

The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Studies The First Five Years: Summary and Highlights

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Year 1 Narrative Summary: 2016-2017

Director: Frances Garrett

Administrative Assistant: Chris Pugh

In December 2016, the University of Toronto launched The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Studies on its St. George campus. Providing an intellectual home for faculty and students in Buddhist Studies across the University, the Centre is housed within the University’s Department for the Study of Religion. The Centre supports academic training, collaborative research with graduate and undergraduate students, and a program of events that engage scholars and the public seeking to deepen understanding of the diversity of Buddhism around the world.

Much of the Director’s work in the first part of this year focused on the administrative and organizational tasks required for the opening of a new unit. To this end, through consultation with the HCBS Executive Committee (EC) and others in the University administration, Dr Garrett developed administrative bylaws that defined the Centre’s Mission Statement and Values, and bylaws for its Executive Committee, International Advisory Council, and local Tri-Campus Committee. The Tri-Campus Committee was not formed, but an Advisory Council had

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a membership of 14 members appointed to three-year terms in addition to the standing members of the EC.

Dr Garrett led six organizational meetings of the HCBS EC and seven consultative meetings with Buddhist Studies graduate students to discuss programming and administrative issues relevant to setting up the Centre, developing its Mission Statement and Vision, and creating programming priorities. Her objectives for the regular graduate student meetings in particular intended to create a sense of collective purpose and a culture of inclusion and transparency, as well as to generally generate enthusiasm for participation in the Centre. They used a Slack channel for internal communications and community building among our faculty and graduate students, and they used shared Google Drive folders to ensure that programming and budgetary decisions are made easily and transparently available to the EC. Dr Garrett worked closely with the HCBS business officer to monitor budgets and expenses.

The HCBS Mission Statement and Values document describes a commitment to “facilitating intellectually informed and publicly-minded conversations on Buddhism in the public sphere.” Centre programming in our first half-year of operation accordingly featured three public film screenings, a public ritual performance with lecture, and one public lecture by a prominent scholar in Buddhist Studies. About half the audience for these events overall have come from outside the University community. The HCBS Mission Statement and Values also includes a commitment to diversity and exchange of ideas from a wide variety of perspectives, and the first year has therefore featured talks by three women filmmakers of Asian heritage and a book launch celebration for a Tibetan member of our academic community.

In terms of promoting the Centre through social media, the Director worked with the Program Manager, the EC, and Advancement on the creation of a new website for the Centre, which was launched in the fall at <http://buddhiststudies.utoronto.ca/>. The Centre also launched a Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Year 2 Narrative Summary: 2017–2018

Director: Frances Garrett

This year the Director led four meetings of the HCBS Executive Committee and two consultative meetings with Buddhist Studies graduate students to discuss programming and administrative issues relevant to the Centre. She also met individually with thirteen of the Centre’s affiliated faculty. Her objectives in these meetings were to assess programming interests and to create a sense of collective purpose and a culture of inclusion and transparency, as well as to generally generate enthusiasm for participation in the Centre. She continued to work closely with the FAS business officer to monitor budgets and expenses.

HCBS has sponsored two undergraduate courses at UTSC and co-sponsored (with a Dean’s International Initiatives Fund grant) an undergraduate international studies course in Spring 2017. The Centre also sponsored a public Buddhist ritual performance held in conjunction with an undergraduate course on Ritual, and it co-hosted a month-long Master Class on Buddhist texts by a scholar from India, with meetings held at both the UTM and St George campuses. These sponsorships contribute significantly to teaching and curriculum at UTSC, UTM, and in the Department for the Study of Religion. The international studies course is a central focus of both ATLAS and LEAF funded projects now running in the Department for the Study of Religion.

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HCBS began this year to award research travel awards to graduate students in Buddhist Studies to help support their needs in study and research abroad.

In order to continue to develop relationships between the Centre and other University units, the Director met with representatives of programs on campus (e.g., Emmanuel College, New College, and the Multifaith Centre) that focus on Buddhism about models of collaboration. Outside the University, she met with representatives of local Buddhist communities to discuss models of community engagement. She worked extensively with Advancement on two significant fundraising opportunities. The Centre was featured in the press on several occasions this past year. The Centre's Facebook page, Twitter account, Eventbrite mailing list, Mailchimp email list, and website have all been very active.

In September 2017 HCBS suddenly lost its half-time Program Manager, Chris Pugh. A ten-hour/week temporary assistant helped for a few months. The Director bore full responsibility for running much of the Centre's programming this year.

