

SARAH H. JACOBY

Department of Religious Studies
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INTERESTS

Tibetan Buddhist studies, South Asian religions, gender and sexuality, Tibetan literature, hagiography and religious autobiography, Buddhist revelation, eastern Tibetan area studies, feminist theory and the study of religion

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies Fall 2016-present
Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies Fall 2009-Spring 2016

Columbia University, New York, NY Fall 2006-Spring 2009
Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Heyman Center

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 2007
Department of Religious Studies, History of Religions, Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies
• Dissertation titled *Consorts and Revelation in Eastern Tibet: The Auto/biographical Writings of the Treasure Revealer Sera Khandro (1892-1940)*
• Main adviser David Germano; UVa committee members Karen Lang, Kurtis Schaeffer, and Nicolas Sihlé; external committee member Janet Gyatso (Harvard Divinity School)

M.A. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 2001
Department of Religious Studies
• Master's exam on Tibetan Buddhist philosophy (the relationship of Mahāyoga and Rdzogs chen), advised by David Germano and Jeffrey Hopkins

B.A. Yale University, New Haven, CT 1996
Women's Studies Department, distinction within the major
• Senior Essay: "Selflessness and Identity Construction: A Comparison Between Buddhist Scripture and Feminist Theory," advised by Serene Jones

ACADEMIC AWARDS/ FELLOWSHIPS

GRANTS FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES PROGRAM AT NORTHWESTERN

- Awarded \$39,609 by the Khyentse Foundation for years 3 and 4 of the Khyentse Foundation Buddhist Studies Lecture Series at Northwestern, which I founded and currently chair (fall 2022-2024)

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- Awarded \$44,400 by the Khyentse Foundation for years 1 and 2 of the Khyentse Foundation Buddhist Studies Lecture Series at Northwestern, which I founded and currently chair (fall 2020-2022)
- Awarded \$100,000 by the Khyentse Foundation to fund Buddhist Studies doctoral students for four years (\$25,000 per year), began fall 2020
- Awarded \$123,665 by the Khyentse Foundation to hire Tibetan language lecturer for five years in the Asian Languages and Cultures Department, began fall 2016

POSTDOCTORAL AWARDS

- Funded \$35,000 by the Tsadra Foundation to organize a Lotsawa Translation Workshop titled “Celebrating Buddhist Women’s Voices in the Tibetan Tradition” held at Northwestern, Oct 13-16, 2022
- Winner of the 2016 E. Gene Smith Inner Asia Book Prize for my monograph *Love and Liberation*
- Awarded American Academy of Religion (AAR) Collaborative International Research Grant for project titled “The Formation of Female Religious Exemplars in Tibet” with Padma ’tsho, Professor at Southwest Minzu University, Chengdu, PRC, 2016
- American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship for year-long research leave, 2012-13
- Northwestern University Research Grants Committee (URCG) Publication Subvention, 2013
- Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation publication subvention award, 2011

PREDOCTORAL AWARDS

- Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 2005-2006
- Fulbright Hays Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2004-2005
- UVa Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Language Study Funding, summer 2004 (for pre-dissertation research in Tibet), and summer 2003, 2001, 2000 (for Tibetan language study in Tibet and Nepal)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, 2000-2003 (for 2 years of coursework focused on South Asia at UVa and one year at Tibet University in Lhasa, Tibet)
- Weedon Travel Grant, summer 2000 (for Tibetan language study in Nepal)
- Du Pont Fellowship, 1999-2000 (for UVa coursework)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Love and Liberation: Autobiographical Writings of the Tibetan Buddhist Visionary Sera Khandro*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.
 - Winner of the E. Gene Smith Inner Asia Book Prize for 2016
 - Reviewed by Janet Gyatso in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (<http://jaar.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/10/12/jaarel.lfv084.full.pdf+html>) and also by the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *Buddhist Studies Review*, *The Women’s Review of Books*, *Buddhadharma*, *Religion & Gender*, *Life Writing*, *History of Religions*
- Donald Mitchell and Sarah Jacoby, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience*, 3rd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
 - Reviewed in *Religion* by Stephen Berkwitz’s “Textbook Buddhism: introductory books on the Buddhist religion,” Oct. 2015: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0048721X.2015.1091217>

- Sarah Jacoby and Antonio Terrone. *Buddhism beyond the Monastery: Tantric Practices and their Performers in Tibet and the Himalayas*. Leiden: Brill, 2009.
 - Reviewed in *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, vol. 18, 2011, online access at: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/buddhistethics/files/2011/10/JBE-Barstow.pdf>

