

Curriculum Vitae

SONAM KACHRU

Assistant Professor
Department of Religious Studies, Yale University

320 York Street, #409,
New Haven, CT 06511

917-699-5926
sonam.kachru@yale.edu

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

July 2022–
September 2015 – June 2022

Assistant Professor, Yale University (Religious Studies)
Assistant Professor, University of Virginia (Religious Studies)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

2015	PhD, University of Chicago, Divinity School Dissertation: <i>Minds and Worlds: A Philosophical Commentary on the Twenty Verses of Vasubandhu</i> .
2014-2015	Junior Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
2013-2014	Fellow; Zukunftsfphilologie (Future Philology): Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin
2004	MA, University of Georgia
2002	BA, University of Georgia. Phi Beta Kappa
2004-2006	Attended Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University
1996-1998	Attended Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Other Lives: Mind and World in Indian Buddhism. New York: Columbia University Press, 2021.

Reviews & Commentary

- Constance Kassor, “Can We Know Others’ Worlds?” *Lions Roar*, March 17, 2022. <https://www.lionsroar.com/can-we-know-others-worlds/>
- Michael Nichols, “Other Lives: Mind and World in Indian Buddhism,” *Religion* 52, no. 4 (July 20, 2022): 668–71. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721x.2022.2102867>
- Ethan Mills, “Vasubandhu’s Twenty Verses and Comparative Philosophy,” *The Indian Philosophy Blog* (January 2023).
- Sean Smith, *Mind* 133 (531) July 2024: 913-922. <https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzac062> (Essay review).

Ongoing Book Projects

-*What is it like to be a Machine? A Buddhist History of AI*. Under Contract. Yale University Press.

-*To Weary of Painting the World: Lessons from South Asian Humanities*

-*Ungovernable: Women in Indian Philosophy*

Monographs

2015 *What is it like to become a likeness of oneself? Gestures of Light, Motion and Mind at the Surfaces of Representation*. Berlin: Forum Transregionale Studien.
DOI: [10.25360/01-2017-00003](https://doi.org/10.25360/01-2017-00003)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**Articles**

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|--------------|---|
| Under Review | “On Being the Animal I am,” special issue of <i>Exemplaria</i> . Edited by Jessica Rosenfeld and Randy Schiff. |
| 2025 | “Difficult Aesthetic Objects,” <i>Philosophical Traditions of the World</i> VIII: 33-45. |
| 2023 | (With Bryce Huebner.) “Minds in Motion and Introspective Minds,” <i>Journal of Consciousness Studies</i> 30 (9-10): 129-142. |
| 2022 | “Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Nāgasena? Once Again on the Questions of Menander and Nāgasena’s Replies,” <i>Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies</i> 44: 275-309. |
| 2021 | “Death and the Afterlife: The View from South Asian Buddhism,” <i>Journal of Religion</i> Vol. 101, No. 1, January: 48-76. |
| 2021 | “Seeing in the Dark: Of Epistemic Cultures and <i>Abhidharma</i> in the Long Fifth century C.E.,” <i>Journal of Dharma Studies</i> 3 (2), 291-317. |
| 2020 | “The Translation of Life: Thinking with Painting in Indian Buddhist Literature,” in Phyllis Granoff and Sonya Mace (editors), <i>Religions</i> 11(9), 467:
https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11090467 |
| 2020 | “As If a Stage: Towards an Ecological Conception of Thought in Indian Buddhist Philosophy,” <i>Journal of World Philosophies</i> 5: 1-29. |
| 2019 | (With Jane Mikkelsen). “The Mind is its Own Place: Of Lalla’s Comparative Poetics,” <i>University of Toronto Quarterly</i> 88: 2 (Spring 2019): 125-141. |
| 2019 | “Ratnakīrti and The Extent of Inner Space: An Essay on Yogācāra and the Threat of Radical Solipsism,” <i>Sophia</i> 58 (1): 61-83. |
| 2019 | “After the Unsilence of the Birds: Remembering Aśvaghoṣa’s <i>Sundarī</i> ,” <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> 47 (2): 289-312. |
| 2018 | “Of Dwelling With, and Getting to Know: Or, What a Medieval Variety of Irony can do for Contemporary Solidarity,” <i>Indian Journal of Secularism</i> 21 (4): 42-73. |

- 2017 “Things You Wouldn’t Think to Find in One Place: A Quick Note On an All-too Brief Example on Life and Matter in *Abhidharmakośabbāṣyam* ad 3.14c,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 137 (4): 669-678.

