

Institute Address

.....

Mobile No.

Email address

Registration Category (Student/Research Student/Academia)

Title of the Paper

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Payment details of registration: Cash/D.D.

Amount:.....

Name of Bank.....

D.D.No......**and Date**.....

Note: No accommodation facilities will be provided to outside participants. Those coming from outside of Mumbai would have to make their own arrangements for stay during the period of seminar.

Email: buddhiststudiesudp@gmail.com

Contact No. Dept of Philosophy: Phone No: 022-2652733