Year 3 Narrative Summary: 2018-19

Director: Sarah Richardson

Administrative Assistant: Betsy Moss

The 2018-19 Academic year was the third year of programming events for HCBS. This year the Centre hosted and co-sponsored 19 events related to Buddhist studies, including guest lectures, public programs, and language skills development workshops for students and faculty. The Centre also worked towards creating a shared vision and to find ways to embolden the members of our own internal University community to more deeply engage with our mission of “intellectually-informed and publicly-minded conversations on Buddhism in the public sphere.”

Several important organizational improvements also took shape at the centre this year, including hiring a permanent part-time administrative assistant (Dr. Betsy Moss) as program manager. Furthermore, the HCBS new office spaces were under construction this year, involving extensive exchange with the Department for the Study of Religion and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Offices of Infrastructure and Research to design these new permanent spaces for the HCBS offices.

To sharpen HCBS work in the public sphere, the Director began work on new podcast, *The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Ed*. This podcast will give greater exposure to the discipline and the Centre, and it will work to connect academics, teachers, and wider audiences interested in Buddhism to this work. The Centre continued to work on responding to current events affecting the local community, planning programs considering Buddhist responses to mental health and anxiety, as well as social issues like ongoing inequalities and the #metoo movement. These responsive events aim to strengthen the voice of Buddhist Studies scholarship within the broader public humanities discourse.

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Year 4 Narrative Summary: 2019-20

Director: Frances Garrett

Director of Partnerships and Engagement: Sarah Richardson

Administrative Assistant: Betsy Moss

HCBS programming in 2019-2020 was robust, despite the interruption to our lives in late winter by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to supporting education and research, the Center continued to facilitate a series of public conversations on Buddhism in the public sphere. The Director continued to prioritize gender and ethnic/racial diversity in all programming. Centre priorities expanded to include programming that specifically addresses our community's mental health and well-being.

To help mitigate environmental effects of the Centre's event-related travel, in 2020 HCBS began investing in carbon offset projects by supporting environmental and sustainability initiatives, focusing on Gold Standard-Certified International Carbon Emission Reduction projects in Southeast Asia that include the development of Solid Waste Facilities in Vietnam and the development of Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Thailand.

HCBS sponsors two undergraduate courses at the U of T Scarborough campus yearly, and almost half the Centre's programming budget goes to supporting students through research workshops, graduate language training, research travel awards, and newly this year, a weekend writing retreat for graduate students and faculty. This year, the Centre launched a number of new initiatives focused explicitly on improving teaching and curricular design in Buddhist Studies:

- A February 2020 conference on Teaching Buddhist Studies with 22 invited presenters, whose talks are now available on our YouTube channel (see tinyurl.com/ya9kmed8), and an accompanying online teaching resource hub, <http://teachingbuddhism.net/>.
- A new academic podcast, "The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Education," featuring conversations about innovative teaching in our field with professors from around North America, with the first six episodes launched in February (see teachingbuddhism.net/). Development of this podcast was supported by our hosting of an Academic Podcast Working Group Lunch series attended by participants from across the university community.
- We received an award from the Khyentse Foundation to support our Engaging Education in Buddhist Studies initiative, for which we are creating experiential education modules for Buddhist studies courses (see report below)
- In 2019, an anonymous donor established the Machik Ödrön Fund for Tibetan Language Instruction, which will help strengthen our Tibetan Studies programming. We've been building Tibetan Studies over the last fifteen years: faculty and graduate students working in the area have been competitively awarded almost two million dollars in research funding, several doctoral students have graduated and moved on to teaching positions in Tibetan Studies and, thanks to an innovative collaborative librarianship program with

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Columbia University, our library now holds the largest Tibetan-language book collection in Canada.

On the recommendation of an outside consultant and the Dean's office, this year HCBS shifted to a "town hall" style consultation model. This year the Director led three consultative meetings with Buddhist Studies faculty and graduate students to discuss programming and administrative issues. She continued to work closely with the Centre's FAS business officer to monitor our budgets and expenses and with Advancement on significant fundraising opportunities. The Centre's Facebook page, Twitter account, Eventbrite listing, Mailchimp email list, website, and podcast downloads were very active.

