

## STEPHEN CARL BERKWITZ

Department of Religious Studies  
Missouri State University  
901 S. National Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65897  
(417) 836-4147

E-mail: [sberkwitz@missouristate.edu](mailto:sberkwitz@missouristate.edu)

Website: <https://missouristate.academia.edu/StephenBerkwitz>

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 1999 University of California, Santa Barbara (Religious Studies)  
Dissertation: “The Ethics of Buddhist History: A Study of the Pāli and Sinhala *Thūpavamsas*.” Advisors: Ninian Smart (Chair), Gerald J. Larson, Barbara Holdrege, and Charles Hallisey
- M.A. 1994 University of California, Santa Barbara (Religious Studies)  
Thesis: “Reforming Tradition and Forming Identity in Twentieth-Century Sri Lankan Buddhism.”
- B.A. 1991 University of Vermont (Religion)

### EMPLOYMENT AND COURSES TAUGHT

**Head**, Department of Religious Studies, Missouri State University, Fall 2012-present

**Professor**, Department of Religious Studies, Missouri State University, *Paths of World Religions, Buddhism, Religions of China and Japan, Yoga and Meditation, Theories of Religion, Sex, Power and Devotion in South Asian Poetry* (graduate), *Religion, Colonialism, Postcolonialism* (graduate), *Tantra: Body and Power in South Asia* (graduate), Fall 2010-present

**Associate Professor**, Department of Religious Studies, Missouri State University, *Paths of World Religions, Buddhism, Religion: Colonialism/Postcolonialism, Theories of Religion, History of Indian Buddhism* (graduate), *Buddhism in the Modern World. Pali, Sanskrit, Religions of China and Japan*, Fall 2004-Spring 2010

**Visiting Instructor**, Missouri-London Study Abroad Program, International Enrichment, *Religions of Asia in London, Colonialism and Postcolonialism*, Spring 2003

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Religious Studies, Southwest Missouri State University, *Paths of World Religions, Buddhism, Basic Issues: History of Religions* (graduate), *Religion and Cultural Studies, Indic Religions* (graduate), Fall 1999-Spring 2004

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, *Hindu Myth and Image*, Spring 1999

**Teaching Assistant**, Committee for the Study of Religion, Harvard University, *Introduction to Buddhism*, Spring 1998

**Visiting Lecturer**, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside, *Religions of India, Buddhism*, Fall 1997

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, *Introduction to Asian Religions, Yoga Traditions of India, Introduction to the Study of Religion, Buddhist Traditions of South and Southeast Asia*, 1993-1995

## **TEACHING AREAS**

Primary: Buddhist Studies, Religions of South Asia, Theories of Religion, Buddhism and Modernity, South Asian Poetry, Colonialism and Postcolonialism, Yoga and Meditation

Secondary: Asian Religions in Western Cultures, Religions of China and Japan, Religion and Cultural Studies, Religions and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Pali, Sanskrit

## **SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

External examiner on Ph.D. dissertations for three students (Ann-Kathrin Wolf-Bretfeld, Norwegian University of Science and Technology [current], Krishantha Fredericks, University of Texas at Austin [current], and Sherry Harlacher, Arizona State University [2010])

Chair of three M.A. Thesis Committees at Missouri State University (Kayla Jenkins, Martha Smith, Jean Stalhood)

Member of seven additional MA Thesis Committees at Missouri State University

## **ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Assessment Grant, Office of Assessment, Missouri State University (2018)

- Visiting Research Fellowship, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, “Dynamics in the History of Religions Between Asia and Europe,” Ruhr-Universität Bochum (2017)
- Wabash Center Undergraduate Department Grant (2015-2017)
- Visiting Research Fellowship, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, “Dynamics in the History of Religions Between Asia and Europe,” Ruhr-Universität Bochum (2011-2012)
- Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Project Grant (2010)
- Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Consultation Grant (2009)
- Luso-American Foundation Scholarship, Univ. of Massachusetts, Dartmouth (2009)
- Summer Faculty Fellowship, Missouri State University (2008)
- Faculty Sabbatical Leave, Missouri State University (2006)
- Fulbright Senior Scholar Award in Sri Lanka, U.S. Department of State (2005)
- College Research Award, Southwest Missouri State University (2005)
- International Travel Award, Southwest Missouri State University (2005)
- University Teaching Award, Southwest Missouri State University (2004)
- Faculty Research Grant, Southwest Missouri State University (2004)
- College Research Award, Southwest Missouri State University (2002)
- Summer Faculty Fellowship, Southwest Missouri State University (2002)
- Funding for Results Grant, Southwest Missouri State University (2002)
- College Service Award, Southwest Missouri State University (2001)
- Faculty Research Grant, Southwest Missouri State University (1999)
- Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, UCSB General Affiliates, Santa Barbara, CA (1999)
- The Professor Raimundo Panikkar Award in the Study of South Asian Religions, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara (1999)
- Fulbright Junior Scholar Fellowship for pre-doctoral research in Sri Lanka (1995)
- Foreign Language Area Scholarship (FLAS) Fellowship, Cornell University (1994)
- Rowny Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara (1992-1996)
- Phi Beta Kappa, University of Vermont (1991)
- Magna Cum Laude, University of Vermont (1991)

