

RAFAL FELBUR

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2022- Assistant Professor (Wissenschaftlicher Assistent) in Buddhist Studies at Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University.
- 2019-22 Postdoctoral research fellow at Leiden Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2024 *Ratnakūṭa Studies I*. Buddhist Open Philology Project, Volume 1. Editor. In print with Brill Publishers.
- Forthcoming (2025). *Saving the Buddhadharmā from Itself: A Bilingual Synoptic Critical Edition, Translation, and Study of Sūrata-sūtra Texts from Chinese and Tibetan Sources*. Monograph, Brill Publishers. 600 pp.

Articles and Chapters

- Forthcoming. “Viśeṣavatīdhāraṇī.” In *Buddhist Manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection* (Vol. V), gen. ed. Jens Braarvig. Co-authored with Paul Harrison and Simon Wiles. 28 pp.
- 2022 “Crosslinguistic Semantic Textual Similarity of Buddhist Chinese and Classical Tibetan.” *Journal of Open Humanities Data*. Co-authored with Marieke Meelen and Paul Vierthaler. 14pp.
- 2021 Review of *The Zhengzheng lun by Xuanyi. A Buddhist apologetic Scripture of Tang China*, by Thomas Jülch. Monumenta Serica Monograph Series (Oxford and New York: Routledge, 2009). *Bulletin of Oriental and African Studies* 82.2, doi:10.1017/S0041977X21000513
- 2020 “Kumārajīva. ‘Great Man’ and Cultural Event.” In *Blackwell-Wiley Companion to World Literature*, edited by Ken Seigneurie, et alii. 12 pp.
- 2018 *Treatises of Sengzhao (Zhaolun 肇論)*. Translation of T.1858, with Notes and Introduction. In *Three Short Treatises* (Berkeley: Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai English Tripiṭaka Project), 50–140.
- 2015 “Vimalakīrtinirdeśa.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Johnathan Silk, Vincent Eltschinger, and Oskar von Hinüber. 9 pp.
- 2015 “Sūtra Commentaries in Chinese until the Tang.” In *Brill Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by

Johnathan Silk, Vincent Eltschinger, and Oskar von Hinüber. Co-authored with Hiroshi Kanno. 16 pp.

- 2005 Translation of Zhaxi Dawa 扎西達娃, *Xizang: xi zai pisheng kou shang de hun* 西藏：係在皮繩扣上的魂 (“Tibet: A Soul Tied in a Leather Strap.”) Warsaw: Dialog Academic Publishing (in Polish). 25 pp.

EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University. Dissertation Title: “Anxiety of Emptiness: Selfhood and Scripture in Early Medieval Sinitic Buddhism.” Dissertation Advisers: Paul Harrison, John Kieschnick, Stefano Zacchetti.
- 2007 MA *cum laude* in Chinese Languages and Cultures, Leiden University.
- 2006 MA in Sinology, Warsaw University.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (selection)

- 2024 “The Nature of the Sengzhao Trick: A Key Term in the *Zhaolun* and a Sinitic Response to Madhyamaka.” International Conference: Madhyamaka in South Asia and Beyond, University of Vienna, August 22.
- 2024 “The Nature of the Sengzhao Trick: A Key Term in the *Zhaolun* and a Sinitic Response to Madhyamaka.” Paper delivered at workshop: From Madhyamaka to Sanlun. Austrian Academy of Sciences, August 18.
- 2023 “A New Online Tool for the Production of Critical Scholarly Editions.” Guest lecture for the Joint Research Group “Manuscriptology and Digital Humanities” at Heidelberg University, co-organized with Otani University, Kyoto.
- 2022 XIXth Congress International Association of Buddhist Studies. Paper accepted, canceled due to Covid.
- 2021 “Earliest Chinese Response to *buddha-dhātu*?” Invited talk presented at the Dharmadhātu Workshop at Komazawa University, Tokyo, April 21.
- 2020 “Payload or Dead Weight? Preliminary Comments on the Authorship and History of the Xulai jing(s) 須賴經.” Invited talk presented at Heidelberg University, Jan. 21.
- 2019 “Problems with ‘Philosophy’ in the Study of Chinese Buddhism, with a Focus on Sengzhao.” Invited talk presented at Università degli Studi di Perugia, Nov. 28.
- 2017 “Canon Before the Canon in Chinese Buddhism.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Conference in Boston, MA., Nov 19.
- 2016 “Things and No-things in Chinese Buddhism: the Case of Sengrui.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy, University of Vilnius, Jun 10.
- 2014 “The Logic of Identity in Sengzhao.” Paper presented at the conference “Gongsunlongzi and other Neglected Texts,” University of Zürich, Switzerland, Sep 28.

