

Department of Philosophy – Special Presentation

Dr. Karma Lekshe Tsomo

Professor of Buddhist Studies, University of San Diego

Friday – October 21, 2016 at 2:30PM
Sakamaki Hall C-308

“Neuroethics through a Buddhist Lens”

As scientists advance knowledge of the brain and develop technologies to measure, evaluate, and manipulate brain function, numerous questions arise for philosophers and religious adherents. If neuroscientists can conclusively establish that there is a functional network between neural impulses and an individual's capacity for moral evaluation of situations, this will naturally lead to questions about the relationship between such a network and constructions of moral value and ethical human behavior. The questions point up broader dilemmas in the interface between science, philosophy, and religion, and raise concerns about the ethics of neurological research and experimentation. Buddhist views on the nature of consciousness and methods of practice, especially meditation practice, may contribute to discussions on neuroscience and theories about the interrelationship between consciousness and ethical awareness by exploring the role that karma, intentionality, and compassion play in Buddhist understandings of the interrelationship between consciousness and ethics.

Karma Lekshe Tsomo is a professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of San Diego.

She studied at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala (India) and received a doctorate in Comparative Philosophy from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2000. Her publications include *Into the Jaws of Yama: Buddhism, Bioethics, and Death* and nine edited volumes on women in Buddhism.



Everyone is welcome to attend.
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