Curriculum Vitae ~ Rafal K. Stepien

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2
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CURRENT PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Austrian Academy of Sciences

Research Associate, 2023 – present Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia Principal Investigator, European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant, 2023 – 2028

Journal of Buddhist Philosophy

Associate Editor, 2021 – present Albany: State University of New York Press

FORMER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Leiden University

University Lecturer in Chinese Religions, 2023 onward (declined) Leiden Institute for Area Studies Faculty of Humanities

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Assistant Professor in Comparative Religion, 2019 – 2023 Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies Coordinator, Masters in Asian Studies, 2021 – 2023 (Deputy Coordinator 2019 – 2021) School Academic Integrity Officer, 2021 – 2023 Courtesy Appointment, Philosophy Programme, School of Humanities, 2020 – 2023

Heidelberg University

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, 2018 – 2019 (fixed term) Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context' Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies Awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

University of Oxford

Berggruen Research Fellow in Indian Philosophy, 2016 – 2018 (fixed term) Faculty of Philosophy and Wolfson College Associate member, Faculty of Oriental Studies Fellow, Berggruen Philosophy & Culture Center

Hampshire College

Assistant Professor of Asian Religions, 2015-2018 (on leave 2016-2018) School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies Faculty Advisor, Five College Buddhist Studies Certificate Program, 2015-2016

Stanford University

Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Postdoctoral Scholar, 2015 – 2017 (fixed term, declined)

Inaugural recipient of fellowship awarded once every two years to a single scholar worldwide in all fields of Buddhist studies who is up to five years out from completion of the Ph.D.

Institute of Ismaili Studies, London

Lecturer of Philosophy, 2012 – 2013 (fixed term)

Graduate Program in Islamic Studies & Humanities, Masters Program in Muslim Societies & Civilizations

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Persian ~ English Interpreter in Afghanistan, September 2001 – May 2004

Responsibilities: Interpreting among ICRC delegates and detainees (prisoners of war, security/political detainees, vulnerable persons); interpreting among ICRC representatives and civil/military authorities in official, high-level meetings; composing and translating official documents and internal reports; organizing and undertaking detention visits and dissemination sessions of international humanitarian law; liaising and co-ordinating activities with other humanitarian agencies, NGOs, and the United Nations.

DEGREES

Ph.D. Columbia University, USA, 2009 – 2015

East Asian Languages and Cultures ~ Religion

Inaugural Cihui Foundation Faculty Fellow in Chinese Buddhism

Dissertation: Being and Believing in Buddhism and Islam

Advisory Committee:

• Souleymane Bachir Diagne,

Professor of Philosophy, French & Romance Philology

• Bernard Faure.

Kao Professor of Japanese Religions (Advisor)

• Robert Thurman,

Jey Tsong Khapa Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies

• Chun-fang Yu,

Sheng Yen Professor in Chinese Buddhist Studies (Advisor Emerita)

M.Phil. Columbia University, USA, 2010 – 2012

East Asian Languages and Cultures ~ Religion

Examination Fields:

- Chinese Buddhism
- Indian Buddhism
- Islam and Sufism
- Theory and Method in the Study of Religion

M.A. Columbia University, USA, 2009 – 2010

East Asian Languages and Cultures ~ Religion

Master's Thesis: 'The Fourfold Instantiation: A Study in Nāgārjuna's Logics'

M.Phil. University of Cambridge, UK, 2008 – 2009

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies & Robinson College

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies ~ Persian

Master's Thesis: 'The Mystic Poetry of 'Attar Nayshābūrī'

Awarded with Distinction

B.A. & M.A. University of Oxford, UK, 2004 – 2008

Institute for Chinese Studies & Wadham College

Oriental Studies ~ Chinese

Honours Thesis: 'The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei'

Awarded in the Final Honour School

B.A. University of Western Australia, 1996 – 1999

Double Major in English and Philosophy

Awarded S. A. Grave Prize in Philosophy

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDIES

Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University, USA

Exchange Scholar, 2014 – 2015

Wadham College, University of Oxford, UK

Academic Visitor, 2012 – 2013

Higher Language Institute, Damascus University, Syria

Intensive Intermediate Arabic Language Course, July 2010

Fo Guang Shan Monastery, Taiwan

'Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program', July 2007

Peking University, China

Intensive Advanced Chinese Language Study Program, March – July 2006

Alliance Française Examination Centre, Western Australia

Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF), June 2004

Department of Persian Language and Literature, University of Esfehan, Iran

Intensive Persian Literature Study Program, April 2000 – July 2001

Office of International and Scientific Co-operation, University of Esfehan, Iran

Intensive Persian Language Study Program, January – April 2000

Faculty of Modern Foreign Literature, University of Bologna, Italy

Advanced Italian Literature Study Program, January – November 1999

Interfaculty Centre of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Bologna, Italy