Peer-reviewed Chapters & Research Contributions

- In Prep “Some Buddhist Pragmatisms,” in *Coping with the World: Perspectives from Buddhism and Pragmatist Philosophy*. Edited by Rahul Kumar Maurya and Gopal Guru. Springer.
- In Prep (With Maria Heim). “The Pleasure and Beauty of Buddhist Literature.” *The Cambridge History of Indian Literature*. Edited by Whitney Cox and Francesca Orsini.
- Submitted “History and Bedevilment” in *Ambedkar’s Religion*. Edited by Anupama Rao and Upayadhi Luraschi.
- Under review “On Moral Tragedy: Mātr̥ceṭa’s Lament for Animals” in *Buddhism and Animal Ethics*. Edited by Bronwyn Finnigan and Geoffrey Barstow. Wisdom Press.
- In Press “Dustworld: For and Against Simplemindedness in Buddhist Metaphysics,” in *Ancient Greek and Indian Buddhist Philosophers on Self and Reality*. Edited by Ugo Zilioli and Jan Westerhoff. London: Bloomsbury.
- In Press “Aśoka’s Principled Pluralism,” in *Pluralism and Plurality in Classical and Contemporary India*. Edited by Brian Black and James Madaio. London: Routledge.
- 2023 “What did Śāntideva Learn from Lovers?” in *Living Treasure: Buddhist and Tibetan Studies in Honor of Janet Gyatso*, edited by Holly Gayley and Andrew Quintman. (Boston: Wisdom Press), 283-299.
- 2022 (With Eyal Aviv and Bryce Huebner). “The Magic of Consciousness: Sculpting an Alternative Illusionism,” in *Cross-Cultural Approaches to Consciousness: Mind, Nature, and Ultimate Reality*. Edited by Susanne Beiweis and Itay Shani. (London: Bloomsbury), 223-244.
- 2022 “*Milindapañha*: How to Use a Philosophical Resource and Find A Literary Gem,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Indian Buddhist Philosophy*, edited by Sara McClintock, William Edelglass, Pierre-Julien Harter. (London: Routledge), 97-112.
- 2022 “Engaging Metacognitive Practices: On the Uses (and Possible Abuse) of Meditation in Philosophy” in *Routledge Handbook on the Philosophy of Meditation*, edited by Rick Repetti. (London: Routledge), 91-104.
- 2021 “Non-Presentism in Antiquity: South Asian Buddhist Perspectives,” in *Augustine and Time*, edited by John Doody, Sean Hannan, and Kim Paffenroth. (Lanham, Boulder, New York, London: Lexington), 245-271.
- 2021 “The Mind in Pain: The View from Buddhist Systematic and Narrative Thought,” in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Emotions in Classical Indian Philosophy*, edited by Maria Heim, Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, and Roy Tzohar. (London: Bloomsbury), 131-153.
- 2020 “Of Doctors, Poets, and the Minds of Men: Towards the Varieties of Thought in Aśvaghōṣa’s *Beautiful Nanda*,” in Rafal Stepień (editor), *Buddhist Literature as*

Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature. (New York: State University of New York Press), 113-145.

- 2019 “The Traces of the World in the Tracks of the Philosophers,” in *Reasons and Lives in Buddhist Traditions: Tibetan And Buddhist Studies in Honor of Matthew Kapstein*, edited by Daniel A. Arnold et. al. (Boston: Wisdom Press), 325-341.
- 2019 “On Learning to Overhear ‘The Forgotten Poet’,” in *Readings of Śāntideva’s Guide to Bodhisattva Practice (Bodhicaryāvatāra)*, edited by Douglas Duckworth and Jonathan Gold. (New York: Columbia University Press), 60-83.
- 2019 “Who’s Afraid of Non-Conceptuality? Rehabilitating Dignāga’s Distinction Between Perception and Thought,” in *Sellars and Buddhism: Freedom from Foundations*, edited by Jay Garfield. (London: Routledge), 172-200.

Invited Commentary

- In Prep “The Place of Understanding,” Response to Sthaneshwar Timalisina, “Diversifying Indic Philosophies,” *Journal of World Philosophies*, special issue edited by Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach.
- 2021 “Some Questions for Friends of Buddhism,” *APA Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies Newsletter*. 20 (2): 29-32. Special Issue on *Why I Am Not a Buddhist* by Evan Thompson, edited by Minh Nguyen and Yarran Hominh.