Year 5 Narrative Summary: 2020-21

Director: Frances Garrett

Director of Partnerships and Engagement: Sarah Richardson

Administrative Assistant: Betsy Moss

HCBS has had a busy and productive year, despite a limited events calendar due to COVID-19 restrictions. We focused on the following HCBS priority areas: Support for language training; Research/library partnerships; Mentorship for students; Prioritizing anti-racism and gender equity; Amplifying decolonizing approaches to the field of Buddhist Studies; Supporting community well-being; Live (online) events. Through this year the Director continued to work with Advancement on funded program reporting and new fundraising opportunities. The Centre's Facebook page, Twitter account (1048 followers), Mailchimp email list (915 subscribers), YouTube channel (151 subscribers) and website have all been very active. In winter 2021, the Director redesigned the HCBS website to achieve a better organized structure and more modern and attractive look: <https://buddhiststudies.utoronto.ca/>. She produced, hosted, and edited over 700 hours of research-oriented or mentorship-oriented video and audio resources. HCBS also facilitated support for the Women in the Study of Asian Religions initiative and the new Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism project. The HCBS podcast, launched in 2020, has produced 15 episodes so far. The Director devoted additional attention to conversations about and building resources for a culture of care and well-being in academic spaces and classrooms.

Improving teaching and curricular design:

- In summer 2020 HCBS organized an Online Teaching Resources Fellowship Program, for which a team gathered and annotated online resources relevant to teaching in our field; these are now available as a Buddhist Studies Research Guide through U of T Libraries. Eight graduate students participated. The team compiled 427 resources into an online database.
- HCBS facilitated the work of a graduate student to collaborate with Buddhist Studies faculty on the new Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism project, which is compiling a comprehensive list of primary and secondary material as well as teaching resources, including syllabi, lesson plans, and strategies, for teaching issues of race and racism in Buddhist Studies courses. Materials also address Orientalism, decolonization, race, and ethnicity in the Buddhist world.

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- The HCBS podcast, *The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Education*, which was launched in 2020, has shared 15 episodes on podcast platforms so far. The podcast is hosted by Dr. Sarah Richardson and explores the diversity of approaches to teaching and learning with Buddhism taking place right now. The podcast discusses student engagement, museum- and gallery-based teaching, anti-colonial teaching practices, and embodied learning. Episodes published to date, which have been listened to **2058 times** (as of 3/15).

Enhancing the research profile and general prestige of your unit and the Faculty:

- Funding research languages critical to the study of Buddhism remains one of our highest priorities. Although we had fewer language workshops this year than usual, and our students were not allowed to travel during the pandemic for their language study, we have supported language study in the following ways:
 - We are supporting graduate students to receive individual, research-targeted language tutoring in Newar, hybrid Newar-Sanskrit, Burmese, and Japanese (7 students)
 - We supported students and faculty to participate in a 20-week Online Sanskrit Reading Course on Aśvaghōṣa’s *Buddhacarita*, led by the Deshana Institute of Buddhist and Allied Studies in India. (5 students and faculty participants)
 - We supported a three-day intensive Sanskrit reading workshop led by Isabelle Ratié of the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris (35 student and faculty participants)
 - We supported a new project at the Classical Tibetan Language Lab, entitled *Conversations about Reading Tibetan*. This year the project has created 325 hours of video conversations, which have received 3300 views on YouTube (as of 3/15).
 - The U of T’s unique and successful Tibetan Studies library partnership with Columbia University was extended for another three years. This collaboration between the University of Toronto and Columbia University’s research libraries was established in 2013 to harness expertise in Tibetan collection services at both universities. The partnership provides for jointly sponsored acquisitions trips to enhance the Tibetan collections at both universities, and a shared point of service for research consultations. Since this collaboration began, the U of T’s Tibetan Collection has more than doubled in size, and we now have the largest Tibetan language collection in Canada.
 - The HCBS Director started producing the “How Do You Do It?” series, for which she asks scholars in Buddhist Studies to record short videos demonstrating how they manage various tasks critical to working in our field. The series features voices of people in our field talking about the nuts-and-bolts aspects of their work, sharing a variety of practical skills that are not often taught in courses, and exposing aspects of how scholarship takes place that are not easily visible in the end-products of our publication. The “How Do You Do It?” series now includes 300 hours of video on YouTube, which received 1807 views as of 3/15,.
 - We hosted two online presentations supporting Buddhist Studies research:
 - March 12, 2021 - *The Treasury of Lives Biographical Encyclopedia* (20 participants): Co-hosted with Columbia University and the East Asia Library, a presentation on the Treasury of Lives biographical encyclopedia. Dr. Alexander Gardner, Director and Editor in Chief of the project, and Catherine Tsuji, Editor, presented on features of the site that include custom maps and timeline tools, data exports, syllabi and advanced search functions. The Treasury of Lives is a biographical encyclopedia of Tibet, Inner Asia, and the Himalayan region. In development since 2007, this online resource provides accessible and well-researched biographies of notable scholars, masters, or leaders in traditional Himalayan and Inner Asian society and culture who are deceased and who were native to the region.
 - December 8, 2020 – Presentation of new resources at [Buddhist Digital Archives](#) (50 participants): Co-hosted with Columbia University and the [East Asia Library](#), with faculty and students from University of Toronto, McMaster University, Columbia and beyond (pictured

