

Jeffrey Kotyk

Education

PhD

2017 Leiden University (Leiden, Netherlands)

- Date of conferral: 2017 September 7.
- Dissertation title: “Buddhist Astrology and Astral Magic in the Tang Dynasty.” [\[Link\]](#)
- Dissertation committee: Jonathan A. Silk (Supervisor; Leiden University), James A. Benn (Co-Supervisor; McMaster University), Peter C. Bisschop (Committee Member; Leiden University), Antonio C.D. Panaino (Committee Member; University of Bologna), Antonello Palumbo (Committee Member; SOAS, University of London), Henny van der Veere (Committee Member; Leiden University), Fan Lin (Committee Member; Leiden University).

MA Degree Buddhist Studies

2011 Komazawa University 駒澤大学 (Tokyo, Japan)

- Concentrations: Classical Chinese language, Classical Chinese Buddhism, Buddhist History.
- Thesis: 法蔵の『梵網経菩薩戒本疏』に於ける価値観とその背景 (Japanese) / “A Study of Ethics in Fazang’s Commentary on the *Brahma Net Sūtra* and its Background.”
- Supervisors: Ishii Shūdō 石井修道 and Ishii Kōsei 石井公成.

Bachelor of Arts with Distinction

2009 University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

- Major: East Asian Studies; Minor: Chinese Literature.
- One year as exchange student at Kokugakuin University 国学院大学 (Tokyo, Japan) for language training and other courses.

Career Experience

2024 – Present **Max Planck Institute for the History of Science** (Berlin, Germany)

Postdoctoral Researcher

- Database development for “Visualization of the Heavens.”
- Research project: “Astrology and Cosmology in China and Japan: East Asian Experiences of the Heavens.”

2022 – 2024 **University of Bologna** (Ravenna, Italy)

Associate Researcher

- Funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (H2020-MSCA-IF-2020), EU Commission.
- Research project: “Sino-Iranica: Investigating Relations Between Medieval China and Sasanian Iran.” Grant agreement ID: [101018750](#).

2020 – 2022 **University of British Columbia** (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada)

Postdoctoral Fellow

- Sheng Yen Education Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chinese Buddhism.
- Research project: “State and Buddhist Accounts of South and Central Asia in Medieval China.”

2018 – 2020 **McMaster University** (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada)

Postdoctoral Fellow

- Recipient of the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (American Council

of Learned Societies).

- Research project: “Buddhist and State Historiographies in Medieval China.”

2018

Friedrich-Alexander University (Erlangen, Germany)

Research Fellow

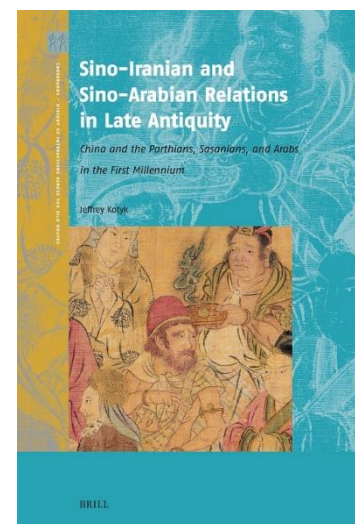
- Researcher within the program Fate, Freedom, and Prognostication: Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe.
- Research Project: “The Evolution of Chinese Horoscopy from the Tang to the Ming.”

Teaching Experience

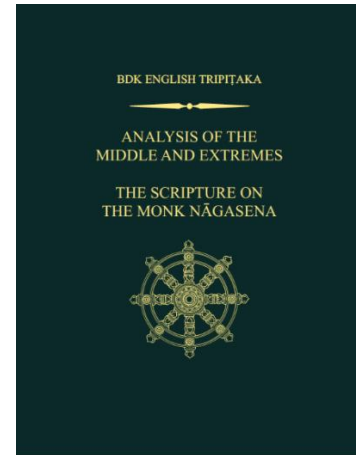
Course	Institution	Period	Supervision of TA
Silk Road Cultures (graduate seminars)	University of Bologna	19 Oct 2022, 15 Feb 2023, 9 Oct 2023	
Buddhism in China ASIA 382	University of British Columbia	Jan–Apr 2022	
Introduction to Buddhism ASIA 250	University of British Columbia	May–Jun 2022	✓
		Sept–Dec 2021	✓
		May–Jun 2021	✓
		Jan–Apr 2021	✓
Introduction to East Asian Religions RELI 1716	Carleton University	Sept–Dec 2020	✓
Violence and Religion SCAR 2VR3	McMaster University	May–Jun 2020	✓