Intensive Intermediate Superior Italian Language Course, January – March 1999

RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Italy

Visiting Fellow, June-July 2022

Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, UK

'Religious Diversity and the Secular University' Workshop Participant, July 2021

(accepted, but participation cancelled due to Covid-related travel restrictions)

Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme, University of Cambridge, UK

Visiting Scholar, June 2016

Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong, China

Visiting Researcher, July 2013

Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies and Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan

Visiting Scholar, June 2013

College of Buddhist Studies, Fo Guang University, Taiwan

Visiting Researcher, June 2013

Faculties of Literature and Human Sciences & Divinity and Islamic Sciences, University of Tehran

Visiting Researcher, May – June 2009

Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia (Encyclopedia Islamica), Iran

Visiting Researcher, May – June 2009

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & ACADEMIC AWARDS

**European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant

Principal Investigator, 2023 – 2028, €1.5 million

'The Ethics of Empty Beliefs: Chinese Buddhist Philosophy in the 'Period of Disunity''

Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore

'Buddhist Nationalisms in Comparative Contexts: Interreligious Peace and Conflict in Southeast Asia'. Research Grant Principal Investigator, 2021-2023

^{*} denotes nationwide competition, ** denotes worldwide competition

**Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, UK

'Religious Diversity and the Secular University' Workshop Scholarship, July 2021 (participation cancelled due to Covid-related travel restrictions)

**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, Heidelberg University, 2018 – 2020

**Berggruen Philosophy & Culture Center

Berggruen Research Fellowship in Indian Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2016 – 2018

Hewlett-Mellon Endowment, Hampshire College

Faculty Development Grant, Summer 2016

**Stanford University

Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Postdoctoral Scholarship, 2015 – 2017 (declined)

**Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Chinese Studies, 2014 – 2015 Chinese-studies equivalent to the American Fulbright Program

*South Central Modern Language Association

Graduate Student Grant, Summer 2014

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University

Winner of the Teaching Scholars competition, Summer 2014

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University

International Travel Fellowship, 2013 – 2014

*South Central Modern Language Association

Jafar and Shokoh Farzaneh Paper Prize in Persian Literature and Culture, Runner-up, 2013

*New York Conference on Asian Studies, State University of New York, and Association for Asian Studies

Marleigh Grayer Ryan Graduate Writing Prize, 2013

Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University

IRCPL Graduate Research Fellowship, Summer 2013

**Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies, Taiwan

Graduate Research Fellowship, 2012 – 2013

*Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities for Dissertation Research in Original Sources, 2012 – 2013

Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University

Weatherhead Fellowship, Summer 2010

**Cihui Foundation and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University

The inaugural Cihui Foundation Faculty Fellowship in Chinese Buddhism, 2009 – 2015 Columbia's 'highest honor' at entrance to a graduate student

*British Institute of Persian Studies

Travel Award, Summer 2009

Robinson College, University of Cambridge

Academic Expenses Travel Grant, Summer 2009

**Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge

Soudavar Memorial Research Scholarship in Persian Studies, 2008 – 2009

Typically awarded annually to a single student from an international pool of applicants

Soudavar Memorial Foundation

Research Scholarship, 2008 – 2009

Governing Body, Wadham College, University of Oxford

Undergraduate Scholarship, 2005 – 2006

Khosraw Eghbal Fund

Travel Award, Summer 2005

University of Western Australia

Frank Gamblen Scholarship, 1999

Faculty of Arts, University of Western Australia

S. A. Grave Prize for "the most outstanding student" in Philosophy, 1998

LANGUAGES

Reading

Sanskrit, Classical Chinese, Classical Persian, Classical Arabic

Reading and Speaking

English, French, Italian, Polish, Modern Chinese (Mandarin), Modern Persian (Dari and Farsi)

PUBLICATIONS

A. Books

Monograph

3) Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy: Nāgārjuna and the Ethics of Emptiness

New York: Oxford University Press (forthcoming)

Edited Books

2) The Three Jewels: Essaying Buddhist Philosophy of Religion

Albany: State University of New York Press (forthcoming)

1) Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature

Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020, *xiii* + 381 pp.

- Nominated by the publisher for the 2021 International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize.
- Subject of dedicated presentation at 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars: 'Crafting a Global Future', Kyoto, August 2021.
- o Reviewed by Jason Wirth in *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*, No. 5, 2023.
- o Reviewed by Vesna A. Wallace in *Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 73, No. 1, January 2023.
- o Reviewed by Jens Schlieter in *Religion*, Vol. 52, No. 2, 2022: 343-346.
- o Reviewed by Stephen C. Walker in *Buddhist Studies Review: Journal of the UK Association of Buddhist Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2021: 105-108.
- Reviewed by Joseph O'Leary in *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 1, 2021: 209-213.
- o Reviewed by Bart Dessein in *H-Buddhism*, 2021.