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Women and Wit in Tibetan Buddhist Literature.” *Journal of Tibetan Literature*, passed peer review, expected pub date spring 2023.
- “Tibetan Buddhist Metaphors and Models of Motherhood.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 37, no. 1 (2021): pp. 45-62.
- Padma’tsho and Sarah Jacoby. “Gender Equality in and on Tibetan Nuns’ Terms.” *Religions* 2020, 11, 543. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11100543>
- “In Search of a Queer Buddhist Theology.” *Religion* 49:4 (2019): pp. 723-727.
- “Tibetan Studies and the Art of Dialogue.” *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines* 48, Avril (2019): pp. 152-169.
- “The Science of Sensual Pleasure According to a Buddhist Monk: Ju Mipam’s Contribution to *Kāmaśāstra* Literature in Tibet.” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 80/2 (2017): pp. 319-337.
- “Relational Autonomy in the Life of a Contemporary Tibetan *Ḍākinī*.” *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines* 34, Décembre (2015): pp. 79-113.
- “‘This Inferior Female Body:’ Reflections on Life as a Treasure Revealer Through the Autobiographical Eyes of Se ra mkha’ ’gro (Bde ba’i rdo rje, 1892-1940).” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 32/1-2 (2009/2010): pp. 115-150.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Love, Death and Devotion Between *Yab* and *Yum*.” In *Longing to Awaken: Buddhist Devotion in Tibetan Poetry and Song*. Edited by Holly Gayley and Dominique Townsend. University of Virginia Press, 2023 (in press).
- “Tendrel: Being Human in a More than Human World.” In *Living Treasure: Tibetan and Buddhist Studies in Honor of Janet Gyatso*. Edited by Holly Gayley and Andrew Quintman. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2023 (in press), pp. 413-430.
- “Lotsawa Workshop: Celebrating Buddhist Women’s Voices in the Tibetan Tradition.” [*Sakyadhita*](#) 31 (winter 2023): pp. 1-3.
- Padma ’tsho and Sarah Jacoby. “Lessons from Buddhist Foremothers,” in *Voices from Larung Gar*. Holly Gayley (ed). Boulder: Shambhala Publications, 2021.

- Response to Ann Gleig and Amy Langenberg’s AAR panel “From Rape Texts to Bro Buddhism: Critical Canonical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Sexual Abuse Scandals in Western Buddhism.” *Sakyadhita* 27 (winter 2018): pp. 5-9.
- “Negotiating Religion and the State,” in *Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia*. Justin McDaniel, Mark Rowe, and Jeffrey Samuels (eds). Honolulu, University of Hawai’i Press, 2016, pp. 133-35.
- “The Excellent Path of Devotion: An Annotated Translation of Sera Khandro’s Short Autobiography,” In *Himalayan Passages: Tibetan and Newar Studies in Honor of Hubert Decleer*. Benjamin Bogin and Andrew Quintman (eds). Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2014, pp. 163-202.
- “A Treasure Revealer: Sera Khandro.” In *Sources of Tibetan Tradition*. Kurtis R. Schaeffer, Gray Tuttle, Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp, Matthew Kapstein (eds). New York: Columbia University Press, 2013, pp. 696-99.
- Sarah Jacoby and Antonio Terrone. “Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhism.” In *Buddhism in the Modern World*. David McMahan (ed.). Abingdon: Routledge, 2012, pp. 89-111.
- “To be or not to be Celibate: Morality and Consort Practices According to the Treasure Revealer Sera Khandro’s (1892-1940) Auto/biographical Writings.” In Sarah Jacoby and Antonio Terrone (eds), *Buddhism beyond the Monastery: Tantric Practices and their Performers in Modern Tibet*. Leiden: Brill, 2009, 37-71.

ONLINE AND PUBLIC-FACING PUBLICATIONS

- I am the scholar interviewed in Justin Curto, “Grading Taylor Swift’s ‘Karma’ With a Buddhist-Studies Professor,” *Vulture*, Oct 27, 2022 <https://www.vulture.com/2022/10/taylor-swift-karma-explained-professor.html>
- “Motherhood is More Than a Metaphor.” *Buddhadharma* 19 no. 3 (summer 2021): pp. 80-94. (Also available online at *Lion’s Roar: Buddhist Wisdom for our Time* <https://www.lionsroar.com/motherhood-is-more-than-a-metaphor/>)
- “Contemplative Pedagogy and the Religious Studies Classroom: Editor’s Introduction,” June 18, 2019, In *Spotlight on Teaching*, <http://rsn.aarweb.org/spotlight-on/teaching/contemplative-pedagogy/editors-introduction>
- “Teaching Religion as Anti-Racist Education: Editor’s Introduction,” Nov. 5, 2018, in *Spotlight on Teaching*, <http://rsn.aarweb.org/spotlight-on/teaching/anti-racism/editors-introduction>
- “The 2016 Election and its Aftermath in the Religious Studies Classroom: Editor’s Introduction,” May 26, 2017, in *Spotlight on Teaching*, <http://rsn.aarweb.org/spotlight-on/teaching/after-the-2016-election/aftermath-religious-studies-classroom>

