

UNCG'S RELIGIOUS STUDIES CLUB, HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
& THETA ALPHA KAPPA PRESENT:

Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia:

An informal talk on scholarly controversies concerning late
Mahayana Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia



Prof. Charles D. Orzech

In all likelihood, it was the Buddhist scholars commonly designated 'esoteric Buddhism' that had the greatest geographical spread of any form of Buddhism. It left its imprint not only on its native India, but far beyond, on Southeast Asia, Central Asia, including Tibet and Mongolia, as well as the East Asian countries China, Korea and Japan. Not only has esoteric Buddhism contributed substantially to the development of Buddhism in many cultures, but it also facilitated the transmission of religious art and material culture, science and technology.

Yet 'esoteric Buddhism' is a disputed category, and in this talk Prof. Orzech discusses controversies concerning it and how they shaped his recently published *Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia* (E. J. Brill, 2011).

3:30 PM, Oct. 13, Foust 111