

DR RACHAEL M. GRIFFITHS

I am a dedicated and passionate historian with an interest in the role of Buddhist institutions and scholars in the development and consolidation of Qing power in Inner Asia. My current research explores the intellectual, monastic, social, and financial networks established and maintained by the Tibetan Polymath Sumpa Khenpo and his contemporaries, and the religious and political transformations produced through these interlocking relations.

My interests also cover oral history and the development of Tibetan Studies in the West, which I am pursuing through the John Fell funded project, *The Oral History of Tibetan Studies*.

EDUCATION

St Hilda's College, University of Oxford, DPhil, Oriental Studies, 2020

Thesis: *A Polymath from Amdo: The Many Hats of Sumpa Khenpo Yeshe Paljor*.

Supervisor: Prof. Ulrike Roesler

Wadham College, University of Oxford, MPhil, Tibetan and Himalayan Studies, 2015

Thesis: *Sum pa mkhan po Ye shes dPal 'byor and his role in eighteenth century Sino-Tibetan-Mongolian cultural relations*.

Supervisor: Dr George FitzHerbert

School of Oriental and African Studies, BA, Study of Religions and History (2.1), 2010

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2019-2021 Head of Operations and Access, OxFizz

Overseeing the design, delivery, administration, and evaluation of OxFizz' access programme and paid-for services, including a 6-week residential summer school in Oxford. Providing over 300 young people with year-round support to build the knowledge, skills and confidence to make successful applications to top universities.

- Strategic development for the access programme
- Project management, planning and delivering our annual timetable of events
- Managing a team of 3 staff and a community of 150 volunteer tutors to deliver over 40 in-person outreach days annually across the UK, and online support
- Partnership management and coordination with stakeholders, including schools and charities
- Digital development, data management and setting of evidence based KPIs
- Continually reviewing and improving processes to maximise operational efficiency and ensure a minimum 90% satisfaction rate in participants' post-programme surveys

2018-2019 Programme Director, Oxbridge International Summer School

- Overseeing the delivery of high-quality academic services
- Recruiting, training, leading, and supervising the summer school staff, including tutors
- Developing and maintaining relationships with parents, academic institutions, and staff
- Contributing to the strategic development of the programme

2015-2019 Junior Dean, St Hilda's College, University of Oxford

- Providing live-in welfare support to undergraduate and postgraduate students in college
- Liaising with college officers such as the Dean, Academic Officer, Chaplain, IT Manager etc.
- Disseminating information regarding discipline, welfare, and community life

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-present	History and Religious Studies Tutor (A level and IB), Oxford Science Studies
2020	Tutor in Buddhism and Violence, OxNet, Pembroke College, University of Oxford
2018-2019	Graduate Scholar in East Asian History and Culture (GCSE and A Level), Radley College
2018	Tutor in Tibetan History and Culture (MPhil and MSt), Oriental Institute, University of Oxford
2016-2018	History Tutor (students aged 15–19), Oxbridge International Summer School. Courses taught: Introduction to the Mongol Empire and Introduction to Tibetan History

PUBLICATIONS AND OUPUTS

Griffiths, R. M., Sehnalova, A., and Wojahn, D. (forthcoming) “The Voices of Tibetan Studies”.

Griffiths, R. M. (under review) “Sacred Journey: an eighteenth-century account of Tsari.”

Griffiths, R. M., Sehnalova, A., and Wojahn, D. (launching June 2021) [The Oral History of Tibetan Studies Archive](#).

Griffiths, R. M. (2021) “Memory, Politics, and Peace in the Autobiography of Sumpa Khenpo,” in Galli, L., Erhard, F. X. (eds.) *The Selfless Ego: Configurations of Identity in Tibetan Life Writing*. Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 151–169.

Griffiths, R. M., and Choephel, T. (trans.) (2021) “The Ruby Garland: A Genealogy of the Emperor Uhu Wang Genghis Khan, The Divine Rule of Clear Light, A Magical Emanation of Manjughosha’s Wheel of Stability.” [TibShelf](#).

Griffiths, R. M. (2019) “Memory, Politics, and Peace in the Autobiography of Sumpa Khenpo,” *Life Writing* 17(1); 307–325.

Griffiths, R. M. (2018) Webcast with *Voices from Oxford (VOX)* regarding *The Oral History of Tibetan Studies*.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Sacred sites, politics, and society: Sacred sites in Qing China. Tibetan Language Summer School. Online lecture (August 2020).

Treatment and diagnosis in the rnam thar of Sumpa Khenpo. International Association of Tibetan Studies (IATS), Paris (July 2019).