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- “An Overview of Golok,” Nov. 11, 2010, In *The Tibetan and Himalayan Library Places Dictionary*, <http://places.thlib.org/features/15434/descriptions/1209>
- “Mandarava,” Aug. 2007, In *The Treasury of Lives: Biographies of Himalayan Buddhist Masters*, <http://www.treasuryoflives.org/biographies/view/Mandarava/9>
- “Sera Khandro Kunzang Dekyong Wangmo,” Aug. 2007, In *The Treasury of Lives: Biographies of Himalayan Buddhist Masters*, <http://www.treasuryoflives.org/biographies/view/Sera-Khandro-Kunzang-Dekyong-Wangmo/10083>

REVIEWS

- “*Women in Tibet* edited by Janet Gyatso and Hanna Havnevik (Columbia UP: 2005).” *Journal of Asian Studies* 68/2 (2009): pp. 622-625.
- “*When a Woman Becomes a Religious Dynasty* by Hildegard Diemberger (Columbia UP: 2007).” *Journal of Asian Studies* 68/1 (2009): pp. 289-291.
- “*Bodily Citations: Religion and Judith Butler* edited by Ellen T. Armour and Susan M. St. Ville (Columbia UP: 2006).” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76/2 (2008): pp. 500-503.
- “*Himalayan Hermitess: The Life of a Tibetan Buddhist Nun* by Kurtis R. Schaeffer (Oxford UP: 2004).” *Journal of Asian Studies* 65/4 (2006): pp. 819-820.
- “*Changing Minds: Contributions to the Study of Buddhism in Honor of Jeffrey Hopkins* edited by Guy Newland (Snow Lion Publications: 2001),” *University of Virginia Center for South Asian Studies Newsletter* 16/1 (2001): 14-15.

CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZATION

Lotsawa Translation Workshop, Evanston, IL Oct. 13-16, 2022

“Celebrating Buddhist Women’s Voices in the Tibetan Tradition”

- With funding by the Tsadra Foundation and Luce/ACLS, I hosted a 70-person translation workshop at Northwestern, co-organized with Padma ’tsho (Southwest Minzu University, Chengdu, PRC), Holly Gayley (U.C. Boulder), and Dominique Townsend (Bard College)
- Full program and audio recordings available online at: <https://conference.tsadra.org/2022/11/08/the-2022-lotsawa-workshop-audios/>

Khyentse Foundation Workshop for Buddhist Studies Graduate Students April 28-30, 2022
Evanston, IL

- Organizer of weekend workshop for Buddhist Studies doctoral students funded by the Khyentse Foundation and/or Northwestern, starting with keynote by Janet Gyatso followed by two days of presentations by Northwestern PhD students Darcie Price-Wallace, Dhondup Tashi Rekjong, Joshua Shelton, Miranda Smith, Nisheeta Jagtiani, Pema McLaughlin, Ray Buckner, and Sherab Wangmo

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along with Elodie Pascal (U. of Edinburgh), John Pickens (UC Berkeley), Khenpo Yeshe (U.C. Berkeley), and Lu Zhang (U. of Arizona).

