

SHINSHU CENTER OF AMERICA (HIGASHI HONGANJI)

## SPECIAL ONLINE LECTURE



# *Esoteric Buddhism and Jōdo Shinshū*

**Dr. Aaron P. Proffitt**

Assistant Professor  
Japanese Studies Department of  
East Asian Studies,  
University at Albany, SUNY

## Saturday, June 12, 2021

3:00 pm (EDT), 2:00 pm (CDT),  
12:00 pm (PDT), 9:00 am (HST)

90 minutes including Q&A



Register from an online form [here](https://forms.gle/35mDZqDq7CWSi7yM7)  
(<https://forms.gle/35mDZqDq7CWSi7yM7>) to receive the  
Zoom link (limited space). You can also scan the QR code  
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Shinshu Center of America, 505 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013

### Title and Description

“Esoteric Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism”

Some scholars contend that Pure Land Buddhism emerged in medieval Japan as a rejection of Esoteric Buddhism. However, the histories of the traditions scholars have come to refer to as “Esoteric Buddhism” and “Pure Land Buddhism” are far more complicated and interconnected. In this talk, I will consider how these two traditions have been constructed in the scholarly imagination, and propose ways of thinking about the diversity of Mahayana Buddhist approaches to the Pure Land.

### About the Lecturer

**Professor Aaron P. Proffitt** is Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies at the University at Albany-SUNY. He received his PhD in Buddhist Studies from the University of Michigan in 2015, and from 2014-15 he conducted dissertation research at Ōtani University, Ryūkoku University, and Kōyasan University thanks to funding from the Fulbright Foundation. Professor Proffitt’s book, entitled *Esoteric Pure Land Buddhism*, is under contract with the Pure Land Buddhist Studies Series at the University of Hawaii Press.

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505 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013

Tel: (213) 621-4064 Email: [info@shinshucenteramerica.org](mailto:info@shinshucenteramerica.org) Web: [shinshucenteramerica.org](http://shinshucenteramerica.org)