B. Edited Journal Issues

2) APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2019.

Newark: The American Philosophical Association.

Guest Edited Special Issue: Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms.

1) APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, Vol. 18, No. 2, Spring 2019.

Newark: The American Philosophical Association.

Guest Edited Special Issue: Buddhist Philosophy Worldwide: Perspectives and Programmes.

C. Articles

Peer Reviewed Articles: Accepted and Forthcoming

28) 'Interdisciplinarity in Non-Disciplines: Archive and Academe in Religious Studies'

Numen, Vol. 70, No. 5. Leiden: Brill, 2023: 473-513.

27) 'Buddhism and European Philosophy'

Jacobsen, Knut A.; Baumann, Martin; Borup, Jørn (eds.). *Handbook of Buddhism in Europe*. Leiden: Brill, 2024.

26) 'Indian Buddhist and Continental Christianate Critiques of Ontology: An Exercise in Interreligious Philosophical Dialogue'

Hedges, Paul; Saeed, Abdullah; Muez, Nursheila; Farrow, Luca (eds.). *Theological and Philosophical Perspectives on Religious Diversity from Global Perspectives*. 'Currents of Encounter: Studies in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations' book series. Leiden: Brill, 2023 (republication of #19).

Peer Reviewed Articles: Published

25) 'Prolegomena to a Buddhist Philosophy of Religion'

International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, Vol. 94, No. 1. Dordrecht: Springer, August 2023: 63-89.

24) 'Tetralemma and Trinity: An Essay in Buddhist and Christian Ontologies'

Comparative and Continental Philosophy, Vol. 14, No. 3. London: Taylor & Francis, 2023: 236-254

23) 'Contest, Game, Disgrace: On Philosophy and Buddhism'

Philosophy East and West, Vol. 72, No. 4, October. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2022: 1066-1088

22) 'The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons'

Journal of Buddhist Philosophy, No. 4. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2022: 93-120.

21) 'Substantialism, Essentialism, Emptiness: Buddhist Critiques of Ontology'

Journal of Indian Philosophy, Vol. 49, No. 5. Springer, 2021: 871-893.

20) 'Interreligious Relations with No Self: A Mystical Path to Omnilogue?'

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. 31, No. 4, October. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, 721-741.

19) 'Indian Buddhist and Continental Christianate Critiques of Ontology: An Exercise in Interreligious Philosophical Dialogue'

Interreligious Relations, No. 22, January/February. Singapore: SRP, 2021, 1-14.

Approved for republication: see #26.

18) 'Philosophy, Literature, Religion: Buddhism as Transdisciplinary Intervention'

Stepien, Rafal K. (ed.). Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020, 1-31.

17) 'The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons'

Stepien, Rafal K. (ed.). *Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020, 231-260 (separately submitted, peer-reviewed, and published in *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*: see #22).

16) 'Abandoning All Views: A Buddhist Critique of Belief'

The Journal of Religion, Vol. 99, No. 4. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, October 2019, 529-566.

15) 'Buddhist Philosophy? Arguments From Somewhere'

APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2019. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 11-15.

Guest Edited Special Issue: Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms.

14) Review Article of: Westerhoff, Jan. *The Golden Age of Indian Buddhist Philosophy*. The Oxford History of Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, Vol. 16. Oxford: Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, May 2019, 171-187.

13) 'Orienting Reason: A Religious Critique of Philosophizing Nāgārjuna'

Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Vol. 86, No. 4. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018, 1072-1106.

12) 'Do Good Philosophers Argue? A Buddhist Approach to Philosophy and Philosophy Prizes'

APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, Vol. 18, No. 1, Fall 2018. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 13-15.

11) Review Article of: Lin, Chen-kuo and Radich, Michael (eds.). A Distant Mirror: Articulating Indic Ideas in Sixth and Seventh Century Chinese Buddhism. Hamburg: Hamburg University Press, 2014.

Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, Vol. 11. Oxford: Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, 2016, 237-264.

10) 'Rūmī, Balkhī, Mevlevī: The Ambiguities of Identity in the Poetry of Jālāl al-Dīn Muḥammad (1207-1272 CE)'

Michałak, Mirosław and Zaborowska, Magdalena (eds.). *In Quest of Identity: Studies on the Persianate World*. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Akademnickie Dialog, 2015, 177-192.

9) 'The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei (王維 699-761)'

Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory, Vol. 16, No. 2, 2014. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 207-238.

8) 'A Study in Sufi Poetics: The Case of 'Attar Nayshābūrī'

Oriens: Journal of Philosophy, Theology and Science in Islamic Societies, Vol. 41 No. 1, 2013. Leiden: Brill, 77-120.

