

Loriliai Biernacki

Professor

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor , University of Colorado at Boulder	2000–2006
Associate Professor , University of Colorado at Boulder	2007-2022
Professor , University of Colorado at Boulder	2022–present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
B.A., English, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

PUBLICATIONS

Books (Peer-reviewed):

The Matter of Wonder: Abhinavagupta’s Panentheism and New Materialism, Oxford University Press, 2023.

***Winner of the American Academy of Religion Book Prize:
Excellence in the Study of Religion, Constructive-Reflective category, 2024***

Co-Editor: *Panentheism Across the World’s Religious Traditions*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

The Renowned Goddess of Desire: Women, Sex and Speech in Tantra, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Winner of the Kayden Book Award, 2008

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters:

2023 “Abhinavagupta’s Panentheism in Dialogue with Contemporary Neuroscience: Vimarśa and Integrated Information Theory (IIT)” in *Panentheism in Indian and Western Thought: Cross-cultural Interventions*. New York: Routledge, 2023. (11,625 words).

2022 “Tantric Bodies, AI Immortality and a Yogurt Model of Self” in *Routledge Handbook on Religion and the Body*. Eds., George Pati and Yudit Greenberg. New York: Routledge, 2022. (10,240 words).

2022 “Abhinavagupta’s Svātantryavāda: Mental Causality, Emergentism and Intuitionist Mathematics” in *Cross Cultural Approaches to Consciousness: Mind, Nature and*

Ultimate Reality. Eds., Itay Shani and Susanne Beiweis. London: Bloomsbury Press, 2022 (10,685 words).

2022 "Body and Mind in Medieval Hinduism" in *Cultural History of Hinduism in the Post-Classical Age, 800-1500 CE*. London: Bloomsbury Press, 2022 (10423 words).

2020 "The Body and Wonder in Tantra" in *Contemplative Studies and Hinduism*. Purushottama Bilimoria and Rita Sherma, Eds., New York: Routledge, 2020, 132-142 (5095 words).

2019 "Subtle Body: Rethinking the body's subjectivity through Abhinavagupta" in *Transformational Embodiment in Asian Religions: Subtle Bodies, Spatial Bodies*. George Pati and Katherine Zubko, Eds., Routledge Press, 2019, 108-127 (13591 words).

2018 "Abhinavagupta" in *Routledge History of Indian Philosophy*, New York: Routledge, 2018, 437-445 (4182 words).

2017 "Material Subjects, Immaterial Bodies: Abhinavagupta's Panentheist Matter" in *Entangled Worlds: Religion, Science and the New Materialisms*. Mary-Jane Rubenstein and Catherine Keller, Eds., Fordham University Press, 2017, 182-202 (9554 words).

2016 "Psychology of Meditation: Philosophical Perspectives" in *The Psychology of Meditation: Research and Practice*. Michael West, Ed., New York: Oxford University Press, 2016, 93-118 (10422 words).

2016 "Connecting Consciousness to Physical Causality: Abhinavagupta's Phenomenology of Subjectivity and Tononi's Integrated Information Theory" *Religions* 7, 87 (2016), 1-11 (7071 words) DOI: 10.3390/rel7070087.

2016 "Words and Word-bodies: Writing the Religious Body," in *Words. Religious Language Matters.*, Hemel, Ernst van den, and Asja Szafraniec, Eds., New York: Fordham University Press, 2016, 70-83 (8714 words).

2015 "The Conscious Body: Thinking about the Relation between Mind and Body with Abhinavagupta's Tantra" in *Beyond Physicalism: Toward Reconciliation of Science and Spirituality*. Edward Kelly, Adam Crabtree and Paul Marshall, eds., Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield. 2015, 349-386 (14856 words).

2014 "Abhinavagupta's Theogrammatical Topography of the One and the Many," in *Divine Multiplicity: Trinities and Diversities*, Chris Boesel, Ed., New York: Fordham Press, 2014, 85-105 (9372 words).

2013 "Panentheism Outside the Box" in *Panentheism Across the World's Traditions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, 1-17 (6819 words).

2013 "Panentheism and Hindu Tantra: Abhinavagupta's Grammatical Cosmology" in *Panentheism Across the World's Traditions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, 161-176 (6868 words).

2013 "The Yoginī and the Tantric Sex Rite, or How to Keep a Secret" in *'Yoginī' in South Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches*. Istvan Keul, Ed. New York: Routledge Press, 2013, 213-225 (6662 words).

2011 "The Absent Mother and Bodied Speech: Psychology and Gender in Late Medieval Tantra" in *Transformations and Transfer of Tantra in Asia and Beyond*, Istvan Keul, Ed., De Gruyter Press, December 2011, 215-238 (9440 words).

2011 "Kālī Practice: Revisiting Women's Roles in Tantra" in *Woman and Goddess in Hinduism: Reinterpretations and Re-envisionings*, ed. Tracy Pintchman and Rita Sherma, Palgrave-McMillan, 2011, 121-145 (10420 words).

2007 "Possession, Absorption and the Transformation of *Samāveśa*": in *Expanding and Merging Horizons: Contributions to South Asian and Cross-cultural Studies in Commemoration of Wilhelm Halbfass*, Ed., Karin Preisendanz, *Veröffentlichungen zu den Sprachen und Kulturen Sudasiens* series. Wien: Osterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2007 and Varanasi: Motilal Banarsidass 2007, 491-505 (7134 words).

