Matthew D. Milligan, Ph.D.
Lecturer of Buddhism
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: South Asian Buddhism; Social and Economic History; Philology

Secondary: Hindu Brāhmaṇical Literature; Southeast Asian Buddhism; Material Culture

EMPLOYMENT

2016 – Present Lecturer of Buddhism, Georgia College & State University
- Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies
- Diversity Leadership Team
- Fulbright selection committee

2013 Adjunct Professor, Antioch University
- Buddhist Studies Program in Bodh Gaya, India (2013)
- Bursar, Travel Manager, Health Coordinator (2013)

2008-2013 Teaching & Research Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin
- Asian Cultures and Languages
- Dissertation: "Of Rags and Riches: Indian Buddhist Patronage Networks in the Early Historic Period"
- Committee: Oliver Freiberger, Janice Leoshko, Patrick Olivelle, Joel Brereton, Jason Neelis
- Portfolio in Religious Studies: Patronage and Religion

2010 M.A. The University of Texas at Austin
- Asian Cultures and Languages

2006 B.A. Albion College
- Religious Studies & Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

In-Preparation *Of Rags and Riches: An Economic History of Early Buddhism*

Journal Articles (refereed)

2019 "The Economic Power of Women in Early South Asian Buddhism" in *The Indian Economic & Social History Review*. 56.1: 1-14.

2018 "Corporate Bodies in Early South Asian Buddhism: Some Relics and their Sponsors According to Epigraphy" in *Religions*. 10.1.

2015 "Five Unnoticed Donative Inscriptions and the Relative Chronology of Sanchi Stūpa II" in *Annual Report of the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology* (ARIRIAB), vol. XVIII: pp. 11-22.

2013 "The Development and Representation of Ritual in Early Indian Buddhist Donative Epigraphy" in *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies,* vol. 15: pp. 171-186.

Revise and Resubmit "The Wheel-Turning King and the Lucky Lottery: Perspectives New and Old on Wealth and Merriment within Buddhism" for *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, with Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko

[Invited] "Varieties of Epigraphic Donative Terminologies in Early Historic Period Sri Lanka" for *BDRC Occasional Papers in Buddhist Studies Series* [2019]

Under Review "De-Facing the Epigraphic Self in Early Buddhist Sri Lanka" for *South Asian Studies*, with Dana Maller

In-Preparation "The Title Arya/Aya/Ayya in Epigraphical Prakrit" for *Journal of the American Oriental Society*

In-Preparation "Revisiting the Buddhist Saints of Ancient Vedisa: Social Influence in Founding Buddhism" for *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*

In-Preparation "The Failure of Śuddhodana: Debt, Pleasure, and Women in Aśvaghoṣa's *Buddhacarita*" for the *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*

Book Chapters (refereed)

[2019] "Monastic Investment Bootstrapping: An Economic Model for the Expansion of Early Buddhism" in *Buddhism and Business, Market and Merit: Intersections between Buddhism and Economics Past and Present*, ed. by Jinhua Chen, Susan Andrews, Yongshan He. Forthcoming.

[2020?] "The Advent of Monastic Buddhist Sociality: Two Generations of Donors at Sanchi and Bharhut" in *Indian Buddhism in its Social Context*, ed. by B.N. Prasad and V. Babu, Primus Books: Delhi. Forthcoming.

[2020?] "'Sinners Shall Live in Filth': The Legal Presence of the Buddha at Sanchi" in *The Buddha Image in South Asia: Trans-Regional Diversity*, ed. by Nicolas Morrissey. Forthcoming.

Other Works (non-refereed)

2018 "Donative Epigraphy in Ancient India" for *Sahapedia*, an open online encyclopedia of Indian culture and heritage

HONORS

2018 Faculty Research Grant, Georgia College & State University
- Goal: Complete archival and field research required for monograph on Sri Lankan Buddhist economy
- Goal: Creation of an epigraphic database of Sri Lanka epigraphs until the 1st c. CE
- Hired one research assistant

2016-2017	Faculty Development Grant, Georgia College & State University - Goal: Pilot research fieldwork in Sri Lanka
2015	Visiting Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Germany)
2014-2015	Named Endowed Continuing Fellowship, UT Graduate School
2014, 2007-8	Richard and Janis Lariviere Graduate Fellowship, UT Dept. of Asian Studies
2013-2014	Mossiker Dissertation Research Fellowship, UT Dept. of Asian Studies
2013	Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, UT Dept. of Asian Studies
2013	Ward Endowed Fellowship, UT College of Liberal Arts
2013, 2009	Mossiker Fellowship, UT Dept. of Asian Studies
2011-15, 2008-9	Professional Development Award, UT Graduate School
2009-10	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Hindi, UT South Asia Institute
2009	Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship (LAGR), College of Liberal Arts
2009	Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Hindi (Declined), South Asia Institute
2006	Best Paper Prize, Midwest American Academy of Religion
2006	John and Willimay Cheek Award, Albion College
2006	DeVinney Scholar Award, Albion College
2003-6	Presidential Scholarship, Albion College

