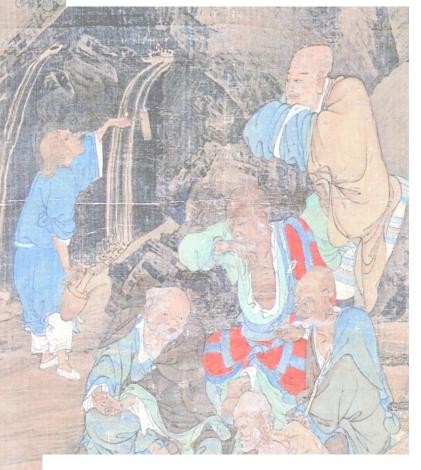
James Benn (McMaster University)

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?