Books (Peer-Reviewed)

- . 2024. *Sino-Iranian and Sino-Arabian Relations in Late Antiquity: China and the Parthians, Sasanians, and Arabs in the First Millennium*. Crossroads - History of Interactions across the Silk Routes, Volume: 8. Leiden: Brill. [\[Link\]](#) [\[Amazon\]](#)



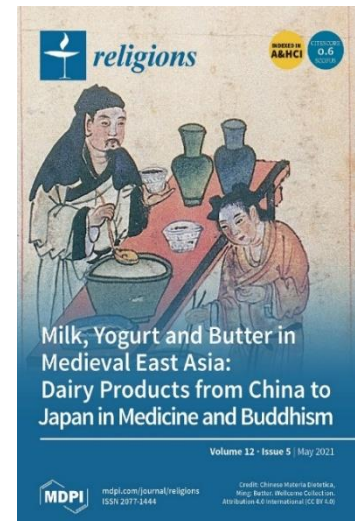
- . 2021. *Analysis of the Middle and Extremes*. BDK English Tripiṭaka Series. Peer-reviewed introduction and translation of *Bian zhongbian lun* 辯中邊論 (*Madhyāntavibhāga-bhāṣya*). Taishō 1600. In *Analysis of the Middle and Extremes; The Scripture on the Monk Nāgasena*, eds. Charles A. Muller and Kenneth Tanaka, 1–103. Moraga: BDK America, Inc. [\[Link\]](#)



Academic Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

- . 2024. “Astrology and Astral Magic in Tantric Japan.” *The Oxford Handbook of Tantric Studies*, eds. Richard K. Payne and Glen A. Hayes, 273–299. Oxford University Press. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2023. “Chinese Lunar Stations and Indian *Nakṣatras* in the Sui and Tang Periods.” *Religions* 14, no. 10: 1276. Special issue: The Interaction of Daoist, Buddhist and Confucian Thinkers in the Sui and Early Tang Dynasty, edited by Friederike Assandri. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2022. “The Astronomical Innovations of Monk Yixing 一行 (673–727).” *Religions* 13, no. 6: 543 [1–14]. Special issue: Social Life History of Chinese Buddhist Monks, edited by Jinhua Chen and Kai Sheng. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2022. “Astronomy and Calendrical Science in Early Mikkyō in Japan: Challenges and Adaptations.” *Religions* 13, no. 5: 458 [1–20]. Special issue: Aspects of Medieval Japanese Religion, edited by Bernard Faure and Andrea Castiglioni. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. “The Study of Sanskrit in Medieval East Asia: China and Japan.” *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies* 4, no. 2: 240–273. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. “Examining Amoghavajra’s Flat-Earth Cosmology: Religious vs. Scientific Worldviews in Buddhist Astrology.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 8: 203–220. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. “Kanyaku Abidaruma ni okeru uchūron to *Sukuyōkyō*” 漢訳アビダルマにおける宇宙論と『宿曜経』 [Cosmology in Abhidharma Literature in Chinese Translation and the *Xiuyao jing*]. *Taihō zasshi* 対法雑誌 (*The Journal of Abhidharma Studies*) 2: 101–108. [\[DOI\]](#)