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

2019 (Upcoming) "The Missing Buddhist Beggars of Sri Lanka: A Semantic Epigraphic History of the *biku-saga* from 200 BCE to 200 CE," **229th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Chicago, March 15-18

2018 "The Early Buddhist Saṃgha as a Corporate Entity: Monastic Capitalization in India and Sri Lanka c. 100 BCE," **Workshop on Religion, Economy, and Value: Histories of Religious Fundraising**, University of Copenhagen, December 17-18

2018 "Economic Prosperity as Reputation Management in Early South Asian Buddhism," **American Academy of Religion**, Denver, November 17-20

2018 "Variance and Usage of Early Buddhist Investment Formulae: Comparing Indian and Sri Lankan Epigraphy," **228th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Pittsburgh, March 16-19

2018 "'Sinners Shall Live in Filth': The Legal Presence of the Buddha at Sanchi" at **The Buddha Image in South Asia: Trans-Regional Diversity** symposium, University of Georgia, March 23-24

2018 "On Early Buddhist Epigraphic Donative Formulae in Sri Lanka and India: A comparison," **Theravāda Cultures and Civilizations**, Washington DC., March 22

2018 "Debt and Dividends in the Formation of Buddhism," **David Graeber's Debt: 5,000 Years and Counting**, University of Birmingham (UK), June 8-9 (Declined due to funding)

2017 "Rich Monk, Poor Monk: The Dichotomy Economy in the Formation of Buddhism," **32nd Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities**, University of Western Georgia, October 26-28

2017 "Text and Epigraph, King and Monk: Comparing and Contrasting Patronage in Early Indian Buddhism," **XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies**, University of Toronto, Canada, August 20-25, 2017

2017 "'Bootstrapping' the Early *Saṁgha*: An Economic Model for the Formation of Indian Buddhism Outside Magadha," **Buddhism and Business, Market and Merit conference**, University of British Columbia, Canada, Vancouver, June 19-21, 2017

2017 "Royalty in the Material Culture of Bharhut," **227th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Los Angeles, California March 17-20

2016 Panel Respondent for the **45th Conference on South Asia**, the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Panel Title: "Reviving History from Eroded Texts: Studies in South Asian Epigraphy"

2016 "It Takes Money to Make Money: Buddhist Monks and Permanent Donative Records Ancient and Modern," **45th Conference on South Asia**, the University of Wisconsin, Madison

2016 "Administration and Donative Epigraphy at Early Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites" **226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Boston, Massachusetts March 18-21

2015 "Brāhmaṇical Religious Expressions and Titles in Early Indian Buddhist Epigraphy" **44th Conference on South Asia**, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 22-25

2015 "Buddhist Monks and Ancestral Mothers: Metronymics in Early Indian Epigraphy" **225th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 13-16

2014 "Early Indian Buddhist 'Company Men' and how they Cornered the Religious Marketplace" **XVIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies**, University of Vienna, Austria, August 18-23

2014 "Bankrolling Buddhism in a Buyer's Market: Marking Ritual Finance in Early Historic Period Indian Buddhism" **The Social Worlds of Premodern Transactions**, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi, June 5-6 [paper accepted; but unable to participate]

2014 "The Buddha's Genius: *Dhárman*, *Dharmaḥ* and *Dhamma*" **Understanding Dr. Ambedkar's Concept of Dhamma: Transforming Self and Society**, BB Ambedkar University, Lucknow, India, April 14-15

2014 "Pathways to Social Power: How Rags Earned Riches in Early Indian Monastic Buddhism" **Indian Buddhism in its Social Context**, BB Ambedkar University, Lucknow, India, March 27-28

2013 "Causing to Construct: Donative and Installation Formulae in Early Indian Buddhist Sources" **223rd Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Portland, Oregon, March 15-18

2012 "Circulating Commodities: Networks of Patronage in Early Indian Buddhism" **41st Conference on South Asia**, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 11-12

2011 "A Study of Inscribed Reliefs within the Context of Donative Inscriptions at Sanchi" **40th Conference on South Asia**, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 19-22

2010 "Donative Inscriptions and Inscribed Reliefs at Sanchi" at the **Oslo Buddhist Studies Forum**, University of Oslo, Norway, October 19

2009 "Towards a Grammar of Representation: Buddhist Stupa Architecture in the Sanchi Reliefs" **38th Conference on South Asia**, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 22-24.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgia College & State University