7) 'Love or Devotion? From Persia or the Beyond? – A Persian Sufi Perspective'

TAASA Review: The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia, Vol. 21, No 1, 2012. Potts Point: The Asian Arts Society of Australia, 11-13.

Peer Reviewed Articles: Withdrawn

6) 'Nāgārjuna's Tetralemma: Tetrāletheia & Tathāgata, Āssertion & Anontology'

Journal of Indian Philosophy. Springer, 10,700 words.

Submitted, peer-reviewed, and accepted in 2018, withdrawn for use instead in monograph:

Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy: Nāgārjuna and the Ethics of Emptiness.

Non Peer Reviewed Articles: Published

5) 'Buddhist Nationalism in Asia: What It Means for Europe'

RSIS Commentary, No. 119/2021, August 2021. Singapore: S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, 1-4.

4) 'Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms'

APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2019. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 1-2.

3) 'Buddhist Philosophy Worldwide: Perspectives and Programmes'

APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, Vol. 18, No. 2, Spring 2019. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 1-2.

2) 'The Impossibility of Language: Poetic Modes of Apophasis in Buddhist and Islamic Mystical Literature'

New York Conference on Asian Studies and Association for Asian Studies, Buffalo: State University of New York, 2013, 6,800 words (published online).

Winner of the 2013 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Graduate Writing Prize

1) 'The Mystic Poetry of 'Attar and the Conference of the Birds'

Scollay, Susan (ed.). *Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond*. Oxford: Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, in association with the State Library of Victoria, 2012, 89-93.

USA Edition: University of Chicago Press.

Selected as one of 'The Best Art Books' of 2013 by *The Art Newspaper* (#252, December 2013)

D. Book Reviews

- 5) Ducor, Jérôme; Isler, Henry W. (ed. et trad.) (2022). Jizang: Le sens des arcanes des Trois Traités, contribution à l'étude du Mādhyamika dans le bouddhisme d'Extrême-Orient. Genève: Librairie Droz.

 Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (forthcoming).
- 4) Jones, C. V. (ed.) (2022). Buddhism and Its Religious Others: Historical Encounters and Representations. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Contemporary Buddhism: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 2023, Abingdon: Routledge, 1-4.

3) Siderits, Mark; Keng, Ching; Spackman, John (eds.) (2021). *Buddhist Philosophy of Consciousness: Tradition and Dialogue*. Leiden: Brill.

Buddhist Studies Review: Journal of the UK Association of Buddhist Studies, Vol. 38, No. 2, 2021. Sheffield: Equinox, 269-273.

2) Shi Huifeng. Old School Emptiness: Hermeneutics, Criticism and Tradition in the Narrative of Śūnyatā. Kaohsiung: Institute of Humanistic Buddhism, 2016.

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Vol. 81, No. 1, February 2018. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 158-160.

1) Heine, Steven. Chan Rhetoric of Uncertainty in the Blue Cliff Record: Sharpening a Sword at the Dragon Gate. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Journal of Buddhist Ethics, Vol. 24, 2017, 407-416.

INVITED LECTURES

'Identity and Cohesion: Intersections between Religion, Race, and Nationality' Executive Programme, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies, May 2022

Extremisms, Cohesion, and Identities: Global Flows of Ideas

'Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations' Online Symposium, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, August 2021

Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: The Case of Buddhist Nationalism

'Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations' Online Symposium, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, November 2020

Recent Developments in Buddhist Nationalism

'Religion, Conflict, and Peace-Building' Executive Programme, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies, February 2020

Ambivalence of the Sacred in Religious Traditions

Oxford University Press Roundtable, 'Envisioning the Future of Education: Nurturing and Empowering Thinking Culture', Singapore, February 2020

Thoughts on Thinking in the Classroom: Cross-Cultural Perspectives

(event cancelled due to Covid-19)

'Being, Substance, and Essence in Indian Philosophy: The Heart of the Matter' Conference, University of Oxford, May 2019

The Ethics of Metaphysics in Indian Buddhist Philosophy of Religion

Network Meeting of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Universität Bonn, November 2018 Chinese Buddhist Philosophical Ethics of Belief

President's Seminar, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, April 2018

'Evidence' in Indian Philosophy: A Buddhist Perspective

Department of Asian Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich, July 2017

On Emptying Self of View: A Buddhist Critique of First Philosophy

'Substance and Essence in Indian Philosophy' Symposium, University of Oxford, June 2017

Emptiness as Essencelessness in Indian and Chinese Madhyamaka Buddhism

President's Seminar, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, May 2017

Impermanence as Emptiness: A Buddhist Approach to Change

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in the Study of Religions, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, January 2017

On Belief and Unbelief between Buddhism and Islam: An Interreligious Paralogue

Religious Studies Seminar, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, November 2016

