



Representatives Remarks



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Dear Venerable Master Zheng Yen, Ven. De Yuan and members of the Saṅgha, Dear CEO Yen Bo-Wen, Prof. Chen and Dr. He, distinguished scholars and colleagues from participating universities, and all participants of the Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series on Buddhism launch.

My name is Matthew Orsborn, and today I represent Buddhist studies at the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford University, United Kingdom. And on behalf of Oxford, I would like to express my gratitude to Venerable Master Cheng Yen and Tzu Chi for their support of Buddhist studies internationally. At Oriental Studies at Oxford we have a dedicated MPhil programme in Buddhist studies, and there are also DPhil students writing their dissertations in various topics and undergraduates taking papers, all with a focus on but not limited to Buddhist Chinese and Sanskrit language courses and classical texts. The Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series with its focus on ‘Buddhism and Contemporary Society’ will therefore be a great opportunity to develop the relationship between scholarship on Buddhist ethics, society and culture, and the lives of practicing Buddhists worldwide. It will also support graduate students in their studies, enabling them to give full attention to their work as they immerse themselves in their studies.

The Oxford round of the Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series in Buddhism will feature Dr. Anne Gleig of University of Central Florida and Dr. Joy Brennan of Kenyon College in Ohio, who will lecture on: “Whiteness is a Sankhara:” Racial Justice as Buddhist Practice. ‘While confronting whiteness is often seen as the work of progressive social justice, Buddhist practice and philosophy offer a rich framework for, and imperative to do, such work. Methodologically combining ethnographic and philosophical approaches, this paper aims to show both what con-



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temporary Buddhists have done to alleviate the suffering caused by whiteness and what resources the tradition offers for extending such work.' Dr. Gleig and Brennan will 'reflect on the responsibility of Buddhist scholars in Buddhist racial justice work.' We look forward to everyone's participation in this lecture on January 24th, 2022.

Thank you once again Venerable Master Cheng Yen and the Tzu Chi community for making this wonderful opportunity possible.

