



The Dukkha of Racism

Racial Justice Work in American Convert Buddhism

ANN
GLEIG

Thursday, February 13, 2020
4:00pm | AD 208



Sponsored by the Institute
for the Study of Humanistic
Buddhism (ISHB)

In May 2015, 125 Buddhists gathered for the first "White House-U.S. Buddhist Leadership Conference," during which they delivered a letter titled "Buddhist Statement on Racial Justice." This letter is part of efforts to challenge racism in American Buddhist convert communities spanning over two decades. For much of this time, such efforts have

been marginalized. Due to the combination of a network of Buddhist Teachers of Color and the impact of #BlackLivesMatter, however, such work is being increasingly centered. This paper will highlight pragmatic and theoretical strategies employed to integrate racial justice work with Buddhism and reflect on the significance of such

work for Buddhist modernism in the United States.

Ann Gleig is an Associate Professor of Religion and Cultural Studies at the University of Central Florida. She is the author of *American Dharma: Buddhism Beyond Modernity* (Yale University Press, 2019).

