

Tony Scott, PhD

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EDUCATION

- 2023 Ph.D., Religious Studies
Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Collaborative Ph.D. Specialization in South Asia Studies,
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

Dissertation Title: “The Politics of Pali Commentary: Canon-making, Monastic Reform,
and Religious Revival in the Mingun Jetavana Sayadaw’s *Milindapañhā-aṭṭhakathā*”
- 2012 M.A., Buddhist Studies (Distinction)
Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong
- 2009 B.A. (First Class Honours)
Department of Philosophy, University of Calgary
- 2009 B.A. (Distinction)
Department of English, University of Calgary

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-2026 Current Affiliation: Japan Foundation-Global Japan Studies Fellow
Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo

Project Title: *The Promise of a Postcolonial Future: Transnational Buddhist Solidarities and the Deimperialization of Cold War Asia*
- 2022-2024 Faculty of Arts & Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship
Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

Project Title: *The Buddhist Battlefield for the Future of Burma: Political Struggle and Religious Ideology in the Cold War*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026 “Disciplining the Postcolonial Subject: *The Future of the Sāsana* on the Eve of Burmese Independence.” *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy* 10: In press.
- 2023 “The Embodiment of Buddhist History: Interpretive Methods and Models of *Sāsana* Decline in Burmese Debates About Female Higher Ordination.” *Religions* 14 (1): 31.

Articles in Submission

“Towards a Manifesto for Buddhist Studies on the Cold War: Class Struggle in the Field of Theory.” *Journal of Global Buddhism*. Under review.

Articles in Preparation

“Buddhist Internationalism.” In *The Bloomsbury Handbook on Histories of Internationalism*, edited by Su Lin Lewis, Jessica Reinisch, and David Brydan. Under contract.

“Standing Reserves of Energy: Glacial-fed Rivers, Dinosaur Fossils, and the Alienation of the Land in the Photography of Joseph Burr Tyrrell.” Manuscript drafted.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Kate Crosby. *Esoteric Theravada: The Story of the Forgotten Meditation Tradition of Southeast Asia*. Boulder, Colorado: Shambhala Publications, 2020, 320 pp. ISBN 978-1-61180-794-3. *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* Number 16 August (2021): 188-198.
- 2015 Erik Braun. *The Birth of Insight: Meditation, Modern Buddhism, and the Burmese Monk Ledi Sayadaw*. The University of Chicago Press. 2013. 257pp. ISBN-13: 978-0-226-00080-0. *Buddhist Studies Review* Vol. 32 no. 1 (2015): 175-176.

Indexes

- 2016 *Vimalakīrti-nirdeśa: Word Index*. Chuo Academic Research Institute, Tokyo, 2016. (Philosophica Asiatica Monograph Series 3: ISSN 2188-3289). 89 pages. S. Kasamatsu, J. Ozono, T. Nishi, T. Scott, and Y. Ousaka.

Web-based Publications

- 2026 “What is Old is New Again: Buddhist Pigments and Brushstrokes in the Amarapūra Mahāgandhāyon’s Political Programme.” March 15th. *Tea Circle: A Forum for New Perspectives on Burma/Myanmar*.
- 2020 “New Open Access Database of Myanmar Manuscripts and Textual Artefacts at the University of Toronto.” April 1st. *Tea Circle: A Forum for New Perspectives on Burma/Myanmar*.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021-2022 Senior Doctoral Fellowship in Buddhism, Psychology, and Mental Health
New College, University of Toronto, \$1,500 CAD
- 2019-2020 Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai Fellowship for Foreign Scholars
University of Tokyo, ¥3,600,000 JPY
- 2019-2020 Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai 2019 Canada Graduate Scholarship (Declined)
University of Tokyo, ¥3,600,000 JPY
- 2018-2019 American Council of Learned Societies-Robert H.N Ho Family Foundation
Program in Buddhist Studies Dissertation Fellowship, \$30,000 USD
- 2017- 2018 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award
\$35,000 CAD
- 2015-2017 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship
\$40,000 CAD