2004 "Shree Maa of Kamakkhya" in *The Graceful Guru: Hindu Female Gurus in India and the US*, Oxford University Press, 2004, 179–202 (10624 words).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

2018 "Darwinian selection and religion: emic and etic contrasts." *Religion, Brain & Behavior*. DOI:10.1080/2153599X.2018.1513862, 2018 (2750 words).

2018 "Transcendence in Sports: How Do We Interpret Mysticism in Sports? Tantra and Cognitive Science Perspectives." *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience*, July 2018, 4:24-39 (9233 words).

2017 "Imagining the Body in Tantric Contemplative Practice" *International Journal of Dharma Studies* 5(4), 1-15; Jan 2017, (8031 words). DOI: 10.1186/s40613-016-0043-7.

2014 "A Cognitive Science View of Abhinavagupta's Understanding of Consciousness," *Religions* 5(3), 2014, 767-779 (6840 words).

2014 "The Paranormal Body: Reflections on Indian Perspectives towards the Paranormal." *Paranthropology* 5:1, 2014, 81-92 (7137 words).

2014 "Miming Manu: Authority and Mimicry in a Tantric Context," *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 36:4, 2014 644-660 (10514 words).

2012 "Real Men Say No: Representations of Masculinity in Hinduism" in *English Language Notes*, Fall/Winter 2012, 50:2, 49-62 (7427 words).

2011 "Towards A Tantric Nondualist Ethics through Abhinavagupta's Notion of Rasa" in *Oxford Journal of Hindu Studies*, 4:3 October 2011, 4:3 October 2011, 258-273 (8487 words).

2006 "Sex Talk and Gender Rites: Women and Tantric Sex" in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 10:2 August, 2006, 187–208 (13536 words).

Non-Peer Reviewed Articles:

2018 “Panentheism and Technology: The Immanence of Rage” in eds. Andrew Davis and Philip Clayton. *How I found God in everyone and everywhere*. New York: Monkfish Press 2018, 128-144 (4725 words).

2016 “Abhinavagupta’s Tantric Theology of Becoming and Contemporary Secularism” in *Prabuddha Bharata*, vol.121, no.1, January 2016,191-204, (6837 words, invited, with editorial review, not blind review).

2012 “The Future of Hinduism: A Rich and Strange Metamorphosis: Glocal Hinduism” in ed. Kathleen Mulhern, *Future of Religion: Traditions in Transition*, Patheos Press, 2012, 16-17 (reprint from "A Rich and Strange Metamorphosis: Glocal Hinduism" July 1, 2010, Washington Post

<http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/patheos/> and

<http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/A-Rich-and-Strange-Metamorphosis.html>).

2010 “Hinduism” for *Sacred Agent* Website, an interactive web project, <http://www.sacredagent.com/> (6000 words), 2010.

2007 "Wilhelm Halbfass: India and Philology": in *Religious Studies Review*, 33:2 August 2007, 95–111 (6380 words).

Reprinted Articles:

2016 Reprint of “A Cognitive Science View of Abhinavagupta's Understanding of Consciousness,” *Sūtra Journal* March 2016.

2015 Reprint of “The Paranormal Body” in *4th Anniversary Anthology of Paranthropology: Strange Dimensions: A Paranthropology Anthology*, Ed., Jack Hunter, 2015.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS

2024 Winner of the *American Academy of Religion Book Prize: Excellence in the Study of Religion, Constructive-Reflective Studies, 2024* (with \$1000 prize).

2023 Keynote Address for Regional AAR Conference, March 31, Provo, Utah.

2018 Keynote address for Religion and Science Conference, Saskatchewan Center for Science and Religion, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, “Feeling the Self: The Ghost in the Machine” *Invited with full funding and Honorarium*. Aug 14, 2018.

2018 Annual Rohrbach Lecture for St. John’s College, “*Ahantā*, Medieval India's Anti-Cartesian Solution to the Mind-Body problem,” Santa Fe, New Mexico *Invited with full funding and Honorarium*. April 6, 2018.

2018 Arts and Sciences Faculty Excellence Award (conference presentation travel, March 2018)

2017 Arts and Sciences Faculty Excellence Award (sponsoring visiting speaker, 2017)

2017 Center for Asian Studies Grant (sponsoring visiting speaker, 2017)

2017 President's Fund for the Humanities (sponsoring visiting speaker, April 2017)

2017 Center for the Humanities and Arts (semester research leave)

2016 Center for Western Civilization Grant (sponsoring visiting speaker, Oct 2016)

2015 LEAP Grant (CU faculty research grant)

2015 Center for Asian Studies, and Dept of Religious Studies Grants (sponsoring visiting speaker April 2015)

2015 Arts and Sciences Faculty Excellence Award (conference presentation travel, April 2015)

2014 Graduate Council of Arts and Humanities Grant (faculty research grant)

2013 Arts and Sciences Faculty Excellence Award, Śaiva Manuscript Workshop, (declined)

2012 Invited as Faculty, to present for Contemplative Mind in Society Summer Session, "Ritual and Contemplative Education" Contemplative Mind and Society, Northampton, MA, *Invited with full funding and honorarium.* (July 29-Aug 3, 2012, Presentation Aug 1, 2012)

2010 Center for Asian Studies Fellowship (sponsoring visiting speaker, April 2010)

2009 Fulbright: Project Scholar for Fulbright Study Tour, India, July 2009

2009 Center for Asian Studies Grant (conference funding grant, Oct 14–16, 2009)

2008 Kayden Book Prize 2008 for *Renowned Goddess of Desire* (Oxford, 2007) (given to the best book submitted by University of Colorado Faculty in grouped liberal arts disciplines, competition includes senior and junior faculty submissions)

2008 Center for Asian Studies Travel Grant (conference presentation travel June 2008)

2007 Center for Asian Studies Grant (faculty research grant)

2006 Dean's Fund for Excellence (grant for speakers)

2006 GCAH Grant for speakers (grant for speakers)

2006 Center for Asian Studies (grant for speakers)

2004 Lilly Foundation Research Fellowship (faculty research grant, summer research, India)

BOOK REVIEWS **(Not peer-reviewed)**

2018 Book Review of Sthaneshwar Timalisina, *Tantric Visual Culture: A Cognitive Approach*. New York: Routledge, 2015, and Sthaneshwar Timalisina, *Language of Images: Visualization and Meaning in Tantras*. Asian Thought and Culture, 71. New York: Peter Lang, 2015, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 21:3 (2018) (1543 words.)

