

## The Eastern Buddhist Society Lecture Series

Sacred Works (*Shōgyō* 聖教): Scriptural Traditions, Ritual Repertoires, and Networks in the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism

Date and Time: Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 18:00~19:30 (JST)

Place: Multimedia Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Kōrukan, Otani University

Online via Zoom Webinar

Speaker: Professor Brian Ruppert

(Department of Cross-Cultural Studies, Kanagawa University)

Abstract:

What was scripture to the Buddhists of medieval Japan? This paper explores a novel form of scripture that emerged in monastic cloisters (*inge* 院家) and semi-independent *bessho* 別所. Distinct from canonical Buddhist texts (*issaikyō* 一切經), these scriptures were specific to Dharma lineages yet often transcended school boundaries. The esoteric Shingon school played a pivotal role, with centers at Ninnaji, Daigoji, Kajūji, and Mount Kōya, among others, producing innovative rituals and texts. Figures like Shinkaku, Kōzen, and Kakuzen advanced new rites such as the Turning the Wheel (*tenpōrin hō* 轉法輪法) subjugation and the Wooden Tree Empowerment (*misogi kaji* 御衣木加持), integrating divine powers to enhance ritual efficacy; and, instructions and related commentary were transmitted in excerpt-notes (*shō* 抄) and protocols (*sahō* 作法), typically in *orikami* 折紙 or butterfly-binding (*detchōsō* 粘葉装) form. Finally, epistolary writing became a significant genre of sacred works, paralleling scriptural traditions in other religious contexts, particularly within Kamakura period “new” schools.

Notes: The Lecture will be in English.

URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84915556973?pwd=M7SAxY5YMcHBOWCJD038cw0d2dVpHb.1>  
(Passcode: 857758)



Video Webinar QR Code

### About the EBS

The Eastern Buddhist Society (EBS) was founded by D. T. Suzuki, Beatrice Lane Suzuki, Sasaki Gesshō, Akanuma Chizen, and Yamabe Shūgaku, with the main purpose of communicating the meaning and significance of Buddhism to the West. Since its founding, the Society has published an English-language journal, *The Eastern Buddhist*.

