

XVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies

June 23 to June 29, 2008

**Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia USA**

First Circular: June 2006

General Information

This is the first circular for the XVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, to be held at Emory University in Atlanta from June 23-29, 2008.

This circular is being sent to all those who were IABS members in 2005 and 2006. Its primary purpose is to provide basic information about the conference. A secondary purpose is to gauge potential interest in the conference. To this end, those interested in attending the conference are asked to fill out the "mailings request form" and return it as soon as possible. Please feel free also to circulate this information among your colleagues and research students. Invitations will be sent to any scholar who writes to us directly.

Academic Program

The conference will be organized in morning and afternoon sessions. At each session, there will be five or six sections running simultaneously. Each section will accommodate five or six papers, and each paper will be a maximum of 25 minutes in length (with 5 minutes allowed for discussion).

The sections will be organized in one of two ways. On the one hand, some sections will consist of panels organized by a convener around a particular theme. In these cases, the convener is responsible for the thematic unity and scholarly content of the panel. On the other hand, some sections will consist of individual papers that have been grouped together under more general themes by the conference planning committee. In these cases, the planning committee will designate one presenter to act as the convener for the purposes of introducing speakers, keeping track of time and so on.

To ensure the most productive and engaging scholarly exchange possible, the planning committee will give preference to panels that have been organized by a convener over sections made up of individually submitted papers. To help create more thematic unity in the sections comprised of individually submitted papers, the planning committee will suggest a number of general themes in the second circular (scheduled for distribution in March, 2007). Those wishing to present a paper at the conference are strongly urged to collaborate with colleagues on a panel proposal or at least to submit a paper proposal that falls under one of the general themes identified in the second circular.

Call for Initial Panel Proposals

In keeping with the academic program just discussed, the conference planning committee at this time invites scholars from all areas of Buddhist Studies to submit initial panel proposals. An initial panel proposal is submitted by the proposed convener, and consists of a short (200 word) description of the theme of the panel, along with a list of probable or potential participants. A full list of all participants is not required. Accepted initial panel proposals will be announced in the second circular, and those interested in contributing a paper to one of the accepted panels may contact the convener to see if there is room on the panel. The initial panel proposals should be sent to Dr. Sara McClintock, IABS Conference Planning Committee Chair, Department of Religion, Emory University, S214 Callaway Center, 537 Kilgo Circle, Atlanta, GA, 30322, USA. The deadline for the initial panel proposal is January 31, 2007.

Individual Paper Proposals

Individual paper proposals are not being accepted at this time. A call for such proposals will appear in the second conference circular, at which time the accepted initial panel proposals and a list of general themes for the individual papers will also be announced.

Visa Requirements

Visa requirements vary according to the nationality of the visitor. Please check with your travel agent or the consular officials of the United States of America in your country for up-to-date information.

Accommodation

Affordable, comfortable accommodations will be available in the residence halls of Emory University. Accommodations will also be available at two hotels within walking distance of the conference. Details will appear in the second circular.

Conference/Travel Grants

The planning committee regrets that it cannot provide travel or conference grants for the conference. The committee is working to offer the lowest possible registration and accommodation fees. These will be announced in the second circular.

IABS Membership Status

All conference participants must be current subscribing IABS members in the year of the conference. To join the International Association of Buddhist Studies, please follow the instructions found on the IABS website at www.iabsinfo.org.

Website

The latest information and news about the conference may be found at: www.religion.emory.edu/iabs2008/

Officers of the Conference Planning Committee

President: Dr. Robert A. Paul
Chair: Dr. Sara McClintock
Convener: Dr. John Dunne
Members: Dr. Tara Doyle
Dr. Eric Reinders
Dr. Geshe Lobsang Tenzin
Advisory Board: Dr. Paul Courtright
Dr. Bobbi Patterson
Dr. Laurie Patton

Correspondence

Dr. Sara McClintock
IABS Conference Planning Committee Chair
Department of Religion, Emory University
S214 Callaway Center
537 Kilgo Circle
Atlanta, GA 30322 USA
+1 404 727 7526
slmccli@emory.edu

Cut here.

Mailings Request Form
XVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies
Emory University, June 23-29, 2008

Please return this form by January 31, 2007 to receive further announcements about the conference.

Title: _____

First Name: _____

Family Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

- I prefer to receive further information (**circle one**): electronically / in paper format
- I am a current IABS member (**circle one**): yes / no
- I anticipate submitting a paper or panel proposal (**circle one**): yes / no