

**BUDDHISM IN THE WEST  
TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES ELICITED THROUGH THE RELIGIOUS  
“OTHER”**

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**ABSTRACT**

The religious Other is part of the identity of any religious which changes in history. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century Buddhism is being adapted to socio-cultural patterns in the West, i.e. Buddhism in its different lineages is in transformation. My point is, that the “religious Other” to the Buddhist in the West is not only the institutionalized Christian or Jew or Muslim, but the human mind that is conditioned by science and modern sceptical attitudes, including pluralistic patterns of looking at the “truth” and/or dualistic or non-dualistic ways of reasoning about mind and matter, man and nature. How might Buddhism in the West develop in the future, spiritually, psychologically and sociologically?

**KEYWORDS**

The Religious Other, Neurobiology and Meditation, Master-Student Relation, Role of Sangha, Role of Women