

Within Western Buddhism, practitioners are often assumed to be white and middle-class. Based on ground-breaking empirical research, *Cosmopolitan Dharma: Race, Sexuality, and Gender in British Buddhism* explores the stories of Buddhists from minority communities, through a rich analysis of their lived experiences. Smith, Munt and Yip explore their various contestations of dominant white and heteronormative cultures in Western Buddhism. Using cosmopolitanism as the theoretical lens, *Cosmopolitan Dharma* argues convincingly that the Buddhist ethos of human interconnectivity needs to be further developed to truly embrace the 'Other' of different kinds (not least Western Buddhism's own internal 'Others'). *Cosmopolitan Dharma*, through Buddhists' own narratives, explores how cultural politics from the ground up can offer a more inclusive philosophy and lived experience of spirituality.

**Sharon E. Smith**

Ph.D. (2008), Goldsmith's College, London, was Research Fellow on the Queer Spiritual Spaces project. Her articles have appeared in edited volumes, and journals such as *Theology & Sexuality*, and *Fieldwork in Religion*. She passed away in 2011.

**Sally R. Munt**

DPhil. (1991), Sussex University, is Professor and Director of the Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies. She has published widely on cultures of otherness and social justice, and is the author of *Queer Attachments: The Cultural Politics of Shame* (Ashgate 2007).

**Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip**

Ph.D. (1995), University of Surrey, is Professor of Sociology at the University of Nottingham. He has published numerous monographs, edited volumes, and journal articles on religion and sexuality, including *Religious & Sexual Identities: A Multi-faith Exploration of Young Adults* (Ashgate, 2013).

*"A compelling account of the ways in which FWBO [Triratna] and Soka Gakkai have been shaped by race, gender, class, sexuality, and heteronormative whiteness [...] This important book provides an excellent model on how to move forward towards a more productive engagement with issues of cultural politics within religious movements in the cosmopolitan-urban arena. It stands to transform the discourse of British convert Buddhism."*

— Fr. Joseph Cheah, University of Saint Joseph, CT, USA.

*"This work provides an absolutely up to date, cutting edge analysis [...] It is really the only study of its kind. [...] So far as I am aware race, gender and class have never been used as the primary analytical category for examining Western Buddhism, which is what makes this work so distinctive."*

— Damien Keown, Goldsmiths University of London, UK.