

## **RELATIONAL VIRTUOSITY: THE SOCIAL IDEAL OF BUDDHIST PRACTICE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In this paper, early Buddhist ideals of practice, the bodhisattva ideal and Chinese Chan valorizations of responsive immediacy are conceptually blended to develop a contemporary understanding of *relational virtuosity* as the defining achievement of Buddhist practice. This understanding of the meaning of Buddhist practice is then used to raise concerns about contemporary popularizations of mindfulness meditation, but also to open prospects for integrating Buddhist contributions into contemporary conversations of freedom and social justice.

### **KEYWORDS**

Chan, Meditation, Buddha-nature, Responsive Virtuosity, Freedom