



Representatives Remarks



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Venerable Master Cheng Yen, Venerable Master De Yuan, other Buddhist venerables,

Chief Executive Officer Mr. Yen, Tzu Chi senior volunteers,

Co-initiators Dr. Her and Dr. Chen, and colleagues of our partner universities:

I feel honored to have the opportunity to participate in the Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series on Buddhism.

Ven. Master Yin Shun is a well-known monk scholar, whose theory on Humanistic Buddhism has great impact on Chinese Buddhism. Early generations of North American scholars might have heard of the Rocky Foundation Fellowship in honor of Ven. Master Yin Shun, which used to fund graduate students in North American Buddhist studies programs. Although it's / discontinued decades ago, I'm delighted to see that the spirit of Ven. Master Yin Shun will be carried on by the Yin-Cheng Lecture Series and benefit Buddhist Studies around the world.

For more than half a century, Ven. Master Cheng Yen has been a pioneer of her time in that / she's the founder of a Buddhist school that focuses primarily on charity work. As we all know, the origin of Tzu Chi was attributed to an incident in 1966, when Ven. Master saw an indigenous Taiwanese woman's miscarriage without enough deposit in a local hospital. The Tzu Chi origin story inspired one of our PhD students to write an excellent dissertation on childbirth in Chinese Buddhism. Professors Teiser, Faure and I were lucky to be on her committee. My own recent work also studies a Buddhist god, who specializes in helping women to achieve a smooth delivery. Besides Prof. Faure's extensive works on the female in Buddhism, my predecessor Prof. Emerita Yu Chun-fang, wrote one book on Kuan Yin and the other on Taiwanese nuns. So there has been a well-established tradition at Columbia to study women in Buddhism.

Lastly, I wish to thank sincerely Ven. Master Cheng Yen, our donors from the Tzu Chi Foundation, Dr. Her and Dr. Chen, and our partner universities, for helping initiate this lecture series. My gratitude also goes to



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Vicky and Carol, for their support. At Columbia, I' d like to thank our PhD students Xiao Xiao and Alex Sogo to serve as the rapporteur. May the Yin-Cheng Distinguished Lecture Series on Buddhism be successful!

