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Curriculum Vitae
Jonathan Samuels

Contact details

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Main Areas of Research

Buddhist philosophy; Buddhist logic and epistemology; Evolution of Tibetan monastic education; Disputation practice; Anthropology of the Himalayan region; Kinship studies, particularly in the Tibetan context; *Janajāti* (indigenous nationalities) of Nepal, especially the Tamang; Traditional Tamang culture; Dynamics of relations between Tibetan and minority populations; Tibetan medieval history; Tibetan dialects and linguistics; History of Tibetan literature

Educational History

2014 D.Phil., Oriental Studies, Oxford University
Thesis title: “Tamang Clan Culture and its Relevance to the Archaic Culture of Tibet”, *Supervisors:* Prof. Charles Ramble and Prof. Gavin Flood
2006 Master of Studies, Oriental Studies, Oxford University
Supervisors: Prof. Charles Ramble and Prof. Ulrike Roesler
2004 Geshe (Roughly equivalent to DPhil in Buddhist Philosophy)
Drepung Loseling Monastic University (Mundgod, Karnataka, India)
1999 Uma Rabjam (Roughly equivalent to MA in Madhyamaka Buddhist Philosophy) Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala, H.P. India)
1994 Pharchin Rabjam (Roughly Equivalent to BA in Prajñāpāramitā Buddhist Philosophy) Institute of Buddhist Dialectics

Academic Employment and Appointments History

Since 08.2021	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, ERC-funded project, <i>The Dawn of Tibetan Buddhist Scholasticism (11th-13th c.)</i> (TibSchol), Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austria. https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ikga/tibscho
Since 10.2020	Associate Faculty Member, Oriental Studies, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford
02.2018-08.2020	Junior Research Fellow, Tibetan and Himalayan Studies, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
08.2010-01.2018	Research Fellow, lecturing in Colloquial and Classical Tibetan Buddhist Studies, Cluster of Excellence: “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”, University of Heidelberg, Germany
2002-2004 1996-2001	Head Instructor and Educational Programme Designer, Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo Translator Program (Dharamsala, India)
1998	Visiting Lecturer, Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program, coordinated by Prof. Jay Garfield, and hosted at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh
1992-1996	Research and Teaching Associate, Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program, coordinated by Prof. Jay Garfield, and hosted at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh

Other Relevant Employment and Commissions

- Commissioned by the Institute of Tibetan Classics, to produce *Tibetan Buddhist Epistemology II: The Geluk School* (forthcoming) as part of their Library of Tibetan Classics series
- Commissioned by Routledge to produce *Colloquial Tibetan: The Complete Course for Beginners* (published 2014) as part of the *Routledge Colloquials* series
- Freelance language tutor, colloquial and literary Tibetan (since 1996)
- Translator of written materials Tibetan-English / English-Tibetan (since 1992)
- Freelance interpreter (1990-2004), Tibetan-English / English-Tibetan

Research Projects

ERC-funded project *The Dawn of Tibetan Buddhist Scholasticism (11th-13th c.)* (TibSchol), Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria (since 08.2021) <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ikga/tibscho>

Tibetan Medieval Religious Debate: Beyond Philosophy, main project undertaken as JRF in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies, Wolfson College, University of Oxford research (2018-2020)

Member of research project D16: *Reasoning in South Asian and Tibetan Buddhism*, Cluster of Excellence: “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”, University of Heidelberg (2012-2015)

Member of research project MC3.3: *Negotiating Boundaries in Religious Discourse and Practice*, Cluster of Excellence: “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”, University of Heidelberg (2013-2016)

Invited Lectures, Papers, and Panel Organisation

- 31.10.2019 “The Beauty of Conflicting Narratives: the 1401 encounter between Khedrub Je and Bodong Rinpoche”, lecture for the Tibetan Graduate Studies Seminar, Oriental Institute, Oxford.
- 25.06.2019 “Animated Discussions: Reflections on the Place and History of Tibetan Debate Gestures”, paper at the workshop *Gesture, Body, and Language in Tibet and the Himalayas*, Wolfson College, Oxford.
- 27.03.2019 “The Institutionalisation of Tibetan Disputation: Understanding the changing face of formal debate in medieval Tibet”, paper at the workshop *Rethinking Scholastic Communities III: Intellectual Methods and Practices*, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA), Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Vienna.
- 14.02.2019 Tibetan Scholastic Tests and Titles: contemporary and historical perspectives”, presentation/dialogue with Yangten Rinpoche, Oriental Institute, Oxford.
- 23.04.2018 “What Counts as Evidence in Indian Philosophy?”, lecture for the President’s Seminar, Wolfson College, Oxford.
- 24.11.2018 “Whither the Ancestors? Assessing the lack of reference to Tibetan practices of ancestor worship”, paper at the workshop *The Social and the Religious in the Making of Tibetan Societies – New Perspectives on Imperial Tibet*, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA), Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Vienna.
- 06.03.2018 “Shouting and Stamping All the Way to Enlightenment: debate in contemporary Tibetan monastic education”, lecture at the Oriental Institute, Oxford.
- 19.07. 2016 “Tibetan Kinship and Descent: Towards a diachronic picture?”, paper at the conference *14th Seminar of*

