

Tibetan Buddhism within Trans-Himalayan Dynamics

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This report clarifies the trans-Himalayan dynamics surrounding Tibetan Buddhism in South Asia. First, a review of earlier studies of Tibetan Buddhism in exile contexts is presented, with explanations of how Tibetan Buddhism has been expanding its influence worldwide. According to earlier studies, it can be said that Tibetan Buddhism in the context of exile has exerted its effects through negotiation of factors such as political–economic relationships between the Tibetan government in exile and some governments such as those of China, India, and Nepal, and consumers’ perspectives with desire based on Orientalism.

Second, this report presents an exploration of recent developments that Tibetan Buddhism has experienced in local, regional, and global contexts, by citing some data collected through fieldwork. These data reflect its intracommunal and intercommunal dynamics. Consideration of these issues reveals some conditions related to the recent Tibetan Buddhism in exile: ongoing hybridization of Tibetan Buddhism entailing the increase of Himalayan ethnic influence on it and the secularization of Tibetan nationalism; invasion of devotional politics into the intimate sphere; and expansion of the religious realm through commodification of Mantra CDs.