- American Academy of Religion Meeting, Denver, CO Nov. 17-20, 2018
- Organizer of a panel titled “Book Panel on José Cabezón’s *Sexuality in Classical South Asian Buddhism* (Wisdom Publications, 2017)” accepted as a co-sponsored panel by the Buddhism Unit and the Religion and Sexuality Unit
- International Association of Tibetan Studies, Bergen, Norway June 19-25, 2016
- Co-organizer of a panel titled “Rethinking ‘Oral History’ in Tibet” (along with Charlene Makley and Dasa Pejar-Mortensen)
- American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Diego, CA Nov. 22-25, 2014
- Organizer of panel titled “Buddhism and Sexuality” accepted as a co-sponsored panel by the Buddhism Section and the Religion and Sexuality Group
- American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Francisco, CA Nov. 19-22, 2011
- Organizer of panel titled “Buddhism and Sacred Mountains” accepted by the Buddhism Section
- Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Research Workshop, Evanston, IL academic year 2010-11
- In conjunction with Rob Linrothe (Art History, Northwestern), organizer of year-long research workshop titled “Tibetan History, Religion, and Culture in Amdo”
 - Workshop entailed six sessions, two per quarter, with leading scholars in the field of eastern Tibetan Studies including Gray Tuttle (Columbia U), Karl Debreczeny (Curator of Rubin Museum of Art), Pema Bhum (Director of Trace Latse Library), Paul Nietupski (John Carroll University), Mark Stevenson (Victoria University) and Charlene Makley (Reed College)
 - Funding Sources: The Florence H. & Eugene E. Myers Charitable Trust Funds, Northwestern University’s Department of Art History, The Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, The Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, The Program of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, The Department of Religious Studies, and The Asian Studies Graduate Cluster
- International Association of Tibetan Studies, Vancouver, B.C., Canada August 15-21, 2010
- Organizer of panel titled “Buddhist Visionaries in Eastern Tibet”
- Association of Asian Studies Meeting, Philadelphia, PA March 28, 2010
- Organizer of panel titled “Love in Tibetan Literature”
- New Directions in Tibetan Literary Studies: A Two-Part Workshop on Perspectives and Prospects in Auto/Biography, Columbia and Princeton Universities Nov. 14-15, 2008 and April 17-19, 2009
- Co-organizer with Andrew Quintman of two weekend workshops focused on analyzing the literary forms of Tibetan biography and autobiography and methodological approaches to studying it
- International Association of Buddhist Studies Meeting, Atlanta, GA June 23-28, 2008
- Co-organizer of panel on “Re-examining Tibetan Auto/biographical Writings”
- Columbia U. Society of Fellows Lecture Series “Poetics of Production” Spring 2008
- Co-organizer of weekly lecture series

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Columbia U. Society of Fellows Lecture Series “Imagination and Ideology” Spring 2007

- Co-organizer of weekly lecture series

Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference, Charlottesville, VA April 8, 2000

- Co-organizer of the Third Annual Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference with John Dunn and Peter Gregory as respondents

PRESENTATIONS

Oxford University Aris Lecture, Wolfson College, Oxford U.K. Dec. 1, 2022

- Invited to present 7th Annual Aris lecture “Women and Wit in Tibetan Buddhist Literature”
- Full lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Felu2FyZ9EM&t=2376s>

International Association of Tibetan Studies Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic July 3-9, 2022

- Presented paper “Dog Bites and Golden Bridles: Translating Wit in Tibetan Literature,” on “Lost and Found in Translation” panel organized by Janet Gyatso
- Panelist on “Centering the Richness of Tibetan Language in Tibetan Studies” roundtable organized by Charlene Makley
- Respondent to “Decolonizing Approaches to Tibetan History and Textual Interpretation” panel organized by Nancy Lin

Khyentse Foundation Goodman Lecture (online) Oct. 21, 2021

- Invited to present the lecture “The Relatable and Extraordinary Life of Sera Khandro”
- Full lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9bX8IJRRQw>

Harvard Radcliffe Institute (online due to pandemic) May 10 &12, 2021

- “Reading Women on the Indian Tibetan Literary Landscape” Workshop discussion leader for session titled “The Autobiographies of Sera Khandro”

Khyentse Vision Project Guest Expert Workshop, Translator Training Program (online) April 15, 2021

- Led a workshop on translating Tibetan biographies, colloquial language, and songs available here: <https://www.khyentsevision.org/team/prof-sarah-jacoby/>

Tibet Himalaya Initiative/UVa Tibet Center (online due to pandemic) April 10, 2021

- Panelist on Voices of Larung Gar – Online Symposium

American Academy of Religion Meeting (online due to pandemic) Dec. 10, 2020

- Respondent for panel titled “The Aesthetics and Emotions of Religious Belonging: Case Studies from Buddhist Communities” sponsored by Religion, Affect, and Emotion Program Unit

American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Diego, CA Nov. 23-26, 2019

- Panelist on “Translating Tibetan Buddhism” exploratory session organized by Andrew Quintman and Kurtis Schaeffer
- Presider of roundtable session “Decolonial/Anti-Racist Interventions in Tibetan/Buddhist Studies” sponsored by the Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA Oct. 18, 2019

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- Invited to give a talk titled “Technologies of Sexuality in Tibetan Buddhism” consisting of updated version of my research on the history of sexuality and the contemporary sex abuse scandals in Tibetan Buddhism

International Association of Tibetan Studies Meeting, Paris, France July 7-13, 2019

- Presented a paper titled “Lelung Zhepai Dorje (1697-1740) and his *Ocean of Dākinīs (Mkha' 'gro rgya mtsho)*” on “Aspects of Geluk” panel organized by José Ignacio Cabezón and Roger R. Jackson

