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EDUCATION

1997 Ph.D., Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University
1991 A.M., Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University
1987 A.B., *summa cum laude*, Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard-
Radcliffe College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2004 - Professor of South Asian Religions, Harvard Divinity School and the
Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University
2002 - 2004 Assistant Professor of South Asian Religions, Harvard Divinity
School
1997 - 2002 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of
Virginia.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Singing the Lives of Śiva's Saints: History, Aesthetics, and Religious Identity in Tamil-Speaking South India, mss. in preparation, forthcoming.
Imagining a Place for Buddhism: Literary Culture and Religious Community in Tamil-Speaking South India. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Articles:

"*Purāṇa / Purāṇam: Modes of Narrative Temporality in Sanskrit and Tamil*," in *Proceedings of the Conference on the Interaction of Sanskrit and Tamil* (Pondicherry: French Indological Institute, forthcoming).
"Inter-tradition Debate in Classical India" and "Inter-tradition Debate in India,"

- 600-1700," in *Sources of Indian Tradition*, revised 3rd edition. New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming.
- "Dance Before Doom: Kṛṣṇa in the Non-Hindu Literature of Early Medieval South India," in *Alternative Krishnas: Regional and Vernacular Variations on a Hindu Deity*, ed. Guy Beck. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005.
- "Origins of Hindu Ethics," in *A Companion to Religious Ethics*, ed. William Schweiker, Blackwell Publishers, 2004, 330-340.
- "Love, Violence, and the Aesthetics of Disgust: Śaivas and Jains in Medieval South India," *The Journal of Indian Philosophy* 32 (2004), 113-172.
- "Śiva as Heroic Father: Theology and Hagiography in Medieval South India," *Harvard Theological Review* 92:2 (2004):165-197.
- "Buddhism in South India," in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, ed. Robert Buswell, et al. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003, 369-370
- "The Many Lives of Daṇḍin: The *Kāvyaḍarśa* in Sanskrit and Tamil." *The International Journal of Hindu Studies* 4/2 (April 2000):1-37.
- "Literary Theory and Moral Vision in Tamil Buddhist Literature," *The Journal of Indian Philosophy* 28/2 (April 2000):195-223.
- "Ētunikaḷcci in *Maṇimēkalai*: The Manifestation of Beneficial Root 'Causes' and Renunciation," in *A Buddhist Woman's Path to Enlightenment: Proceedings of a Workshop on the Tamil Narrative Maṇimēkalai Uppsala University, May 25-29, 1995*, pp. 261-275. Edited by Peter Schalk. Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis: Historica Religionum, vol. 13. Uppsala: Uppsala University, 1997.

RECENT ACADEMIC/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2009 "Kings and Humor in the Cola Court," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago
- "Prospects for the Study of Jain Literature in Tamil," Ernst Bender Memorial Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- "On the Very Idea of Maturai, or, When Bad Things Happen in a Good Place," paper presented at the Annual Conference on Tamil Studies, University of California, Berkeley
- "Pali, Sanskrit, and Tamil Rhyming in the Buddhist Literary World," paper presented at the Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto
- 2008 "The River Kāviri and Sectarian Commitment in Tamil Literature," paper presented at the Annual Conference on Tamil Studies, University of California, Berkeley
- "Humor and Being Human in Medieval Tamil Jain Literature," paper presented

- at the Third Annual Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto
 "Beyond the *Encyclopedia of Religion*: Resources for the Study and Teaching of Hinduism," presentation to research librarians at the annual ATLA conference, Ottawa
- 2007 "Purāṇa / Purāṇam: Modes of Narrative Temporality in Sanskrit and Tamil," paper presented at the Conference on the Interaction of Sanskrit and Tamil, French Institute of Indology, Pondicherry, India
- "Genes, Seeds, and *Karma*: Religion and Agribusiness in South Asia," paper presented at Business Across Religious Traditions lecture series, New York
- "Aesthetics, Vedic Exegesis, and Moral Formation in the World of the *Dhvanyāloka*," St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM
- "Emotions, Aesthetics, and the Study of Religion" and "Humor and Salvation? The Aesthetics of Religious Identity in Medieval South India," Gates Lectures in Religious Studies, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
- "What Kind of God Rides a Dim-Witted Bull? Varieties of Disputation in Pre-modern South Indian Literature," paper presented in the South Asian Studies Lecture Series, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2008 Commendation for Distinguished Teaching Performance, Harvard University Extension School
- 2006 Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Award, Harvard University Extension School
- 2005 nominee, Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards, Harvard Graduate Student Council and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2003 - 2004 Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Harvard Divinity School
 Commendation for Distinguished Teaching, Harvard Extension School
- 2000 - 2001 American Council of Learned Societies ACLS/SSRC/NEH International and Area Studies Fellowship
 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship
 American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship (declined)
 UVa Sesquicentennial Associate
 UVa Faculty Senate Teaching Initiative Award
- 1999 UVa University Seminar (USEM) Summer Research Award
 nominee, first annual UVa Women's Center Faculty Mentoring Award
 nominee, UVa Harrison Award for Undergraduate Advising
- 1998 UVa Faculty Senate Teaching Initiative Award