

# REL 342 Buddhist Modernism

## Professor Rongdao Lai

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Tue, Thu 11:00am-12:20pm  
VHE 206



Meditating monks having their brainwaves recorded for research on stress reduction and pain therapy. Self-help books portraying Buddhism as a way of life and an art of happiness. Militant monks instigating intolerance and violence toward religious minorities...How do we make sense of the inevitable encounter between the century-old religious tradition and modernity, and the creativity, tension and conflicts as results of that encounter?

This course explores the very complex process in the formation, circulation, and representations of Buddhist modernism. Topics covered include environmentalism, gender, nationalism, social activism, and war and peace.