

Abstract

This thesis traces the history of the Korean Kwan Um School of Zen in the Czech Republic using the oral history approach. The first part of this thesis is designed as an introduction, aiming to contextualize the Kwan Um School within the broader Buddhist context. The second part of the thesis works with five interviews with current and former members of the school that were conducted for the purpose of this thesis. These interviews were subsequently processed using oral history approaches, forming a narrative that traces the history of the school in the Czech Republic. The history begins to unfold in the late 1970s when the teachings of the school started permeating socialist Czechoslovakia even before its formal establishment as the unified Kwan Um School of Zen. The thesis additionally tracks the progression of the school throughout the 1990s, as it underwent formalization in its relationship with the state, leading up to the present era.