## BOOKS

Ed. with Ashley Thompson, *Routledge Handbook of Theravāda Buddhism*. London: Routledge (under contract).

*Buddhist Poetry and Colonialism: Alagiyavanna and the Portuguese in Sri Lanka*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

*South Asian Buddhism: A Survey*. London: Routledge, 2009.

Ed., with Juliane Schober and Claudia Brown, *Buddhist Manuscript Cultures: Knowledge, Ritual, and Art*. London: Routledge, 2009.

*The History of the Buddha's Relic Shrine: A Translation of the Sinhala Thupavamsa.*  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

*The History of the Buddha's Relic Shrine: A Translation of the Sinhala Thupavamsa* (Sri Lankan Edition), Colombo: Vijitha Yapa, 2007.

Ed., *Buddhism in World Cultures: Comparative Perspectives.* Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2006.

*Buddhist History in the Vernacular: The Power of the Past in Late Medieval Sri Lanka.*  
Leiden: Brill. 2004.

## ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Masculine Virtues of the Bodhisattva King,” in *Buddhist Masculinities*, ed. Megan Bryson and Kevin Buckelew. (In progress)

“Bridging the Gaps: A Better Future for the Study of Religion,” co-authored with J. Dané Stoneburner Wallace. *Religion* 50/1 (2020): 32-39. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721X.2019.1681082>

“Divine Kingship in Medieval Sri Lanka: Dynamics in Traditions of Power and Virtue in South Asia.” *Entangled Religions: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Religious Contact and Transfer* 8 (2019). DOI: <http://doi.org/10.13154/er.8.2019.8312>

“Narratives of Buddhist Relics and Images.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. John Barton. Oxford University Press/ Article published May 2019. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.013.587>

“Strong Men and Sensual Women in Sinhala Buddhist Poetry.” In *Religious Boundaries for Sex, Gender and Corporeality*, ed. Alexandra Cuffel, Ana Echevarria, and Georgios T. Halkias, 63-77. London: Routledge, 2019.

“Dynamics and Stability in the Encounters between Asian Buddhists and European Christians.” *Entangled Religions: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Religious Contact and Transfer* 5 (2018): 1-43. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13154/er.v5.2018.1-43>

“The Rhetoric of Authenticity: Modernity and ‘True Buddhism’ in Sri Lanka.” In *Theravāda Buddhist Encounters with Modernity*, ed. Steven Collins and Juliane Schober, 103-117. London: Routledge, 2017.

“Sinhala *Sandēśa* Poetry in a Cosmopolitan Context.” In *Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History*, ed. Zoltán Biedermann and Alan Strathern, 94-112. London: University College of London Press, 2017.

“The Portuguese Discovery of Buddhism: Locating Religion in Early Modern Asia.” In *Locating Religions: Contact, Diversity and Translocality*, ed. Reinhold F. Gleis and Nikolas Jaspert, 37-63. Leiden: Brill, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004335066>

“Sinhala Buddhist Appropriations of Indic Cultural Forms: Literary Imitations and Conquests.” *Religions of South Asia* 10, no. 1 (2016): 31-53. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“Reimagining Buddhist Kingship in a Sinhala *Praśasti*.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 136, no. 2 (2016): 325-341.

“A Buddhist Media Pioneer: Ven. Kiribathgoda Gnānānanda Thera.” In *Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia*, ed. Justin McDaniel, Mark Rowe, and Jeffrey Samuels, 30-33. University of Hawai’i Press, 2016.