Paradox of Negation or Negation of Paradox? Nāgārjuna between India and China

Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar, Smith College, April 2016

Tetralemma as Tetrāletheia

Comparative Religion & Theology Lecture Series, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, April 2015

Adherence without Attachment in Buddhism and Islam

Annual Conference, Association for Asian Studies, March 2015

Invited to present on special panel of prize-winning graduate papers

Philosophy of Language at the Philosophical Limits of Language: A Comparative Approach to Buddhist and Islamic Literature

College of Buddhist Studies, Fo Guang University, Taiwan, June 2013

Nāgārjuna's Middle Way and the Logic of the Included Middle

'Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond' Exhibition Lecture, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, January 2013

Divine Ascent: Prophet, Poets, Pilgrim Birds, and the Art of Illustrating the Unutterable

Graduate Research Forum, Robinson College, University of Cambridge, October 2008

The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei

Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, May 2008

Transmission Outside the Scriptures: The Empty Poetry of Wang Wei (701 – 761 CE)

Interdisciplinary Seminars in the Study of Religions, Oriel College, University of Oxford, February 2008

The Teachings and Spirituality of Al-Ghazālī

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Deutscher Orientalistentag, Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society), Freie Universität Berlin, September 2022

'Twelve Gates to the Middle Way: Buddhist Philosophy Between India and China'

19th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Seoul National University, August 2022

'Prolegomena to a Buddhist Philosophy of Religion'

'Beyond Free Will: Variety in Understanding of Choice, Luck, and Necessity' Conference, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University, June 2022

'Does a Buddha Do? A Buddhist Conception of Non-conceptual, Non-intentional Volition'

Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2022

'Global Philosophy of Religion? From Others' Erasure to Other's Proofs'

Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2022

'Purifying the Pure Land: Unearthing the Ideological Roots of Buddhist-Islamic Violence in Southeast Asia'. Panel on Interreligious Perspectives on Conflict in Communities, Traditions, and Movements

'Buddhist Identities in Twenty-First Century Asia' Conference, Faculty of Divinity and Global Humanities Initiative, University of Cambridge, April 2022

'A Buddhist People? Identities and Interreligious Violence in Southeast Asia'

Conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy: 'Chinese Philosophy: Paths between Convergence and Divergence', December 2021

'Is Reality Literary? Chinese Buddhist Poetics as Metaphysics'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2021

'Buddhism in Philosophy: Structural and Pedagogical Proposals for Religion Departments'

Panel on Buddhist Philosophy in Philosophy Departments: Training Students, Hiring, Teaching

'Reading Mahāyāna Scripture' Conference, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, September 2021

'On Numen in Antinomianism, or Reading Religion in Irreligion'

Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, August-September 2021

'Reconceptualizing 'Philosophy' of/and/as 'Religion' from Buddhist Sources'

12th International Convention of Asia Scholars: 'Crafting a Global Future', Kyoto, August 2021

'Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature'

'Teaching East Asia in the Humanities' Conference, April 2021

'宗教學, 哲學, 文學: Rethinking 'Religion', 'Philosophy', and 'Literature' in the Study of Buddhism'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, December 2020

'Why Are My Humanities So Black-and-White? Buddhist Lessons in Undisciplining Religion, Literature, and Philosophy'

United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies Annual Conference, University of Manchester, July 2020

'Buddhism Between Philosophy and Literature'

(paper accepted, but conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2020

'Interreligious Relations in the Absence of a Self: A Mystical Path to Dialogue?' (paper accepted, but conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

1st International Conference, International Society of East Asian Philosophy, Meiji University, Tokyo, December 2019

'Nāgārjuna and the *Twelve Gates Treatise* (十二門論): Towards a Chinese Madhyamaka Philosophy'

11th International Convention of Asia Scholars: 'Asia and Europe, Asia in Europe', Leiden University, July 2019

'Philosophy and Religion: Buddhist Arguments and Agreements'

4th International Workshop on Madhyamaka Studies, 'Linguistic Challenges: Mādhyamikas and their Key Words', International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, Tokyo, December 2018 'Dṛṣṭi (觀) as Grāha (取, 執) in Indian and Chinese Madhyamaka'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2017

'Enlightening Literature: A Chinese Buddhist Approach to Emptiness of Word and Mind'

XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, August 2017

'Chinese Buddhist Literature, Literary Theory, and Philosophy of Language: A Study of Liu Xie & Chan'

World Congress on Logic and Religion, Institute of Philosophy, University of Warsaw, June 2017 'On the Para-Logic of Religious Belief: A Buddhist Critique of Buddhism'

Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, University of Oxford, April 2017

'Illusory Selves in Action, Delusory Views in Thought: A Buddhist Approach to the Abandonment of All'

