

## Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars: Job Description

<b>Position Title:</b>	Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholar
<b>Host Institution:</b>	American Museum of Natural History
<b>Location of Position:</b>	New York, NY
<b>Remote Work:</b>	Partially remote (at least 4 days/week on-site required)
<b>Stipend:</b>	Up to \$75,000 (typical breakdown of \$65,000 stipend + up to \$10,000 research/relocation expenses) allowance for 12 months plus health insurance. Additional benefits provided at discretion of host. Renewable for a second 12-month term by mutual agreement.
<b>Start Date:</b>	September 2025
<b>Supervisor:</b>	The scholar will report to Laurel Kendall, Curator, Asian Ethnographic Collections and consult with members of the Anthropology Division as appropriate.

### Organization Description

The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), founded in 1869, pursues the mission to “discover, interpret, and disseminate—through scientific research and education—knowledge about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe.” The museum’s holdings in Asian ethnology make up the finest collection in the Western hemisphere, as documentation of diverse designs for living including material associated with lived religious practices. A large part of the collection was made by early anthropologists who gathered extraordinarily detailed documentation. While the collection reflects the goals of anthropology, rather than art history, it includes fine examples of Tibetan tangka painting (Whitney Collection) and Chinese jade (Drummond Collection). The collections and archives of the division of anthropology are supported by a committed staff and with additional resources in the AMNH Gottesman Library for Scientific Research, including a collection of old and rare Chinese books made by Berthold Laufer c. 1900.

### Website

<https://www.amnh.org/>

### Position Description/Responsibilities

The Buddhism Public Scholar at AMNH will work with and advise the curator in developing a plan that would best utilize our collections and other resources in presenting the diversity and richness of Buddhism as living social practices contextualized by time and space. The Scholar will be expected to engage in a dialogue with multiple Buddhist communities (broadly defined as

including lay practitioners as well as clergy), both local and beyond, in determining how different Buddhist stories might be brought forward in a museum context. The goal of this project would be a white paper that engages collections and archives in the curatorial work of crafting an exhibition narrative for consideration by AMNH as it develops plans for new Cultural Halls. The Fellow would also be involved in possible public and other Education Department programs.

### **Required Qualifications**

- PhD in [humanities or interpretive social sciences](#)
- Expertise and academic training in Buddhist Studies
- Research fluency and literacy in at least one Asian language
- Background and demonstrated interest in material religion
- Fieldwork or related experience in a Buddhist community/society

### **Preferred Qualifications (optional)**

- Prior museum experience
- Research or experiential knowledge with more than one Buddhist society
- Demonstrated ability to engage with communities beyond the academy

### **Additional Information**

All candidates must apply through the [ACLS Online Fellowship and Grant Administration \(OFA\) System](#) by 9 PM EST on January 23, 2025. More information about Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhism Public Scholars is available [here](#).

The American Museum of Natural History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. The Museum does not discriminate with respect to employment, or admission or access to Museum facilities, programs or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, marital status, partnership status, gender (including sexual harassment), sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, pregnancy and lactation accommodations, alienage or citizenship status, current or former participation in the uniformed services, status as a veteran, caregiver, pre-employment marijuana testing, sexual and reproductive health decisions, salary history, national or ethnic origin, height, weight, or on account of any other basis prohibited by applicable City, State, or Federal law. Additional protections are afforded in employment based on arrest or conviction record, status as a victim of domestic violence, stalking and sex offenses, unemployment status, and credit history, in each case to the extent provided by law.

This position is only available through The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about the position.