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below), listening to Jann Ronis and Élie Roux present the [Buddhist Digital Archives](#). They offered practical instructions on using the new platform and also introduced the non-Tibetan content now available on BDRC.

Improving and enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) :

- HCBS developed and supported new forms of and venues for academic and public scholarship that specifically highlighted the work of POC, women, and junior scholars and that highlighted the new and often decolonizing approaches to the field taken by many of those scholars.
- HCBS conceived of and put in motion the HCBS Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism project.
- HCBS worked to organize HCBS support for the Women in the Study of Asian Religions initiative.
- HCBS produced, hosted, and edited the “How Do You Do It?” HCBS series by first prioritizing participants diverse in gender, race, and career stage; this project specifically aims to showcase the “human” side of scholarship.
- The Circled Square podcast prioritized participants diverse in gender, race, and career stage.
- The Classical Tibetan Language Lab continued to prioritize the work of native Tibetan scholars.

Promoting morale and sense of collective purpose:

- HCBS dedicated extra time in 2020-21 to promoting conversations about and building resources for a culture of care and well-being in academic spaces and classrooms. Some of the broader mentorship activities the HCBS Director undertook in this area include:
 - In summer 2020 she began corresponding regularly with 22 DSR graduate students to check in on how they were managing during the pandemic. She has continued corresponding with most of these students to this date.
 - HCBS supported four University of Toronto Religion/Historical Studies faculty (two senior rank and two junior rank) to participate in the six-week program “Embodying Your Curriculum: Creating Resiliency in Education in a Time of Crisis”, an online class workshop led by two academics/therapists which offers trauma-informed social justice training to empower faculty to participate in social change and transformative teaching. This team will be sharing experiences and resources more broadly with our local communities.
 - In the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, she organized two creative projects for our students, staff and faculty. For our invited Community Art project, she sent each participant a small canvas and some drawing tools, and the pieces have been assembled as a mural documenting our collective memories of these strange times. Entitled "Domestic Drifts. Documenting our memories of strange times. Summer 2020," the mural was hung in the DSR lounge. For the Community Fiction Writing project, she wrote the beginnings of a story that made its way around North America, from participant to participant, as they build on the narrative. The completed story will be displayed in the DSR in summer 2021.
 - We welcomed students and faculty to our September Town Hall meeting at the beach.
 - Created in early March 2021, a new page of resources was put up at <https://buddhiststudies.utoronto.ca/communities-of-care/>, and a new YouTube playlist features three videos that derived from our March 04, 2021 event, “Prioritizing Mental Health in our Classrooms.” The event welcomed 55 participants, and the YouTube playlist includes three videos that have received 80 views in the last week (as of 3/15).

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Engaging Education in Buddhist Studies

Year 1 Narrative Summary: 2019-20

Project Leads: Frances Garrett & Sarah Richardson

This 2019-22 project aims to develop and deliver new modules that would enhance the student and teacher experience of Buddhist Studies courses with practices of experiential learning that also foster well-being. Because of COVID-19 and our shift to online teaching, we had to revise our original plans to create experiential modules that would work in an online environment and also to create new modules that specifically addressed the needs of students dealing with isolation and increased mental health challenges. In its first year, the project created six experiential learning modules that were incorporated into eight U of T courses taught by Profs Garrett and Richardson at the St. George and UTM campuses. The eight courses contained a total of 300 students.

Year 2 Narrative Summary: 2020-21

Project Leads: Frances Garrett & Sarah Richardson

Forthcoming.

