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Saint Joseph College Professor Writes Book About Race And Religion In American Buddhism

Oxford University Press has released a book written by the Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM, associate professor and chair of the department of Religious Studies and Theology at Saint Joseph College. The book was published on September 30, 2011.

In his book, *Race and Religion in American Buddhism: White Supremacy and Immigrant Adaptation*, Cheah examines how race has been an essential factor in the ways in which Buddhism has been introduced, appropriated and transformed in the United States. Cheah breaks new ground in the study of American Buddhism by exposing ideological frameworks operating in the adaptation of Buddhist practices by both convert and ethnic Buddhists.

Michael Omi, professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, notes in his review, “Cheah convincingly demonstrates how white supremacy has fundamentally shaped Buddhist religious practices both in Burma and the United States.”

Race and Religion in American Buddhism is an interdisciplinary work (Religious Studies and Asian American Studies) that provides a good model of productive engagement with issues of race and religion. It is the first time that racial formation theory has been applied to the study of American Buddhism.

The book is available from Oxford University Press or amazon.com.

**Race and Religion in American Buddhism:
White Supremacy and Immigrant Adaptation**
Oxford University Press, October 2011, \$65

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Saint Joseph College, founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education opportunities for women, is a comprehensive institution serving women from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. More than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs are available plus accelerated bachelor's to master's degrees. Responsive

to the evolving educational needs of the community, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies offers both women and men graduate degree programs including: management, counseling, education, and nursing along with online programs in biology, biochemistry and nutrition. In addition, the undergraduate Weekend Program for Adult Learners, professional certificate programs relevant to today's workforce and other continuing co-educational learning opportunities are available. In the fall of 2011, the Saint Joseph College School of Pharmacy, the first doctoral program in the College's 79-year history, welcomed its first class to Hartford 21 on Trumbull Street in downtown Hartford. View our website at www.sjc.edu.

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