



黎天睦汉学中心

**TIMOTHY LIGHT CENTER
FOR CHINESE STUDIES**



Co-sponsored by the
Confucius Institute at WMU,
the Department of
Comparative Religion and the
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Public Welcome

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**The Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies
presents a lecture**

“Seals and the Sources of Chinese Buddhism”

by

Dr. Paul Copp

Associate Professor

The University of Chicago

3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 7

Brown Hall Room 2028

The importance of seals in Mahāyāna Buddhist practice and thought is clear in the key metaphors they provided the religion as it was carried eastward across Eurasia and integrated into various local cultures, perhaps especially those of medieval China. In this talk, Dr. Copp will explore some of the cultural background of seals in medieval Chinese Buddhism, looking especially to the archaeological record, to begin to answer the questions, “Why were seals so important in the religion?” and “What can they reveal to us about its cultural sources?”

Dr. Copp received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2005, and taught in WMU’s Department of Comparative Religion during the 2005-06 academic year. His first book, “The Body Incantatory: Spells and the Ritual Imagination in Medieval Chinese Buddhism,” is due out next year from Columbia University Press. This talk is part of a new book project with the working title, “Seal, Talisman, and Scroll: Vernacular Buddhism and Manuscript Culture on the Eastern Silk Road.”

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