Summary of Ho Centre Programming Partnerships in Years 1-4

With University of Toronto Departments, Centres & Programs

- Department for the Study of Religion
- School of the Environment
- Office of the President
- Centre for Indigenous Studies
- Centre for South Asian Studies (Munk School)
- Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto
- First Nations House, University of Toronto
- Centre for South Asian Civilizations, University of Toronto Mississauga
- Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, University of Toronto
- Yehan Numata Buddhist studies lecture and reading group series
- Book History Program (Toronto Centre for the Book)
- East Asian Library
- Culinary Kitchen (UTSC)
- Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

With Other Universities, Museums, & Academic Societies

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- American Council of Learned Societies
- International Association for Buddhist Studies
- McMaster University
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Columbia University's Starr East Asia Library

With Community Organizations

- Karma Sonam Dargye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Temple
- Great Compassion Bodhi Prajna Temple
- North American Karma Kagyu Bhikkhuni Institute
- Palyul Pema Mani Centre, the Great Compassion Bodhi Prajna Temple
- North American Karma Kagyu Bhikkhuni Institute
- Canadian Newa Guthi
- Fo Guang Shan Temple Organization
- The Kathog Lineage
- Institute for Traditional Medicine
- Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai Canada
- Wisdom Publications

Ho Centre in the Media

January 2021

[U of T prof puts students' well-being into the syllabus](#)

January 2021

[Columbia/Toronto Tibetan Library Partnership Agreement Renewed](#)

December 2020

['It's good coding': Computer science students drawn to classes on Sanskrit, a 3,500-year-old language](#)

November 2020

[2020 UTM Teaching Excellence Award Winner for Sessional Instructors – Dr. Sarah Richardson](#)

October 2020

[Ellen Katz shares her experience teaching students about experiential and embodied learning, and meditation practices](#)

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April 2020

[U of T's Myanmar Digital Library of rare manuscripts and artefacts opens access to scholars worldwide](#)

April 2020

[Meaning and meditation: John Vervaeke cultivates wisdom in uncertain times](#)

November 19

[In Memoriam: Vincent Shen \(1949-2018\)](#)

June 13

[Ho Centre Hosts the First International Buddhist Bhikkhuni Forum](#)

October 17

[Of Mantras, Mysteries and Messy Manuscripts](#)

October 13

[Of Building Communities and Cultivating Networks in the Field of Buddhist Studies](#)

January 2013

[University of Toronto and Columbia Libraries Launch Tibetan Studies Partnership](#)

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Ho Centre Event Highlights, First Five Years

Spring and Summer 2017

| Month | Event, program, or activity | Participant numbers |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| January-April | Cataloguing project of Tibetan, Burmese, Pali, and Sinhala books | 4 |
| January-April | Buddhist Studies undergraduate courses at University of Toronto Scarborough | 45 |
| February | Book launch celebration | 12 |
| February-March | Public film series on Buddhism and the environment | 80 |
| March | Public Buddhist ritual performance | 100 |
| March-May | International studies abroad course | 7 |
| March | Language Learners Tea | 30 |
| April | Public lecture | 55 |

2017–2018

| Month | Event, program, or activity | Participant numbers |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| May 5–7, 2017 | Master Class with Jacob Dalton on “Early Yoga Tantra Practice: Readings from Dunhuang and Beyond” | 12 |
| May 1–21, 2017 | “Himalayan Borderlands” undergraduate field school in India | 7 |
| May 31, 2017 | Public Talk by the 17 th Karmapa on “Mindfulness and Environmental Responsibility” | 1500 |
| June 1, 2017 | Dialogue with the 17 th Karmapa on “Sustainability and the Sacred” | 30 |
| June–August, 2017 | Buddhist Studies Research Assistant Program | 6 |
| August 20, 2017 | XVIII th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies | 500 |
| August 21, 2017 | Roundtable on “Bridging Divides in Buddhist Studies,” co-hosted with the American Council of Learned Societies | 100 |
| August 27, 2017 | Ritual Performance by Naresh Man Bajracharya at conference, “Where the Buddha was Previously Born, Seen and Heard: Transmission and Transformation of Rebirth Narratives in Art and Text within and beyond Gandhara” | 60 |
| August 28, 2017 | Professionalization Seminar by Alumnus Matt King, “How to Define Yourself on the Job Market” | 15 |
| October 5, 2017 | Co-sponsorship of U of T Graduate Conference in South Asian Religions | 30 |
| October 12, 2017 | Co-sponsorship of Tibetan Studies Open House at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library | 10 |
| October 14, 2017 | Public Workshop on “Buddhism and Tea in the Himalaya” Lecture by Jayeeta Sharma on “Cha/i and Tea: Himalayan Histories of Nature, Commodity, & Intimacies” Tasting workshop of Himalayan teas by Connie Fong, Tea Sommelier | 30 |
| November 4, 2017 | Public Workshop on “Buddhism and Tea in China” Lecture by James Benn on “Buddhism and the Invention of Tea Culture in Medieval China” Chinese tea ceremony demonstration and tea tasting with Sabrina Chen, Tearoma | 60 |
| December 6, 2017 | Co-sponsorship of lecture, “A Tale of the Sub-human: The Rohingyas in Myanmar and Bangladesh” | 65 |