2017 Book Review of Andre Padoux, *The Hindu Tantric World: An Overview*. University of Chicago Press, 2017 in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Volume 85, Issue 4, 30 December 2017, Pages 1169–1172.

2016 Book Review of *Charming Beauties and Frightful Beasts: Non-Human Animals in South Asian Myth, Ritual and Folklore*. Edited by Fabrizio M. Ferrari and Thomas Dahnhardt, *The Journal of Hindu Studies* 2016, doi: 10.1093/jhs/hiw003 (1020 words)

2015 Book Review of *Religion and the Subtle Body in Asia and the West: Between Mind and Body*, New York and Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2012. In *Asian Medicine-- Tradition and Modernity*, 9:1-2 (2015), 277-279.

2013 Book Review of *Interpreting Devotion: The Poetry and Legacy of a Female Bhakti Saint of India*, Karen Pechilis, in *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 17, 1 (2013) p.112-114.

2011 Book Review of *Authors of the Impossible*, Jeffrey Kripal, University of Chicago Press, 2010 and *Esalen: America and the Religion of No Religion*, Jeffrey Kripal, University of Chicago Press, 2007 in *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, 2:1 (Spring 2011), 142-145.

2011 Book Review of *The Teachings of the Odd-Eyed One: A Study and Translation of the Virūpākṣapañcāśikā with the Commentary of Vidyācakravartin* by David Lawrence. State University of New York Press, 2008 in *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 4:2, (July 2011), 214-216.

2010 Book Review of *Women in Tibet*, ed. Janet Gyatso and Hanna Havnevik, New York, Columbia University Press in *Religion* 40 (2010), 327-329.

2009 Book Review of *Representing Religion: Essays in History, Theory and Crisis*, by Tim Murphy, Oakville, CT, Equinox Press, 2007, in *Religion* 39, (2009), 396–397.

2007 Book Review of *Renewal of the Priesthood* by C.J. Fuller *Religion*, *Religion*, 37 (2007), 250–252.

2005 Book Review of *Untouchable Freedom: A Social History of a Dalit Community* by Vijay Prashad in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 9:1-3, (2005), 182-184.

2004 Book review of *Women In Ochre Robes* by Meena Khandelwal in *Religious Studies Review*, 30: 2/3, (April/July 2004), 151.

2002 Book Review of *Limits of Thought: Discussions* by J. Krishnamurti and David Bohm in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 6:1 (April 2002), 96–97.

2000 Book Review of *Sapta Matrka Worship and Sculptures*. By Shivaji K. Panikkar, in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 4:1 (April 2000), 84–85.

Encyclopedia Articles:

"*Satya Narayana Vrat Katha*" for *South Asian Folklore: An Encyclopedia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka*. Eds. Peter Claus, Sarah Diamond, Routledge, 2003.

"Vedas" for *Contemporary American Religion Encyclopedia*, Macmillian, 2000.

Works in Progress:

"Abhinavagupta's *Svātantryavāda*: Mental Causality, Emergentism and Intuitionist Indeterminism" in *Consciousness, Nature, and Ultimate Reality: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming projected date 2022). In the process of completing revisions to submit by November, 2021. (8443 words).

"Tantric Bodies, AI Immortality and a Yogurt Model of Self" in *Routledge Handbook on Religion and the Body* (Routledge, forthcoming projected date 2022). Under review. (9812 words).

Democratizing the Supernormal, Edited volume, in progress with co-editor Greg Shaw, one conference held with initial papers submitted, second conference postponed due to Covid. Have talked with two presses, Oxford and Fordham, who are both interested in the project.

Translation of *Brhannīla Tantra*, 15th-18th century text, good portion of translation is complete; Brill Press has expressed interest in the project.

PAPERS PRESENTED:

"Psychedelics: Past, Present, Future", University of Colorado Boulder, Psychedelics Symposium, Boulder, CO, April 17, 2024.

"Wonder and Information", Vimarsha Foundation, (online) April 6, 2024.

"How an 11th century Yogi Can Help a New Materialism Make Sense of our Information Craze" **Keynote Address**, AAR Regional meeting, Provo, Utah, March 24, 2024.

"Clay Jars, Leaves of Grass and Viruses: how an 11th century Indian yogi can help a New Materialism sort through our Ecological Crisis", Stanford University, February 27, 2024.

"The Dead King's Body", South Asian Studies Association, (online) March 1, 2024.

Class presentation, for Indian History: Tantra, Stanford University, February 27, 2024.

"Contemplative Studies: the Body across Traditions- Response" American Academy of religion, Denver, November 20, 2023.

“Abhinavagupta’s Panentheism and Cognitive Neuroscience” American Academy of religion, Denver, November 18, 2023.

“The 5 Elements in Hindu and Buddhist Thought- Response” American Academy of religion, Denver, November 18, 2023.