- . 2021. “Milk, Yogurt and Butter in Medieval East Asia: Dairy Products from China to Japan in Medicine and Buddhism.” *Religions* 12, no. 5: 302 [1–11]. Special issue: Chinese Influences on Japanese Religious Traditions, edited by Jeffrey L. Richey. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2020. “The Chinese Buddhist Approach to Science: The Case of Astronomy and Calendars.” *Journal of Dharma Studies: Philosophy, Theology, Ethics, and Culture* 3, no. 2: 273–289. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2020. “The Medieval Chinese Vision of Japan: Buddhist Perspectives in the Tang and Song Periods.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 6, no. 4: 360–385. [\[DOI\]](#)
- . 2019. “Chinese and English Horoscopy in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries: The Astrological Doctrines of the Twelve Houses and Lot of Fortune in *Xingxue dacheng* 星學大成 by Wan Minying 萬民英 (1521–1603) and *Christian Astrology* by William Lilly (1602–1681).” *Brill’s International Journal of Divination & Prognostication* 1: 3–35. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2019. “Chinese State and Buddhist Historical Sources on Xuanzang: Historicity and the *Daci’en si sanzang fashi zhuan* 大慈恩寺三藏法師傳.” *T’oung Pao* 通報 105: 513–544. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2019. “Indo-Iranian and Islamic Sources of Astrological Medicine in Medieval China.” *Asian Medicine: Journal of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine* 14, no. 1: 30–55. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2019. “Research Note on Brahmanical Deities in Mikkyō Astrological Art.” *Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University* 4: 101–108. [\[DOI\]](#)
- . 2018. “Astrological Determinism in Indian Buddhism.” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 41: 145–167. [\[DOI\]](#)
- . 2018. “Early Tantric Hemerology in Chinese Buddhism: Timing of Rituals According to Śubhakarasiṃha and Yixing.” *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* 13: 1–29. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2018. “Japanese Buddhist Astrology and Astral Magic: Mikkyō and Sukuyōdō.” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 45, no. 1: 37–86.¹ [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2018. “Yixing and Pseudo-Yixing: A Misunderstood Astronomer-Monk.” *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies* 31: 1–37. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2017. “Astrological Iconography of Planetary Deities in Tang China: Near Eastern and Indian Icons in Chinese Buddhism.” *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies* 30: 33–88. [\[Link\]](#)



[Religions, Volume 12](#)
[Issue 5 \(May 2021\)](#)

¹ Listed in *Isis Current Bibliography of the History of Science and Its Cultural Influences* (2019): 84. [\[Link\]](#)

- . 2017. “Iranian Elements in Late-Tang Buddhist Astrology.” *Asia Major* 30, no. 1: 25–58. [\[Link\]](#)

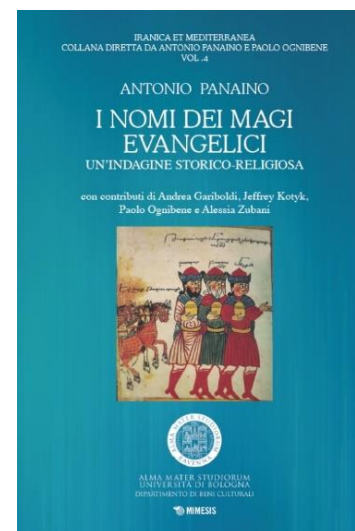
Book Chapters (Peer-Reviewed)

- . 2024. “Examining Amoghavajra’s Flat-Earth Cosmology: Religious vs. Scientific Worldviews in Buddhist Astrology.” In *Esoteric Buddhism and Texts: Volume II, Material Culture, Rituals, Arts, and Construction of Sacred Space and Narratives in East Asia*, ed. Jinhua Chen, 155–172. Oxon: Routledge. Reprint of 2021 article.
- . 2024. “Planets and the Weekdays in the Japanese Buddhist Imagination: Examining the *Kuyō hiryaku* 九曜秘曆 (*Secret Calendar of the Nine Planets*).” In *Imagining the Heavens across Eurasia from Antiquity to Early Modernity*, eds. Rana Brentjes, Sonja Brentjes, and Stamatina Mastorakou, 235–248. Milano: Mimesis International.
- . 2021. “Celestial Deities in the Flat-Earth Buddhist Cosmos and Astrology.” In *Intersections of Religion and Astronomy*, eds. Chris Corbally, Darryl Dinell, and Aaron Ricker, 36–43. New York: Routledge. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2020. “Chinese State and Buddhist Historical Sources on Xuanzang: Historicity and the *Daci’en si sanzang fashi zhuan* 大慈恩寺三藏法師傳.” In *From Chang’an to Nālandā: The Life and Legacy of the Chinese Buddhist Monk Xuanzang (602?–664)*, eds. Shi Ciguang, Chen Jinhua, Ji Yu and Shi Xingding, 270–310. Singapore: World Scholastic Publishers. Reprint of 2019 article in *T’oung Pao*.
- . 2017. “Can Monks Practice Astrology? Astrology and the Vinaya in China.” In *Rules of Engagement: Medieval Traditions of Buddhist Monastic Regulation*, eds. Susan Andrews, Jinhua Chen and Cuilan Liu, 503–517. Bochum, Freiburg: Projekt Verlag, Numata Center for Buddhist Studies. [\[Link\]](#)