The Oral History of Tibetan Studies. IATS, Paris (July 2019).

“Thriving in the glory of fame and working to benefit dharma and state”: the life and public persona of the Tibetan lama Sumpa Khenpo. MCR Research Evening, St Hilda’s College (February 2019).

Twisting Tongues and Twisting Arms: Rhetoric in the Writings of Sumpa Khenpo. Tibetan Studies’ Graduate Seminar (TGSS), Oriental Institute, University of Oxford (November 2018).

Pilgrimage, Politics, and Place-Making in Tibet. TGSS, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford (February 2018).

The Role of Sumpa Khenpo in the Civil War of 1727-1728. Global Lives and Local Perspectives: New Approaches to Tibetan Life-Writing, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (May 2017).

Sum pa mkhan po Ye shes dpal ’byor: an interlocutor between the Tibetans, Mongols, and the Manchus. IATS, Bergen (June 2016).

Writing in The Name Of? The Role of Sponsors and the Intended Audience in the Works of Sumpa Khenpo. TGSS, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford (May 2016).

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Tibet Relief Fund (2020). Awarded for an international conference entitled “Amdo at the Crossroads”. Due to be held at St Hilda’s College, September 2021.

Oriental Institute, The Czech Academy of Sciences (2019). Awarded for an international conference entitled “Amdo at the Crossroads”. Due to be held at St Hilda’s College, September 2021.

Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies (2019). Awarded for *The Oral History of Tibetan Studies* project.

John Fell OUP Research Fund (2018). Awarded for *The Oral History of Tibetan Studies* project.

Kojo Minta Fund (2018). Awarded by St Hilda’s College to support DPhil research.

Oriental Institute’s Small Research Grant (2014, 2015, and 2016). Awarded for *Tibetan Graduate Students’ Seminar*.

Arts and Humanities Research Council Full Studentship (2015).

Ti-Se Foundation MPhil Scholarship (2013).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2019-present *Amdo at The Crossroads*, University of Oxford. Conference co-organiser.

2017-present *The Oral History of Tibetan Studies*, University of Oxford. Project co-ordinator, interviewer, and transcriber.

2020 *St Antony’s International Review* (STAIR). Journal reviewer.

2019 *Underneath the Yellow Hat*, International Association of Tibetan Studies, Paris. Panel co-organiser and chair.

2015-2019 Admissions Interviewer (Oriental Studies) at St Hilda’s College, University of Oxford.

2014-2016 *Tibetan Graduate Students’ Seminar*, University of Oxford. Organiser.

2015

Nowhere to Call Home: A Tibetan in Beijing, film screening and Q&A with director, St Hilda's College. Co-organiser.

SELECTED RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Creating Mind Maps, Flowcharts and Infographics seminar, IT Learning Centre (2020). Learning objectives included, using mindmaps to create a graphical outline for a document and creating flowcharts, infographics, and interactive maps to enhance understanding of complex data/subjects.

Introduction to Digital Humanities course, The Oxford Research Centre in Humanities (2019). Introductory-level course covering data modelling, digital objects and datasets, and visualisations.

Developing Learning and Teaching (DLT) course, The Oxford Research Centre in Humanities (2018). Accredited programme for DPhil and postdoctoral researchers who are teaching at the university.

Referencing: Zotero, IT Learning Centre (2018). Introductory-level course covering adding, editing, and organising references, adding in text citations, and creating bibliographies.

Integrity and Ethics training, University of Oxford (2017). Online course that provides an introduction to good practice in research including, professional responsibilities, research dissemination and impact, and research governance. Alongside the core course, I took a specialist supplementary module in *Research Involving Human Participants*.

Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford (PLTO) seminar, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford (2016). Full day seminar that provides an introduction to practical aspects of teaching.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Amdo Research Network (ARN)

International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS)

Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies (OCBS)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English	Fluent
Welsh	Fluent
Tibetan	Highly proficient in writing and reading. Proficient in speaking Highly proficient in reading Classical Tibetan Basic proficiency in Tibetan Sign Language
French	Proficient in speaking, writing, and reading
Manchu	Basic reading proficiency
Mongolian	Basic reading proficiency in Classical Mongolian

References

Prof Ulrike Roesler, *DPhil Supervisor*

Faculty of Oriental Studies,

Pusey Lane, Oxford,

OX1 2LE

ulrike.roesler@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Mr Chris Gurney, *Previous Line Manager*

chris.gurney@oxfizz.org