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| December 10, 2017 | Public Workshop on “Buddhism and Tea in Japan” Lecture by Greg de St. Maurice on “Tea-rroir? Green Tea and the Taste of Place in Japan” Discussion of Japanese tea ceremony and a tasting, with Momo Yoshida, Momo Tea | 50 |
| December 15, 2017 | Conference on “Hidden Lands in Himalayan Myth and History” | 35 |
| January–February, 2018 | Co-sponsorship of Master Class with Shrikanth Bahulkar on the <i>Kālacakratāntra</i> | 130 |
| February 2, 2018 | Co-sponsorship of Tibetan Wylie Romanization Workshop | 10 |
| February 8, 2018 | Panel Discussion on “Rohingya in Peril: Buddhist/Muslim tensions in Myanmar and Beyond” | 45 |
| February 15, 2018 | Co-sponsorship of a lecture by Tansen Sen on “Temple Heritage of a Chinese Migrant Community: Movement, Connectivity and Identity in the Maritime World” | 36 |
| February 16, 2018 | Lecture by Vesna Wallace on “Indic Commentaries on the <i>Kālacakratāntra</i> and Methods of Authenticating Tradition” | 40 |
| February 28, 2018 | Tibetan Buddhist Ritual Performance, “Rigdzin Düpa” | 50 |
| April 6, 2018 | Co-sponsorship of Tibetan Studies Bibliographic Databases Workshop | 8 |
| April 16, 2018 | Graduate Student Research Colloquium on the <i>Kālachakratāntra</i> | 15 |
| April 17, 2018 | Lecture by Kate Crosby on “Destroying the Dharma: Heresy, Suppression, and Rationalism in the Emergence of Modern Buddhism” | 45 |
| April 30, 2018 | Research Travel Awards for Graduate Students | 10 |

2018–2019

| Month | Event, program, or activity | Participant numbers |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| May 4, 2018 | Nissaya Workshop with William Pruitt | 5 |
| May 14–17, 2018 | Healing Through Dharani in Tantric Buddhism: A Public Lecture by Dr. Naresh Man Bajracharya and a Workshop on Newar Buddhist Ritual | 70 |
| May 26-27, 2018 | International Buddhist Bhikkhunis Forum | 100 |
| September 28, 2018 | Samaya Baji: An Evening of Newar Ritual and Culinary Culture (UTSC, Culinaria Research Centre, Canadian Newa Guthi) | 46 |
| October 3-5, 2018 | Echoes of the Sacred: Creating the Sand Mandala of Green Tara (Multifaith Centre, Palyul Pema Mani Centre) | 100 |
| October 25, 2018 | The Genealogies of Dalit Learning and Humanist Buddhism in 19th and 20th Century India (Munk School, Centre for South Asian Studies, Buddhist Education Foundation) | 18 |
| November 21, 2018 | Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies Coffee Social (for graduate students and faculty in Buddhist Studies at U of T) | 12 |
| November 29 2018 | Agnieszka Helman-Ważny: “Tibetan Manuscripts of Mustang in Light of New Discoveries” (Toronto Centre for the Book) | 22 |
| December 4, 2018 | Languages Lunch: Burmese, Nepali, Newar, Pali, Sanskrit, Tibetan (lunch for students and faculty enrolled in Buddhist related languages) | 52 |
| December 18, 2018 | Book donation ceremony for newly published Tibetan language Buddhist texts to University of Toronto Library from Kathog Drungpa Rinpoche | 16 |
| January 18, 2019 | Jeffrey Kotyk (Ho Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, McMaster University), Lecture: “Buddhism and Astrology in the Tang Dynasty” | 26 |