South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL May 2, 2019

- Invited to present a paper titled “Technologies of Sexuality in Tibetan Buddhism”

American Academy of Religion Meeting, Denver, CO Nov. 17-20, 2018

- Presenter on panel I organized titled “Book Panel on José Cabezón’s *Sexuality in Classical South Asian Buddhism* (Wisdom Publications, 2017)” along with John Powers, Amy Langenberg, and José Cabezón
- Respondent for panel “From Rape Texts to Bro Buddhism: Critical Canonical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Sexual Abuse Scandals in Western Buddhism” co-sponsored by Buddhism in the West Unit and Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Unit

Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion, Boston, MA Nov. 7, 2018

- Invited to present a lecture titled “Interdependent Personhood and Relational Ethics: A Tibetan Perspective,” in the Institute’s 2018-2019 “Persons” lecture series
- Video of lecture is available online at <https://www.bu.edu/ipr/video-jacoby/>

Lotsawa Translation Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO Oct. 5-8, 2018

- Invited to lead session on “Vocabularies of Longing” along with Dr. Lara Braitstein and to respond to a graduate student’s translation project for this Tsadra Foundation-funded workshop

Symposium on the birthday of Dr. Anne C. Klein, Rice University, Houston, TX Sept. 15-17, 2017

- Invited to present a paper titled “Inspiring Tibetan Buddhist Women: Yeshe Tsogyel, Sera Khandro, and our Future”

“First International Chöd- Zhijé Conference,” Tara Mandala, Pagosa Springs, CO July 12-16, 2017

- Invited to present a paper titled “The Great Mother of the Buddhas:” Motherhood as Metaphor and Model in the Writings of ‘the Second Machig’ Sera Khandro”

International Association of Tibetan Studies, Bergen, Norway June 19-25, 2016

- Invited to give one of the two conference keynote speeches titled “Tibetan Studies and the Art of Dialogue”
- Presented a paper titled “A Garland of White Lotuses: Oral History and Women’s History in Contemporary Tibet” on a panel I co-organized called “Rethinking ‘Oral History’ in Tibet”

Columbia University, New York, NY Feb 5, 2016

- Invited to present a paper titled “Modern Women in Local Tibetan History: The View From Biographical Sources” by Gray Tuttle, Leila Hadley Luce Associate Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultures Department

Workshop on “Religion and the Literary in Tibet,” UC Berkeley, CA Oct. 17-18, 2015

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- Invited to share a draft version of my essay “Autobiographical Ventriloquy in a Tibetan Woman’s Life Narrative,” with participants in 5 year-long AAR seminar

American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Diego, CA Nov. 22-25, 2014

- Panelist on “Religion and the Literary in Tibet Seminar”
- Presented a paper titled “A Dry Treatise on Passion? Reconsidering Ju Mipam’s Contribution to *Kāmaśāstra* Literature in Tibet” on the panel I organized titled “Buddhism and Sexuality” co-sponsored by the Buddhism Section and Religion and Sexuality Group

American Academy of Religion Meeting, Baltimore, MD Nov. 23-26, 2013

- Panelist on “Religion and the Literary in Tibet Seminar”
- Respondent for “Writing Tibetan Women” panel of Tibetan and Himalayan Religion Group

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD May 9-11, 2013

- One of three ACLS fellowship recipients invited to address the ACLS Board of Directors as well as delegates and executive directors representing the 71 constituent learned societies on the topic of “Emerging Themes and Methods of Humanities Research”
- For a video recording of this session, see <http://www.acls.org/about/default.aspx?id=9545>

Institute for Asian and African Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany May 3-5, 2013

- Invited to join International Symposium “Women as Visionaries, Healers and Poisoners—Autonomous Female Religious Specialists in Tibet, the Himalayas and Inner Asia,” convened by Toni Huber (Humboldt U) and Mona Schrepf (U. of Westminster)
- Presented paper titled “Revitalizing Religion through Dakinis’ Power according to Khandro Rinpoche (b.1954) of Eastern Tibet”

Tibetan Literature Seminar, Harvard University, Boston, MA April 19-21, 2013

- Invited to lead a discussion titled “Looking for ‘the literary’ in Tibetan Autobiography” that comprised one of the four parts of this weekend seminar examining aspects of Tibetan literature organized by Kurtis Schaeffer (U. of Virginia) and Andrew Quintman (Yale U)

Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar, Amherst College, Amherst, MA April 17-18, 2013

- Invited to present and discuss chapter five from my book manuscript *Love and Liberation* titled “Love Between Method and Insight” with Buddhist Studies faculty from the five college consortium; gave guest lecture at Amherst College