AWARDS & HONOURS

- 2025-2026 Khyentse Foundation Asoka Grant, \$4,000 USD
Project Title: Translation of the Burmese Biography of Meditation Masters:
Arahants and Saintly People (1973)
- 2022-2023 Khyentse Foundation Translation Studies Scholarship, \$3,300 USD
- 2021 The Man Family Graduate Scholarships in Asian Studies
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto
\$1,300 CAD
- 2021 Sandhya and Riten Ray Award in Indian Philosophy and Religion
Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto, \$900 CAD
- 2020-2021 Khyentse Foundation PhD Program and Research Scholarship, \$4,000 USD
- 2015-2016 Winner, Graduate Student Essay Contest, Canadian Society for the Study of
Religion-Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion
Essay Title: “Bibles in the Badlands: Colonial Dinosaur Discoveries in the
Making of Canadian Origin Myths”
- 2015-2016 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 10,000 CAD
- 2012 Khyentse Foundation Award for Excellence in Buddhist Studies
University of Hong Kong, \$1,000 USD
- 2012 Master Shing Yi Award for Excellence in Buddhist Studies
University of Hong Kong, \$1,000 USD
- 2011-2012 Tung Lin Kok Yuen Postgraduate Scholarship in Buddhist Studies
University of Hong Kong, \$12,000 USD

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “*Peṭakopadesa-aṭṭhakathā*: The Theory and Practice of Modern Pali Commentary”
College of Religious Studies Seminar on Contemporary Religious Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand, January 14th
- 2024 “Buddhism and the Cold War in Asia: A Burmese Case Study and (Un)Disciplinary Reflections”
Center for Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Colloquium Seminar Series, Northern Illinois University, U.S.A., November 22nd
- 2024 “The Metaphysics of Emancipation: Buddhism and the Cold War in Asia”
Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Calcutta, India, October 28th
- 2021 “The *Milindapañha* and the Fifth and Sixth Councils in Myanmar”
After the Rains: Theravada Studies Talks
Transnational Network of Theravada Studies, Shan State Buddhist University and King’s College London, July 16th
- 2020 “The *Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā*: Higher Forms of Knowledge, Monastic Reform, and the Practice of Insight”
Shan State Buddhist University, Myanmar, January 28th

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Papers (Fully Funded)

- 2024 “A Reading of the *Peṭakopadesa-aṭṭhakathā*”
The Spectrum and Possibilities of Aṭṭhakathā: A Reading Workshop, Amherst College, U.S.A. July 27th-29th
- 2023 “The Right Robe at the Wrong Time: Debates about *Kaṭhina* and the Role of Commentary in the Monastic Courts System of Post-colonial Burma”
Third International Conference on Buddhism and Law, SUNY-Buffalo, U.S.A. September 29th-30th
- 2023 “Disciplining the Postcolonial Subject: The *Future of the Sāsana* at the Dawn of Burmese Independence”
Plural Pasts for Collective Futures in Burma/Myanmar, York University, Toronto, August 27th-28th
- 2022 “Opening Up Enlightenment and the Reintroduction of Female Ordination in Twentieth-century Burma/Myanmar”
Workshop on Gender Asymmetry in the Different Buddhist Traditions Through the Prism of Nuns’ Ordination and Education, University of Perugia, Italy. May 16th-17th
- 2022 “Exposing Enlightenment: The ‘Living Arahant’ in Photography and Print in Post-colonial Burma”
Discussion Series on Burma Past and Present: Religion, Ethnicity and Power, York University, Canada. March 1st
- 2009 “Ontology of the Fossil Species: The Existential Dimensions of Ancient Organisms”

Vertebrate Palaeontology Workshop at Dinosaur Provincial Park, Dinosaur Provincial Park, Canada. June 10th

Papers Presented (Selected by Committee)

- 2026 “Buddhist Internationalism and the World Peace Pagoda: North-South Buddhist Exchange Between Japan and Burma in the Cold War”
Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Denver, U.S.A., November 21st-24th
- 2026 “Contradictions and Centrifugal Forces in Buddhist Diplomacy: Radical Buddhist Internationalism in the Cold War”
Asian-Global Networks and Relationships in the Modern Spread of Buddhism
Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford, U.K., June 30th-July 1st
- 2026 “Buddhist Heritage Diplomacy between Japan and Burma: Mutual Understanding and Misconceptions”
Asian Studies Conference Japan, Sophia University, July 4th-5th
- 2025 “Buddhist Heritage Diplomacy between Japan and Myanmar in the Cold War”
Japan Studies Association-ASEAN Conference, National University of Laos, Vientiane, Laos, December 11th-12th
- 2025 “Recovering Fallen Soldiers, Finding True Religion: Buddhist Heritage Diplomacy between Japan and Burma in the Sixth Council, 1954-1956”
16th International Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, October 10th-12th
- 2025 “*Peṭakopadesa-aṭṭhakathā*: The Theory and Practice of Modern Pali Commentary”
XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Leipzig, Germany, August 10th-15th
- 2025 “The Metaphysics of Emancipation: *Future of the Affairs of the Sāsana* in Burma”
Buddhism and the Cold War Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 27th-29th
- 2025 “The Metaphysics of Emancipation: Future of the Sāsana on the Eve of Burmese Independence”
Japan Burma Studies Conference, Ehime University, Japan, May 17th-18th
- 2024 “Exposing Enlightenment: The 'Living Arahant' in Photography and Print in Post-colonial Burma”
Annual Meeting, Association of Asian Studies, Seattle, Washington, March 14th-17th
- 2023 “Disciplining the Postcolonial Subject: The *Future of the Sāsana* at the Dawn of Burmese Independence”
Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, U.S.A., November 18th-21st
- 2023 “The Middle Path and the Third Way: Burma, Buddhism, and the Cold War in the Mahāgandhāyon Sayadaw’s *Future of the Sāsana*”

- Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, Université Laval, Canada.
October 12th-14th
- 2023 “The Power of Practice: Knowing the Past, Knowing the Future in Debates about Female Ordination in Burma”
15th International Burma Studies Conference, University of Zürich, June 9th-11th
- 2023 “Standing Reserves of Energy: Glacial-fed Rivers, Dinosaur Fossils, and the Alienation of the Land in the Photography of Joseph Burr Tyrrell”
Annual Meeting, Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, Queen’s University, Canada, May 5th-7th
- 2022 “A Mid-twentieth-century *Aṭṭhakathā* Commentary on the *Milindapañha*: Sealing the Pali Canon in Post-colonial Burma”
XIXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Seoul National University, South Korea, August 14th-19th
- 2022 “The Optics of Enlightenment: Capturing Nirvana in Twentieth-century Southeast Asia”
Theravada Studies Group Annual Meeting (Association of Asian Studies), Honolulu, U.S.A. March 26th
- 2021 “Higher Forms of Commentary and Reverse Prolepsis in the *Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā*”
Asian Philosophical Texts Conference, Kanda University of International Studies, Japan, November 13th-14th
- 2021 “The Optics of Enlightenment: Capturing Nirvana in Twentieth-century Southeast Asia”
4th Annual Digital Humanities Conference, University of Toronto, October 21st-22nd
- 2018 “The *Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā*: *Vipassanā* Meditation, Psychic Powers, and Pali Commentary in Mid-Twentieth-Century Burma”
Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Denver, U.S.A., November 24th-26th
- 2018 “*Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā*: Non-Normative Pali, Psychic Powers, and Control of the Canon in Twentieth-Century Burma”
The Theravāda Civilizations Conference: Emerging Themes in Theravāda Studies Meeting-in-Conjunction: Annual Meeting, Association of Asian Studies, Washington D.C., U.S.A., March 22nd
- 2017 “Buddhist Commentary, Discourses of Modernity, and the Political in Post/Colonial Burma: The *Milindapañha-aṭṭhakathā* of Mingun Zetawun Sayadaw”
XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, Canada, August 20th-25th
- 2017 “Bibles in the Badlands: Colonial Dinosaur Discoveries and the Making of Canada”
Canadian Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Toronto Metropolitan University (f. Ryerson University), Canada, May 29th
- 2015 “Bibles in the Badlands: Nineteenth Century Dinosaur Discoveries and the Canadian Museum of Nature”
Symposium Title: Recollecting the Nineteenth Century Museum, Toronto Metropolitan University (f. Ryerson University), Canada, May 15th

Campus Talks

- 2024 “Buddhist Political Thought and Nation (Re)Building in Post-colonial Burma: The Case of the *Future of the Affairs of the Sasana*, 1948”
De-parochializing Political Theory Seminar Series
University of Toronto, Canada, April 5th
- 2023 “Exposing Enlightenment: The 'Living Arahant' in Photography and Print in Post-colonial Burma”
Pathbreakers: New Postdoctoral Research on South Asia at U of T
University of Toronto, Canada, January 13th

