



# Contexts and Dialogue: Yogacara Buddhism and Modern Psychology on the Subliminal Mind

By Tao Jiang

University of Hawaii Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 216 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.6in. Are there Buddhist conceptions of the unconscious? If so, are they more Freudian, Jungian, or something else? If not, can Buddhist conceptions be reconciled with the Freudian, Jungian, or other models? These are some of the questions that have motivated modern scholarship to approach alayavijñāna, the storehouse consciousness, formulated in Yogacara Buddhism as a subliminal reservoir of tendencies, habits, and future possibilities. Tao Jiang argues convincingly that such questions are inherently problematic because they frame their interpretations of the Buddhist notion largely in terms of responses to modern psychology. He proposes that, if we are to understand alayavijñāna properly and compare it with the unconscious responsibly, we need to change the way the questions are posed so that alayavijñāna and the unconscious can first be understood within their own contexts and then recontextualized within a dialogical setting. In so doing, certain paradigmatic assumptions embedded in the original frameworks of Buddhist and modern psychological theories are exposed. Jiang brings together Xuan Zang's alayavijñāna and Freud's and Jung's unconscious to focus on what the differences are in the thematic concerns of the three theories, why such differences exist...



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