American Academy of Religion Meeting, Chicago, IL Nov. 17-20, 2012

- Panelist on “Religion and the Literary in Tibet Seminar”

University of Oslo, Norway May 11, 2012

- Presented a paper titled “Dākinī Dialogues in the Autobiography of a Female Tibetan Buddhist Visionary”
- Invited by Hanna Havnevik as part of a “Guest Lecture Series on Tibetan and Himalayan Studies” arranged by the University of Oslo’s Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages in collaboration with Religion in Pluralist Societies, Section for Medical Anthropology and Medical History, and the Oslo Buddhist Studies Forum

American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Francisco, CA Nov. 19-22, 2011

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- Presented a paper titled “Wild Yak Mountain: Revelation, Mountain Gods, and Territorial Politics in Golok, Eastern Tibet” as part of panel I organized titled “Buddhism and Sacred Mountains” accepted by the Buddhism Section of the AAR
- Panelist on “Religion and the Literary in Tibet Seminar”

Northwestern U., “Arts of the Frontier During the Sino-Japanese War” Symposium Oct. 15, 2011

- Respondent for panel on “The Frontier”

Columbia University, New York, NY Feb. 12, 2011

- Invited to join a panel of scholars speaking on “Where to from here: Tibetan Studies after Gene Smith and Directions for the Future” organized by Robert Barnett (Columbia U)
- Other panelists included Alak Zenkar Thubten Nyima and Michael Sheehy (Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center), Janet Gyatso and Leonard van der Kuijp (Harvard), Robert Thurman and Gray Tuttle (Columbia), Matthew Kapstein (U. of Chicago), Kurtis Schaeffer (U. of Virginia), Pema Bhum (Trace-Latse Library), and Susan Meinheit (Library of Congress)

Latse Library, Trace Foundation, New York, NY Feb. 11, 2011

- Invited to present a reading at “The Fat of My Heart (*Snying gi tshi lu*): a discussion of expressions of love and desire in Tibetan literature and letter writing”

International Association of Tibetan Studies, Vancouver, B.C., Canada August 15-21, 2010

- Presented a paper titled “The Vairocana Cave Dakini: The Life and Activities of Mkha’ ’gro rin po che in Present-day Eastern Tibet” on a panel I organized titled “Buddhist Visionaries in Eastern Tibet”

Association of Asian Studies Meeting, Philadelphia, PA March 28, 2010

- Presented a paper titled “Love and Longing in the Auto/biographies of the Tantric Couple Sera Khandro (1892-1940) and Drimé Özer (1881-1924)” on a panel I organized titled “Love in Tibetan Literature”

Department of Religious Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL March 5, 2010

- Invited to participate in Relationships in Religion Workshop, specifically participant on workshop panel IV: Ethnography and Global Relationships along with Marla Frederick (Harvard and Visiting NU Professor), Antonio Terrone (Northwestern), and Michael Puett (Harvard)

Northwestern Law School Feb. 19, 2010

- Invited to give a lecture titled “Buddhism in Bhutan” to Law School class “International Team Project-Bhutan” taught by Lisa Huestis (Northwestern Law)

University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA April 2, 2009

- Invited to give a lecture titled “Love Revelations in the Autobiography of a Tibetan Dakini”

U. of Toronto Numata Buddhist Studies Lecture Series, Toronto, Canada March 5-6, 2009

- Invited to give a lecture titled “Love Revelations in the Autobiography of a Tibetan Dakini”
- Invited to lead a reading group discussing my article “To Be or Not to Be Celibate: Morality and Consort Practices According to the Treasure Revealer Sera Khandro’s (1892-1940) Auto/biographical Writings”

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- International Association of Buddhist Studies, Atlanta, GA June 23-28, 2008
- Presented a paper titled, “On the Edge of Autobiography and Revelation”
- American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA Nov. 17-20, 2007
- Presented a paper with the Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group titled “Reading Tibetan Women’s Religious Auto/biography: Reflections on Methodology”
 - Presented a paper with the Anthropology of Religion Group titled “Becoming a Dakini in Contemporary Eastern Tibet.”
- Columbia U. Society of Fellows Lecture Series, New York, NY Nov. 1, 2007
- Presented a paper titled, “Sera Khandro’s Autobiographical Self”
- Columbia U. Society of Fellows Lecture Series “Imagination and Ideology” April 19, 2007
- Presented paper titled “Romance and Revelation in 20th-century Eastern Tibet”
- The Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (TBRC), New York, NY Feb. 7, 2007
- Presented research and gave reading in Tibetan from Sera Khandro’s Autobiography
- International Association of Tibetan Studies Meeting, Königswinter, Germany Aug. 2006
- Presented paper on the *Gter ma* Panel titled “To be or not to be Monastic: Morality and Consort Practices in Early 20th Century Golok Treasure Revelation Communities”
- American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA Nov. 2005
- Presented paper on the Tantra panel titled “Passionate Revelation: Consort Relationships in the Tibetan Buddhist Treasure Tradition According to Sera Khandro’s (1892-1940) Biographical Writings”
- International Association of Tibetan Studies Meeting, Oxford, England Sept. 2003
- Presented paper titled, “Revelation and Gender Trouble: The 20th Century Autobiography of the Treasure Revealer bde ba’i rdo rje (Sera Khandro)”

