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**HIMALAYA**  
PROGRAM

Co-sponsored by the Tianzhu Buddhist Network and the UBC Department of Asian Studies

# Clerical Privileges and the Jurisdiction of the Buddhist Clergy: Do They Exist?

**Friday, November 15, 2019**

**5-7pm • Room 120, CK Choi Building • 1855 West Mall • UBC**

Jurisdictional boundaries between religious institutions and lay society have been at the center of the conflict between religion and the state since the formation of Buddhism. Drawing on cases presented in Buddhist legal texts (*Vinaya*) from different traditions preserved in Sanskrit, Pāli, Chinese, and Tibetan, Cuilan Liu challenges the Orientalist assumption that Buddhism is “lawless.” She argues that Buddhist clergy was indeed ambitious in securing legal privileges and autonomy.



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