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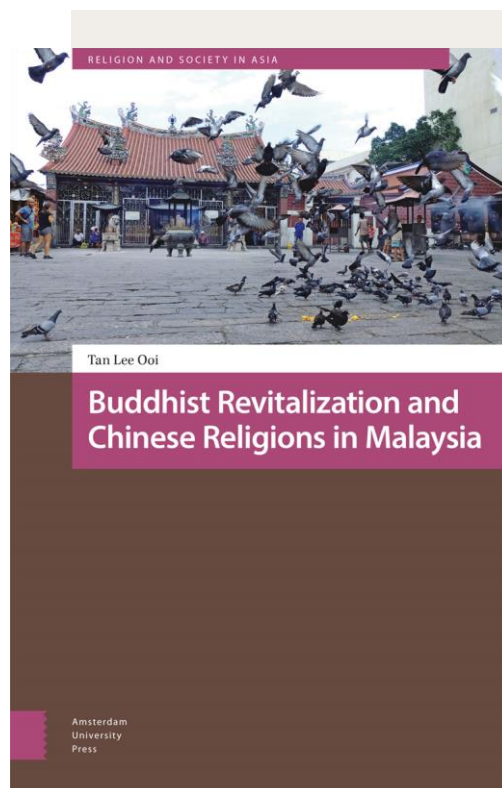
RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN ASIA

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Tan Lee Ooi

Buddhist Revitalization and Chinese Religions in Malaysia

Buddhist Revitalization and Chinese Religions in Malaysia tells the story of how a minority community comes to grips with the challenges of modernity, history, globalization, and cultural assertion in an everchanging Malaysia. It captures the religious connection, transformation, and tension within a complex traditional belief system in a multi-religious society. In particular, the book revolves around a discussion on the religious revitalization of Chinese Buddhism in modern Malaysia. This Buddhist revitalization movement is intertwined with various forces, such as colonialism, religious transnationalism, and global capitalism. Reformist Buddhists have helped to remake Malaysia's urban-dwelling Chinese community and have provided an exit option in the Malay and Muslim majority nation state. As Malaysia modernizes, there have been increasing efforts by certain segments of the country's ethnic Chinese Buddhist population to separate Buddhism from popular Chinese religions. Nevertheless, these reformist groups face counterforces from traditional Chinese religionists within the context of the cultural complexity of the Chinese belief system.



Tan Lee Ooi is Head of the Department of Mass Communication at UOW Malaysia KDU Penang University College in Malaysia. He completed his PhD at the National University of Singapore. He published a book with the National University Press of Malaysia on the dynamics of cyberspace during the Reformasi Movement, in the Malay language.

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