- the International Association for Tibetan Studies*, University of Bergen, Norway.
- 19.07. 2016 Co-organiser (with Eveline Bingaman, Heidi Fjeld, and Reinier Langelaar) of the panel “Kinship, Social Organization and History in Tibet and its Borderlands: Towards new engagements with anthropological theory”, at the conference *14th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies*, at the University of Bergen, Norway.
- 08.01.2016 “To all those gathered in the assembly: Insights into pre-modern Tibetan society, religion, and ceremony offered by the “Dharma of Worldly Speech” (*jig rten gnam chos*), lecture at the University of Leipzig, Faculty of History, Arts and Oriental Studies, Germany.
- 16.11.2015 “Religious Revival or Religious Conversion? Questioning representations of religion and ethnicity in the Tibetan borderlands: the Tamang people of Nepal”, paper at the conference *Fourth International SEECHAC (Société Européenne pour l'Etude des Civilisations de l'Himalaya et de l'Asie Centrale) Colloquium*, at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- 08.09. 2015 “Reconsidering Tibet’s Clan Past: Distinguishing between idealisation and social organisation in the Tibetan historical context”, paper at the conference *The Fourth International Seminar of Young Tibetologists*, at the University of Leipzig, Germany.
- 03.03. 2015 “What’s in a Name? Clan-names, Religion, and an Alternative Perspective on Tibet’s Past”, lecture at the Oriental Institute, at the University of Oxford.
- 24.02. 2015 “50 Ways to Leave Your Monastery: Attitudes toward Monastic Mobility in Tibetan Communities Then and Now”, paper at the workshop, *Between Tibetan Monasticism and Society*, at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands.
- 05.08. 2012 “An Avuncular Profile: The Maternal Uncle and Clues to Archaic Tibetan Culture”, paper for the conference *The Third International Seminar of Young Tibetologists*, at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan.
- 13.06.2012 “Which Frame(-Works)? Shamanism, Clericalism, and Other-Worldliness: Reconsidering the Value of Certain Frameworks in our Understandings of the Evolution of Buddhism in Tibet”, paper for the conference: *Buddhism and the Dynamics of Transculturality*, at the University of Heidelberg.
- 04.2009 “Aspects of Tamang Religious Culture”, for the Tibetan Studies Graduate Seminar, at Balliol College, Oxford.

Languages

English – native language
Tibetan – native fluency and native literacy
Tamang – very competent in spoken and written forms
Hindi – fair spoken and competent reading
Nepali – fair spoken and competent reading
German – fair
French – working knowledge of written language
Sanskrit – basic knowledge

Teaching Record (selected)

Semester-length courses taught at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, University of Heidelberg

Every year from 2010/11 until 2017/18 Colloquial Tibetan 1, 2, 3, and 4

Every year from 2010/11 until 2017/18 Classical Tibetan 1, 2, 3 and (usually) 4

- Classical Tibetan 3 and 4 were courses of reading and translation. Texts chosen for readings included hagiographical, scriptural, and aphoristic works.
- Classical Tibetan 4 was occasionally replaced by stand-alone courses, including Tibetan Grammatical Commentaries (2013), and Logic in the Indo-Tibetan Tradition (2016).

Other courses taught at Heidelberg University

08.2011 and 08.2014 Tibetan language Summer School, South Asia Institute

Term-length courses taught at the University of Oxford

2020 Tibetan Scholasticism and Monastic Education in Tibet, Oriental Institute

2006, 2008, and 2018 Advanced Colloquial Tibetan, Oriental Institute

2008 Lectures in the “Tibetan Literature” series (on the topics of monastic literature and modern Tibetan literature) at the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford

*Semester-length courses for the Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo Translator Program
(Dharamsala, India)*

1996-2001 Buddhist Philosophy, Colloquial Tibetan, Classical
and 2002-2004 Tibetan, Translation Techniques

*For the Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program (hosted at the Central
Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, India)*

1998 Lectures in the series “Introduction to Buddhist
Philosophy”