Invited Studies (Editor-Reviewed)

- . 2023. “Lead (Pb) Products and Sino-Iranian Relations in Late Antiquity.” *Annales Acta Academiae Scientiarum Institutii Bononiensis, Classis Scientiarum Moralium* 1: 95–102. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2023. “Reports of Japanese Monks in China Accounts in the *Nittō guhō junrei kōki* 入唐求法巡禮行記 [*Record of Travel to the Tang in Search of the Dharma*] by Ennin 圓仁 (794–864).” In *From Jetavana to Jerusalem: Sacred Biography in Asian Perspectives and Beyond, Essays in Honour of Professor Phyllis Granoff*, ed. Jinhua Chen, 645–656. Singapore: World Scholastic Publishers.
- . 2023. “The Birth of Christ and the Persian Gift Bearers in Medieval Chinese Sources.” *Studi Iranici Ravennati* IV: 129–139. [\[Link\]](#)

- . 2022. “Information on the Persian Calendar in the *Wei shu* 魏書 of 554.” In *ABĒBĪM “Fearless”: Who Was Afraid of the End of the Millennium? New Approaches to the Interpretation of the Traditional Date of Zoroaster; with Contributions by Domenico Agostini, Jeffrey Kotyk, Paolo Ognibene, and Alessia Zubani*, edited by Alessia Zubani, 209–222. Milano: Mimemsis Edizioni. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2022. “The Moon as a Celestial Body and God in the Buddhist Worldview: From India to China.” In *Worldmaking in East Asian Buddhism*, eds. Jinhua Chen and Eugene Wang, 1–28. Singapore: World Scholastic Publishers. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. “Horoscopy in Tang Daoist Astrology.” In *Time in Daoist Practice: Cultivation and Calculation*, edited by Livia Kohn, 84–102. Saint Petersburg, FL: Three Pines Press. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2020. “La nascita di Cristo e i portatori di doni persiani nelle fonti cinesi medievali.” In *I NOMI DEI MAGI EVANGELICI: Considerazioni storico-linguistiche e storico-religiose intorno ai nomi dei Magi. Prolegomena ad un Namenbuch. Con contributi di Andrea Gariboldi, Jeffrey Kotyk, Paolo Ognibene e Alessia Zubani*, eds. Antonio Panaino and Paolo Ognibene, 113–130. Milano: Mimesis Edizioni. Translated into Italian by Alessia Zubani. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2020. “On the Identification and Use of *ānxī-xiāng* 安息香/安悉香/安西香 in Medieval China.” In *Quaderni di Studi Indo-Mediterranei XII: FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF BERTHOLD LAUFER’S CLASSIC SINO-IRANICA (1919), Sino-Iranica’s Centennial, Between East and West, Exchanges of Material and Ideational Culture*, edited by Ephraim Nissan, 519–526. Milano: Mimemsis Edizioni. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2016. “Kanjiken no bungaku ni okeru saihō-senseijutsu no yōso: tōzai bunka kōryū ni okeru Bukkyō no yakuwari.” 漢字圏の文学における西方占星術の要素：東西文化交流における仏教の役割 [Elements of Occidental Astrology in Literature of the Sinosphere: a Role of Buddhism in Eurasian Cultural Exchange]. *Bukkyō bungaku kenkyū* 佛教文學研究 19: 85–110. [\[Link\]](#)



Encyclopedia Entries

- . 2019. “Tejaprabhā.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism, Volume II: Lives*, edited by Jonathan A. Silk, 612–615. Leiden: Brill. Peer reviewed. [\[DOI\]](#)
- . 2019. “Yixing.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism, Volume II: Lives*, edited by Jonathan A. Silk, 800–805. Leiden: Brill. Peer reviewed. [\[DOI\]](#)

