



## Approaches and Methods in Buddhist Studies

In many ways the last two decades mark different epoch in Buddhist Studies: scholars departed from some traditional concerns ("original teaching," "truth"), severely criticised biases connected with the text-critical, once accepted as "approved" method, distanced from the presuppositions of some other common approaches. One consequence of this criticism is the challenge on scholars to reflect critically on their own projects, approaches and methods, to confront their own biases and preconceptions, to re-examine what are they doing when doing Buddhology, how and why. The first part of this paper will provide an overview of the main aspects of this criticism, particularly emphasizing and illuminating the reasons behind it. Next, the focus will shift towards the new approaches and methods that emerged in responses to the criticisms, examining the works of Donald Lopez, Luis Gomez, Stanley Tambiah, Charles Hallisey, Malcolm Eckel, Paul Griffiths and others. Attempting to go a step further, the final part will provide a preliminary study on several issues considered here as most interesting and potent for future research.