“Textbook Buddhism: Introductory Books on the Buddhist Religion.” *Religion* 46, no. 2 (2016): 221-246. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721x.2015.1091217>

“Hybridity, Parody, and Contempt: Some Buddhist Responses to Christian Missions.” In *Cultural Conversions: Unexpected Consequences of Christian Missionary Encounters in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia*, ed. Heather J. Sharkey, 99-120. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2013.

“In Praise of the Portuguese: Images of Power and Religion in Seventeenth-Century Ceilão.” *Anais de Historia de Além-Mar* XIII (2012): 433-454.

“An Ugly King and the Mother Tongue: Notes on Kusa Jātaka in Sinhala Language and Culture.” *parallax* 18, no. 3 (2012): 56-70. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“The Ethics of Devotion in the Sinhala Thūpavaṃsa.” In *Embedded Languages: Studies of Sri Lankan and Buddhist Cultures, Essays in Honor of W.S. Karunatilake*, ed. Carol S. Anderson, et al., 193-214. Colombo: Godage International Publishers, 2012.

“The Expansion of Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia.” In *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe: Encounters, Notions, and Comparative Perspectives*, ed. Volkhard Krech and Marion Steinicke, 223-239. Leiden: Brill, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“Buddhism in Modern Sri Lanka.” In *Buddhism in the Modern World*, ed. David L. McMahan, 29-47. London: Routledge, 2011.

“Madness and Gender in Buddhism.” In *Images of Madness/Imagens da Loucura*, ed. Alessandra M. Pires and Luciana Namorato, 34-49. Bolivar, MO: From the Scholars Desk, 2010.

“Merit and Materiality in Sri Lankan Buddhist Manuscripts.” In *Buddhist Manuscript Cultures: Knowledge, Ritual, and Art*, ed. Stephen C. Berkwitz, Juliane Schober, and Claudia Brown, 35-49. London: Routledge, 2009.

“Introduction: Rethinking Buddhist Manuscript Cultures.” Co-authored with Juliane Schober and Claudia Brown.” In *Buddhist Manuscript Cultures: Knowledge, Ritual, and Art*, ed. Stephen C. Berkwitz, Juliane Schober, and Claudia Brown, 1-15. London: Routledge, 2009.

“Religious Conflict and the Politics of Conversion in Sri Lanka.” In *Proselytization Revisited: Rights Talk, Free Markets, and Culture Wars*, ed. Rosalind I.J. Hackett, 199-229. London: Equinox Press, 2008.

“Resisting the Global in Buddhist Nationalism: Venerable Soma’s Discourse of Decline and Reform.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 67, no. 1 (Feb. 2008): 73-106.  
<https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“Buddhism in Sri Lanka: Practice, Protest, and Preservation.” In *Buddhism in World Cultures: Comparative Perspective*, ed. Stephen C. Berkwitz, 45-72. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2006.

“The History of Buddhism in Retrospect.” In *Buddhism in World Cultures: Comparative Perspective*, ed. Stephen C. Berkwitz, 1-44. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2006.

“Some Conceptions and Misconceptions About Buddhism in the West: Issues and Approaches for the Classroom.” *Teaching Theology & Religion* 7, no. 3 (2004): 141-152.  
<https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“History and Gratitude in Theravada Buddhism.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 71, no. 3 (Sept. 2003): 579-604. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“Recent Trends in Sri Lankan Buddhism.” *Religion* 33, no. 1 (Jan. 2003): 57-71.  
<https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“Some Observations on the Study of Buddhist Literature in Sinhala.” In *Arcana: Professor M.H.F. Jayasuriya Felicitation Volume*, ed. Ven. Navagamue Revata, et al., 61-84. Colombo: S. Godage and Bros., 2002.

“What the Buddhologists Taught: A Review Essay” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*. 13, no. 3 (Sept. 2001): 310-333. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

“Emotions and Ethics in Buddhist History: The *Sinhala Thupavamsa* and the Work of Virtue.” *Religion* 31, no. 2 (April 2001): 155-173. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rosa.27959>

## PUBLISHED ESSAYS

“If I Only Knew Then...Tenured Scholars on Professionalization: Stephen C. Berkwitz.” *Religion Bulletin*. The blogging portal of the *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 2016 (online). <http://bulletin.equinoxpub.com/2016/01/if-i-only-knew-then-tenured-scholars-on-professionalization-stephen-c-berkwitz/>

“Teaching Religious Studies in Stand-alone MA Programs: Guest Editor’s Introduction.” In *Religious Studies News (Spotlight on Teaching)*, October 2012 (online): [http://rsnonline.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1345&Itemid=1502](http://rsnonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1345&Itemid=1502)

“Colonialism and Conflict.” *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere*. Posted December 11, 2009 (online). <https://tif.ssrc.org/2009/12/11/colonialism-and-conflict/>

“Introduction” to Review Symposium on Qadri Ismail’s *Abiding by Sri Lanka: On Peace, Place, and Postcoloniality*. *Religion* 38, no. 2 (2008): 172-3.

