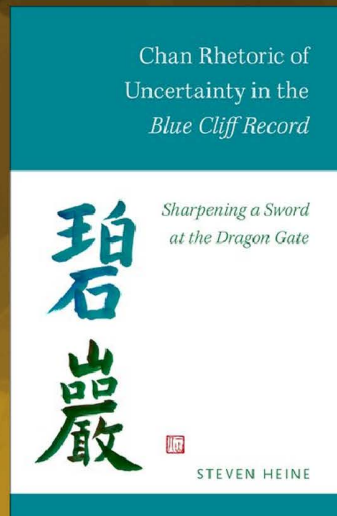


Asian Studies Program

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Chan Rhetoric of Uncertainty in the *Blue Cliff Record* Book Signing by Dr. Steven Heine @ Books & Books

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 | 8:00 PM | 265 Aragon Avenue | Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dr. Steven Heine's latest book provides an in-depth textual and literary analysis of the *Blue Cliff Record*, a seminal Chan/Zen Buddhist collection of commentaries on one hundred gongan/koan cases, considered in light of historical, cultural, and intellectual trends from the Song dynasty (960-1279). Compiled by the disciples of Yuanwu Keqin in 1128, the Blue Cliff Record is considered a classic of East Asian literature for its creative integration of prose and verse as well as hybrid or capping-phrase interpretations of perplexing cases. The collection employs a variety of rhetorical devices culled from both classic and vernacular literary sources and styles and is particularly notable for its use of indirection, allusiveness, irony, paradox, and wordplay, all characteristic of the approach of literary or lettered Chan. However, as instrumental and influential as it is considered to be, the Blue Cliff Record has long been shrouded in controversy. The collection is probably best known today for having been destroyed in the 1130s at the dawn of the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279) by Dahui Zonggao, Yuanwu's main disciple and harshest critic. It was out of circulation for nearly two centuries before being revived and partially reconstructed in the early 1300s. In this book, Steven Heine examines the diverse ideological connections and disconnections behind subsequent commentaries and translations of the Blue Cliff Record, thereby shedding light on the broad range of gongan literature produced in the eleventh to thirteenth centuries and beyond."

Dr. Steven Heine (Professor and Director, FIU Asian Studies Program) is an authority on East Asian religion and society, especially the history of Zen Buddhism and its relation to culture in China and Japan. He has published two dozen books and lectures extensively on this topic.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-348-1914.

BOOKS & BOOKS