

## **Introduction to the Special Section on *Pure Land Buddhism in China: A Doctrinal History* by Mochizuki Shinkō**

**Natalie Fisk Quli**

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Mochizuki Shinkō 望月信亨 (1869–1948) was a prolific scholar of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism whose work helped lay the foundation of modern Buddhist studies. His most well-known work is undoubtedly the ten-volume *Bukkyō Daijiten* 佛教大辭典 (Encyclopedia of Buddhism), edited by Mochizuki and published in 1933 by Bukkyō Daijiten Hakkōjo. His *Chūgoku jōdo kyōri shi* 中国淨土教理史 (Doctrinal History of Pure Land Buddhism in China), based on a series of lectures he gave on the history, thought, and practice of Pure Land Buddhism in China, was published in 1942 by Hōzōkan and remains a resource for Japanese Pure Land Buddhist scholarship today.

This special section marks the publication of *Chūgoku jōdo kyōri shi* in English translation, *Pure Land Buddhism in China: A Doctrinal History*, trans. Leo Pruden, ed. Richard K. Payne and Natalie E.F. Quli, 2 vols. (Moraga: Institute of Buddhist Studies and BDK America, 2016). The papers presented here were originally part of a panel discussion organized by Richard K. Payne at the 2017 conference of the American Academy of Religion in Boston, MA, “Mochizuki’s Doctrinal History of Pure Land Buddhism in China.” Panelists included four contributors to the second volume of the English translation, *Supplemental Essays and Appendices*. Daniel Getz provided a biographical study of Mochizuki, while bibliographical essays on scholarship since Mochizuki’s publication in Chinese were offered by Charles B. Jones (Chinese-language sources), Mark L. Blum (Japanese-language sources), and Scott A. Mitchell (English-language sources). We offer two of these edited paper presentations here.