- 2014 “Kumārajīva’s Reading of the *Lotus Sūtra*.” Paper presented at the conference “New Directions in Buddhist Studies,” UC Santa Barbara, March 8.
- 2013 “*Zhu Weimojie jing* 注維摩詰經: Kumārajīva’s use of *fanben* 梵本 and *bieben* 別本.” Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa* Workshop, June 2.
- 2011-12 Chief organizer of year-long inter-university workshop “Mythos & Logos,” Stanford Humanities Center, Sep 2011 – June 2012.
- 2011 Organizer of graduate conference “Sensual Faiths,” Department of Religious Studies, Stanford, May 13-14.
- 2011 Member of work group on the Skt. manuscript of the *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa* discovered in the Potala Palace, “Towards a Western Terminology for Buddhist Texts,” June-July 2011, Mangalam Institute, Berkeley.

TEACHING

- 2022- Teaching regular courses at Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies.
- 2022 Fulfilled qualifications for the teaching certificate *Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs* (“fundamental teaching qualification”) for tertiary education in the Netherlands.
- 2019-22 Designed and taught a range of courses at Leiden University:
- Chinese Buddhism (introductory course)
 - Canon and Culture (MA/PhD seminar)
 - Knowledge and Authority (MA/PhD seminar)
 - Workshop series for writers of MA theses and PhD dissertations
- 2012 Teaching Intern (Religious Studies Department, Stanford University). Developed and taught upper-level course in Buddhist literature.
- 2009-11 Teaching Assistant (Stanford University, Religious Studies Department). Taught and assisted in teaching a range of courses in Religious Studies. Recognized with “Centennial Teaching Award” for best-performing teaching assistants.
- 2007-08 Instructor in Premodern Chinese (Leiden University, Chinese Languages and Cultures).

LANGUAGES

Chinese Classical	-	main research language
Chinese Modern	-	competent
Sanskrit	-	intermediate
Tibetan	-	intermediate
Japanese	-	intermediate
German	-	reading knowledge
Italian	-	competent
French	-	beginning
Dutch	-	intermediate
Russian	-	reading knowledge
English	-	fluent
Polish	-	native

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2016-17 Chinese Institute for Buddhist Studies (CHIBS) Fellowship.
2015-16 Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.
2014-15 Freeman-Spogli Dissertation Grant in Chinese Studies.
2013 Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fellowship.
Academia Sinica Fellowship for Doctoral Candidates (declined).
2011 Centennial Teaching Assistant Award (Stanford).
2006-07 Huygens Scholarship Program Talent Scholarship (Holland).
2004-05 Ministry of Culture and Sport National Award for Academic Excellence (Poland).
2002-05 Warsaw University Scholarship for Academic Achievement.
2002-03 China Scholarship Council Scholarship.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association of Asian Studies
International Association for Buddhist Studies
European Association for Chinese Philosophy
European Academy of Religion

OTHER

Software development lead in the Digital Humanities project “Open Philology,” producing an open-source digital editing environment for the production of critical scholarly editions of textual Works available in multiple Texts:

<https://openediting.eu/sign-in>

Together with Jonathan Silk and Paul Vierthaler, developed and curates the online interactive bibliography of Buddhist scriptures in the *Mahāratnakūṭa* collection:

<https://bibliography.openphilology.eu/bibliography/>

Active peer-reviewer for academic journals: *Religions*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, *T'oung-pao*.