

# BUDDHIST STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

## PROFESSOR KAREN LANG

UBEF VISITING PROFESSOR OF BUDDHIST STUDIES 2011



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

Karen Lang is Professor of Indian Religions in the Department of Religious Studies and two-time Director of the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Virginia. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism and reading courses in Sanskrit, Pāli and Tibetan languages. Her publications include *Four Illusions: Candrakīrti's Advice on the Bodhisattva Path* and *Āryadeva's Catuḥśataka: On the Bodhisattva's Cultivation of Merit and Knowledge*, as well as numerous articles on Buddhist philosophy and literature. She has been a member of the translation team that produced the first English translation of Tsongkhapa's *The Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment*. Her primary research and translation interests focus on the work of the seventh-century Indian Buddhist philosopher, Candrakīrti. She is currently completing a book-length study and translation of chapters 5-8 of Candrakīrti's *Bodhisattvayogaścāracatuḥśataka aṅkā* (commentary on Āryadeva's 400 verses on the Bodhisattva's practice) titled *Seeing Through Illusions: Candrakīrti's Advice on the Bodhisattva's Practice of Yoga*.



### SYDNEY IDEAS LECTURE

#### THE BUDDHA'S MIDDLE WAY: IN DEFENCE OF FINE CLOTHES, GOOD FOOD AND BEAUTIFUL MONASTERIES

Tuesday 11 October, 6.00-7.30pm  
Law School Foyer  
Eastern Avenue, The University of Sydney

Free entry. For full details and map:  
[sydney.edu.au/sydney\\_ideas/lectures/2011/professor\\_karen\\_lang.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2011/professor_karen_lang.shtml)

The Buddha advocated a middle path between the extremes of luxurious living and harsh asceticism. But critics of his disciples' lifestyle accuse them of living too well: clothing themselves in fine robes, enjoying the pleasures of beautiful monasteries, and relishing the taste of meat. In this talk, Professor Lang will examine certain narratives from Buddhist and Jain texts that compare the comfort of Buddhist monks with the austerity practiced by Jains and other ascetic groups, in the process raising some questions about the Buddhist defense of moderation and the institutional power politics that might have shaped the debate.

## FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES

### LIVING THE BUDDHIST LIFE: THINKING BEYOND DOCTRINE

This series of eight lectures takes place in Room 114 of the Mackie Building (Arundel Street, Forest Lodge).

**Full details:**

[sydney.edu.au/arts/indian/about/news\\_events.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/indian/about/news_events.shtml)

16 September 10:30-12 noon

**The Buddha's Daughters: Stories and Songs of the Buddha's Female Disciples**

23 September 10:30-12 noon

**Feminine Images of Compassion and Wisdom in the Mahāyāna**

7 October 10:30-12 noon

**Yoginīs, Ḍākinīs, and the Balance of Power in Tantra**

14 October 10:30-12 noon

**Asceticism and its Buddhist critics**

21 October 10:30-12 noon

**Buddhist Morality Tales: Jātaka and Avadāna Stories and the Bodhisattva's Path**

28 October 10:30-12 noon

**Are All Emotions Painful?: The Buddhist Treatment of Disgust and other Moral Emotions**

4 November 10:30-12 noon

**The Skilful Use of Faith and Doubt on the Gradual Path to Buddhahood**

11 November 11:30-1:00pm (note changed time)

**The Limits of Language and Metaphorical Mappings of Nirvāṇa**



### UBEF VISITING PROFESSOR OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Karen Lang is the third holder of the University Buddhist Education Foundation (UBEF) Visiting Professorship in Buddhist Studies. This Professorship was established at the University of Sydney in 2009 through the generosity of the UBEF [www.buddhistfoundation.org](http://www.buddhistfoundation.org) for the purpose of sponsoring an extended visit to Sydney of a distinguished international scholar in any field of Buddhist Studies in order to expose students and academics to current trends in research and to raise the profile of Buddhist Studies in Australia. It is administered by the Department of Indian Sub-continental Studies in the School of Languages and Cultures.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Dr Andrew McGarrity

T +61 2 9351 6768

E [andrew.mcgarrity@sydney.edu.au](mailto:andrew.mcgarrity@sydney.edu.au)  
[sydney.edu.au/arts/indian](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/indian)