Encyclopedia Articles

- 2025 (With Jane Mikkelson). “Lalla of Kashmir”. M. M. Sauer et al. (eds.), *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Medieval Women’s Writing in the Global Middle Ages*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-76219-3_354-1
- 2021 “The Dream argument.” For the *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*. (4 Vols.) Edited by Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119009924.eopr0116>
- 2018 “Dukkha,” *A Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion*, Second Edition, Edited by Charles Taliaferro and Elsa J. Marty, Bloomsbury Publishing: 85-6
- 2018 “Four Noble Truths,” *A Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion*, Second Edition, Edited by Charles Taliaferro and Elsa J. Marty (Bloomsbury Publishing), 107.
- 2018 “Śūnyatā,” in *A Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion*, Second Edition, Edited by Charles Taliaferro and Elsa J. Marty (Bloomsbury Publishing), 276-277.
- 2004 “Subhūti,” in *Holy People of the World: A Cross-Cultural Encyclopedia*, In Three Volumes, ed. Phyllis G. Jestice, (ABC-CLIO).

Reviews

- 2024 Monima Chadha, *Selfless Minds* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023). Essay Review. *Mind*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzac049>
- 2024 Brian Black. *In Dialogue with the Mahābhārata*. London and New York: Routledge, 2021. *Journal of Hindu Studies* 17 (2): 279-282.

- 2021 C. V. Jones. *The Buddhist Self: On Tathāgatagarbha and Ātman*. Honolulu, Hawai'i: University of Hawai'i Press, 2021. *Buddhadharma (Lion's Roar)*: <https://www.lionsroar.com/what-is-the-buddha-in-you/>
- 2021 Steven D. Goodman, *The Buddhist Psychology of Awakening: An In-Depth Guide to Abhidharma*. Boulder, Colorado: Shambala, 2020. *Religious Studies Review* 47 (3): 341-343.
- 2021 Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, *Human Being, Bodily Being: Phenomenology from Classical India*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. *Philosophy East and West* 71 (3): <https://doi.org/10.1353/pew.2021.0056>
- 2019 *Science and Philosophy in The Indian Buddhist Classics: Volume 1: The Physical World*. Conceived and Introduced by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. Edited by Thupten Jinpa. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications. 2017. *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* (readingreligion.org).
- 2017 Jonathan C. Gold. *Paving the Great Way: Vasubandhu's Unifying Buddhist Philosophy*. Columbia University Press. 2015. *Journal of Religion* 97 (1): 119-121.
- 2016 P. Bilimoria and A. Wenta (eds), *Emotions in Indian Thought-Systems*. London: Routledge. *The Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 79 (3): 664-666.
- 2013 Ranjit Hoskote, (trans.), *I, Lalla*, (Penguin, New Delhi, 2011), for *South Asia News*, The South Asia Language and Area Center, Committee on Southern Asian Studies, and South Asia Outreach.
- 2006 Joseph Walser, *Nāgārjuna in Context: Mahayana Buddhism and Early Indian Culture*, (Columbia University Press), in *The Journal of Religion* 86 (3): 503-404.

LITERARY ESSAYS / CRITICISM / TRANSLATION

- 2022 "What is Gained in Translation," in *Sensitive Reading*. Edited by Yigal Bronner and Charles Hallisey. (California: University of California Press). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/luminos.114.h>
- 2020 Nādim's "Where We Dwell," "I Will Not Sing," in *Asymptote* Fall 2020.
- 2017 Poems from Nādim and Rasul Mir for *Words Without Borders*, June; material concurrently published for the *Simurgh Project* by the Sangam Literary House, Bangalore, India.
- 2016 (with James Mallinson). Selections from Lallā, in *Roots of Yoga*, edited by Sir. James Mallinson and Mark Singleton (London: Penguin).
- 2016 Rasul Mir. *Kashmir Ink*, June 15.
- 2014 Translation of Samad Mir's *Insāf Kar*, Make It Right, featured in Max Kramer, Sarbani Sharma, Sarah Ewald and Suvaaid Yaseen (directors), *Mir*, a documentary short on the Kashmir Intifada of 2008: <https://vimeo.com/112954024> (Password: SamadMir)
- 2014 *Night's Triptych and other Modern Experiments* [25 pages, 15 poems, 7 poets], in Biswamit Dwibedy (ed.), *Aufgabe* (New York: Litmus Press).

- 2013 *Make Humans Again: A Portfolio of Twentieth Century Kashmiri Poetry*, in *Almost Island*, Monsoon Issue.
- 2012 “A Love Song from Habba Khatoon,” translation from Medieval Kashmiri, *Another Chicago Magazine* 50 (2).