- . 2018. “Buddhist Astrology.” In *Astrology through History: Interpreting the Stars from Ancient Mesopotamia to the Present*, ed. William Burns, 61–66. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio. [\[Link\]](#)

Book Reviews

- . Forthcoming (2024). Review of *Arabic Medicine in China: Tradition, Innovation, and Change*, by Paul D. Buell and Eugene N. Anderson. *Asian Medicine*.
- . Forthcoming (2024). Review of *Networks of Faith and Profit: Monks, Merchants, and Exchanges between China and Japan, 839–1403 CE*, by Yiwen Li. *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies*.
- . 2022. Review of *A Walk through the Iranian Heavens: Spherical and Non-Spherical Cosmographic Models in the Imagination of Ancient Iran and Its Neighbors* by Antonio Panaino. *Aestimatio* 3, no. 1: 127–133. Invited review. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. Review of *Cultural Astronomy of the Japanese Archipelago: Exploring the Japanese Skyscape* by Akira Goto. *Monumenta Nipponica* 76, no. 2: 363–366. Invited review. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. Review of *Goddess on the Frontier: Religion, Ethnicity, and Gender in Southwest China* by Megan Bryson. *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies* 4, no. 1: 397–403. Invited review. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2021. Review of *The Jewel of Annual Astrology: A Parallel Sanskrit-English Critical Edition of Balabhadra’s Hāyanaratna* by Martin Gansten. *Indo-Iranian Journal* 64, no. 4: 387–391. Invited review. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2020. Review of *Chinese Esoteric Buddhism: Amoghavajra, the Ruling Elite, and the Emergence of a Tradition* by Geoffrey C. Goble. H-Buddhism, H-Net Reviews. Invited review. [\[Link\]](#)
- . 2019. Review of *Esoteric Astrology: Japanese Sukuyōdō & Indian Astrology* by Yano Michio, translated by Bill M. Mak. *Brill’s International Journal of Divination & Prognostication* 1: 143–155. Invited review. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)

Forthcoming Publications and Present Projects

2024. “Sexuality in East Asian Astrology: The Lot of Eros.” *Culture and Cosmos*. University of Wales Trinity Saint David. In press.
2024. “Buddhism and Metallurgy: From India to China.” *Haichao yin* 海潮音. In press. Invited paper.

2024. “Research Note on Sasanian Steel in Chinese Sources.” In proceedings of the 6th CoBIran, *Collana Indo-Iranica et Orientalia*, series Lazur (Edizioni Mimesis), edited by Prof. Antonio Panaino and Prof. Velizar Sadovski. In press.
2024. “Kingship and Elite Values in the Buddhist Mahāsāṃghika Vinaya.” *Kratèr: Quaderni di cultura e tradizioni spirituali*, vol. 3. Invited chapter. In progress.
2025. “Techniques of a Japanese Buddhist Astrology in the Twelfth Century: Notes on the *Sukuyō unmei kanroku* 宿曜運命勘綠.” In *The Tools of the Art: New Perspectives on the History of Astrological Doctrines and Practices*, ed. Luis Ribeiro. Leiden: Brill. In press.
2025. “Astrology and the Astral Pantheon in Medieval China.” Invited book chapter in *Divination in Chinese Religions*. “Prognostication in History” Series, Brill, via the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities, Erlangen, Germany. In press.
2025. “Zoroastrianism in the Chinese Imagination.” In *The Zoroastrian World*, edited by Jenny Rose, Albert de Jong, and Sarah Stewart. Routledge. Invited paper. Forthcoming.
2025. *Heavenly Bodies Over Asia*. Volume of papers for conference held at Yale University, March 3–5, 2023. Chief editor.
2025. “Foreign Commodities and Mantrayāna in China: Authenticity and Substitution.” In *The Tantric World*, eds. Anna A. Golovkova, Hillary Landberg, and Hugh B. Urban. Routledge. Invited chapter. In progress.
2027. Translation of Chapter 3 of *Abhidharmakośā-bhāṣya* (阿毘達磨俱舍論). Collaboration with a team of five scholars to translate entire text from Chinese (T 1558) into English. BDK Tripitaka Translation Series. In progress.
- Astrology and Cosmology in China and Japan: East Asian Experiences of the Heavens*. Monograph. In progress. Accepted into the Prognostication in History series (Brill). Contract signed 21 August 2024.
- “The East Asian Reception of Indian Star Lore in the First Millennium.” Invited paper. In progress.
- “The Chinese Importation of Rare Minerals and Metals in the First Millennium.” In progress.