“Vamsa.” In *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, Vol 2, ed. Robert E. Buswell, Jr., 877-878. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003.

“Sri Lanka—A Matter of Heart.” In *Excursions and Explorations: Cultural Encounters Between the United States and Sri Lanka*, ed. Tissa Jayatillake, 49-53. Colombo: U.S. - S.L. Fulbright Commission, 2002.

“Terror and Violence through Buddhist Lenses.” *Bulletin of the Council of Societies for the Study of Religion* 30, no. 4 (Nov. 2001): 75.

## REVIEWS AND BOOKNOTES

Review of Maria Heim, *Voice of the Buddha: Buddhaghosa on the Immeasurable Words*. In *Religion* 49, no. 3 (2019): 513-516.

Review of Kristin Scheible, *Reading the Mahāvamsa: The Literary Aims of a Theravāda Buddhist History*. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138, no. 1 (2018): 169-172.

Review of Peter Skilling, et al., eds., *How Theravāda is Theravāda? Exploring Buddhist Identities*. In *H-Buddhism (H-Net Reviews in the Humanities & Social Sciences)*, April 2014: 1-5. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=41492>.

Review of Urs App, *The Cult of Emptiness: The Western Discovery of Buddhist Thought and the Invention of Oriental Philosophy*. In *Religion* 43, no. 4 (2013): 593-596.

Review of Naomi Appleton, *Jātaka Stories in Theravāda Buddhism: Narrating the Bodhisatta Path*. In *Religion* 42, no. 1 (Jan. 2012): 176-179.

Review of C. Gaston Perera, *The Portuguese Missionary in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Ceylon: The Spiritual Conquest*. In *The Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities* 36, nos. 1&2 (2010): 101-104.

Review of John Clifford Holt, *Spirits of the Place: Buddhism and Lao Religious Culture*. In *CHOICE*, April 2010.

Review of Jorge Flores, ed., *Re-exploring the Links: History and Constructed Histories between Portugal and Sri Lanka*. In *Religion* 39, no. 1 (Mar. 2009): 97-99.

Review of Elizabeth J. Harris's *Theravada Buddhism and the British Encounter: Religious, Missionary and Colonial Experience in Nineteenth-century Sri Lanka*. In *Religion* 38, no. 1 (Apr. 2008): 86-88.

Review of Ananda Abeysekara's *Colors of the Robe: Religion, Identity, and Difference*. In *Religion* 37, no. 3 (Sept. 2007): 248-250.

Review of John Clifford Holt, Jacob N. Kinnard, and Jonathan Walters, eds., *Constituting Communities*. In *Religious Studies Review* 30, nos. 2 & 3 (April/July 2004): 239.

Review of Anne M. Blackburn's *Buddhist Learning and Textual Practice in Eighteenth-Century Lankan Culture*. In *Journal of Religion* 83, no. 2 (April 2003): 326-327.

Review of Ranjini Obeyesekere's *Portraits of Buddhist Women*. In *Religious Studies Review* 28, no. 2 (April 2002): 187.

Review of Leonard Priestley's *Pudgalavāda Buddhism*. In *Religious Studies Review* 27, no. 4 (Oct. 2001): 433-434.

Review of Paul J. Griffiths's *Religious Reading*. In *Religion* 31, no. 3 (July 2001): 286-288.

Review of H.L. Seneviratne's *The Work of Kings*. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 121, no. 2 (April-June 2001): 281-283.

Review of Todd L. Lewis's *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*. In *Religious Studies Review*, 27, no. 3 (July 2001): 315-316.

Review of M.M. Deshpande's *Milindapañhā-Aṭṭhakathā*. In *Religious Studies Review* 27, no. 1 (Jan. 2001): 94-95.