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| January 22, 2019 | Making Buddhist Art Workshop (Thangka, Mandala and Torma) (Workshop for undergraduate students at UTM) | 31 |
| March 7-8, 2019 | Lecture with Lauren Leve: Globalizing Vipassana: Buddhism and the Secular in the Goenka Meditation Movement | 22 |
| March 11-15, 2019 | Workshop on Buddhist Kavya with Yuko Yukochi, Public Lecture “The Kapphinābhyudaya in its historical background” | 17 |
| March 13, 2019 | Lecture: Dr. Vanessa Sasson on “Writing a Buddhist Lovestory” | 18 |
| March 15, 2019 | Matthew King Book Launch and Lecture: <i>Ocean of Milk, Ocean of Blood: A Mongolian Monk in the Ruins of the Qing Empire</i> | 37 |
| April 8-27, 2019 | Nepali and Newar Language Workshop with Laxmi Nath Shrestha | 9 |
| April 12-13, 2019 | Conference: “Tibetan Cultural Renaissance in the PRC” (Anup Grewal, UTSC) | 45 |
| April 12, 2019 | Kerry Brown, “In the Presence of the Divine: Identity and Meaning in Newar Buddhist Art” | 20 |

2019-20

| Date | Event, program, or activity | Participants |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Summer 2019 | Undergraduate course, “Critical Perspectives in Global Buddhism” | 7 |
| June 18, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of community workshop, “Growing Where We Are: Sharing Histories & Futures of Urban Agriculture” | 47 |
| July 29 – August 2, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of Jainism Summer School | 14 |
| August 5-9, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of research workshop, “Reading Gupta Epigraphy” | 19 |
| September 19, 2019 | Hosted Academic Podcasting Working Group Lunch | 22 |
| October 2-4, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of the 5th Biennial Graduate Conference on South Asian Religions | 38 |
| October 15, 2019 | Hosted public lecture, “Getting Mindfulness Right: Promises, Pitfalls, and Potential of the Secular Mindfulness Movement” | 30 |
| October 19, 2019 | Hosted Academic Podcasting Working Group Lunch | 25 |
| October 23- November 1, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of “Tamil Buddhist Literature Workshop: The Maṇimēkalai” | 79 |
| October 28- November 1, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of “Workshop on Buddhist Lexicography and Grammar” | 49 |
| October 30, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of public lecture, “Reading Buddhist Texts” | |
| October 31, 2019 | Hosted workshop, “How to Talk to Students about Mental Health” | 8 |
| November 1, 2019 | Co-sponsorship of public lecture, “The Personal Library of a European Polymath: The Gros Collection” | 30 |
| November 12, 2019 | Hosted Academic Podcasting Working Group Lunch | 30 |
| November 12, 2019 | Hosted public lecture, “Thinking with the Body: Buddhist Perspectives on Embodiment” | 30 |

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| November 15, 2019 | Hosted Buddhist Studies Fall Writing Retreat | 12 |
| December 2, 2019 | Buddhist Studies Donor Appreciation Reception | 20 |
| December 3, 2019 | Hosted Academic Podcasting Working Group Lunch | 20 |
| Winter 2020 | Undergraduate course, “Global Buddhism in Historical and Contemporary Societies” | 11 |
| February 20, 2020 | Co-sponsorship of the research lecture, “Tibetan Studies Librarianship and Resources: An Update” | 30 |
| February 21-23, 2020 | Hosted conference, “New Paths in Teaching Buddhist Studies” | 50 |
| February 21, 2020 | Hosted public lecture, “#CiteWomen in the Classroom: How Publishing Practices Shape our Teaching” | 25 |
| February 22, 2020 | Hosted public lecture, “Did the Buddha Teach Sexual Consent?: Emergent Ethics after Abuse Allegations in an American Insight Organization” | 60 |
| February 26, 2020 | Hosted research lecture, “Religion, Medicine, Bioethics, and the Law in End-of-life Care” | 10 |
| February 2020 | Launched academic podcast, “The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Education” | |
| | Live events scheduled after this were canceled due to COVID-19 closures | |
| April 9, 2020 | Hosted support conversation, “Navigating COVID-19” | 5 |
| April 2020 | Online Teaching Resource Fellowship project launched in response to COVID-19 crisis | 8 |
| April 2020 | Community Art and Fiction Writing Projects launched in response to COVID-19 crisis | 35 |

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