“AI, Mantras and the Mind” Dharma association of North America, American Academy of religion, Denver, November 17, 2023.

“Can Robots become Sentient? Abhinavagupta’s Panentheism” Lewis and Clark University, Portland, Oregon, October 20, 2023. *Invited with full funding.*

“Wonder and the Body” *ITPI Seekers and Sages*, Podcast, August 4, 2023.

“New Materialism and Indian Philosophy” Beyond Belief Podcast, with Rabbi Adam Jacobs, August 1, 2023.

“Abhinavagupta and New Materialism” New Books in Hinduism Podcast, Interview with Raj Balkaran, June 8, 2023.

“Mantras, Mental Causality and the Science of the Sun,” Archives of the Impossible Conference, Rice University, May 12, 2023. *Invited with full funding.*

“A Yogurt Model of Self: Robot Bodies and Tantric Bodies,” Chapman College, Feb 9, 2023. *Invited with full funding.*

“First-person Ontologies: Medieval Indian Nondualism of Abhinavagupta and Neuroscience Integrated Information Theory,” International Society of Contemplative Research, San Diego, Feb 3, 2023.

“Mental Causality without Emergentism,” Lewis and Clark College, Oregon. *Invited with full funding.* December 7, 2022.

“If We Can’t Beat ‘em, Better Join ‘em”: Humans, machine intelligence and the subtle body” Dharma association of North America, American Academy of religion, Denver, November 18, 2022.

“Machine Life in a Tantric Panentheism” American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 19, 2022.

“Hindu Religious Responses to Climate Change” University of Colorado Conference on Religious Responses to Climate Change, September 23, 2022

“The Gendered Body: Medieval Hinduism and the Body-Mind Relation,” Oxford University, Center for Hindu Studies. Invited lecture, Mar 29, 2022.

“Subtle bodies in Tantra and Transhumanism,” Invited lecture, Loyola Marymount University, March 16, 2022.

“Thoughts on Stuart Sarbacker’s *Tracing the Path of Yoga*,” American Academy of Religion, held via zoom, November 20, 2021

“Women and Revelation in India, China and Tibet- Response,” American Academy of Religion, held via zoom, November 20, 2021

“God as the Wall of the World: Panentheist Cosmopsychism” American Academy of Religion, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America, held via zoom, November 19, 2021

“Camatkāra: the matter of Wonder,” School of Oriental and African Studies, London, held via zoom, November 3, 2021

“The Light-Touch of Consciousness: Dual-Aspect Monism in Abhinavagupta,” South Asia Conference, Madison, WI, held via zoom, October 22, 2021.

“Abhinavagupta on the Tattvas as Phenomenology of Subjectivity,” Rocky Mountain Regional American Academy of Religion, held via zoom, March 20, 2021.

“The Theology of the Body” American Academy of Religion National Meeting, held by zoom, December 7, 2020.

“Physics, Metaphysics, Panentheism in Abhinavagupta,” Physics, Metaphysics, Experience Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. December 1-6, 2019.

“Paperclips and the End of Humanity,” American Academy of Religion, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America, San Diego, CA, Nov 22, 2019.

“Vimarśa” Society for Tantric Studies, Flagstaff, AZ, September 28, 2019.

“A Fermentation Model of Self,” Incarnation and Embodiment Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. April 14-18, 2019.

“Sarvasākṣinī: The Goddess’ Wondrous Feat” Opening Plenary panel, Dharma-Dhamma 2018 International Conference on Shaktatantra, *Invited with full funding*. December 17-19, 2018, Sanchi, India.

“Evolution and Theosis” Theosis Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA, *Invited with full funding*. November 25-30, 2018.

“Śākta Tantra: Where are the Goddesses?” American Academy of Religion National Meeting. Response paper to Śākta Tantra panel, Denver, CO, November 18, 2018.

“Mantras Across Traditions” American Academy of Religion National Meeting. Response paper to Yoga Studies panel, Denver, CO, November 18, 2018.

“First person perspective and the mind-body problem” CU Philosophy Club, Boulder, CO, April 18, 2018.

“The Hard Problem from a Medieval Tantric Perspective,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Pacific American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, CA, March 29, 2018.

“Wonder and the Goddess” Tantra Conference, Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, *Invited with full funding*. March 3, 2018.

“Subjectivity in Abhinavagupta” Mill Valley, CA, *Invited with full funding*. January 25, 2018.

“Rethinking the Body’s Subjectivity through Abhinavagupta Contemplation of the Subtle Body” American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 19, 2017.

“Mystical Experience of the Self in Indian Medieval Religion: Cognitive Science Perspectives” Religion and Evolution conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, November 15, 2017.

“Darwinian Selection and Religion: Emic and Etic Contrasts in Geertz, Turner, Maryanski and Petersen’s *The Emergence and Evolution of Religion: By Means of Natural Selection*,” Religion and Evolution conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, November 15, 2017.

“Transcendence in Sports: What’s going on?” SurSem Conference, Mill Valley, *Invited with full funding*, July 21, 2017.

Discussant for Dheepa Shundaram, “Youtube Yoga,” University of Denver, *Invited, with Honorarium*. May 3, 2017.

“The Theology of Subjectivity” American Academy of Religion, Regional Conference, March 24, 2017, Boulder, CO.

“The Power of Wonder in Indian Religions,” Mill Valley, ITPI Conference. *Invited with full funding and Honorarium*. October 29, 2016.

“Connecting Consciousness to Physical Causality,” CU Boulder, Center for Asian Studies, October 5, 2016.