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
University of Toronto

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| Teaching Award Historical Studies Teaching Award (Sessional) Department of Historical Studies | 2023-2024 |
| Graduate Supervision Major Research Paper Master’s Specialization in Contemporary East and Southeast Asian Studies | Winter 2023 |
| Asian Institute Course Instructorship (Graduate Level) Issues in Contemporary East and Southeast Asian Studies | Fall 2022; Fall 2023 |
| Religion Course Instructorship Buddhist Literatures Histories of Buddhist Meditation | Winter 2024 Winter 2022 |
| Religion Teaching Fellowship Introduction to Buddhism | Fall 2021 |
| Philosophy Teaching Assistantships Introduction to South Asian Philosophy | Fall 2020 |
| Religion Teaching Assistantships Introduction to Indigenous Traditions Meditation and Mindfulness Introduction to the Study of Religion Religions of the Silk Road Reading Pali Introduction to Hinduism Introduction to Buddhism | Winter 2021 Winter 2021 Fall 2020, Fall 2017 Fall 2019 Fall-Winter 2018; Fall-2019 Fall 2018 Fall 2016 |

Material Religion
World Religions

Fall 2015
Fall 2015, Fall 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019 Manuscript Cataloguing
Fragile Palm Leaves Foundation and the Buddhist Digital Resource Center
British Library
- 2017 Manuscript Digitisation
Pali Text Society, Digitisation of Myanmar Texts Project
Thar Lay Monastery, Inle Lake, Myanmar

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Conferences Organized

- 2026 Japan Foundation Annual Fellows Conference
University of Tokyo, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, July 28th-29th
Participants: ca. 120
- 2017 XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies
University of Toronto, August 20th-25th
Speakers: ca. 400; Attendees: ca. 500
Convener: Christoph Emmrich

Panels Organized

- 2026 *Buddhist Futures: Reform, Rectification, Utopia*
Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Denver, U.S.A., November 21st-24th
- 2026 *Modern Burmese Buddhism in Context: Psychic Powers, Political Activism, and Heritage Diplomacy*
Asian Studies Conference Japan, Sophia University, Japan, July 4th-5th
- 2025 *Pali in the Second Millennium: Southeast Asia*
XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany, August 10th-15th
- 2025 *Buddhism and Nationalism in Twentieth-century Myanmar: Revolutionary, Reactionary, Emancipatory?*
2025 Japan Burma Studies Conference, Ehime University, Japan, May 17th-18th
- 2024 *Looking Beyond the Logos: Theravada Visual Culture in Southeast Asia*
Annual Meeting, Association of Asian Studies, Seattle, U.S.A., March 14th-17th
- 2023 *Buddhist Governmentality: (Re)Theorizing the State, Sangha, and Individual*
Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, U.S.A., November 18th-21st

- 2023 *Dynamics of Buddhist Meditation in Myanmar and Abroad*
15th International Burma Studies Conference, University of Zürich, Switzerland, June 9th-11th
- 2022 *Questioning the Milindapañha, the *Nāgasena Bhikṣu Sūtra*
XIXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Seoul National University, South Korea, August 14th-19th

Roles as Discussant

- 2026 “Silent Strikes as Tactical Innovations in Post-Coup Myanmar”
Renaud EgretEAU, Associate Professor, City University of Hong Kong
Kyoto Center for Southeast Asian Studies Colloquium Series 2026
Kyoto University, Japan, April 24th
- 2026 “The Development of Buddhist Social Welfare in Contemporary Myanmar: The Potential and Reality of Indigenous ‘Associations’”
Ryosuke Kuramoto, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo
Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series in Buddhism
University of Tokyo, Japan, March 16th

Workshops Attended

- 2026 *ARI-LUCE Southeast Asian Studies Collaboratory: Next Generation Scholars*
Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, June 14th-27th
- 2023 *Global Racisms, Cold War Humanism, and the Imagination of Just Futures*
Global Humanities Institute, Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes Workshop
Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, India, December 11th-22nd

Service Roles

- 2023-Present Co-Editor
Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies
- 2025 Guest editor, Special Issue for Buddhist Pedagogy in Canada
Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies
- 2021-2022 Ph.D. Committee Member
Antiracism, Decolonization, and Equity Committee, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
- 2019-2025 Outreach and Project Liaison
Myanmar Manuscripts Digital Library, Robarts Library, University of Toronto
- 2016-2024 Departmental Steward in Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3902

NON-ACADEMIC WORK

- 2003-2011 Science Educator (Seasonal)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology
Drumheller, AB, Canada

LANGUAGES

Pali

Reading: Expert

Sanskrit

Reading: Expert

Burmese

Reading: Expert

Speaking: Intermediate

Japanese

Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level N4

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

2015-2025 Sponsoring Member, Pali Text Society
2017-Present International Association of Buddhist Studies
2017-Present Association of Asian Studies
2018-Present American Academy of Religion
