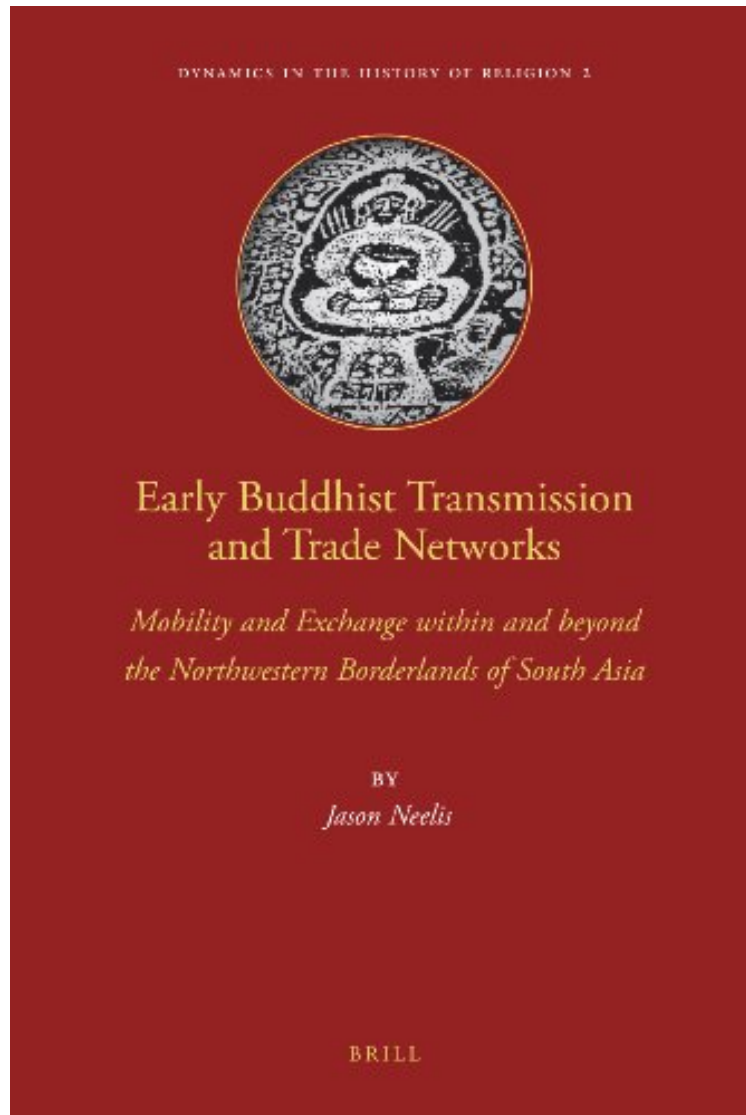



(Mobile ebook) Early Buddhist Transmission and Trade Networks: Mobility and Exchange Within and Beyond the Northwestern Borderlands of South Asia (Dynamics in the History of Religions)


# Early Buddhist Transmission and Trade Networks: Mobility and Exchange Within and Beyond the Northwestern Borderlands of South Asia (Dynamics in the History of Religions)

Jason Neelis

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Jason Neelis : Early Buddhist Transmission and Trade Networks: Mobility and Exchange Within and Beyond the Northwestern Borderlands of South Asia (Dynamics in the History of Religions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Early Buddhist Transmission and Trade Networks: Mobility and Exchange Within and Beyond the Northwestern Borderlands of South Asia (Dynamics in the History of

Religions):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well in details and clear in overview  
By H. G. Posthuma  
I read the book on behalf of my manuscript about the possibility of Indian and especially Buddhist elements in early Christianity, which have no roots in Judaism, Christianity and Classical Antiquity, but do have a long history in India and Buddhism. To enhance the historical plausibility I had written a paragraph about the connections between the Roman Empire and the Indian subcontinent, partly based on Ninian Smart, *Atlas of the World's Religions*, 1999. Compared to Mr Smart's Atlas, Jason Neelis' book provides all the details behind the maps and descriptions of Smart. *Early Buddhist Transmission etc.* is a critical survey of existing archaeological finds, written sources and other material related to the spread of Buddhism within India and beyond the borderlands of South Asia between 500 BCE and 1000 CE. It is also a re-evaluation of two theories by the Dutch Sinologist Erik Zrcher: spread by diffusion or by long-distance transmission. Not surprisingly, Mr Neelis comes to accept both theories as complementary. Although the research area is restricted to old India and China, and although the number of pages about the trade between the Roman Empire and India is small, the book provided me with more additional material to support my plea than I had expected. So the book is rich in details, and thorough (as far as I am able to see), and yet clear in the main lines, thanks also to summaries. The value for me was in the details, the overview, and the combined theory. Although the presentation is dry, five stars. Concerning the costs, the publisher apparently thinks we all benefitted from the financial and economic crisis. For some 350 pages and many misprints, the price is all but a recommendation for the spread of knowledge in these critical times.

This exploration of early paths for Buddhist transmission within and beyond South Asia retraces the footsteps of monks, merchants, and other agents of cross-cultural exchange. A reassessment of literary, epigraphic, and archaeological sources reveals historical contexts for the growth of the Buddhist *sangha* from approximately the 5th century BCE to the end of the first millennium CE. Patterns of dynamic Buddhist mobility were closely linked to transregional trade networks extending to the northwestern borderlands and joined to Central Asian silk routes by capillary routes through transit zones in the upper Indus and Tarim Basin. By examining material conditions for Buddhist establishments at nodes along these routes, this book challenges models of gradual diffusion and develops alternative explanations for successful Buddhist movement.

"This is the first modern and theoretically-informed history of Buddhist transmission, as opposed to a simple history of Buddhism or a precis of modern Buddhist doctrines and their development. In that sense, this is a pioneering study and essential reading for any serious student of the history of Buddhism and Indian religion." Michael Willis, *The British Museum, Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol 22, Issue 1 "The book will be an invaluable guide to the massive literature on early South Asian political history, routes of trade, development of cities, and sites with Buddhist archaeological remains and the seemingly less substantial but crucially important evidence of inscriptions and graffiti." Daniel C. Waugh, *The Silk Road*, Vol. 10 "Neelis has managed the impressive feat of maintaining an ant's-eye focus on the cultural, economic, and political idiosyncrasies of Buddhist peregrination, while at the same time giving us a bird's-eye." Wendi Adamek, *University of Sydney, Religious Studies* , Vol. 38, No. 1  
About the Author  
Jason Neelis, Ph.D. (2001) in Asian Languages and Literature, University of Washington, is an Assistant Professor for South Asian Buddhism at the Wilfrid Laurier University and a Research Fellow for Indian Religious History at Ruhr-Universität Bochum.