Review of Kamala Tiyanavich's *Forest Recollections*. In *Religious Studies Review* 26, no. 4 (Oct. 2000): 407.

Review of Tessa Bartholomeusz & C. R. de Silva, eds. *Buddhist Fundamentalism and Minority Identities in Sri Lanka*. In *Religion*, 30, no. 2 (April 2000): 201-202.

Review of Nyanaponika Thera's *Abhidhamma Studies*. In *Religious Studies Review* 26, no. 1 (Jan. 2000): 120.

Review of H. Saddhatissa's *Before He Was Buddha*. In *Religious Studies Review* 26, no. 1 (Jan. 2000): 120.

Review of Juliane Schober, ed. *Sacred Biography in the Buddhist Traditions of South and Southeast Asia*. In *Religion*, 28, no. 3 (July 1998): 301-303.

Review of Tessa Bartholomeusz's *Women Under the Bo Tree*. In *Nethra, Quarterly Journal of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies*, Vol. 1, no. 1 (Oct-Dec 1996): 45-51.

Review of Donald S. Lopez, ed. *Curators of the Buddha*. In *Religion*, 26, no. 3, (July 1996): 294-296.

Review of Steven Kemper's *The Presence of the Past*. In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 58, no. 2 (Summer 1995): 365-366.

Review of David Scott's *Formations of Ritual*. In *Religion*, 25, no. 1, (Jan. 1995): 94-95.

## **SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS**

"The *Mahābodhivaṃsa* and the Formation of Buddhist Identity in Medieval Sri Lanka." 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, October 17, 2019.

"The History of the Bodhi Tree and Buddhist Identity in Medieval Sri Lanka." Paine Lecture Series, University of Missouri, Columbia Department of Religious Studies, September 26, 2019.

"Buddhist 'Heretics' and the Logic of Lineage." Behaving Like Heathens? Polemical Comparisons and Discourses of Religious Diversity across Cultures, Universität Bielefeld, Germany, December 1, 2018.

“Divine Kingship in Medieval Sri Lanka: Dynamics in Traditions of Power and Virtue in South Asia.” Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, October 16, 2017.

“How Histories of Relics Re-Center the Buddhist World in Sri Lanka.” XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), Marburg, Germany, September 15, 2017.

“What is a Bodhisattva King? Sri Lankan Perspectives on Buddhist Kingship.” XVIII<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Toronto, Canada, August 25, 2017.

“Re-Centering the Buddhist World in the *Vamsakathā* of Sri Lanka.” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, June 23, 2017.

“Re-Placing the Bodhi Tree in the *Sinhala Bōdhivamsāya*.” Buddhism and Place-Making in Sri Lanka, University of Texas-Austin, April 21, 2017.

“Making Religion and Making Sense.” Religion and the Senses Conference, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, September 8, 2016.

“Buddhist Poetry and Religious Identity in Early Modern Sri Lanka.” Philosophische Fakultät, University of Heidelberg, June 1, 2016.

“To Protect and Praise the King: Gods in Sinhala Sandesha Poetry.” Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, July 10, 2015.

“The Strategies of Sinhala Literature for Superseding Indian Culture, 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> c.” Centre of Contemporary Indian Studies and the Department of Sinhala, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 17, 2015.

“So Near Yet So Far: Sri Lankan Strategies for Superseding Indian Cultural Forms.” Keynote Lecture, 40<sup>th</sup> Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, Edinburgh, Scotland, April 10, 2015.

“Locating ‘True Buddhism’ in the Modern World.” School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, April 9, 2015.

“The Vernacularization of Buddhist Texts and Culture in Sri Lanka.” Religion in South Asia Conference, Department of Religious Studies, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, March 20, 2015.

“Buddhist Notions of Time and History.” Buddhist Historiography Workshop, Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, California, June 7, 2014.

“Sinhala Praśasti and the Construction of Buddhist Kingship in Sri Lanka,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 29, 2014.

“Bodies of Praise: Strong Men and Erotic Women in Sinhala Buddhist Poetry,” Body Trouble: Religious Boundaries for Sex, Gender, and Corporeality conference, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Spain, March 14, 2014.

“The Poetics of Virility: Praising Buddhist Kings in Sinhala Verse,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, November 25, 2013.

“Moralism and Colonialism in Early Modern Sri Lanka,” Religion in the Iberian Colonial World conference, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, November 6, 2013.

“The Moralism of *Subhāṣitaya* as a Response to Colonialism,” Buddhist Studies Program and Sinhala Studies Seminar, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 4, 2013.

