

Symposium at Princeton University
Friday and Saturday, 22–23 April 2022

Connecting Dunhuang: Sites, Art, and Ideas along the Silk Road(s)

Strategically located on the edge of the Taklamakan desert in northwestern China, at the convergence of the ancient northern and southern trade routes (popularly known as the Silk Road), Dunhuang has long captivated explorers, Sinologists, and art historians, among many others. The Mogao Caves, the largest Buddhist cave complex in the area, with nearly 500 cave temples filled with murals and sculpture, have inspired and will continue to inspire scholarship on an inexhaustible range of topics. From the 4th to the 14th century, the Mogao Caves, often simply referred to as “Dunhuang,” served as a center for Buddhism and a gateway for the movement of people, ideas, and goods between China and Central Asia. This symposium takes Dunhuang as a point of departure to explore other regions, artistic production, and ideas along the Silk Road.

Organized by the P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art and cosponsored by the Princeton University Art Museum, the Department of Art and Archaeology, the East Asian Studies Program, and the Buddhist Studies Workshop

Friday, 22 April 2022

McCosh 50, Helm Auditorium
Princeton University

Registration

3:45–4:15 pm

Welcome

4:30

Andrew M. Watsky
Princeton University

Remarks

James Steward
Princeton University Art Museum

Keynote Lecture

Valerie Hansen
Yale University

Cave 17 at Dunhuang, or Stein's Library Cave: Reconstructing Silk Road Society

Temporary address during
construction work on
McCormick Hall:

Tang Center for East Asian Art
Department of Art & Archaeology
3-S-2 Green Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

tel: (609) 258-3795
fax: (609) 258-0103
email: tangctr@princeton.edu
web: tang.princeton.edu



Saturday, 23 April 2023

McCosh 50, Helm Auditorium

Princeton University

Registration

8:00–9:15 am

Morning Session

9:30 am –12:45 pm

[Welcome](#)

Dora C.Y. Ching

Princeton University

[Remarks](#)

Cary Y. Liu

Princeton University Art Museum

Wu Hung

University of Chicago

Spatial Dunhuang: Experiencing the Mogao Caves

Michelle C. Wang

Georgetown University

Photography, Architectural Ruins, and the Silk Road Imaginaire

Michelle McCoy

University of Pittsburgh

Eclipse Spirits in Dunhuang Visual Culture

Amanda Goodman

University of Toronto

Displays of Devotion: The Creative Reuse of Buddhist Illustrated Prints at Dunhuang

Yu-ping Luk

The British Museum

Women along the Silk Roads: Traces from Dunhuang

[Discussion](#)

Afternoon Session

2:15 –5:30 pm

Welcome

Zoe S. Kwok
Princeton University Art Museum

Karl Debreczeny
Rubin Museum of Art
From Desert Cave to Imperial Court: Art, Politics, and Tibetan Buddhism on the Silk Road and Beyond

Brandon Dotson
Georgetown University
Dice and Divination Books from Dunhuang to Kucha and Beyond

Erika Forte
Kyoto University
Depictions of Auspicious Statues: Khotan-Dunhuang Aller-retour

Valérie Zaleski
Musée Guimet
Dunhuang and Bamiyan: Exploring Connections in Iconographic Programs across Central and South Asian Buddhist Complexes

Bryan Lowe
Princeton University
Following the Paper Trail along the Silk Road: East Asian Buddhism as Shared Manuscript Cultures

Discussion

Closing Remarks

Stephen F. Teiser
Princeton University

*Program subject to change