

# **Envisioning the ECAI Atlas of Maritime Buddhism Project**

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For more than a century we have seen the growth of interest in the so-called “Silk Road” and the identification of these mercantile routes as the major element in the transmission of Buddhism to China. However, there is considerable available knowledge about Buddhist pilgrims, Buddhist kingdoms, and trade routes in Maritime South and Southeast Asia. Now we are beginning to see an increasing awareness of a maritime contribution to the global network of cultural diffusion. To explore this theme, ECAI is establishing the Atlas of Maritime Buddhism as new collaborative Cultural Atlas project. A group of international scholars led by Prof Lancaster have joined to create a project team. The team so far includes scholars from Berkeley, India, France, Singapore, Russia, and Taiwan. This presentation will outline some of the motivation behind the project and what we see as its methodologies, collaborations, and envisioned outcomes.