

Jose Cabezon

This talk focuses on Sera Monastery, one of the great scholastic universities of Tibet. Sera was founded in 1419. In 1959 it had close to 10,000 monks, making it one of the largest monasteries in the Buddhist world. The Sera Project, which I direct, (<http://www.thdl.org/collections/cultgeo/mons/sera/>) is a web-based, multi-disciplinary initiative whose goal is to present a holistic picture of this Buddhist institution using a variety of media -- interactive maps, images, sound, and streaming video. The section of the project devoted to "spatiality" is one of the most robust portions of the website. Drawing on this material, we will explore how Tibetan Buddhists and non-Buddhist outsiders have viewed and represented the space of Sera. I will also illustrate how different types of technology are being used to map the monastery.