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Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies
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EDUCATION

- 2010-2015 PhD, Religious Studies (Hinduism)
McGill University, Montreal
Dissertation: *Contesting Hinduism in the electronic public sphere*
Supervisor: Davesh Soneji
- 2006-2008 MA, Indian Religions
University of Colorado at Boulder
Thesis: *Hindutva from Savarkar to Ayodhya: phantasmic identity of Hindu Nationalism*
Supervisor: Loriliai Biernacki
- 2002-2005 MA, Indian Religions
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), United Kingdom
Dissertation: *From Priestess to Prostitute—Reclaiming the history of the Devadasi tradition in India*
Supervisor: Sîan Hawthorne
- 2002-2004 BA (Honors), Religious Studies
Webster University, St. Louis MO
Thesis: *Gender Jihad: A struggle for women's equality in Islam*
Supervisor: Dennis Klass
- 1987-1992 BFA, Printmaking (Intaglio) and Film making
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018-present Program Coordinator for Religion
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2015-present Lecturer, South Asian Religions and Islam
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, Asian Religions
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro GA
- 2011-2014 Teaching Fellow, Religion and Globalization
McGill University, Montreal QC

BOOKS

2018 *Hinduism and Hindu Nationalism Online*. Routledge, 2018.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

2019 “Muslim Women Cosplayers: Intersecting Religious, Cultural, and Fan Identities,” in Morehead, John, ed. *Fantastic Fan Cultures and the Sacred*. McFarland [forthcoming].

2019 “Mediating Hindu Identities: cultural regrouping online,” in Zeiler, Xenia, ed. *Digital Hinduism*. Routledge [forthcoming]

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

2018 “Hijabi Cosplay: performances of culture, religion, and fandom,” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. 30.2 (Summer 2018): 87-105.

2017 “The Rhetoric of Violence, Religion, and Purity in India’s Cow Protection Movement,” *Journal of Religion and Violence*. May 2017: 131-149.

2017 “Digital Hinduism.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Hinduism*. Ed. Tracy Coleman. New York: Oxford University Press, February.

2015 “Hindu diaspora as ‘virtual community’: digital neighborhoods, electronic transnationalism,” *Symposia* Volume VII, University of Toronto. 2015: 1-16.

2015 “Modi-era Nationalism and the Rise of Cyber-Activism.” *Exemplar* 3.1. Special Issue: The Meaning of Modi. 3:1 Spring 2015: 9-17.

2014 “Is there such a thing as ‘cyberimperialism?’” *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* 28.3 May 2014: 1-11.

2011 “Saffron Terror: Splinter or Symptom?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol XLVI no 37, 10 Sept 2011: 22-25.

2010 “Hindutva: from nationalism to secularism,” *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*, Nov 2010.

BOOK REVIEWS

2017 *Heathen, Hindoo, Hindu: American Representations of India, 1721-1893* by Michael J. Altman. JAAR/ReadingReligion. <http://readingreligion.org/books/heathen-hindoo-hindu>

2016 *The Value of Comparison* by Peter van der Veer. JAAR/ReadingReligion. <http://readingreligion.org/books/value-comparison>

- 2016 *Digital Methodologies in the Sociology of Religion* edited by Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor and Suha Shakkour. JAAR/ReadingReligion.
<http://readingreligion.org/books/digital-methodologies-sociology-religion>