“Abhinavagupta’s Phenomenology of Subjectivity and Tononi’s Integrated Information Theory,” Society for Tantric Studies meeting, Flagstaff, AZ, September 24, 2016.

Book discussant for Sthaneshwar Timalisina, *Tantric Visual Culture: A Cognitive Approach*, Society for Tantric Studies meeting, Flagstaff, AZ, September 23, 2016.

"Self, Ātman, Puruṣa," SurSem Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, California. *Invited with full funding*. May 31, 2016.

"Medieval Indian Meditation Practices in relation to contemporary Mind Studies" ITP conference, Mill Valley, CA, *Invited with full funding*, December 18, 2015.

"Hinduism and Science" American Academy of Religion, National Meeting, response paper, Atlanta, GA, November 22, 2015.

"The Affect of Tantric Bodies" American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, November 21, 2015.

"Imagination in the Context of Hindu Religious Praxis" American Academy of Religion, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America, Atlanta, GA, November 20, 2015.

"Micro and Macro Ecosystems: The Tantric Body" Pando Populus Seizing an Alternative Conference for Sustainability, June 6, 2015.

"Varieties of Immanence: Tantric Possibilities for Demonstrating how Matter matters." Pando Populus Seizing an Alternative Conference for Sustainability, June 5, 2015.

"Bhāvana," ITP conference, Mill Valley, California. *Invited with full funding*. May 15-17, 2015.

"The Body in Tantra: Cakras," SurSem Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, California. *Invited with full funding*. April 7, 2015.

"Subtle Bodies," Center for Asian Studies, Univ of Colorado, February 26, 2015.

"Bhakti, Tantra and Wonder" American Academy of Religion National meeting, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America group, November 23, 2014.

"Abhinavagupta Tantric Theology of Becoming and Contemporary Secularism," Uberoi Conference, Boulder, September 13, 2014.

"History of the Cakras" at "Esoteric Anatomies" conference, Mill Valley, CA. *Invited with full funding*. June 9, 2014.

"Transforming the Body in Abhinavagupta's Tantra" at SurSem conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. April 15, 2014.

"Women's Roles in Medieval Hindu Tantra," Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, April 9, 2014.

“Subjects and Objects” Drew University Transdisciplinary Conference: Religion and Science. *Invited with full funding*. March 28-30, 2014.

“Tantra at the Margins: Response” American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Baltimore, November 21, 2013.

“The Subtle Body” Anthropology and the Paranormal Symposium, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. October 13-17, 2013.

“The Conscious Body: Thinking about the Relation Between Mind and Body with Abhinavagupta’s Tantra,” SurSem Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, California, *Invited with full funding*, May 19, 2013.

“Tantra and Cognitive Science,” Buddhism and Science Conference, *Invited with partial funding*, Toronto, Canada, April 12-14, 2013.

“Robert Orsi’s Idea of Presence,” Regional American Academy of Religion, Denver, April 5, 2013.

“Tantra and Cognitive Science,” Regional American Academy of Religion, Denver, April 6, 2013.

“Kundalinī, Neuroscience and the Filter Theory,” American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2012.

“Response to Cognitive Science and Tantra Panel,” American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America, Chicago, IL, November 20, 2012.

“Abhinavagupta’s Cosmology in Relation to Contemporary Physical Models,” SurSem Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. May 22, 2012.

“Subtle Bodies,” SurSem Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. May 24, 2012.

“Panentheism across the World Traditions,” Panentheism Conference, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*, November 28, 2011.

“Tantric Bodies and Siddhis,” Panentheism Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. November 30, 2011.

“Rethinking the Body: The Hybrid Tantric Body,” National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19, 2011.

“Imitatio Gandhi: Hindu Meditation Practices,” *Invited with full funding and honorarium*, San Diego State University Conference on Dharma, July 21, 2011.

"Abhinavagupta's Tantric Model for Understanding the Nature of Consciousness"
Invited with full funding, SurSem, Big Sur, CA, May 22-27, 2011.

"Abhinavagupta, Siddhis and Science" *Invited with full funding*, Conference on the Siddhis, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA, May 18-20, 2011.

"Real Men Say No: Representations of Masculinity in Hinduism," Conference on Masculinities in South Asia, Miami University, Ohio. *Invited with partial funding*. May 1-3, 2011.

"Panenthesim and Hindu Tantra: Abhinavagupta's Grammatical Cosmology," Panentheism Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. Nov 30, 2010.

"Writing the Body: Magical Speech and Super-Bodies," Drew Theological and Philosophical Studies Colloquy, Drew University, NJ. *Invited with full funding*. September 29, 2010.

"Abhinavagupta and Ethics," Society of Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff, AZ, September 25, 2010.

"Response to Recent Research in Tantra," American Academy of Religion, Montreal, November 8, 2009.

"Translation, Universality and the Subject-Object Divide," American Academy of Religion, Montreal, November 7, 2009.

"Evolution, Emergence Theory and Abhinavagupta's Tantric Non-dualism," American Academy of Religion Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America conference, Montreal, November 6, 2009.

"Women in the Tantric Sex Rite, or How to Keep a Secret," Sacred Feminine Conference, University of Missouri, Missouri, *Invited with full funding and honorarium*. October 18, 2009,

"Sex and the Siddhi," Sex and Texts: Representations of Sexuality in Asian Religious Traditions Conference at University of Colorado at Boulder October 15, 2009.

"Rethinking the Religious Body: Tantric Models of Embodied Divinity," "Rethinking the Religious Body conference, Heidelberg, Germany. *Invited with full funding and honorarium*. October 4-6, 2009.

"Ritual Subversion of Manu in a Tantric Context," Conference for the Study of Religion in India, June 19, 2009.

