

Institute of Education and Humanities/
Yr Athrofa Addysg a'r Dyniaethau

**MA Dissertation Approval Form/
Ffurflen Gymeradwyo Traethawd Hir MA**

Student Name/ <i>Enw Myfyriwr</i>	Hana Rees Jones
Degree Scheme/ <i>Cynllun Gradd</i>	MA Religion and Philosophy: Eastern and Western Thought
Start date/ <i>Dyddiad cychwyn</i>	01/10/2019

I have completed/ about to complete* Part 1 of my degree.

Yr wyf wedi/ ar fun cwblhau Rhan 1 o fy ngradd

Title of Dissertation:
Teitl eich Traethawd Hir

Are eco-Buddhists distorting Buddhist traditions by insisting that premodern traditions were responding to modern environmental concerns?

A yw eco-Fwdhyddion yn tanseilio traddodiadau Bwdhaidd trwy fynnu bod traddodiadau cyn-fodern yn ymateb i bryderon amgylcheddol heddiw?

Aims and Objectives:

Nodau ac Amcanion

- To evaluate whether Buddhist texts offer an ecologically friendly world view or not
- To research whether teachings such as impermanence or no-self have an impact on how Buddhists can see the environment and humans relationships with it
- To examine those teachings and doctrines which can be seen as offering an environmentally friendly ethic, and discuss whether this was their true intention or if they have been carefully edited and filtered to fit an environmentally friendly ethic

Abstract (approximately 500 words):

Crynodb (tua 500 gair):

Through living in a time of ecological crisis, people often turn to religion in their search for answers on how to deal with this issue. Scholars of religion and philosophy have worked to try and create some kind of environmentally friendly ethic. However, there are some weaknesses to some as they try to adapt already existing texts to fit a recent problem. Buddhism, though one of the six main religions, is seen as more of a philosophical belief due to the fact that they do not believe in a 'God'. This also makes it more appealing to those who reject the typically western religions. In addition to this, some would argue that due to its focus on compassion and living 'the middle way' Buddhism would seem like a naturally 'eco-friendly' religion. Before beginning the Religion and the Environment module, this was also my view. Through research and examination of the main Buddhist doctrines another side of this argument can be seen, as teachings that are thousands of years old are adapted and interpreted in a modern world. The issues that face the planet and its inhabitants did not exist, or if they did it was not in the same way, when these teachings were first founded. This dissertation's main argument will be based on that there are more teachings to suggest that Buddhism is not a naturally 'green religion' than there are to support that it is. As the situation of the ecological crisis and the state of the planet have developed, the ancient teachings have been looked at through a different lens. The main question here is, was this their true purpose when they were first spoken? This will be examined through discussing key themes behind many Buddhist teachings, for example Buddhist notion of no self (anatta) and the doctrine of impermanence (anicca) that are key to Buddhist beliefs. This will be used to further the argument that many aspects of Buddhism have been carefully filtered and edited in order to portray a greener message than what was originally intended, which brings us to the proposed question of research: are eco-Buddhists distorting Buddhist traditions by insisting that premodern traditions were responding to modern environmental concerns? It is possible to argue that religious texts can change in purpose as they should be a timeless foundation to the thoughts and actions of that religious group, however this dissertation will focus on the context of the period in which these teachings were founded. Buddhism focusses on the impermanence of all things, including the planet earth. With this in mind, why would Buddhism focus on sustaining such a world which will not last forever regardless. This dissertation will examine Buddhist teachings interpreted as approaches to sustainability and stewardship.

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Proposed Supervisor:
Goruchwyliwr awgrymedig

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Nodwch a oes angen cymeradwyaeth foesegol ar gyfer y prosiect - NAC OES

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