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

- 2024 “On Lightness.” *MoMA R&D Salon* 49. June 18. [Video].
- 2024 “For Now, It Is Night: Stories by Hari Krishna Kaul” - A Conversation with Translator Kalpana Raina and Sunil Kumar. Yale University.
- 2023 “To Hell and Back,” Symposium at the Asia Society Museum, New York. April 15.
- 2022 “Learning Is the Path Forward,” *Lion’s Roar*, Oct 14.
- 2020 “Ashoka’s Moral Empire.” Feature contribution. *Aeon Magazine*. July.
- 2019 “What Is That Which Steals Your Mind?” in *Surprise: 107 Variations On The Unexpected*. Edited by Mechthild Fend, Ankete Heesen, Christine von Oertzen, Fernando Vidal. (Berlin: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), 183-185.
- 2017 “Provincializing Philosophy of Religion, and Beyond,” *Syndicate*.
- 2014 “The Meaning of Love: Insights from Medieval South Asia.” *History of Emotions: Insights into Research*, Max Planck Institute for Human Development. November.
- 2012 “The Last Embrace of Color and Leaf: Introducing Āśvaghoṣa’s Disjunctive Style,” *Almost Island: Special Issue (On Style)*. Winter.

TALKS

Invited Public Lectures / Keynotes

- 2025 “And Where is the Place of Understanding? Lessons for Cosmopolitan Philosophers,” International Lecture Series, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. July 18. (Online).
2024. “Did the Buddha Really Have To Make An Artificial Being To Help Him Think?” Nef Lecture; The John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought. December 2.
2023. Hells, Turtles, Snakes, Robots: Back to the Future of a Connected World *Buddhist Cosmopolis* workshop. NYU. October 2.
- 2023 “Philosophy After Adventure: Premodern Lessons for the story of Global Philosophy,” McGill University, Montreal. September 15.
- 2023 “The Truth about Poetry: Some Buddhist Fictions.” Smith College Buddhist Studies Program, Smith College. Feb 15. [Video].
- 2022 “To Weary of Painting the World: South Asian Lessons for a Global

Humanities.” Goodspeed Lecture, Denison University. March 7.

2022 “On Keeping The History of Buddhist Philosophy Weird.” Khyentse Foundation Buddhist Studies Lecture Series, Northwestern University.

Invited Lectures

2025 “Herman Hesse’s *Siddhartha*.” Yale Glee Club.

2024 “what does it feel like to be conscious, elsewhere.” *Critical Theory Workshop: Taxonomies of the Unseen*. Esalen, Big Sur, CA. September 16.

2024 “I Dream of *Rasa*.” *Rasa Fest*, University of British Columbia. May 22.

2024 “Our Artificial Minds,” Sir Thomas More Society, *Yale University*. February 9.

2023 “The Poems of Lalla of Kashmir: Of the Anonymous First Person and an Archive of Freedom,” Whitney Fellows Forum, Yale University. October 25.

2023 “The Place of Encounter: Some Lessons from Islamic and Buddhist historiography.” For *Encounters in Islamic Theology*. Humboldt University, Berlin. October 13.

2023 On the Truth of Pain (and the disputed reality of pleasure). History of Philosophy Seminar, Cornell University. September 18.

2023 “Of Minds, Motion, and Meaning in Aśvaghoṣa,” Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv. June 15.

2023 “A Theory of Mind and Some Thoughts about Theories,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem. June 13.

2023 How I learnt to Stop Worrying about Philosophy and Learnt to Philosophize with the Therigatha. Smith College. February 16.

2023. Mātṛceṭa’s Lament: Of Animals and Moral Tragedy. South Asian Religions Colloquium, Harvard University. February 2.

2022 Mind / Body Dualism in Buddhist Philosophy and Beyond. Columbia University Seminar on Comparative Philosophy (Zoom). December 9.

2022 “Does the Real Problem Lie with Knowing Other Minds or One’s Own?” “On the Problem of Other Minds: A. K. Chatterjee Memorial Lecture Series. IIT Bombay (Zoom). March 2.

2022 “Ashoka’s Principled Pluralism,” Department of Religious Studies, Yale University. January 31.

2022 “What is Buddhist Philosophy?” UCLA Center for Buddhist Studies Colloquium series. January 21.

2021 “How to Read (At the Bottom of the Ocean, for Example),” Theory and Practice of South Asia Workshop, University of Chicago. September 30.

2021 “Presentism and Beyond,” Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago. April 29.

