



Replicating and Discarding the Buddha's Words: Complicating Religious Identity on the Frontiers of Tibetan Buddhist Culture

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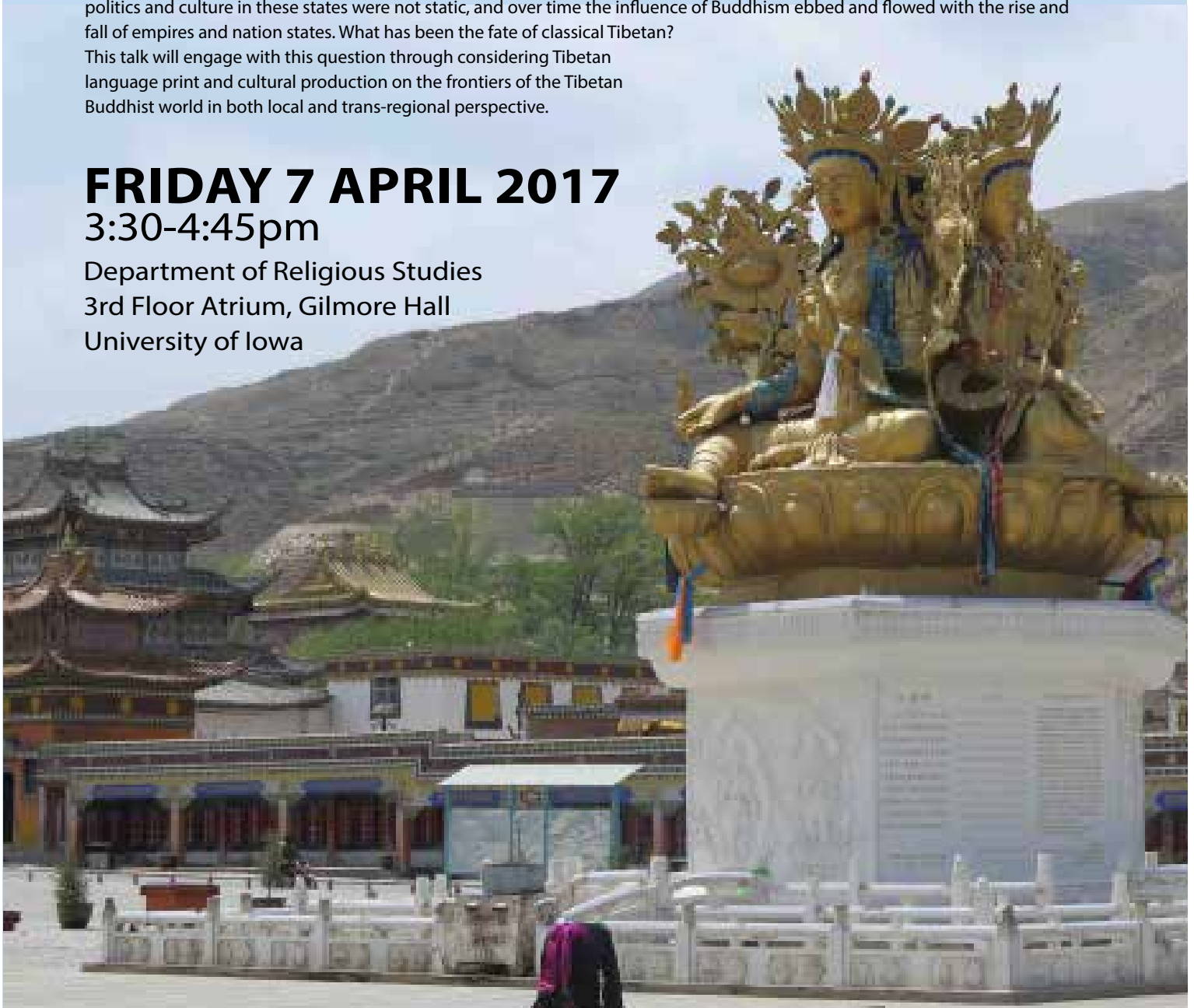
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What is the relevance of classical languages today? What is the relationship between linguistic, cultural and religious identity? This talk will take up these questions through considering the case of classical Tibetan language, which was used as a unifying language for historical Buddhist communities in states spanning present day Pakistan, Russia, Mongolia, China, Nepal, India and Bhutan. Diverse cultural and ethnic groups were united in their adoption of Tibetan script and Buddhist cosmology. However, the politics and culture in these states were not static, and over time the influence of Buddhism ebbed and flowed with the rise and fall of empires and nation states. What has been the fate of classical Tibetan?

This talk will engage with this question through considering Tibetan language print and cultural production on the frontiers of the Tibetan Buddhist world in both local and trans-regional perspective.

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3:30-4:45pm

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