Khamriyya as a World Poetic Genre: Comparative Perspectives on Wine Poetry in Near and Middle Eastern Literatures, University of Cambridge, June 2016

'On Wine and Oneness: The Sober Lives and Drunken Lines of Hafez and Hanshan'

Annual Meeting, American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 2016 'The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2015

'From the 'Cessation of Conceptualization' to the 'Abandonment of All Views': An Ultimate Reading of Nāgārjuna's *Mūlamadhyamaka-kārikā*'

Annual Meeting, American Philosophical Association (Central Division) & International Society for Buddhist Philosophy, February 2015

'On Anti-Language Language in Linji, or Sticks and Stones May Break His Bones, But Words Will Kill the Buddha'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2014

'Catuṣkoṭi? Si Ju (四句)? Tetralemma? A Study of Hermeneutic Strategies in Sanskrit-, Chinese-, and European-Language Interpreters of Nāgārjuna (龍樹)'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2014

"When will the limitless be tamed in talk?" On the Multiplicity of Poetic Voices in $R\bar{u}m\bar{i}$'s $Ma\underline{s}nav\bar{i}$

'Ways of Knowing' Graduate Conference on Religion, Divinity School, Harvard University, October 2014

'On the Use of Views (*Dṛṣṭi*) as Means (*Upāya*): A Methodological Case Study in the Philosophical Study of Religion'

Annual Conference, South Central Modern Language Association, October 2013

'A Play of Masks and Mirrors: Mawlānā Rūmī and the Apophatic Poetics of the Masnavī'

New York Conference on Asian Studies, State University of New York at Binghamton, September 2013

'The Impossibility of Language: Poetic Modes of Apophasis in Buddhist and Islamic Mystical Literature'

The International Conference of Iranian Studies, University of Warsaw, April 2013

'Rūmī, Balkhī, Mevlevī: The Ambiguities of Identity in the Poetry of Jālāl al-Dīn Muḥammad (1207-1272 CE)'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2012

'The Fourfold Emptiness of the Fourfold Self: Nāgārjuna's Tetralemma as the Middle Way'

Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2011

'Poetic Modes of Apophasis in Buddhist and Islamic Mystical Literature'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2010

'The Mystic Poetry of 'Attar Nayshabūrī'

Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University, February 2010

'Unsaying as Emptiness in Mahayana Literature'

Annual Conference, Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Western Sydney, December 2007

'The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei'

CONFERENCE SERVICE

Executive Programme, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies, Singapore, May 2023

Lead Organizer, 'Religions and Non-Religions: Dynamics and Impacts on Plural Societies'

Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, January 2023

Organizer, 'Buddhist Nationalisms in Myanmar and Sri Lanka: Rhetoric, Responses, Challenges' Symposium

Deutscher Orientalistentag, Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society), Freie Universität Berlin, September 2022

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Metaphysics Between Reality and Truth: Studies in Sanlun 三論 Buddhist Philosophy'

Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2022

Panel Organizer and Chair 'Philosophy of Religion? Buddhist Arguments and Erasures'

Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, April 2022

Moderator, 'Hindu Nationalism and Implications for Multicultural Societies' Public Lecture

Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, November 2021

Organizer, 'Buddhist Nationalisms in Southeast Asia: Implications for Plural Societies' Symposium

United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies Annual Conference, University of Manchester, July 2020

Panel Organizer, 'Fruits and Frictions: Transculturing Buddhist Philosophy from East to West' (panel accepted, but conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

1st International Conference, International Society of East Asian Philosophy, Meiji University, Tokyo, December 2019

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Ontology, Epistemology, Language: East Asian Madhyamaka Perspectives'

11th International Convention of Asia Scholars: 'Asia and Europe, Asia in Europe', Leiden University, July 2019

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Contesting Philosophy: Asian Arguments'

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2017

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Literary Forms of Argument in Chinese Buddhist Philosophy'

Annual Ratio Conference, 'Self and Attention: Cross-Cultural Perspectives', University of Reading, April 2017

Facilitator, Roundtable Discussion

Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2016

Panel Organizer and Respondent, 'Paradox in Buddhist Philosophy'

Panel Chair, 'Narrative and Philosophy in Buddhism'

Annual Meeting, American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 2016

Organizer and Chair of three-panel seminar on 'Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature'.