- 2021 “Engaging Metacognitive Practices: On the Uses (and Possible Abuse) of Meditation in Philosophy,” Global Philosophy Research Group, University of Toronto. March 26.
- 2020 “Ethics and Epidemics: Reflections from Ancient India.” Hosted by Motilal Nehru College, Delhi University. June 1. (Zoom).
- 2020 “Looking Back on Siddhartha: On Finding our Way in Āśvaghōṣa’s *Life of the Buddha*.” University of Washington, Seattle. February 28.
- 2019 (With Jane Mikkelson). The Mind is Its Own Place: Prospects for a Global Humanities.” Religious Studies Colloquium, University of Virginia. December 11.
- 2019 “A Buddhist Theory of Action.” SUNY Binghamton. Department of Philosophy. September 27.
- 2019 “The Strange Life and Death of Kanthaka in the Life of the Buddha: An Essay in Appreciation of the Uncanny,” Yale University. Department of Religious Studies. September 19.
- 2018 “Practices of the Self in Antiquity.” April 29. Department of Classics. Dissecting Cultural Pluralism Lab, University of Virginia.
- 2014 “Know, then, Yourself: An Invitation to Extend the Brief History of a Weighty Imperative,” talk delivered, and workshop conducted at the *World Philologies Seminar* of Zukunftsphilologie Project, at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies at Freie Universität, Berlin, June 26.
- 2014 “Philosophy and the Varieties of Conversation: A Commentary on the Opening Conversations in *The Questions of King Menander*”; Khyentse Center for Tibetan Buddhist Textual Scholarship, Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, University of Hamburg; Hamburg, May 14.
- 2014 “Gestures of Light: Āśvaghōṣa on the Moving and Unmoving Surfaces of Representation,” Fifth Colloquium of the Forum Transregionale Studien convened by the program Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices on the topic “Aesthetic Practices, Ekphrasis and Description”; Berlin, March 3.
- 2014 “What is it Like to Become a Likeness of Oneself: Lessons from a Scene of Ekphrasis in Sanskrit Literature (and its Verbal Echoes in Translations in Chinese, and Tibetan),” “Philology as the Study of Concepts,” Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, January 20.
- 2014 “What is Hindu Theology? Being An Introduction to a Belated Tradition of Systematic Thought,” Faculty and Students of the Departments of Catholic Systematic Theology, and the Center of Comparative Theology and Cultural Studies, Universität Paderbon, Paderbon, Germany. January 8.

Conference Papers

- 2025 “Difficult Aesthetic Objects,” in Buddhist Philosophy and Praxis: Dialogue and Coexistence in a Diverse and Precarious World. The Geeta Ramana’s Memorial Research Scholar’s Forum (University of Mumbai) in collaboration with the Pontifical Athenaeum Jnana Deepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology (Pune), June 21.

- 2025 “Difficult Aesthetic Objects.” Invited Symposium: South Asian Rasa Theory Meets Contemporary Aesthetics. Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division). April 19.
- 2025 “On Consciousness,” *Agency & Experience: Buddhist and Cognitive Perspectives*. Princeton University. January 16-17.
- 2024 “Some Buddhist Pragmatisms.” Coping with the World: Perspectives from Buddhism and Pragmatist Philosophy. Benaras Hindu University. December 22-24. December 23.
- 2024 (with Maria Heim.) “On Indian Buddhist Literature and Kavya.” Cambridge History of Indian Literature workshop at the University of Chicago. November 15th -16th, 2024. November 16.
- 2024 “Experience and Alienation,” for *Special Forms of Perception in Buddhist and Brahmanical Thought*, Yale University. October 5.
- 2024 “Candrakīrti on Making Epistemic Standing Explicit”: Response to Rafal Stepień’s *Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy*. Madhyamaka in South Asia and Beyond, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Aug 18-22, Vienna. April 19.
- 2024 “Some Ghosts of Panpsychisms Past: Experience and Fundamental Natural Principles in Ancient Indian Philosophy,” for *The History of Panpsychism*, Cornell University (organized by Karolina Hubner). April 14.
- 2023 “Does one ever really know: what the sound of anklets, for instance, may mean?” *Droṇācāryakusumāñjali: A Conference in Honor of Gary Tubb*, University of Chicago. Dec 9.
- 2023 “Translating Pain.” For the Sanskrit and Tibetan Translation Workshop, McGill University. Sep 15.
- 2023 Respondent: *Ambedkar’s Religion*. Workshop. September 30.
- 2023 “Mind as Environment.” For the Roundtable: Concepts of the Psyche: Ontological Traversals (Swayam Bagaria and Bhrigupati Singh, organizers). Annual South Asia Conference. Madison, Wisconsin. October 21.
- 2023 With Zachary Irving. “A Puzzle about Contemplative Achievement.” Symposium on Contemplative Science, University of Virginia (April 20-22). April 20.
- 2023 “Vasubandhu’s Virtual Realism,” in “The Oneirological Turn in Buddhist Studies,” *American Asian Society Annual Conference*, Boston. March 18.
- 2023 Ungovernable: Or, How I learnt to Stop Worrying about Philosophy and Learnt to Philosophize with the Therīgāthā. Yale Business School. March 1.
- 2023 “Ramsey, Dharmottara, and the Determination of Content,” Paper for a panel on Buddhism and Pragmatism for the Central meeting of the American Philosophy Academy. (Denver). February 25.
- 2022 Respondent. Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible. Seminar in the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religions, Denver, CO. Nov 19.
- 2022 “Missing Concepts,” draft circulated for *Philosophy In/Of/For Religious*