“The Contingencies and Processes of Buddhist Manuscripts from Sri Lanka,” Materiale Textkulturen, Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, June 18, 2013.

“Writing the Local and Translocal in Sinhala Sandesha Poetry,” Local Domains/Translocal Claims Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Department of South Asia Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 12, 2013.

“Eroticism and Power in Sinhala Buddhist Poetry,” Department of Indology and Tibetology, Philips Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany April 24, 2012.

“In Praise of the Portuguese: Religion and Power in Seventeenth-Century Ceilão,” Centro de História de Além-Mar, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, March 29, 2012.

“The Portuguese ‘Discovery’ of Buddhism,” Locating Religions: Contact, Diversity and Translocality conference, Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, February 10, 2012.

“Poetry and Eroticism in a Sinhala Buddhist Idiom,” Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Bristol University, Bristol, England, October 25, 2011.

“Moralism and Colonialism in Sinhala Buddhist Poetry,” Oxford Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, October 24, 2011.

“Poetry and Eroticism in a Sinhala Buddhist Idiom,” Centre of Buddhist Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, England, October 21, 2011.

"The Ambiguity of Hybridity among Buddhists and the Portuguese in 17th-Century Asia," Käte Hamburger Kolleg at the Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, October 10, 2011.

"Religious Encounters between Buddhist and Christians in Early Modern Sri Lanka," Theravada Buddhist Encounters with Modernity, University of Chicago, September 18, 2010.

"Ethics and Criticism in Early Modern Sinhala Poetry." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 25, 2010.

"Colonialism and Conflict in *Christian Moderns*." Panel presentation at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, November 7, 2009.

"The Erotics of Sinhala Buddhist Poetry: Power and Desire in Voyeuristic Verse." Sex and Texts: Representations of Sexuality in Asian Religious Traditions Conference. University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO, October 16, 2009.

"Exploring the Portuguese Encounter with Ceilão: Contacts, Conflicts, and Consequences." University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, July 22, 2009.

"Moral Themes in Alagiyavanna's Jātaka Poems." Symposium on the Seethawaka Kingdom, a research symposium held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 21, 2009.

"The Expansion of Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia." Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe: Encounters, Notions, and Comparative Perspectives, a Conference of the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities held at Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, October 16, 2008.

"Buddhist Responses to Christian Missions in Sri Lanka from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries." Christian Missions and National Identities: Comparative Studies of Cultural "Conversions" in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and East Asia, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 10, 2008.

"Religious Conflict and the Politics of Conversion in Sri Lanka." A panel on the book, *Proselytization Revisited*. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 18, 2007.

"Poetry, Colonialism, and the Dawning of Modern Buddhism in Sri Lanka." Religious Encounters at the Intersection of Colonialism and Modernity, 1500 to Present, an international conference, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, February 23, 2007

"The Ethics of Sinhala *Kavi* in Alagiyavanna Mukaveti's Jataka Poems." The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 22, 2006

“De-centering Dharmapala in Modern Sri Lankan History.” The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 20, 2006

“The Preservation of Knowledge in Sri Lankan Buddhist Manuscripts.” Buddhist Objects: Knowledge, Ritual and Art, an international research consultation, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, October 6, 2006

“Kusa Jataka Reconsidered: Viewing the Past from Pali Prose through Sinhala Poetry.” Guest Lecture Series, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 27, 2006

“Past and Present Disputes over Conversion in Sri Lanka.” International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 30, 2006

“Resisting the Global in Sri Lankan Buddhist Nationalism.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 21, 2005

“A Bodhisattva in Love: Textual Developments on the *Kusa Jataka* in Sinhala.” XIVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, London, UK, August 31, 2005

“Buddhist Histories and The Power of the Past in Sri Lanka.” Department of Religious Studies, Center for Asian Studies, and the University Libraries, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, April 7, 2005

“Buddhist Nationalism in Sri Lanka.” International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 16, 2004.

