

Professor Paul M. Harrison

Paul Harrison holds the George Edwin Burnell Chair in Religious Studies at Stanford University. Trained at Auckland University in his native New Zealand, and then at Australian National University, he taught at Auckland (1981-1983) and Canterbury Universities (1983-2005) before taking up his current appointment at Stanford in 2007. He has also held visiting positions at the universities of Hamburg, Otani, Leiden, Washington, Oxford and London (SOAS).

Paul Harrison specializes in Buddhist literature and history, especially that of the Mahayana, and in the study of Buddhist manuscripts in Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan. He is currently working on editions and translations of a number of Mahayana and Mainstream Buddhist sutras, including the Vajracchedika (Diamond Sutra), as well as a general study of issues of authority, textual transmission and innovation in Mahayana Buddhism. He is the author of *The Samadhi of Direct Encounter with the Buddhas of the Present*, and of numerous journal articles on Buddhist sacred texts and their interpretation. He is also one of the editors of the series *Buddhist Manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection*, serves as Co-Director of the [Ho Center for Buddhist Studies](#) at Stanford, and sits on various editorial boards, including that of the International Association of Buddhist Studies.