Symposium on
Bhutan’s Philosophy of Gross National Happiness
And Its Relevance for Western Society

Friday, April 29, 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Student Innovation Hall, RIT

Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the Center for Religious Life, the Associate Provost of International Education and Global Affairs, and the Conable Chair in International Studies

9:30-10:00 Coffee, Tea, and Pastries

10:00-10:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks
Dr. Babak Elahi, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, RIT
Ven. Lopen Gembo Dorji, Head of the Central Monastic Body and Bhutan Secretary General
Rev. Kosho Itagaki, Abbot of Eishoji Zen Temple, Seattle, WA

10:30-11:30 Film: Taking the Middle Path to Happiness

11:30-12:15 Pursuing the End of Happiness: Lessons from Bhutan, Bret Kanpu Davis, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola University Maryland

12:15-1:15 Lunch and Conversation (food and drink provided)

1:15-2:00 Bhutan and Earth Democracy, Jason Tetsuzen Wirth, Professor of Philosophy, Seattle University

2:00-2:45 Reflections on Buddhism, Gender, and Gross National Happiness in Bhutan, Erin Jien McCarthy, Professor of Philosophy, St. Lawrence University

2:45-3:00 Break (coffee, tea, and pastries)

3:00-3:45 Happiness, Death, and the Bhutanese Mask Dance, Brian Shudo Schroeder, Professor of Philosophy, RIT

3:45-4:45 Film: Happiness

4:45-5:30 What Can Western Society Learn From Bhutan? Open discussion

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 AM-11:30 PM
Skalny Room (located on the lower level of the Center for Religious Life, SAU, RIT)

Zen Meditation, with teisho (Dharma talk) by the Rev. Kosho Itagaki, Abbot of Eishoji Zen Temple

For more information contact brian.schroeder@rit.edu

All events are free and open to the public