Academic Translations (Chinese and Japanese to English)

- Chen Ming. (Forthcoming). “The Origins of Medicinal Substances in a Fragment of Medical Literature Unearthed from the Silk Road and an Analysis of its Text.”
- Yamaguchi Hiroe. 2021. “The Circulation and Reception of Tiantai Commentaries on the *Vimalakīrti-sūtra* in East Asia.” *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies* 4, no. 1: 316–355. [[Link](#)]
- Sheng Kai. 2020. *A History of Chinese Buddhist Faith and Life*. Studies on East Asian Religions,

Volume 3. Leiden: Brill. (Responsible for chapters 1, 3, and 4.) [\[Link\]](#)

- Sheng Kai. 2020. “The Pure Land Teachings of Fazhao and the Mañjuśrī Cult of Mount Wutai.” In *The Transnational Cult of Mount Wutai: Historical and Comparative Perspectives*, eds. Susan Andrews, Jinhua Chen, and Guang Kuan, 288–305. Leiden: Brill. [\[Link\]](#)
- Sun Yinggang. 2020. “From Mount Wutai to the Seven Jewel Tower: Monk Degan and Political Propaganda of the Wuzhou Period.” In *The Transnational Cult of Mount Wutai: Historical and Comparative Perspectives*, eds. Susan Andrews, Jinhua Chen, and Guang Kuan, 21–50. Leiden: Brill. [\[Link\]](#)
- Li Xiangping. 2017. “Increased Production and Education— The New Modern Buddhist Thought and Practice of Monk Juzan.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 3, no. 1: 83–100. [\[Link\]](#)
- He Jianming. 2016. “Compilation of Local Chronicles and New Directions in Research of Chinese Religious History.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 2, no. 1: 1–17. [\[Link\]](#)
- Chen Ming. 2015. “Vinaya works translated by Yijing and their circulation: Manuscripts excavated at Dunhuang.” *Studies in Chinese Religions* 1, no. 3: 229–268. [\[Link\]](#)
- Ishii Shūdō. 2015. “Dōgen’s Views on Practice and Realization and His Dream Encounter with Damei Fachang.” *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy* 1: 193–212.
- Guo Jing. 2014. “Realization through Hearing in Chan Literature.” *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies* 27: 129–179. [\[Link\]](#)

Buddhist Translations (Chinese to English)

- Master Sheng Yen. (Forthcoming). *The Essentials of Buddhist Śīla and Vinaya* [戒律學綱要]. Dharma Drum Corp.
- Master Sheng Yen. 2021. *Essentials of the Bodhisattva Precepts* [菩薩戒指要]. Kindle Edition. Dharma Drum Corp. [\[Link\]](#)
- Master Sheng Yen. 2019. *Praises of the Practices and Vows of Samantabhadra Bodhisattva-Commentary by Master Sheng Yen* [普賢菩薩行願讚講記]. Kindle Edition. Dharma Drum Publishing Corporation. [\[Link\]](#)
- Master Sheng Yen. 2018. *Sūtra of the Buddha’s Bequeathed Teachings* [佛遺教經講記]. Kindle Edition. Dharma Drum Publishing Corp. [\[Link\]](#)
- Master Sheng Yen. 2018. *Commentary on the Sūtra in Forty-Two Sections* [四十二章經講記]. Kindle Edition. Dharma Drum Publishing Corp. [\[Link\]](#)
- Master Sheng Yen. 2017. *The Sūtra on the Eight Realizations of Great Beings: A Commentary by Master Sheng Yen* [八大人覺經講記]. Kindle Edition. Dharma Drum Publishing Corp. [\[Link\]](#)