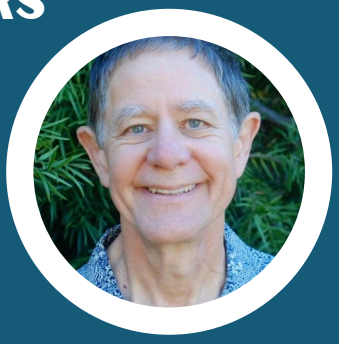
CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE CROSSROADS: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN NEUROSCIENCE AND BUDDHISM

Join us Dec. 3rd for the first session of an exciting new speaker series at UC Berkeley, "Consciousness at the Crossroads." The panel will explore interdisciplinary approaches to investigating mind/consciousness, bridging modern neuroscience and psychology with traditional contemplative perspectives. UC Berkeley neuroscientist Dr. David Presti will be in dialogue with UCB Buddhist Studies scholar Khenpo Yeshi, followed by audience Q&A. All are welcome!

(free of charge; donations welcomed to support event costs)

SPEAKERS

Khenpo Yeshi



David Presti

DATE AND LOCATION:

DECEMBER 3RD. 2025
GENETICS PLANT AND BIOLOGY BUILDING ROOM 100
6:30 - 8:00 PM

SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. David Presti is a longtime faculty member in biology, psychology, and cognitive science at UC Berkeley, where he has taught for more than 30 years. From 1990–2000 he worked clinically with addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder at the VA Medical Center in San Francisco, and since 2003 he has been involved in science education and dialogue with Tibetan Buddhist monastic communities in India, Bhutan, and Nepal. Dr. Presti holds doctorates in molecular biology (Caltech) and clinical psychology (University of Oregon), and is the author of *Foundational Concepts in Neuroscience: A Brain-Mind Odyssey* (2016), *Mind Beyond Brain: Buddhism, Science, and the Paranormal* (2018), and the online course *Psychedelics and the Mind* (edX, 2023).

Khenpo Yeshi received a B.A. in Religious Studies from UC Berkeley (2012), an M.A. in South and Southeast Asian Studies from UC Berkeley (2017), and is now a doctoral candidate. His research focuses on Tibetan Buddhism and the early development of the Dzogchen Heart Essence (*Rdzogs chen snying thig*) tradition, the highest section of the so-called Pith Instruction Teaching (*Man ngag sde*) of Dzogchen. His interests revolve around this contemplative system's view, path, conduct, and fruition, as well as broader issues in Dzogchen's relationship with other traditions in Tibet and beyond.

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