

Greetings SACP Members!

My name is Kevin Taylor and I am running for Vice President of SACP.

I am Associate Professor of Teaching in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. As a member of the Department of Philosophy, I serve as Online Coordinator responsible for the department online program. I have also served as Director of Religious Studies since 2021. I specialize in Japanese Buddhism (especially Hakuin Zen), Classical American Pragmatism (especially Dewey), and Data Ethics (focusing on Confucian and Buddhist approaches to data technology).

I have served the International Association for Japanese Philosophy as a coordinator for APA Central and I have worked with the International Society for Chinese Philosophy as webmaster from 2017-2020. But you might know me from my long tenure working behind the scenes with SACP. I have been webmaster of SACP since January 2014 working with then President Doug Berger. I have served with every SACP Board since (Presidents Robin Wang, Jin Park, Bryan Van Norden, and Sarah Flavel). In the Summer of 2015, I redesigned the website to its current design (sacpweb.org) and assisted every President with expansions and edits including new posts/announcements and conference updates such as the annual conference. I have served as first point of contact for anyone emailing us at sacpweb@gmail.com and directing questions to appropriate board members. In short, I have had experience with almost every aspect of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (Facebook, PayPal, Bluehost, WordPress, the listserv, etc., etc., etc.). After ten years, I feel it's time for me to offer my services as Vice President.

For those interested in my publications, I direct your attention to some past publications and some that are upcoming. I have published on friendship in Asian and environmental traditions, graffiti in Hakuin and Banksy, as well as American Pragmatism with a special three-part journal I co-edited on Dewey and data ethics. Currently I am co-editor on an edited volume on Women in Buddhism that we hope to see in print before the year is done. This work is the culmination of a month-long 2023 NEH Workshop at the East-West Center.

I am proud that as a graduate student I was interviewed by [ABC Australia's The Philosopher's Zone](#) for research on *mottainai*. This research has been ongoing among my many projects and with Halloween coming up, my public facing work on waste and monsters is particularly fun: [Japan's 'waste not, want not' philosophy has deep religious and cultural roots, from monsters and meditation to Marie Kondo's tidying up](#). This research is tied directly to a volume I am working on right now on *mottainai* as a Japanese Philosophy of Waste that I hope to see in print in 2025. My next project will be a manuscript on Zen Master Hakuin (2025-'26).

If elected as Vice President of SACP, I will serve the membership in advancing the mission of SACP to advance the development of the disciplines of Asian and comparative philosophy, bring together scholars interested in Asian and comparative philosophy for a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas, and provide professional outlets for philosophers doing work in non-Western and comparative areas of philosophy. I hope you will agree that my background makes me an ideal candidate for Vice President.

Sincerely,

Kevin Taylor
Associate Professor of Teaching
Online Coordinator
Director of Religious Studies
Department of Philosophy
University of Memphis