

RESUME
William Powell
2007

William Powell is an active member of two departments, Religious Studies and East Asian Languages and Cultures. He was trained in the philological methods of Buddhist studies, which was the basis for his translation and study of the prominent 9th century Chan (Zen) monk, Tung-shan. This will be followed by a study of Tung-shan's disciple, Tsao-shan. His present work focuses on the relationship between Chinese Buddhism, pilgrimage and sacred space, particularly mountains. This work places emphasis on modes of spatial perception rooted in religious understandings, and the role of those modes of perception in economic, social, and ecological systems. This work has led to an involvement in digital simulations of sacred geography and topography, both as a means of scholarly analysis and as a pedagogic device for teaching about the relatively complex notions that emerge from such analysis at the graduate and undergraduate levels. He is on the board of directors of The New Media Studio, a non-profit foundation created to assist in the production and distribution of digital multi-media instructional material on earth science.

Education:

BA, Philosophy, University of the Pacific, 1962

MA, Chinese Literature, University of Hawaii, 1968

Ph.D. Buddhist Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1981

Language competence (1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent, 5=fluent):

Chinese 4, Japanese 4, Sanskrit 2, French 2.

Research Affiliations :

Kyoto University, Japan (in residence, 1975-79).

Institute for the Study of World Religions of the Beijing Academia Sinica, China
(in residence, 1980-81; 1988, 1991, 1994).

Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative, China Sacred Space Group, Co-Chair, 1997-2003.

Professional Activities:

“The Silk Road Interactive Data Base” paper, Taipei, Taiwan Meeting of the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium and ECAI, 1/98

“Report of the Center of the Analysis of Sacred Space,” paper, London Meeting of ECAI, 6/00

“Priorities for an Asian Sacred Site Data Base,” paper, Long Beach Meeting of the Western Association of Asian Studies, 10/00
Convener, international meeting of the ECAI China Team at UCSB, 10/00
“Chinese Sacred Sites, Contours of Perception,” paper, Hong Kong Meeting of the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium and ECAI, 1/01.

Awards (since 1995)

Consultation grant, CNEAO, University Paris 7, Spring, 1995
Post-doc fellowship, Inter-University Program, Taiwan, 1997
PI, Academic Senate Grant for Academia Sinica Chinese Document Data Base, 1997
Compass Grant for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education, 1998-99
UCSB Instructional Development Grants, 1998-99, 2000-2001
Co-PI, Wabash Foundation Grant for Instructional Development, 2000-2001

Publications (since 1995)

Silk Road Interactive Data Base, UCSB, 1995
“Introduction,” Zen Speaks, Article, Anchor Books, 1995
“Lin-chi,” Review, Journal of Chinese Religion, 1996
“The Silk Road,” The Oxford Companion to Archaeology, 1996
“Literati Diversions on Jihua Shan,” The Sacred Mountains of Asia, Shambala Press, 1997
“The Martial Arts” Encyclopedia of American Religion, 1999
“Religion, Recent History of”, Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture, Routledge, 2004
“Sacred Mountains”, Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture, Routledge, 2004
“Pilgrimage”, Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture, Routledge, 2004
“Martial Arts”, Encyclopedia of Buddhism, Macmillan, 2004