

## Department of Languages and Cultures

2017 Research Seminar Series

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### **Regulating Nirvana: Monastic Law and State Law in Contemporary Sri Lanka**



In recent years, historians, anthropologists and legal scholars have looked closely at the intersections of religious norms and state law in many parts of the world. Scholars today know a great deal, for example, about the development of 'Hindu marriage laws' in India and regulations concerning Muslim charitable endowments (or Wakf) in Egypt or China. While this literature has advanced our knowledge of law and religion considerably, it has almost entirely overlooked the important formations and transformations of Buddhist monastic norms in contemporary Southern Asia. This talk discusses this issue in the context of one country where Buddhist monastic norms and state law have had a particularly thorny and complicated relationship, the island-nation of Sri Lanka.

**Tuesday: May 30, 2017 12:00pm A3N7 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor Arts Building)**