Panels on 'Literature, Literary Theory, and Philosophy', 'Buddhist Philosophy as Literature', & 'Buddhist Literature as Philosophy'

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Own Courses

Encountering Religions in Plural Societies: Comparative and Contrastive Perspectives

MSc in Asian Studies, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2020-2023

Course studies diverse approaches to a wide range of religiously meaningful issues in Buddhism,

Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism in the Asian context

Asian Religions, Interreligious Relations, and Conflict

MSc in Asian Studies, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2019-2023

Course studies interreligious relations among Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Hinduism as well as their relations with Christianity and Islam in the context of historical and contemporary cultural and political developments throughout Asia

Buddhist Philosophy

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, Hilary 2017

Course studies Indian, Tibetan, Chinese, and Japanese Buddhist philosophy on topics in ontology, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, logic, and ethics

Comparative Religious Ideas

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Spring 2016

Course studies Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism in units on 'The Human Condition', 'Ultimate Realities', and 'Religious Truth'

Chinese Religions

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Spring 2016

Course studies Buddhist, Confucian, and Daoist thought and practice

Chinese Buddhist Philosophy

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Course studies Weishi, Huayan, Tiantai, and Chan Buddhism

The Buddha's Buddhism

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Course studies the Buddha's life and lives, times, and teachings

Comparative Mystical Literature: Law, Logic, Language

Lecturer, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University, Summer 2014

Winner of the 2014 Summer Teaching Scholars competition

Course studies Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic mystical literature

Buddhist Philosophy

Lecturer, Fo Guang Shan 'Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program'

Fuyan Temple, Hunan and Shengshou Temple, Zhejiang, China, Summer 2013

Course studies Indian, Tibetan, Chinese, and Japanese Buddhist philosophy

Knowledge, World, and Action: An Introduction to Philosophy

Graduate Program in Islamic Studies and Humanities, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, Autumn 2012

Course studies Western and Islamic philosophy in units on 'Knowledge & Truth', 'Being & Reality', 'Freedom & Determinism', 'God & Divine Attributes', and 'Morality & Virtue'

Co-Taught Courses

Encountering Religions in Plural Societies: Comparative and Contrastive Perspectives

MSc in Asian Studies, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Trimester 1, 2019-2020

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on religious ethics and philosophy of religion

Aspects of Buddhism

Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context', Heidelberg University,

Summer 2019

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on Buddhist literature, contributing to student assessment structure

Indian Philosophy

B.Phil. Masters Course, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, Trinity 2017

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on Buddhist philosophy in course studying Indian metaphysical and epistemological debates among schools including the Mīmāṃsā, Vedānta, Vaiśesika, Nyāya, Samkhya, Madhyamaka, and Yogācāra

Study of Buddhism

Religion, Smith College, Fall 2015

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on research methodologies in Buddhist studies

Text, Image, Culture, Structure: Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies Research Seminar

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on research methodologies in Buddhist studies

The Theory and Practice of Translation

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on the practice of translation and interpretation

Asian Humanities Major Texts: Middle East and India

Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Global Core Curriculum,

Columbia University, Fall 2013

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on religious literature

Muslim Traditions of Enquiry

Masters Program in Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, Spring 2013

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on philosophy modules

Methodology Seminars for Graduate Students

Lecturer, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, Michaelmas 2012

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on comparative religious studies

Teaching Assistantships

Chinese Religious Traditions

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Chun-fang Yu

Religion and East Asian Languages and Cultures, Global Core Curriculum,

Columbia University, Fall 2011

Responsibilities: Lecturing on Chinese religious literature (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist),

assessing all essays and exams, holding regular discussion seminars/tutorials

Introduction to East Asian Civilization: China

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Annabella Pitkin

East Asian Languages and Cultures, Global Core Curriculum, Columbia University, Fall 2010

Responsibilities: Assessing essays and exams, holding regular discussion seminars/tutorials, designing assessment structure

Comparative Mysticism

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Paul Weinfield, Religion, Columbia University, Spring 2010

Responsibilities: Assessing essays and exams, holding regular discussion seminars/tutorials, designing assessment structure

RESEARCH SUPERVISION & ASSESSMENT

Doctoral

To Be or not to Be: A Study of Xuanzang's Conundrum between Yogācāra's Anti-Realism View and Continuity of 'Self' and *Karma* in *Cheng Weishi Lun*

Primary Supervisor, Ph.D. Dissertation

Philosophy Programme, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University, 2020 – 2023

From Lack of Reflection 思 to Moral Failure: Moral Psychology in Mencius

University Examiner, Ph.D. Dissertation

Philosophy Programme, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University, 2022

Terrorism in the Era of Rising Anti-Globalisation

Assessor, Ph.D., S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021

Perception and Illusion in Early Yogacara Buddhism

Assessor, D.Phil., Faculty of Theology & Religion, University of Oxford, 2018

Buddhist-Christian Dual-Belonging

Assessor, D.Phil., Faculty of Theology & Religion, University of Oxford, 2017

Masters

Religions as 'Vestigial States': Rethinking State-Religion Relations in Singapore

Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2023

The Role of Religious Agency in Secularism: A Study of Protestant Christianity in Singapore

Lead Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2022

Rite to Religious Flourishing: Progressive Muslims' Attitudes to Ritualism

Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2022

The Factors Contributing to the Re-Emergence of Sufi Politics in Bangladesh

Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021

Divergent Responses to God in the Orient: Christianity in Korea and Japan

Lead Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021

'Chinese Religion' as a Model for Interreligious Relations

Supervisor, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2019 – 2020

Philosophy of Religion & Indian Philosophy

Assessor, B.Phil. Masters Course, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2017

Western Appropriations of Buddhist Mindfulness: Buddhism without the Metaphysics?

