

Participants are invited for a panel on "Buddhism, modernity and spirituality" for which provisional details are given below.

IAHR Congress 2015 draft panel proposal. (The proposal has not yet been submitted to the organizers and its viability depends on further responses received.)

Buddhism as a religion succeeded in weathering the turn into modernity with remarkable success over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. Various results of modern historical and textual scholarship were digested. Buddhist institutions have survived wars and various internal conflicts in the countries of East Asia. Today, temples and other Buddhist centres both old and new are attracting visitors and residents, lay and ordained, in considerable numbers. At the same, while "modernity" is often seen as giving way to "post-modernity", the institutional influence of "religion" is widely thought to have been receding. This trend, though not uniform, has been accompanied by a widening space for non-institutional "spirituality" (Helve and Pye 2003). Yet the idea of "spiritual culture" in Buddhism has long been associated with names such as Kiyozawa Manshi and Suzuki Daisetsu in modern Japan, while relations between Buddhist spirituality and the secular have also been complex over a wider field (McMahan 2012). The relations between the current institutional forms of Buddhism and the wider culture of "spirituality" are therefore worthy of further examination, and the panel will address this complex of questions as it arises in various countries. The editors of *The Eastern Buddhist*, who are organizing this panel, will be considering the possibility of publishing suitable papers as a part of a thematic issue fairly soon after the congress.

References:

Helve, Helena and Pye, Michael 2003. "Theoretical correlations between world-view, civil religion, institutional religion and informal spiritualities" in *Temenos* 37-38 (issues for 2001-2002), 87-106.

McMahan, David L 2012. "The Enchanted Secular: Buddhism and the Emergence of Transtraditional 'Spirituality' " in: *The Eastern Buddhist*, 43 1/2, 205-223.

Panel organizers: Michael Conway (Kyoto), Michael Pye (Marburg/Kyoto)

Please send enquiries or paper proposals, by the end of July, to one or (preferably) both of the organizers at:

<conway@res.otani.ac.jp> and <pye@staff.uni-marburg.de>.