- Studies*, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts. June 24-25. June 25.
- 2021 Presentation for the panel, Renouncing the “World While Staying at Home: A Critical Engagement with Gṛhastha” (Hinduism / Religion in South Asia Units). Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion. November 22.
- 2021 “Philosophy without Borders,” “The Future of the Ancient?” hosted by the Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University. November 12.
- 2021 Presentation for “Buddhist Studies Manifesto” (Buddhism Unit). Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion. November 21.
- 2021 “Of the Salience of the Poetic,” paper for Exploratory Session: *Poetics, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible*. Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion. November 21.
- 2021 Moderator and Respondent for Panel 2, *Literature and History, Longing and Belonging*, in the virtual conference Citizenship, Belonging and the Partition of India, Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia. April 9.
- 2021 Participant, Buddhist Bodies Workshop, McMaster University. February 6.
- 2021 “What is Metacognition?” Eastern American Philosophical Association (APA) Session [New York], delivered online. Respondent: Tad Zawidzki. January 9.
2020. “Aśoka’s Reasonable Pluralism.” Pluralism and Plurality in Classical and Contemporary India. Prague, Czech Republic. The Czech Academy of Sciences, Sep 18-19, 2020. Virtual Presentation.
- 2019 “It’s Easy If You Try: A Plea for Imagination and Experiment in Theories and Methods.” Panel: Theory and Methods 2.0. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nov 25 (Monday), San Diego.
- 2019 “The Salience of Attention: A South Asian Buddhist Story” for Norms of Deliberate and Spontaneous Attention, University of Virginia. Oct 11-12, 2019. October 11.
- 2019 “Inner Purity: Notes on a Comparative Category,” for Inner Purity and Pollution in Ancient Mediterranean Religions, University of Virginia. May 11.
- 2019 “Attention and Affect,” for Virtues of Attention: Global Philosophical Perspectives III, “Mind, World, and Attention: Themes From Indian and Buddhist Philosophical Theory.” NYU, New York. April 25.
- 2018 “On Making Sense: With and Without Ends.” Nov 16. *Buddhism, Thought and Civilization: A Memorial Symposium for Steven Collins*. University of Chicago.
- 2018 “The Mind in Pain: The View From Buddhist Systematic and Narrative Thought,” September 22. Workshop on Emotions in Classical Indian Thought. Amherst College.
- 2018 “Thinking ‘With the Whole Body’: The Buddhist Transvaluation of Emotion in Medieval South Asia,” *The Conference on the History of Emotion*, George Mason University.