External Supervisor, M.Phil., Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, 2017

Undergraduate

Buddhist and Islamic Philosophy

Theology & Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, 2017

Buddhist Studies

University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2015 – 2016

Buddhism, Mind, and Emotion

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

Buddhism and Movement: Healing for the Mind and Body

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

Comparative Religion and Music

Hampshire College, 2015 - 2016

Environmental Themes and Practices in the World's Religions

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

Mythological Twins and the Underworld

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

A Process Philosophy of Creativity

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

Philosophy of Religion and Metaphysics

Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Polytheism in a Modern Cultural Context

Hampshire College, Fall 2015

The Modern Mindfulness Revolution in the West and Its Implications

Hampshire College, Fall 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & TRAINING

External Peer-Reviewer: Journals

- Comparative and Continental Philosophy
- Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy
- Journal of the American Academy of Religion
- Journal of Buddhist Philosophy
- Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies
- Philosophy East and West
- Religion & Literature
- Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions

External Peer-Reviewer: Monographs

- Bloomsbury Academic
- Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK): English Translation of the Buddhist Canon and Publication Project
- Cambridge University Press
- Springer

Editorial Board Member

• Yin-Cheng Journal of Buddhist Studies

Coordinator

M.Sc. in Asian Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021 – 2023 (Deputy Coordinator 2019 – 2021)

School Academic Integrity Officer

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021 – 2023

Faculty Mentor

M.Sc. in Asian Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2019 - 2023

Interreligious Dialogue Skills Workshop

Faculty Participant, Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore, 2021

China Area Review Editor

H-Buddhism, 2017 - 2020

International electronic network specifically for advanced academic specialists

Editor, Indian Buddhist philosophy entries

History of Philosophy without any Gaps podcast, 2017

Hampshire Interfaith Project

Faculty Advisor, Hampshire College, Spring 2016

Five College Buddhist Studies Certificate Program

Faculty Advisor, Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

Center for Buddhism and East Asian Religions, Columbia University

Graduate Member, 2009 – 2015

East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University

Organizer, Ph.D. Dissertation Workshops for the Religion Group, 2013 – 2014

Institute of Ismaili Studies, London

Participant, Peer Observation of Teaching Program, 2012

'Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond' Exhibition, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford Editor, Persian poetry translations, 2012

East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University

Senior Thesis Tutor, Fall 2011

East Asian Languages and Cultures and University Committee on Asia and the Middle East, Columbia University

Participant, Graduate Teaching Workshops in 'East Asian Humanities', 'East Asian Civilizations', and 'Major Texts: East Asia', 2010 – 2011

Modern Languages Society, University of Cambridge

Contributor, Polyglossia: Cambridge University Modern Languages Journal, 2009

Wadham College, University of Oxford

Contributor, Undergraduate Prospectus, 2005

Department of Persian Language and Literature, University of Esfahan, Iran

Editor and Translator (Persian ~ English) of several research articles and conference papers, 2001

INTERVIEWS

M.Sc. in Asian Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021: https://youtu.be/77zLSIkJP4E
Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies Newsletter, Autumn 2018: https://tinyurl.com/yxsymmw8

Woodenfish Foundation, November 2015: http://goo.gl/OiR6bQ

Hampshire College Communications Department, October 2015: https://goo.gl/8DmQFK

Dharma Drum Mountain, March 2010 (in Chinese)

Merit Times (人間福報), July 2007 (in Chinese): http://goo.gl/4opXwu

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS (PAST & PRESENT)

American Academy of Religion

American Comparative Literature Association

American Philosophical Association

Association for Asian Studies

Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies

British Association for the Study of Religions

British Institute of Persian Studies

European Academy of Religion

European Association for Chinese Philosophy

European Association for the Study of Religions

European Association of Chinese Studies

International Association for the History of Religions

International Association of Buddhist Studies

International Society for Chinese Philosophy

Modern Language Association of America

Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies

Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies

OTHER TEACHING & INTER-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Advantage Testing, New York, USA

Tutor, September 2010 – July 2012, for SAT and ACT Exams; SAT Subject Tests and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in English Literature, French Language and Literature, World History; essay composition and study skills.

Children's International Summer Villages (CISV), Lucknow, India

Junior Counsellor, January 1996

Last Updated: July 2023

Responsibilities: Pastoral care of child participants; liaising between participants and program leaders; implementing program goals of inter-cultural cooperation and understanding.