

Dr. Martin Seeger

University of Leeds

“Buddhadasa Bhikkhu and being Theravada in the 21st Century”

(Sub-theme: “Works and Legacy of Buddhadasa Bhikkhu” – 25 May 2017)

Abstract

In my talk I want to combine some reflections on my personal encounter with Buddhadasa’s work with ideas that he expressed in 1973 in a remarkable essay, which has received not much, if any, scholarly attention so far. My purpose of doing so is to propose possible pathways for future research on Buddhadasa’s intellectual development and legacy.

About the speaker

Dr. Martin Seeger, Associate Professor of Thai Studies, was ordained as a Buddhist monk in northern Thailand from 1997 to 2000 and subsequently earned his MA and doctorate in Thai Studies at the University of Hamburg. Since 2004 he has been working as a researcher and teacher of Thai Buddhism at the University of Leeds. Much of his research focuses on the life and work of the Thai Buddhist practitioners Somdet Phra Buddhaghosajarn Jaroen Ñāṇavaro, Buddhadasa Bhikkhu, Somdet Phra Buddhaghosajarn (P. A. Payutto), Khunying Damrongthammanan (Yai Wisetsiri) and Mae Bunruean Tongbuntoem. He has also done research on Thai Buddhism and environmentalism, Human Rights in Thai Theravada Buddhism and development monks in the northeastern region of Thailand.