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- Academic year research leave funded by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) 2012-2013
- Project title: Self, Society, and Sentiment in the Autobiographical Writings of a Tibetan Female Visionary

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- American Academy of Religion
- Member of AAR Committee on Teaching and Learning 2016-2019
 - Co-editor of “Spotlight on Teaching” column in AAR’s *Religious Studies News* 2016-2019
 - Co-chair of Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit 2012-2017
 - Steering Committee Member, Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit 2008-2011
- Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 2017-present

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- Editorial Board Member

Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses

2010-2012

- Editorial Board Member

Reviewed articles/books for:

- *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- *Modern Asian Studies*
- *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*
- Oxford University Press
- Columbia University Press
- University of Chicago Press
- Yale University Press
- University of Virginia Press
- New York University Press

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion
- American Association of University Women
- International Association of Tibetan Studies
- International Association of Buddhist Studies
- Committee on Southern Asian Studies/South Asia Language and Area Center at the University of Chicago, Associate Member
- Khyentse Vision Project Consultant

TEACHING AND ADVISING AT NORTHWESTERN

TEACHING AWARDS/GRANTS

- Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence (Northwestern's most prestigious university teaching award) 2020-2023
- "Innovation in Teaching Grant" from Northwestern's Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching (to conduct study on techniques for enhancing critical thinking in large lecture courses), fall 2014
- Associated Student Government (ASG) Faculty Honor Roll, 2011-12; 2015-16; 2018-19 (voted by campus-wide Northwestern students)
- Department of Religious Studies Golden Hoopoe Award for Teaching Excellence, June 2012 (voted by Northwestern religious studies majors)

COURSES TAUGHT

Tibetan Religion and Culture Religion 318/313	Spr 2012, Wint 2016
Theory and Method Religion 395	Wint 2012
Goddess Traditions in South Asia Religion 318	Spr 2011
Buddhist Auto/Biography Religion 319	Spr 2011, Spr 2014, Spr 2020
Theories and Methods in Religious Studies Religion 481-1 (classical)	Wint 2011
Theories and Methods in Religious Studies Religion 481-2 (contemporary)	Wint 2015
Religion in Human Experience Religion 170	Wint 2010
Buddhism and Gender Religion 312.	Wint 2010, Spr 2012, Wint 2015, Wint 2018, Fall 2022

Introduction to Buddhism Religion 210	Fall '09, Winter '11, Winter '12, Fall '14, Fall '15, Fall '17, Winter '19, Fall '22
Religion, Sexuality, and Celibacy Religion 101	Fall 2014, Spr 2016
Readings in Tibetan Language Religion 499	Spr '14, Fall '14, Spr '15, Fall '15, Wint '16, Wint '18, Spr '19
Feminist Theory and the Study of Religion Religion 471/Gender Studies 490	Spr. 2016, Fall '19, Wint '23
Tibetan Buddhist Studies Religion 473	Fall 2017
Buddhism in the Contemporary World Religion 314	Spr 2018, Spr 2019, Spr 22
Tibetan Buddhist Tantra Rel 473	Fall 2020
Happiness Rel 101	Spr 22

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Undergraduate Courses I newly developed: Buddhism and Gender; Buddhist Auto/biography; Religion, Sexuality, and Celibacy (first year seminar), Buddhism in the Contemporary World, Happiness (first year seminar)
- Graduate Courses I newly developed: Tibetan Language Reading Course, Feminist Theory and the Study of Religion, Tibetan Buddhist Studies, Tibetan Buddhist Tantra
- Courses I improved: Goddess Traditions in South Asia; Tibetan Religion and Culture; Introduction to Buddhism; Theories and Methods in Religious Studies

ADVISING

Undergraduate Senior Thesis Advisees

- Megan McGlauchlen (class of 2018)
- Alexandra Klein-Mayer (class of 2015)
- Lisa Wang (class of 2012)