- 2018 “Translations Dreamt, Refused, Prefaced, and Confessed: Diverse Thoughts on Translation in Premodernity,” May 3. *Translation in Modern South Asia*. Yale University.
- 2018 Who’s Afraid of Non-Conceptuality: Rehabilitating Dignāga’s Distinction Between Perception and Thought. Workshop on *Conceptuality and Non-Conceptuality in Buddhist Philosophy*, March 23-25, University of California Berkeley.
- 2017 “Of Poets, Their Lies, and the Savage Fruits Thereof: Four Brief Vignettes on the Imagination in Buddhism,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Saturday, November 18, Boston.
- 2017 (With Jane Mikkelsen.) “The Mind as Its Own Place: Of Lalla’s Languages,” *Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 23.
- 2017 “Overhearing Śāntideva,” *Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, Toronto. August 23.
- 2016 “Being Human in Buddhist Texts about Many Worlds,” Invited Response to Janet Gyatso, *Being Human in a Buddhist World*. San Antonio: American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. November.
- 2016 “Minds and our Living Forms of Life.” Philosophy of Religion and Buddhist Philosophy Group. San Antonio: American Academy of Religion. November.
- 2016 “A Life Dreamed, the Traumatized Titan, and the Forest Decimated in Anger: Of the Stories Philosophers Tell, and Why.” San Antonio: American Academy of Religion. November.
- 2016 “Who’s Afraid of Non-Conceptual Content: Rehabilitating Dignāga’s distinction between Perception and Thought. Nov 4th. *Buddhism on Conceptuality and Non-Conceptuality*, University of California, Berkeley, Nov 2-3, 2016.
- 2016 “Of Doctors, Poets and the Minds of Men (Which Move and Contain Many Secrets),” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, March 20, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 2015 “Ratnakīrti and the Extent of Inner Space.” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religions*, Atlanta. November.
- 2014 Comment: “Transforming Life: Exchanges and Intersections,” in *Unusual Lives: Historicizing Life as a Problem of Knowledge*. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. November 15.
- 2014 “Vasubandhu Through a Mahāyāna Looking Glass: Or, Why Vasubandhu Believes That Ordinary Language Can and Does Take Care of Itself,” Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Vienna. August 21.
- 2014 “Tales of Remembering and Forgetting: Attitudes towards time as an intentional object in Medieval Kashmir,” *Memory and Temporalities*, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, June 18.
- 2014 “Slips’ Dream: The Kashmirian Voices of the Dictionary of the Kashmiri Language Known as Grierson’s,” *Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Philological Encounters*, Joint International Conference of the Zukunftphilologie Project and the Leiden University Center for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS), Leiden. June 4.

- 2014 “The Invention of Love,” South Asia Colloquium at the Center for the History of Emotions, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, May 21.
- 2014 “Is Madness Anything Like Dying? Thoughts on Vasubandhu and the Mind in Pain, and Life without (My) Mind,” *Madness and Wisdom in Southern Asian Religions*, University of Chicago. February 14.
- 2013 “Other Minds and the Extent of Inner Space: On the Consequences for Buddhist Philosophy of an Argument for the Existence of Other Minds,” *The Theory and Practice in South Asia Workshop*, University of Chicago.
- 2013 “Philosophy as Commentary, Commentary as Rational Reconstruction: Re-introducing Vasubandhu’s Monograph, *A Demonstration in Twenty Verses of the fact that the only particulars that exist are mental events*”; Philosophy of Religions Club and Workshop, University of Chicago. January.

INTERVIEWS / APPEARANCES

- 2025 Conversation with Mira Seo. “Creations of Poetry in Sanskrit and Greek.” *Classics in Dialogue*. Wesleyan University. Sep 24.
- 2024 “What is Contemplation? An Interview with Sonam Kachru. *Journal of Contemplative Studies*. November. Conducted with Adam Liddle.
- 2022 5 Questions with Sonam Kachru. Interview with Daevan Mangalmurti.
- 2021 “What are we Doing Here?” manifesto for the Collective Buddhist Studies Manifesto Project. (Published online, Dec 31, 2021).
- 2021 “Ashoka’s Moral Empire,” talk delivered for Angle House Education: Dew Drop Talks, (Virtual Event), Monday, June 28.
- 2021 “Ashoka: The Upasak King,” Interview with Ranjit Pawar for ‘Long History Short with Ranjit’ April 11.
- 2021 “Beyond Perfection: King Ashoka, Engaged Buddhism, and Dharma in Ancient India, for Currents, Lecture Series at Mangalam Research Center: Berkeley, California (January): <https://www.mangalamresearch.org/currents/>
- 2019 Halvorson-Taylor, M., Schaeffer K. (Presenters), Kachru, S. (Guest), & Gadek, E. (Producer), “A Common Thread.” *Sacred & Profane* (2019, August 1): <https://religionlab.virginia.edu/podcast/a-common-thread/>
- 2013 Interview with Professor Wendy Doniger (Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions in the Divinity School, University of Chicago), on the publication of *On Hinduism* (Aleph Book Company, 2013) and (Oxford University Press, 2013).

On Other Lives

- 2022 *Sonam Kachru’s Other Lives*. Panel. Responses by Natalie Gummer; Emily Lawson; Roy Tzohar; chaired by Davey Tomlinson. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religions, Denver, CO. Nov 20.
- 2021 “Of Understanding Experience and the Experience of Understanding,” *Columbia*

University Press Blog, September 23.

