

Bio

Regina Yoshie Matsue graduated in Anthropology from the University of Brasilia. She received her Ph.D. in International and Political Economy (Intercultural Communication) from Tsukuba University, Japan. From 2007-2008, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National University of Singapore. Currently, she is a professor at the National University of São Paulo.

Title

Shin Buddhism and Self-Cultivation

Abstract

The adaptation and settlement process of Shin Buddhism in Brasilia will be the focus of this presentation. First, I will present a historical and sociological overview of the introduction and settlement of Shin Buddhism in Brazil. Then, I will examine the specificities of the contemporary temple situation in Brasilia. In this process of allocating Shin Buddhist practices in Brasilia, some clergy members' work of innovation and articulation has been fundamentally important. Primarily, the clergy have understood the demand for self-cultivation practices coming from a larger audience and incorporated meditation in the temple practices. In this sense, I will discuss how external cultural inflows interact and negotiate with daily local actions, demanding and acquiring a distinctive connotation at the local level. Due to the mixture of local cultural elements, appropriation and transformation may emerge something new and unique in interaction with imported ones.