

## **The Two Buddhist Towers**

### **Abstract**

Buddhism is an integral part of Cambodia's rich cultural past however we lack critical understanding of the religion's practice, function, and transitions during the Angkorian and Middle periods (9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c. CE) periods. Preah Khan of Kompong Svay, a singularly Buddhist site occupied from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and home to the Mahāyāna Preah Thkol and Theravādin Preah Chatomukh towers, represents a unique location to investigate internal and external dynamics. Combining archaeological, epigraphic and material science this project seeks to conduct a rigorous, multi-scalar assessment of monastic lifeways through time and the intriguing state-level decision of Angkor's traditionally Brahmanic kings to devote this regional center to Buddhism.