"The Ethics of Delight" Invited Paper, University of New Mexico Philosophy Department Colloquium Series. *Invited with full funding and honorarium*. May 1, 2009.

"Spanda and the Gap in the Vijñāna Bhairava," Evolutionary Panentheism Conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. March 24, 2009.

"Panentheism, Scientific Emergence and Abhinavagupta's 11th century Tantra," Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, June 9, 2008.

"Miming Manu" National Meeting of the the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 20, 2007.

"The Ethics of Abhinavagupta's Conception of Rasa" American Academy of Religion, Additional Meetings Dharma Association of North America, San Diego, November 21, 2007.

"Subaltern Blues," Challenging Cultures of Death, Conference on War, Dublin, Ireland, October 4, 2007.

"The Spanda and the Gap: Knowledge and Action/Theory and Practice in Abhinava's *Īśvara Pratyabhijñā Vivṛti Vimarśinī*," Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. December 10, 2007.

"Panentheism and a world without a teleology," Panentheism conference, Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, CA. *Invited with full funding*. December 11, 2007.

"Response to Panel on South Asia and Sacred Space" National Meeting of the the American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC, November 19, 2006.
Subsequently published on [http://asian.fiu.edu/sacred space session aar.html](http://asian.fiu.edu/sacred_space_session_aar.html)

"The Kālī Practice," National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 20, 2005.

"Abhinavagupta and Binaries," Medieval and Early Modern Society, University of Colorado, Boulder, November 4, 2005.

"Movement and Time: Abhinavagupta," Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff, Arizona, October 2, 2005.

"Rape of the Goddess," Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, April 9, 2005.

"Sex Rites and Gender Talk," Association of Religious Studies Students, University of Colorado, Boulder, February 23, 2005.

"Sex and the Other/Woman: The Role of Wives And Goddesses In A Tantric Sex Rite Of Kāmākhyā," National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio, Texas, November 21, 2004.

"To Speak Like a Woman: Lacan, Magical Mantras and Bodied Speech," Conference on Freud and Religion, Rice University, Texas. *Invited with full funding and honorarium*. December 3, 2003.

"How to Keep a Secret: Power, Hierarchy and the Function of the Feminine in Tantric Praxis," University of Iowa. *Invited with full funding and honorarium*. November 17, 2003.

"Women in the Transgressive Sexual Rite," American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Boulder, Colorado, April 5, 2003.

"The Tantric Transgressive Sex Ritual and Gender: How to Keep a Secret," Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff, AZ, October 12, 2002.

“Whose Ghus is Goose: A Defense of Bribery in India,” National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 21, 1999.

“Unstoppable Karma and the Infinite Text: Strategies for Dealing with Relativism,” International Conference for Religion, Science and Relativism, Society for Philosophy and Religion: sponsored by Elon College, North Carolina, held in Calcutta, India, August 1997.

“The God of Truth in the Land of Plenty: The Creation of the Indian Immigrant Identity in the U.S. in the ritual of the *Satya Narayana Vrat Katha*,” National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 20, 1995.

“Tradition and the Engendered Mystic: A 20th Century Mystic and Her Patriarchal Inheritance,” International Conference on Women and Religion, Cansius College, Buffalo, NY, September 1995.

Teaching:

Teaching Awards

- Award for Teaching Excellence, Committee on Learning and Academic Support Services and the National Residence Hall Honorary, CU Boulder 2000
- University of Colorado Marinus Smith Teaching Award 2013
- Also: Nominated for Graduate Student Mentoring Award (nominated, but did not win) 2009

Principle Advisor for Graduate Students MA degree

Completed MA Theses:

1. **2020** Kim Ploeg. “In Defense of our Dharma: Articulations of National Community in *Manushi*.”
2. **2017** Mileski, Greg. The Violence of Nonviolence: Contextualizing the Movements of King and Gandhi.”
3. **2015** Dickstein, Jonathan. “Īśvara As He Is: Devotional Theism in the Pātañjala Yogaśāstra.”
4. **2015** Peterson, Jonathan. “With the Word ‘Gods’ He Created Scripture: The Language Philosophy of Śāṅkarācārya as Presented in Brahmasutrabhāṣya 1.3.28.”
5. **2015** Sajovich, Cristina Renee. “Decolonizing Yoga: Authenticity Narratives, Social Feelings & Subversion in Modern Postural Yoga.”

6. **2013** Hackney, Arya R. "The Question of Agency and Conjugal Norms for the Devadasi."
7. **2012** Horner, William "Chip". "The University of the Forest: Plant Spirits in Ayahuasca Shamanism."
8. **2011** Brooks, Lisa. "Karma as an "Apparatus": The Etiology of Non-Normative Sexualities in Classical Āyurveda."
9. **2011** Vincent Burgess. "Gandhi's Diet."
10. **2008** Gittinger, Juli. "Hindutva from Savarkar to Ayodhya: Phantasmic Identity of Hindu Nationalism."
11. **2008** Kinsey, John. "B. R. Ambedkar, Karl Marx, and the Neo-Buddhist Revival."
12. **2006** Bartell, Eric. "An Investigation of the Concept of Freedom in Abhinavagupta's Pratyabhijñā Philosophy."
13. **2005** Ott, Kirk. "Modern Vedanta, Literary Production, and Colonial Hindu Identity: Contextualizing the Writings of B.R. Rajam Aiyar (1872-1878)."
14. **2005** Baker, Jessica. "The dynamics of education and nationalism in the Tibetan refugee school system in India."
15. **2003** Spina, Nanette. "When the Gods Marry: Myth and Ritual at Śrī Mīnākṣī Temple Madurai: A Discourse on the Marriage Metaphor."
16. **2003** Lucas, Anna. "Kundalini Awakening: An Exploration of Hindu and Western Views."
17. **2002** Diaz, Sofia. "Bharata Natyam: A Taxonomy of Performative Transmission Contextualized by an Intersubjective Analysis of Ritual Enactment."
18. **2001** Sijapati, Megan. "Reconstructing Hindu Fenube Selfhood: The Rashtra Sevika Samiti and Hindu Nationalist Discourse."