“Buddhist History in Sinhala Chronicles.” Guest Lecture Series, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 25, 2004

“What is Buddhist Nationalism and Why Does It Exist?” UVM Department of Religion Seminar, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, March 24, 2004

“Writing the Past and Rewriting the Present in Sri Lankan Buddhist Manuscripts,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, November 24, 2002

“Soma Hamuduruwo and the Rhetoric of Buddhist Reform,” The 31st Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 11, 2002

“What Makes Buddhist Histories ‘*Buddhist*’?: Representing the Past for a Better Future in Premodern Sri Lanka,” South Asia Seminar, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, September 20, 2002

“King Dutugemunu as a *Satpuruṣa*,” Inaugural Lecture for Seminar Series on Sri Lankan Society and Culture, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, July 31, 2002

“Buddhism and Politics in H.L. Seneviratne’s *The Work of Kings*,” International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 19, 2002

“History Writing as Buddhist Practice in Premodern Sri Lanka,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 5, 2002

“History and Gratitude in Theravada Buddhism,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, March 24, 2001

“Translating and Transforming Sri Lankan Buddhist Histories,” The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 13, 2000

“Emotions and Ethics in the *Sinhala Thupavamsa*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, November 20, 1999

“The Production of Buddhist History,” Harvard Buddhist Studies Workshop, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 20, 1998

“Reform and Identity in Sri Lankan Buddhism,” International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, November 21, 1996

“Narrative, Space, and Power in Homi Bhabha’s ‘Disseminations’,” Department of Religious Studies Colloquium, Santa Barbara, California, November 2, 1994

“Definitions of Reform: The Social Practice of Religious Change,” Department of Religion, University of Vermont, September 14, 1994.

“Sinhala Buddhist Nationalism: Violence and the Transformation of Tradition,” Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, August 6, 1994

“Reform and Identity in Twentieth-Century Sri Lankan Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion, Western Regional Meeting, Santa Clara, California, March 26, 1994

“A Model for Reform: Secularization and Sect-Formation in Sixteenth-Century Scotland,” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting, Fullerton, California, March 19, 1993

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Leadership Workshop, “More Time, Less Budget: The Role of the Department Chair in a New Economic Context.” American Academy of Religion, Nov. 16, 2012

Effective and Efficient Transfer Advising Strategies, Missouri State University, Feb. 8, 2013

Boots to Books: Advising and Teaching Veterans Workshop. Missouri State University, Feb. 19, 2013

Wabash Center for Reaching and Learning Grant Development Consultation, Indianapolis, IN, Sept. 24-27, 2015

Safe Zone Training for Advisors, Missouri State University, October 14, 2015

## **SERVICE AND RELATED EXPERIENCE**

### Editorial Service

- Series Editor, Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism, Routledge Press (2007-present)
- Member, Editorial Board, *Religion* (1999-present)
- Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Global Buddhism* (2009-present)
- Member, Advisory Board, *Asian Literature and Translation* (2013-present)
- Member, Editorial Board, *Buddhist Studies Review* (2014-2020)
- Book Review Editor, *Religion* (2003-2016)
- Book Networker/Sub-editor (South Asia), *Religious Studies Review*, (2000-2005)

### Service to the Profession

- External Program Reviewer, University of Oklahoma, Department of Religious Studies (2020)
- European Science Foundation, Member of the College of Expert Reviewers (2018-present)
- External Reviewer, BA/BS Program Proposal, Middle Tennessee State University (2016)
- External Program Reviewer, University of Oregon, Department of Religious Studies (2016)
- Co-chair, Seminar on Stand-alone MA programs in Religion for the American Academy of Religion (2011-2015)
- Member, Steering Committee of the Religion and Colonialism Consultation for the American Academy of Religion (2009-2013)
- Consultant, Arizona State University Libraries, Sinhalese Manuscript Cataloguing Project (2005-2009)
- Co-organizer, “Buddhist Objects: Knowledge, Ritual and Art,” an international research consultation at Arizona State University, October 6-7, 2006

- Member, American Academy of Religion's Committee on Teaching & Learning (2001-2003)
- Moderator and Organizer of Special Topics Forum: "Is Teaching Graduate Students About Teaching Just A Fad?" at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, November 25, 2003

