

‘Life Requires We Take a Stance’: The Rise & Fall of a Buddhist Charity

Thursday, Jan. 22 @ 3-4:30pm : INTS 1111 CHASS Round Lab

Buddhists in Vietnam are addressing humanitarian needs by popularizing charity. Vietnam's rapid urbanization has intensified social service demands while straining public infrastructure. In response, grassroots volunteers are building roads, subsidizing medicine, and giving away food. This talk follows the rise and fall of one Buddhist charity called “The Cherished Children Fund,” between 2006 and 2021. The story of the Cherished Children Fund shows how Buddhist charities have influenced the rise of social work in Vietnam, while also exemplifying what it means to persist in care through the loss of organizations.



Prof. Sara Ann Swenson is an Assistant Professor in Religion at Dartmouth College. She researches contemporary Buddhism in Vietnam. Her book *Near Light We Shine: Buddhist Charity in Urban Vietnam* is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.



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