

# 法界佛教大學舉辦「佛教徒倫理與科技」 研討會

## DRBU HELD A SEMINAR ON "BUDDHIST ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY"

文/譯 本刊編輯部

By Editorial Staff



DHARMA REALM NEWS | 法界音

人類的科技發展一日千里，網路與行動裝置已成為許多人的生活重心。佛教徒面對快速變遷的社會，該如何應變？法界佛教大學於2015年4月15日召開「佛教徒倫理與科技」研討會，由易果容教授與科技專家史派克共同主持。

易果容指出，今日科技的使用，與20年至25年前已大不相同。研究顯示，經常上社羣網站的人，同理心較低，被稱為25%的「同理心不足」。就佛教徒的價值觀而言，我們應考慮科技如何影響智慧與慈悲的發展。易果容認為：「其後果非常嚴重，佛教徒應帶頭尋找解決之道。」

當天將近20人參加這項研討會，史派克將現場與會者分為三組。以腦力激盪方式，找出跟佛教徒倫理與科技相關的議題以及善用科技之

Technology advances at an incredible speed. Internet and mobile devices are now an essential part of many people's lives. How will Buddhists choose to respond and live in this fast-changing society? On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Dr. Ron Epstein and Spike Morelli held a seminar on "Buddhist Ethics and Technology" at Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) to discuss these changes.

Dr. Epstein pointed out that the presence of technology in our lives today has changed significantly compared with 20 to 25 years ago. One study showed that heavy users of social media (mostly young people) report lower levels of empathy, which has been called a 25% "empathy deficit." In terms of Buddhist values, we might consider how technology affects the development of wisdom and compassion. Dr. Epstein said, "The consequences are serious. Buddhists should lead the way to find solutions."

Nearly 20 people attended the seminar. Spike Morelli asked the group to break into three small groups to brainstorm ideas or concerns relating to Buddhist ethics and technology, as well as ways to put it to good use.

道。法界佛教大學公關主任賈思緹絲代表與會女眾，提出女眾組的討論要點。

賈思緹絲指出，2014年全球每月使用社羣網站「臉書」的人次超過十億，其中七億五千萬人次，是透過手機造訪「臉書」。今天全美的高中應屆畢業生，84%是從手機上收到大學錄取通知。「這跟我在上大學時，已截然不同。」法界佛教總會或可考慮將網站設計得更容易從手機登入，以貼近日益聯網科技化的世界。

女眾組提出的重點，還包括科技如何讓人更容易親近佛法。建議之一是，為老人家提供電話或廣播的佛法課程與講法。這樣當老人家不便經常上寺廟時，即可打電話或透過收音機收聽，因為他們很多人並不上網。另有建議更新網站內容，並以博客（部落格）溝通；同時為新來者提供發問與參與的空間。



另一項討論重點由男眾提出，在於善用科技，並用於教育上。例如，聖城中小學增設科技課程，教導他們太陽能計畫，讓他們參與「新事物」，從中學習智慧產權、合作、以負責的態度使用科技等。易果容博士、葉祖堯博士，以及在賓州匹茲堡卡內基·美倫大學透過網路遠距參加這場座談會的武親道博士，從面向全球的層面討論，他們建議舉辦大規模的對話，例如法師與科學家之間的對話，將大家聚在一起，討論科技與倫理。

與會人士也針對科技提出種種顧慮與問題，另一位透過網路與會的曾俊銘指出，科技的發展遠超過社會的發展，很多祖父母與父母還一直認為，小孩子有機會用電腦是好事。因此有人呼籲，應針對科技對心智的影響進行研究，並從佛教徒的觀點找出特定議題，例如科技與媒體的使用，是否助長我們的欲望貪念，並對人事物更缺乏耐性？

這場研討會就佛教徒倫理與科技，提出了廣泛的問題、建議、以及應對之道。研討會最後，與會人士各自選擇他們感興趣的話題，未來將繼續深入探討研究。❀

Angela Justice, DRBU's communications director, served to facilitate the conversation in the women's group.

She said that there are over one billion Facebook page visits each month. Out of that, 750 million page visits on Facebook happen through a mobile phone. 84% of high school students receive their college acceptance letters on their cell phones. Justice said that things are totally different from when she was in college. In order to be accessible to an increasingly connected world, DRBA could consider making its websites mobile-friendly.

The women's group also came up with ideas about how technology could facilitate easier access to the Buddhadharma. One suggestion was to make Dharma talks and classes available to seniors who may find it harder to make frequent trips to the monastery so that they could call or tune in to listen because many of them don't use internet. There were also suggestions to update the website, consider using the blog form, and creating spaces for newcomers to ask questions and engage.

Another discussion, brought up by the men's side, focused on the educational and productive uses of technology, including bringing a technology program into our K-12 schools, teaching them about the solar project, getting kids involved in "new stuff" and through that learn about intellectual property, collaboration, and using technology responsibly. Dr. Ron Epstein, Dr. Raymond Yeh and Dr. John Vu who participated on-line from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, discussed on a global level and made a suggestion on bringing people together for a larger dialogue on technology and ethics, for instance, a dialogue between Dharma Masters and scientists.

People also brought up concerns or problems with technology. Another on-line participant, Jason Tseng, pointed out that technological growth has far outpaced society's development and yet many grandparents and parents still think that access to the computer is good for their children. Consequently, there has been calls to analyze the effects of technology on the mind and identify specific issues that can be addressed from a Buddhist perspective. Do technology and media use affect our desire, greed and impatience?

The seminar raised a range of questions, suggestions and approaches to Buddhist ethics and technology, and at the end people volunteered to explore and further the conversation on topics they were interested in. ❀