- 2021 Recently Published Book Spotlight: *Other Lives*, Interview with Maryellen Stohlman-Vanderveen, *Blog of the American Philosophical Association (APA)*, October.
- 2021 Conversation with Nicholas Witkowski. History Department of Nanyang Technological University (sponsored by NTU History Seminar, the NUS Buddhist Studies Seminar; Religion Cluster and South Asia Cluster). December 3.
- 2021 Conversation with Karin Meyers about *Other Lives: Mind and World in Indian Buddhism*. Mangalam Institute, Berkeley, CA. October 7.
- 2021 Conversation with David Shulman and Janet Gyatso. Hosted by Natasha Heller, and the Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. (Webinar). November 8.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2025- Elected Yale FAS-SEAS Faculty Senate
2024- Regional Representative (USA), Board of Directors *International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS)*
- 2024- Co-director, *Archaia Program in Global Antiquity*, Yale University
- 2023- Steering Committee Member, Philosophy of Religion Group, American Academy of Religions
- 2021- Board Member, *Journal of Contemplative Science*
- 2019- Steering Committee Member, Buddhism Group, American Academy of Religions.
- 2020- Steering Committee Member, Buddhism and Poetics Group, American Academy of Religions
- 2016 -2021 Steering Committee Member, Buddhist Philosophy Group, American Academy of Religions
- 2017- Referred publications for *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Sophia*, *Journal of Religion*, *Religions*; *Journal of World Philosophy*, *Journal of South Asian Studies*; *Philosophy East and West*; *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*; *Critical Philosophy of Race*; *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *International Association of Buddhist Studies*, Oxford University Press, Norton; University of Vienna Press; Columbia University Press; Anthem Press; Routledge; Wisdom Press; The Israel Science Foundation; National Science Center, Poland, among others.

Conferences / Workshops Organized

- 2025 *Buddhist Philosophy and Its Critics*. April 22-23.
- 2024 (with Charlotte Gorant). *Lives of Indian Religions*. Numata Conference. Yale University. November 7/8. See [this report](#).
- 2023 (with Aleksandar Uskokov.) *A Treasury of Emotions* from Classical India: An Invitation to Imagine the Humanities from South Asia. May 17.
- 2023 The (Middle) Way Ahead. Yale University. March 31.
- 2022 Practices of Self in Antiquity. April 6-7, University of Virginia.
- 2019 (With Zachary S. Irving) The Norms of Attention (University of Virginia). October 11-12. See more about this [inter-disciplinary conference](#). More about the over-arching project [here](#).
- 2010 (With Wendy Doniger). Hindus in America: Hinduizing America; Globalizing India. (University of Chicago Divinity School). May 17-19. For coverage, see [here](#).

GRANTS

2024-2025	Team Member (With Marta Figlerowicz, Jane Mikkelsen, and Ayesha Ramachandran). Macmillan Collaborative International Grant: “ <i>The Ontological Turn Across the Disciplines: Genealogies & Futures.</i> ”
2024-2025	Advisor for Templeton funded project (lead by Saida Heshmati): “ <i>Embracing Love Across Cultures: Decoding Cultural Beliefs on Love and Their Impact on Wellbeing.</i> ”
2025*	Invited to be on the Advisory Board for an ERC Grant Application (lead by Peter Adamson): Across the Ages: “ <i>Intergenerational Relationships in Global Philosophy.</i> ”
2021	Page-Barbour Workshop Grant. \$10,000. for <i>Practices of Self in Antiquity.</i>
2020-2022	(With Charles Matthewes, Jane Mikkelsen and Shankar Nair.) <i>Gratitude to God: Psychological, Philosophical and Theological Investigations</i> research project at Biola University, funded by the John Templeton Foundation: \$85,000
2019	(With Jennifer Geddes.) Thrive Grant for FORU 1500 (Ideals and Injustices): \$2,500
2018-Spring 2019	3 Cavalier Grant (with Zachary Irving and Jim Coan): Project Title: Harnessing The Wandering Mind: \$60,000.
2017-2018	(With Meghan Hartman) Buckner-Clay Global Humanities Grant

FELLOWSHIPS / HONORS

2023-2024	Whitney Humanities Fellow, Yale University
2020	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, University of Virginia
2020	Summer Research Award
2020	The Ludo and Rosane Rocher Foundation Subvention Grant (for <i>Other Lives</i>)
2018-2019	Brown College Fellow, University of Virginia
2018	Sesquicentennial Research Associateship (Fall)
2017	UVA VSHR Summer Research Award
2012-2013	Marty Dissertation Fellow, Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago
2012-2013	Dissertation Writing Grant, Committee on South Asian Studies, University of Chicago
2004-2006	Harvard Divinity School Fellowship, Harvard University

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