Manuscript, Grant, and Personnel Reviews

- Manuscript reviewer, *Modern Asian Studies* (2020)
- Manuscript reviewer, National University of Singapore Press (2019)
- Manuscript reviewer, *Religion* (2019)
- Grant reviewer, Swiss National Science Foundation (2019)
- Manuscript reviewer, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (2019)
- Manuscript reviewer, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (2019)
- Manuscript reviewer, *Buddhist Studies Review* (2018)
- Manuscript reviewer, *Religion* (2018)
- Manuscript reviewer, NETamil edited volume (2018)
- Project Reviewer, Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency Program (2008-2017)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Buddhism, Law and Society* (2017)
- Fellowship Project Reviewer, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (2017)
- External Promotion Reviewer, University of California, Santa Barbara (2016)
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of California Press (2016)
- Reviewer, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion (2016)
- External Reviewer, Application for Professorship Appointment, CERES, Ruhr-Universität Bochum (2015)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Religion* (2011-2015)
- Fellowship Project Reviewer, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (2014)
- Paper reviewer, Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (2014)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *One World Publications* (2014)
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Wisconsin Press (2014)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Buddhist Studies Review* (2014)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America* (2013)
- Project Reviewer, European Research Council (2013)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (2012)
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Chicago Press (2012)
- Manuscript Reviewer, Routledge Press (2012)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *The Journal of Burma Studies* (2011)
- External Promotion Reviewer, University of Vermont (2011)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Global Buddhism* (2010)
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Chicago Press (2010)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Geoforum* (2010)
- External Evaluator for Tenure Case, University of Tennessee-Knoxville (2009)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Politics and Religion* (2009)
- Manuscript Reviewer, Routledge Press (2006, 2007, 2010)



- Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press (2004, 2008)
- Manuscript Reviewer, McGraw-Hill (2005)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *International Journal of Hindu Studies* (2005)
- Project Reviewer, University of Missouri Research Board (2004)

#### University Level

- Member, University Assessment Council (2018-present)
- Program Coordinator, Medical Humanities Program (2019-present)
- Program Coordinator, Asian Studies Program (2012-present)
- Member, Global Studies Committee (2007-present)
- Member, Provost's Academic Advisement Council (2013-2015)
- Member, Missouri State University Visioning Task Force (2014-2015)
- Chair, Asian Studies Committee (2003-2011, 2012-2014)
- Member, Academic Affairs Budget Committee (2010-2011)
- Member, International Students Advisory Committee (2004-2010)
- Faculty Advisor, Association of International Students (2000-2009)
- Member, Area Studies Committee (2006-2008)
- Participant, Master Advisor Re-fresher Workshop (2008)
- Keynote Presenter for Asian-American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month, "The Story of Buddhism in Asian-American History," (Apr. 3, 2007)
- Member, International Program's Subcommittee on Asia (2004-2005)
- Member, Faculty Concerns Committee (2001-2004)
- Member, Asian Studies Committee (2002-2003)
- Participant, Master Advisor Workshop (2001)

#### College Level

- Member, CHPA Scholastic Appeals Committee (2012-present)
- Member, CHPA Budget Committee (2010-2011)
- Member, Asian Arts & Letter Initiative Committee (2007-2010)
- Member, New Faculty Search Committee, Dept. of History (2009-2010)
- Member, CHPA Public Affairs Conference Committee (2007)
- Member, College Council, College of Humanities and Public Affairs (2004-2006)
- Member, College of Humanities and Public Affairs Awards Committee, SMSU (2001, 2005)
- Chair, College Council, College of Humanities and Public Affairs (2005)
- Moderator, CHPA Symposium on Bioethics and Human Excellence (Mar. 4, 2005)

#### Department Level

- Department Head, Religious Studies (2012-present)

- Chair, Personnel Committee (2004-2005, 2010-2011)
- Member, Personnel Committee (2007-2010)
- Member, Budget Committee (2007-2010)
- Member, Faculty Mentoring Ad-hoc Committee (2009)
- Chair, New Faculty Search Committee (2007-2008)
- Member, Student Recruitment Committee (2001-2003, 2004-2006)
- Member, Technology Committee (2006)
- Member, Scholarships Committee (2002-2003, 2005)
- Chair, Web Committee (2004-2005)
- Member, New Faculty Search Committee (2004-2005)
- Chair, Scholarships Committee (2004)
- Chair, Library Committee (2002-2003)
- Member, Graduate Committee (2003)

## **LANGUAGES**

Pali (reading)  
 Classical Sinhala (reading)  
 Colloquial Sinhala (speaking, reading, writing)  
 Classical Sanskrit (reading)  
 Portuguese (speaking, reading)  
 German (speaking, reading)  
 French (reading)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (PAST AND PRESENT)**

American Academy of Religion  
 American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies  
 Association for Asian Studies  
 International Association of Buddhist Studies  
 Pali Text Society  
 Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka  
 United Kingdom Association of Buddhist Studies