

James Benn (McMaster University)

# Buddhism, Tea, and Material Culture in Premodern China



This lecture looks at the surviving artistic, material, and literary evidence for Buddhist involvement in the promotion of tea drinking and the invention of a Chinese tea culture in premodern times. What was the connection between religious practice, beverage consumption and aesthetics in Tang and Song-dynasty China? In what ways did Buddhist institutions, individuals, and ideologies help to create meaning around a relatively new beverage? How can historians of religion and culture make sense of modes of consumption in the past?

Thursday, April 14th, 4:00-6:00pm,  
Social Sciences and Media Studies, SSMS 2135