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- 2019 Jerryson, Michael, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Violence*. Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO. Twenty-five entries (approx. 29,000 words) on various topics on Hinduism and violence [forthcoming].
- 2011 Kaminsky, Arnold P. and Roger D. Long, eds., *India Today [Two Volumes]: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*. Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO. Five entries (approx. 8,000 words) on topics of Hindu nationalism.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 *Counter-colonialism and the Afrofuturist utopia in Black Panther*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. Denver, CO, November.
- 2018 *A "Proper" Hindu woman: Hindu nationalism vs. feminist activism on social media*. International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture (ISMRC). Boulder, CO, August.
- 2018 *(Re)telling History: The fiction of idealized Hindu nationhood*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2017 *Techno-orientalism: representations of South Asia on the Web*. Association for Global South Studies (AGSS). Marrakesh, Morocco. December.
- 2017 *Personhood in HBO's Westworld*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. Boston, MA. November.
- 2017 *Secularism, plurality, and majority: "Religious freedom" in India*. SECSOR (Southeast regional AAR), Raleigh, NC. March.
- 2017 *Dalit suicides and post-colonial hangovers*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2016 *Rhetoric of violence, religion, and purity in India's Cow Protection movement*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. November.
- 2016 *Secularism vs Sickularism: The post-colonial legacy of communalism in India*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2016 *Trans...something? Labelling alternate sexual identities in Indian vs US media*. Center for Media, Religion, and Culture (CMRC) Annual Conference. Boulder CO, January.
- 2012 *Talking about Saffron Terror in 'Secular' India*, Association of Asian Studies (AAS) National Conference, Toronto March. [Panel organizer and presenter]

- 2011 *Hindu Radicalism and the 'Talibanisation' of Hinduism*, American Academy of Religion Eastern International Regional Conference (AAR-EIR), Syracuse NY, May.
- 2010 *Secular Religion? Cultural Nationalism vs Hindutva in the fight for "Who is a Hindu?"* South Asian Studies Conference, Madison WI, October.
- 2009 *The 'Talibanisation' of Hindutva*, Midwest Conference of Asian Affairs (MCAA), Oxford OH, October.
- 2009 *Civilised = Secular? Replicating colonial discourses in Hindu Nationalism*, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) National Conference, Chicago IL, March.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Co-editing volume (with Shayna Sheinfeld) *Theology and Westworld*, Lexington Press [expected 2020]

Working on new book (tentatively titled) *Personhood in Science Fiction: religious and philosophical considerations*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2016 Faculty Research Grant, Georgia College.
- 2013 Eugene McBurney Foundation Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2013 SSHRC Award for Research Assistance on *Polyphonic Thinking and the Divine* (Rodopi 2013).
- 2013 Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2012 Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2012 Eugene McBurney Foundation Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2010-2011 President's Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University 2010-2011.
- 2010-2011 Provost's Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2007-2008 Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies
- 2006-2007 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Colorado.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2018 Book Review Editor, *Journal of Religion and Violence*
- 2011-2014 Project Assistant, Faith and Globalization Initiative (in conjunction with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation), McGill University
- 2011-2013 Proofing, copy editing, formatting (various faculty member publications)
- 2013 Conference organization assistant: "Pluralism, Religion, and Public Policy" (McGill, October)

- 2013 Conference organizer: “Religion and Foreign Policy: Global Challenges of Religious Pluralism” (McGill, June)
- 2013 Conference organization assistant: “International Conference on Philosophy of Religion: Has Philosophy of Religion a Future” (McGill, April)
- 2008 Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado
- 2008 Conference organizer: Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), University of Colorado at Boulder, September
- 2008 Webmaster and Assistant to the Director, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado

SERVICE

- 2015-2018 Dean’s Advisory Committee (AY 2017/18 as Chair)
- 2018 Newell Scholar search committee
- 2017, 2018 Faculty Development Awards subcommittee
- 2017 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Awards subcommittee
- 2017-present Web Advisory Committee and webmaster for departmental website

COURSES TAUGHT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Introduction to World Religions | Religion, Media, and Culture |
| South Asian Religions | Religion and Science Fiction |
| Hindu Traditions | Hindu Nationalism |
| Islam and the Modern World | Religion and Human Rights |
| Religion and the Body | Introduction to the Study of Religion
(theories/methods) |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- Association for Sociology of Religion (ASR)
- Centre for Research On Religion (CREOR)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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| Modern Hinduism | Hindu Nationalism |
| Secularism | Conflict and Violence |
| Technology and Religion | Religion and Pop-culture |

LANGUAGES

Reading/writing/translation proficiency in Hindi and French