

Workshop on *Tannishō* Commentarial Materials

Fifteenth Meeting

Hosted by Otani University

June 27-29, 2025

The Shin Buddhist Comprehensive Research Institute at Otani University, together with the Centers for Japanese Studies and Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and Ryūkoku University's Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures announce the fifteenth in a series of workshops led by Mark Blum, Mitsuya Dake, and Michael Conway devoted to the critical examination of premodern studies of the *Tannishō*, a core text of the Shin school of Buddhism, and arguably the most well-read religious text in postwar Japan.

This current workshop will be held from June 27 to 29, 2025, at Otani University in Kyoto. The fourteenth workshop was held in March 2025 in Berkeley and succeeding workshops will continue to be held, with meetings planned twice a year, in March in Berkeley and in June in Kyoto, where it will be hosted alternately by Otani and Ryukoku universities. Attendance at previous workshops is not a requirement for application to this one, but those who will be able to consistently attend through the course of the project will be particularly welcome.

Organized around close readings of the some of the most influential materials produced in early modern Japan, the workshop aims at producing a critical, annotated translation detailing the salient ways in which this text has been both inspirational and controversial, as well as a series of essays analyzing a wide spectrum of voices in Japanese scholarship and preaching that have spoken on this work.

The current workshop will focus on a careful reading of Edo-period commentaries by Enchi (1662), Jukoku (1740), and Jinrei (1801). There will also be an opportunity for presentations related to the *Tannishō* and its reception in Japan.

Format: The language of instruction will be primarily English with only minimal Japanese spoken as needed, and while the texts will be in primarily in classical Japanese and modern Japanese, with some outside materials in *kanbun* and English. Separate sessions will be held for each of the three commentaries noted above where translations will be created and revised.

Dates: June 27 to 29, 2025.

Cost: There is no participation fee, but in recognition of the distance some will have to

travel to attend, a limited number of travel fellowships will be provided to qualified graduate students and early career researchers, based on preparedness, need, and commitment to the project.

Participation Requirements: Although any qualified applicant will be welcome to register, graduate students and early career researchers will be particularly welcome and the only recipients of travel fellowships. Affiliation with one of the three hosting universities is not required. We welcome the participation of graduate students outside of Japan with some reading ability in modern and classical Japanese and familiarity with Buddhist thought and culture, as well as native-speaking Japanese graduate students and non-native-speaking enrollees at Japanese institutions with a scholarly interest in Buddhism. Although we hope students will attend both meetings each year, participation in only one is acceptable.

Application Procedure: One must apply to participate in each workshop that one attends. To apply to register for the current workshop (June 27-29, 2025), send a C.V. and a short letter explaining your qualifications, motivations, and objectives to Michael Conway, (conway@res.otani.ac.jp) and the Shin Buddhist Comprehensive Research Institute (kenkyusyo@sec.otani.ac.jp) by June 6, 2025.

Requests for a travel fellowship should be included in your letter with specifics of where you will be traveling from. Applications for travel fellowships must be submitted by ~~May 7, 2025~~.

Applications are by email only.

Questions about the content of the workshop should also be directed to the above addresses.