* indicates original course

* The Economics of Buddhism (Upper Division)
* The Origins of Religion (Upper Division)
* Buddhist Meditation Traditions (Upper Division)
* Monks Gone Wild (First-Year Liberal Arts course)
South Asian Religions (Second-Year Liberal Arts course)
Introduction to World Religions (Asian Traditions)
*History of Religions (Second-Year Liberal Arts course)

Guest Lecturer for:

Introduction to Philosophy
Interdisciplinary Studies
Cultural Anthropology

Antioch University

History of South Asian Buddhism
Buddhist Meditation Traditions (Assistant)

The University of Texas at Austin

History of Religions of Asia (Supplemental Instruction Leader)
Introduction to Buddhism (Supplemental Instruction Leader)
History of Religions of Asia (Teaching Assistant)
History of Indian Buddhism (Teaching Assistant)
Introduction to Buddhism (Teaching Assistant)
First Year Sanskrit (Teaching Assistant)
Second Year Sanskrit (Teaching Assistant)
Goddesses in World Religions (Teaching Assistant)
Japanese Religions (Grader)

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Georgia College & State University

2017-2019 Dana Maller – Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies / Dept. of English
- Co-Authored professional paper submission to *South Asian Studies*
  - "De-Facing the Epigraphic Self in Early Buddhist Sri Lanka"
- Co-Authored professional working paper
  - "Beautiful Monastery, Beautiful Patronage: The Perceived Aesthetics of Cave Monasteries in Early Buddhism"
- Original research paper submission to *Butler Journal of Undergraduate Research*
  - "Between and Beyond: Heaven and Earth in Early South Asian Religious Literature"

2018-2019 Jonathan Mangrum – Department of Political Science / Dept. of Economics
- Won a Boren Fellowship to study Urdu in Lucknow (under my tutelage)

2018 Sarah Robles – Department of History
- Independent research
  - "On the Historical Origins of Religion"

Brown University

2014 Alexx Temeña – Cognitive Neuroscience and Contemplative Psychology
- Original anthropological fieldwork in Dehradun, India
  - "Others Before Self: Buddhist Influences at Tibetan Children's Village, Selakui"
- Won the international research award from *The Forum on Education Abroad*

Various

2013
- Dylan Awalt-Conley, Wesleyan University (anthropological fieldwork in Myanmar)
- Emiko Buerger, Skidmore College (anthropological fieldwork in Myanmar)
- Charlie Zaharoff, Northwestern University (anthropological fieldwork in Myanmar)
- Sonja Hagemeier, Colby College (anthropological fieldwork in India)
- Gabriel Lefferts, Ithaca College (anthropological fieldwork in India)
- Aaron Basskin, UNC-Asheville (anthropological fieldwork in Nepal)

RESEARCH FIELDWORK

2018 Sri Lanka: Summer. Epigraphic fieldwork at historical sites Anuradhrapura, Mihintale, Vessagiri, Tonigala (Anamaduwa), Dambulla, Ritigala. Archival work in Colombo.

2016 Sri Lanka: Winter. Fieldwork at historical pilgrimage sites in Matara and Ratnapura districts. Archival work in Colombo.

2013-14 India: Fall–Spring. Fieldwork in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. Archival research at the American Institute of Indian Studies Center for Art and Archaeology in Gurgaon

2009 India: Summer. Fieldwork in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra. Prakrit language training at the American Institute of Indian Studies campus at Deccan College, Pune

2005 India: Fall and Winter. Fieldwork in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh

LANGUAGES

Reading and Research:

Ancient: Sanskrit, Pāli, Epigraphical Prakrit, Ardha-Māgadhī, Old Sinhalese Prakrit
Modern: Hindi, French, Sinhala (beginning)

DATABASES CREATED

Research	Early Buddhist Epigraphy in India [950 records]
Research	Early Buddhist Epigraphy in Sri Lanka [1300 records]
Reference	Journals for Undergraduate Students in the Humanities [41 records]

CONSULTATION

Expert Consultant	"The Buddha," from the *Genius of the Ancient World* BBC Documentary Series. Premiered July 30, 2015.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2016-2018	Contributing Member the Diversity Leadership Team for Georgia College & State University (Diversity rubric creation, departmental assessment, outreach, faculty retention)
2014-2015	Editor for the Bibliotheca Polyglotta's "The Ashoka Library" http://www2.hf.uio.no/polyglotta/
2009-2013	Chief Editor for *Sagar: A South Asia Research Journal*, Fall 2009 –2013. http://sagarjournal.org
2009	Committee Member on the Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship Evaluation Committee, University of Texas

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religion
American Oriental Society
International Association of Buddhist Studies
Association for Asian Studies

REFERENCES

Oliver Freiberger, Associate Professor of Asian Studies and Religious Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

Patrick Olivelle, Professor Emeritus of Asian Studies and Religious Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

Joel Brereton, Professor of Asian Studies and Religious Studies, The University of Texas at Austin