

Buddhism in Court: Religion, Law, and Jurisdiction in China

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Motivation

- This project aims at uncovering the patterns of interaction between religious law and state law in China.

Project Description

- This project examines the legal interaction between Buddhism and the state in China from the 4th century to the present

Context

- This project covers a long time span so the cases discussed in the book need to be selective, rather than comprehensive.
- This book reveals how Buddhists in China collaborated with the state to establish a hybrid court beyond the dichotomy of Buddhist monastic court and state court for reading with criminal Buddhist practitioners as well as to mediate conflicts involving ordained Buddhist monks and nuns

Potential Impact

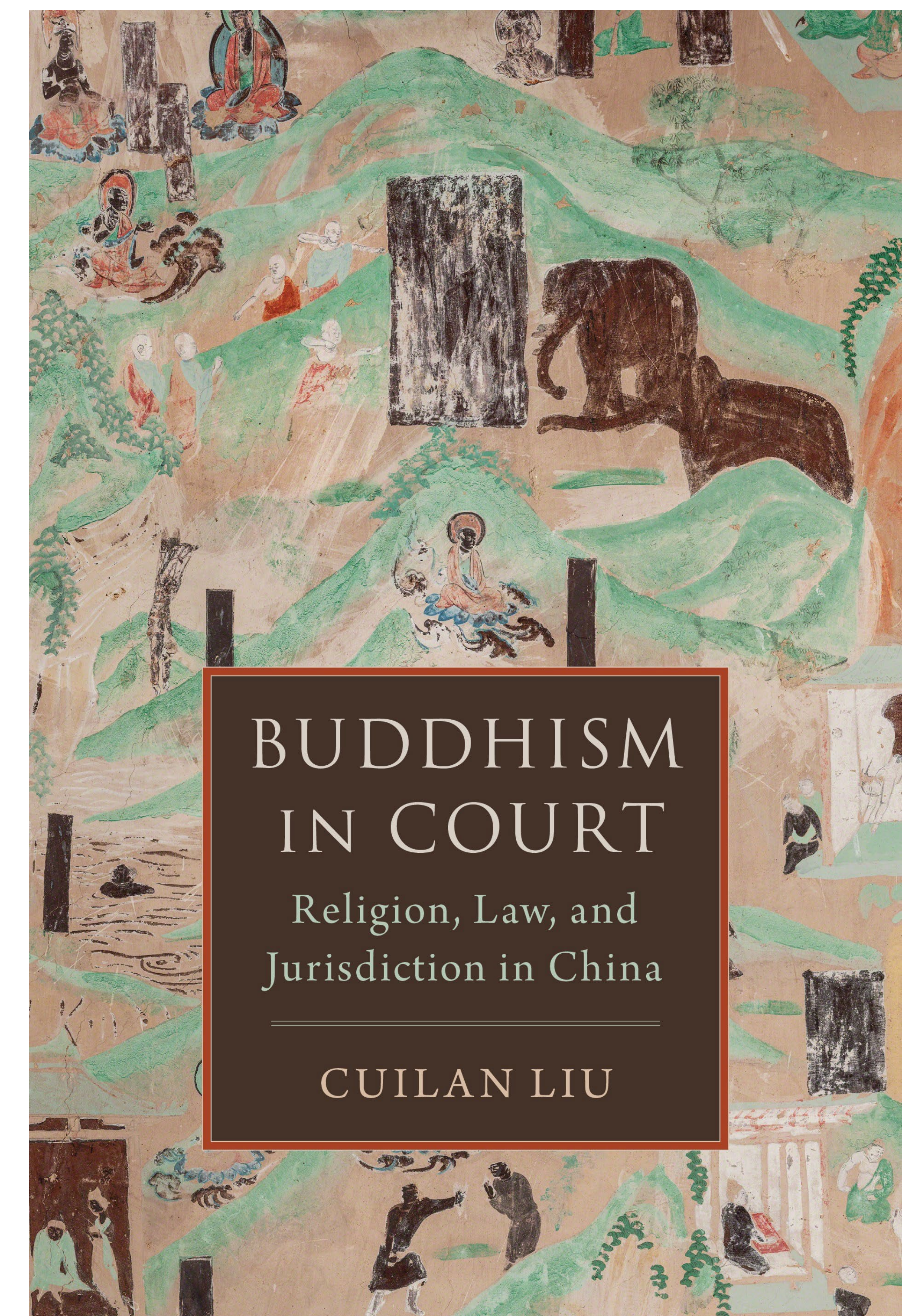
- This book reveals a millennium-old Buddhist campaign for clerical immunity that was never discussed before;
- This project also reveals how Chinese Buddhist were creative in pursuing clerical immunity for their ordained members in a way different from their predecessor in Indian Buddhism.

What happens to Buddhist monks and nuns who commit crimes? This project uncover an important, yet long-overlooked, **Buddhist campaign for clerical legal privileges** that aim to exempt monks and nuns from being tried and punished in the government courts.



Project Deliverables

- A peer-reviewed book to be published with Oxford University Press in February 2024
- This funding covered editing and indexing expenses for the production of my book.



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