Current PhD Advisees (indicating students for whom I am chief adviser)*

- Matt Drew,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Ray Buckner (I am co-adviser with Robert Orsi), PhD student at Northwestern University
- Somtobum,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Pema McLaughlin,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Joshua Shelton,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Dhondup Tashi Rekjong,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Sherab Wangmo,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Nisheeta Jagtiani,* PhD student at Northwestern University
- Miranda Smith,* Ph.D. student at Northwestern University
- Rachel Levy,* Ph.D. student at Northwestern University

Advisees with completed Doctoral Degrees

- Darcie Price-Wallace,* Ph.D. at Northwestern University completed summer 2022
 - Dissertation: "Telling Stories Differently: Changing Landscapes of Ordination for Buddhist Monastic Women in the Tibetan Tradition"
- Peter Faggen (I was external dissertation committee member), Ph.D. at University of Chicago completed in 2021
 - Dissertation: "Contested Authority of a Tibetan Goddess: Narrating the Tragic and Non-Traditional Life Story of the Lay Mother Reincarnate Kelzang Drölma"

PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

THE NEW SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL ARTS, EUGENE LANG COLLEGE, NEW YORK, NY

Tibetan Culture in the Diaspora Summer Study Program July 6-Aug. 4, 2009

- Co-director of intensive Tibetan culture summer program in New Delhi and Dharamsala, India that specialized in introducing undergraduates to Tibetan language, religion, history, politics, medicine, and arts.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

Buddhist Auto/biography W4012 Spring 2009

- Seminar course reading Indian and Tibetan Buddhist biographies and autobiographies along with selected theoretical approaches to the study of auto/biography

Tibetan Civilization V2365 Spring 2008

- Lecture course exploring Tibetan history, religion, literature, arts, and material culture

Indo-Tibetan Buddhism and Gender RELI V3016Y Spring 2007

- Seminar examining the role of women and the feminine in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism drawing on doctrinal, narrative, and ethnographic sources

Asian Humanities Colloquium V3400 Fall 2006

- Survey of major topics in East Asian literature including Confucius, Mencius, Hsün Tzu, Lao Tzu, Han Fei Tzu, Chuang Tzu, the Vimalakirti Sūtra, and the Lotus Sūtra

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Buddhism and Gender RELB 315 Spring 2004

- Instructor for seminar examining the roles of women in Buddhist cultures of Asia

Buddhism and Sacred Places RELB 211 Summer 2003

- Instructor of summer intensive introduction to Buddhism course

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

- Committee on Tenure Member (2021-current)

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

- Interim Department Chair (2019-20)

Department of Religious Studies

- Director of Undergraduate Studies (2018-19)
- Speakers Series Committee Member (2018-2019)
- Search Committee Chair (2017-18)
- Theory and Method Qualifying Exam Committee Member (2015-16)
- Search Committee Member (2013-14; 2014-15)
- Honors Committee Member (2010-14)
- Department Website Coordinator (2010-12)
- Undergraduate Studies Committee Member (2010-12; 2015-16; 2017-18)

Asian Studies Graduate Cluster

- Cluster Fellowship Committee Member (winter 2011)

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

TIBET

I lived in both Central Tibet (Lhasa region) and Eastern Tibet (Amdo and Kham) for over two years and also spent several summers conducting research in Tibet. As a university student at Tibet University in Lhasa, Tibet, I completed one year (2001-2002) of Tibetan Studies including course work in anthropology, grammar, poetry, and Buddhist philosophy all taught in colloquial Tibetan. I spent the majority of my dissertation research year (2004-2005) in the Tibetan Amdo region of Golok (part of Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces) and have returned several times since then to continue textual and ethnographic fieldwork.

CHINA

I studied Chinese at Southwest Nationalities Institute (now called Southwest Minzu University) in Chengdu, Sichuan. Through living and traveling widely in Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces over the last several years, I have witnessed the realities of China's quick modernization and economic development.

NEPAL

For more than 10 years, I spent a few months every year living within the Tibetan exile community in Nepal and conducting Buddhist Studies research. During this time, I also gained experience with Nepali Hindu and Buddhist cultures.

INDIA

My Tibetan language training in Asia began in Darjeeling, India, where I lived in 1999. I have traveled extensively in northern India over the past several years and have studied Hindu/Islamic relations in India in addition to topics relating to the Tibetan exile community.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

TIBETAN: Fluent colloquial Tibetan, expertise in Lhasa (Central Tibetan) and Golok (nomadic Eastern Tibetan) dialects, fluent classical and modern literary Tibetan

SANSKRIT: Reading literacy in classical and Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit

CHINESE: Proficiency in colloquial Mandarin

FRENCH: Reading literacy

ITALIAN: Proficiency in speaking and reading