

# **The Zhina Neixue Yuan (China Institute of Inner Learning) and the Formation of the Modern Chinese Buddhist Knowledge: A Miao Fenglin Case Study\***

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*This article examines the pivotal role of the China Institute of Inner Learning (CIIL) in the revival and modernization of Buddhist knowledge in early twentieth-century China. It highlights the influence of Ouyang Jingwu 歐陽竟無 (1871–1943), a central figure in Chinese Buddhist reform, whose critique of traditional Sinicized Buddhism and emphasis on Yogācāric philosophy aimed to shape modern Chinese Buddhist knowledge. The study explores CIIL's educational ideals, curriculum, and practices, focusing on their efforts to rationalize and secularize Buddhism, thereby aligning it with contemporary scientific and philosophical frameworks. Through a case study of Miao Fenglin 繆鳳林 (1899–1959), a CIIL alumnus, the article further elucidates how the CIIL's education transformed Buddhism from “internal learning” into a public theoretical resource, and influenced the modernization of Chinese academia and thought, particularly in the fields of philosophy and history. By blending traditional Buddhist principles with modern rational methodologies, the CIIL contributed to a redefinition of Buddhist studies as a critical, academic discipline.*