

EAS

East Asian Studies

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Rainbow Rider (2013, first cut)

Film Screening and Discussion
with Director: Dan Smyer Yü

Friday, February 5, 2016

12:10 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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Rainbow Rider is a collaborative production of a social scientist and a Buddhist public intellectual. It is a social scientific experiment of the director as well as a public discourse of Khenpo Sodargye – the narrator/protagonist of the documentary film and a renowned Tibetan Buddhist public intellectual in China. Set in the backdrops of Khenpo Sodargye's recent public events at prominent universities and research institutions in North America and Europe as well as of his teaching activities on his monastic campus in Sertar, Kham, currently western Sichuan Province of the PRC, this film documents Khenpo Sodargye's lectures and dialogues with social scientists on the topics of environmental health, human flourishing, the scientific understanding of the mind, and Buddhist vision of world peace. It invites audience to join the ongoing global discussions and debates on whether or not Buddhism is a science of its own.

This event is free and open to the public

Co-sponsored by Department of Religious Studies



Dr. Dan Smyer Yu is Professor and Founding Director of Center for Trans-Himalayan Studies at Yunnan Minzu University, a core member of the Transregional Research Network (CETREN) at University of Göttingen, and a Research Group Leader at Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity (on leave 2014-15). He received his doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of California, Davis in 2006, specializing in trans-regional studies of ethnic relations, religious revitalizations, Sino-Tibetan Buddhist interactions, and globalization. His recent publications include *The Spread of Tibetan Buddhism in China: Charisma, Money, Enlightenment* (monograph, Routledge 2011) and *Mindscaping the Landscape of Tibet: Place, Memorability, Eco-aesthetics* (monograph, De Gruyter 2015). His current research directions are transboundary governance of natural and human heritages, water and religious diversity, religion and peacebuilding, comparative studies of secularisms in the greater Himalayan region. A documentary filmmaker, his widely screened films include *Embrace* (50 min. Tibetan mountain culture and ecology 2011) and *Rainbow Rider* (55 min. Tibetan Buddhism in China 2013).

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