Completed MA Portfolio Track:

19. **2018** Lognion, Lucas, portfolio track.
20. **2011** Lydolph, Tamara, portfolio track.
21. **2007** Self, Corky, portfolio track.

Additional MA students I worked with who did not complete the degree

22. Jen Trainor 2001-2002, did not complete.
23. Carrie Sammons 2002-2004, did not complete.
24. Todd Day 2003-2004, did not complete.
25. Abbie Steinbruck - took over for previous advisor who left, 2005-2006, did not complete.
26. Principle advisor for Adam Bratter - 2004-2007 and again 2010-2011, did not complete.

27. Lauren Eddy on the BA/MA track, 2010-2011, did not complete.
28. Fred Kapinos 2010- 2011, did not complete.
29. Rinkal Saini 2013-2014, did not complete.
30. Scott Brown 2014-2018, did not complete.

Curent MA students

31. Vincent Vansaghi
32. Erika Brown

Principle Thesis advisor for Undergraduate Students Honors thesis

1. **2017** Trujillo, Lauren. "Married Life Will Not Bring Me Happiness: Religious Renunciation as an Alternative to Marriage for Women in Traditional Hindu Areas of India."
2. **2016** Hilty, Bailey. "More than Physical: Running as a Spiritual Exercise."
3. **2012** Ohler, Keith. "Strange Bedfellows: Progressive Christian Voices for LGBT etc. Equality."
4. **2010** Guillford, Tristan. "Mysticism and Entheogens: Perspectives on Altered States of Consciousness from Religious and Scientific World Views."
5. **2010** Albrecht, Lindsay. "Mindfulness in Business: A Discussion of the Creation of the Universal and Moment-to-Moment Awareness."
6. **2007** Bauer, Ralph. "Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa: A Freely Fated Destiny of Downfall."
7. **2006** Castillo, Nicole. "A Space for Difference: Feminist Liberatory Potential at Catholic Marian Apparitional Shrines."
8. **2004** Metz, Andrew. "Turner, Theatre and Communitas through the Ages."
9. **2004** Stuckey, Katherine. "Embodiment in Dreaming."
10. **2004** Lyons, Andie. "Hijra Roles in Indian Society."
11. **2001** Upczak, Emily. "Envisioning the Invisible: The Making of Ritual Like Performance Art."

UROP Advisor:

- 2019:** UROP advisor for Emily Sadler.
2006: UROP advisor for Nicole Castillo.
2001: UROP advisor, Emily Upczak.

Other Mentoring Activities:

- **2006-2013** Mentored Graduate student John Kinsey in project starting a graduate student Religious Studies journal, *Next*, worked as faculty advisor for *Next*
- **2015** AAR mentor for Women and Diversity committee
- **2016-Present** AAR Mentor Program for advanced graduate students (continue to meet with student in person at annual AAR and by phone and zoom a few times per year to advise, continuing now as she works through her first years of a newly acquired tenure track job)

- **2019** AAR Mentor Program, mentoring for 3 different young scholars through AAR mentoring program (involving meeting in person at the annual AAR and follow-up meetings through zoom and telephone)
- **2020** Mentoring high school student on writing for a high school journal about India, Nepal and Hinduism, student referred to me by Center for Asian Studies, CU

Thesis Committee member for MA and Ph.D.:

1. Al Kormondy, 2001, Religious Studies
2. Kelly Nottingham, 2001, Religious Studies
3. Shannon Brooks, 2001, Religious Studies
4. Blythe King, 2002, Religious Studies
5. Brian Keady, 2002, Philosophy
6. Brian Chanecka, 2002, Religious Studies
7. Willem Zwart , 2004, Religious Studies
8. Jeremy Rottini, 2006, Religious Studies
9. Maxwell Irving, 2006, Religious Studies
10. Zane Altman, 2006, Religious Studies
11. Allie Schultz, 2006, Religious Studies
12. Youngha Lee, 2006, Religious Studies
13. Robert Oney, 2008, Religious Studies
14. Reed Harwood, 2008, Religious Studies
15. Chen Li, 2009, Religious Studies
16. Juana Manis, 2010, Religious Studies
17. Jonathan Pilgrim, 2011, Religious Studies
18. Angela Nilles, 2011, Religious Studies
19. Kaira Schacter, 2011, Religious Studies
20. Britt Marlowe, 2011, Religious Studies
21. Jake Dirberger, 2012, Religious Studies
22. Eric Haynie, 2013, Religious Studies
23. Cynthia Drake, 2014, English Phd dissertation
24. Jennifer Felder, 2015, Psychology Phd dissertation
25. Maura Chhun, 2015, History Phd dissertation
26. Michael Ortiz, 2017, History Phd dissertation
27. Joshua Shelton, 2019, Religious Studies
28. Bingxia Bian, 2019, Religious Studies
29. Laura Dunn, 2019, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Phd dissertation
30. Ivan Mayerhofer, 2020, Religious Studies

Undergrad Honors thesis committee member:

