



Numata Center  
for Buddhist Studies

Akademie der  
Weltreligionen



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## Buddhist and Christian Peacemaking: Mutual Learning Between Engaged Buddhism and Liberation Theology

A lecture by **Prof. Dr. Sallie B. King**, Madison University, USA

The lecture will be held on **Thursday 11 June 2015**, 18:15 - 19:45h at Universität Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Hauptgebäude, Hörsaal K.

The lecture will be held in English. The entrance is free.

*An event by the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies and the Akademie der Weltreligionen at Hamburg University*

Are there characteristic differences in the approaches to peacemaking and social engagement that characterize Christian Liberation Theology and Engaged Buddhism? Engaged Buddhism does not often speak of justice, but it does speak of overcoming suffering. Do these amount to the same thing, or not? Liberation Theology speaks of love and Buddhism speaks of compassion, but what is the relationship between love and justice, or justice and compassion? Liberation Theologians readily denounce evil and injustice, whereas this kind of approach is often absent in Engaged Buddhism. Is it necessary to denounce evil and injustice in order to engage with society and its problems? Engaged Buddhist leader Thich Nhat Hanh advocates instead a deeply non-judgmental approach. Who is right? Could they both be right?

Dr. King, a long-time scholar of Engaged Buddhism, was led to reflect on these questions in a new way in the context of her 2014 encounter with German society. She will share those reflections in this talk.



Picture: Fabrizio Sciami



**Sallie B. King** is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at James Madison University in the USA. She is best known for her research on Socially Engaged Buddhism which she considers the most important effort in today's world to put principled nonviolence into practice in confronting situations of war, invasion and tyranny. Her other scholarly interests focus upon Buddhism more broadly. She has a long-standing interest in the Buddhist concept of "Buddha Nature," the Mahayana belief in the innate Buddhahood of all beings and another in translating the autobiographical stories of Buddhist women. An interest that pervades all of her work is in bringing the Buddhist world and the Western world of philosophy and religion into conversation with each other and in making each intelligible to the other. Professor King has served as President of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies and is active in the Peace Council, an international, interfaith peacemaking organization. She is the author of *Buddha Nature* (1991), *Journey in Search of the Way: The Spiritual Autobiography of Satomi Myodo* (1993), *Being Benevolence: The Social Ethics of Engaged Buddhism* (2005), *Socially Engaged Buddhism* (2009), and co-editor of *Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia* (1996) and *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues in Honor of Frederick J. Streng* (1999).

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