1. Carlyn Dicks, 2004
2. Nathan Ragoli, 2004
3. Eric Moffett, 2005
4. Susan Chadderdon, 2005

5. Aaron Profitt, 2005
6. Anjali Joshi, 2006
7. Justin Vero, 2006
8. Evan Apel, 2007
9. Jessica Storey, 2007
10. Liz Brent, 2007
11. Mary McNelly, 2009
12. Joel Gillin, 2010
13. Elexer Palko-Schraa, 2010
14. Jennifer Poe, 2010
15. Ali Mason, 2011
16. Julie Murphy, 2011
17. Jessica Counce, 2011
18. Adam Gladstone, 2011
19. Claire Cohen, 2016
20. Caza Gomis, 2018

Independent Study/Research Study Groups Supervised:

1. Breeanna Reed, S'01, 3 cr hours
2. Katie Stuckey, F'03, F'04, each at 3 cr hours, led to honors thesis
3. Andi Lyons, S'04, F'04, 3 cr hours, led to honors thesis
4. Jeremy Rottini, F'05, 3 cr hours
5. Nicole Castillo, F'05, 3 cr hours, led to honors thesis
6. Andrew Metzroth, F'05, 3 cr hours, led to honors thesis
7. John Kinsey, S'07,
8. Keith Ohler, S,'12, 3 cr hours, led to honors thesis
9. Marieta Bialek, F,'12,
10. Oriel Eisner, F'12, 3 cr hours
11. Elizabeth Lewis, S'13, 3 cr hours
12. Jonathan Peterson, S'13, 3 cr hours
13. Matthew Thomas, S'16, 3 cr hours
14. Teddy McCarville, F'16, 3 cr hours
15. Luke Lognion, F'16, 3 cr hours
16. Lauren Smith, S'17, 3 cr hours
17. Alex Berger, F'18, 3 cr hours
18. Emily Sadler F'18, S'20, each at 3 cr hours, led to UROP grant
19. James Batten, S'18, 3 cr hours
20. Erika Brown, S'20, 3 cr hours
21. Vincent Vansaghi S'20, 3 cr hours
22. Ivan Mayerhoffer, F'20, 3 cr hours

Courses developed and taught:

RLST 1620: Religious Dimensions of Human Experience: Religion and Science, (90 students, 2 TA positions, 3 cr hours)

RLST 2610: Religions of India, (90 students, 2 TA positions, 3 cr hours; Major revisions and title change 2019 to Happiness and Nirvana, to offset decreasing enrollments 25-50 students beginning in 2013)

RLST 2612: Yoga: Ancient and Modern (100-150 students, 2-4 TA positions, 3 cr hours)

RLST 2800: Women and Religion (20 students, 3 cr hours)

SNSK 2010: 2nd year Intermediate Sanskrit 1st semester (1-3 students, 3 cr hours, taught as overload)

SNSK 2020: 2nd year Intermediate Sanskrit 2nd semester (1-3 students, 3 cr hours, taught as overload)

RLST 3200: Hinduism, (25-50 students, at times with 1 TA, 3 cr hours; Major revisions and title change in 2019 to Yoga, Castes and Magic: Hindu Society and Spirituality, to offset decreasing enrollments 12-35 students beginning in 2013)

RLST 3830: Perspectives on Religion: Junior Majors Seminar (20 students, 3 cr hours)

RLST 5210: Third year Advanced Sanskrit (1-6 students, 3 cr hours, taught frequently as overload because often under minimum requirement of students)

RLST 6850: Comparative Seminar: Self and Other in Cross-cultural Perspective (11 students, 3 cr hours)

Topic courses, taught as seminar:

RLST 4200/5200:

- 1) Tantra (6-20 students, 3 cr hours);
- 2) The Colonial Experience: Sex, Masculinity and Goddesses, (18 students, 3 cr hours)
- 3) Women in Hinduism and Buddhism (20 students, 3 cr hours)
- 4) Nirvana, Enlightenment (17 students, 3 cr hours)
- 5) Gandhi, Aurobindo and Amritanandamayi Ma, (19 students, 3 cr hours)
- 6) Bodies and Cosmology (16 students, 3 cr hours)

RLST 4820/5820:

- 1) Ethics and Others (16 students, 3 cr hours);
- 2) Ethics and Empires (12 students, 3 cr hours)
- 3) Religion and Gender (15 students, 3 cr hours)
- 4) Subtle Bodies, New Materialisms (13 students, 3 cr hours)
- 5) Body and Magic in India (18 students, 3 cr hours)

Pedagogy training and activities:

- **2000** Faculty Teaching and Excellence Program workshops: 3-part workshop on delivering lectures, CU Boulder
- **2003-2004** Applied for and attended a competitive Workshop for Teaching Undergraduates in Religion through Wabash Center for Teaching, including three long meetings: Lafayette, Indiana, July 16-22, 2003; Arizona, Feb. 5-8, 2004; Lafayette, Indiana, June 23-28 2004,
- **2004** Invited participant in university and community forum on "Educating for Success in a Global Economy" sponsored by CIBER & CU Denver. Feb. 2004
- **2008** "Teaching Asian Religions in the University" panelist for conference on Religion on a Secular University Campus, April 25, 2008

- **2009-2010** Fellowship Grant Award from the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, 2009, involving Contemplative Mind in Society Contemplative Practice Fellows Workshop, June 18-20, 2010, Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, MI
- **2009** Contemplative Mind in Society Workshop on Contemplative Curriculum Development, Amherst, MA, Aug 9-14, 2009 (separate from the Grant, but made free of cost to Grant recipients)
- **2018** Assett Workshop Teaching with Technology, May 31, 2018