

## Curriculum Vitae

Kevin M. Trainor

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### Education

- 1981-1990: Columbia University, New York, NY. Department of Religion. Field of specialization: Buddhist Studies.  
Ph.D. (October, 1990)  
Dissertation title: "The Relics of the Buddha: A Study of the Cult of Relic Veneration in the Theravāda Buddhist Tradition of Sri Lanka." Passed with Distinction, May, 1990. Dissertation research conducted in Sri Lanka, 1985-86, supported by a Columbia University Traveling Fellowship.
- 1978-81: Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY. Concentration in Church History.  
M. Div. (May, 1981)
- 1975-77: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Department of the History & Literature of Religions. Graduate study in Buddhism and Christianity.
- 1971-74: Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. Major in Religion.  
B.A., *cum laude* (May, 1974)
- 1970-71: Columbia College, New York, NY.

### Teaching Experience

- 1996-present: Associate Professor in the Department of Religion, UVM.
- 1990-1996: Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion, UVM.
- 1989-90: Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Religion, UVM.
- 1987-88: Instructor in the Department of Religion, Barnard College.
- 1986-87: Preceptor in the Department of Religion, Columbia University.
- 1983: Tutor in the Field of Ecumenics, Union Theological Seminary.
- 1975-77: Teaching Assistant, Department of the History & Literature of Religions, Northwestern University.

### Awards and Fellowships

- 2006: UVM Honors College Faculty Seminar with the Fleming Museum.
- 2004-05: Visiting Scholar, Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University.
- 2001: UVM Center for Teaching and Learning Laptop Workshop.
- 1997-98: Fulbright Senior Scholar, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
- 1997-98: Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University (declined).

- 1996: Instructional Incentive Grant, Provost's Office, UVM.  
 1993: Course Development Support for the College of Arts & Sciences FOCUS program.  
 Faculty Development Support from the Dean's Fund, College of Arts & Sciences.  
 1991: Summer Stipend and Travel Support (research in Sri Lanka), University  
 Committee on Research and Scholarship, UVM.  
 1986-88: President's Fellowship, Columbia University (declined in order to teach).  
 1985-86: Traveling Fellowship, Columbia University (research in Sri Lanka).  
 1985-86: Fulbright Grant for doctoral research in Sri Lanka (declined).  
 1982-85: President's Fellowship, Columbia University.  
 1983-85, 80-81: Roothbert Fellowship, The Roothbert Fund.  
 1981: Traveling Fellowship, Union Theological Seminary.  
 1981: The Hitchcock Church History Prize, Union Theological Seminary.

## Research

### Publications currently in print:

#### Books:

*Embodying the Dharma: Buddhist Relic Veneration in Asia*, ed. by David Germano and Kevin Trainor, Albany: SUNY Press, 2004; paperback ed., 2007.

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, edited by Kevin Trainor, rev. paperback ed., New York: Oxford University Press; London: Duncan Baird; 2004. The original hardcover edition (New York: Oxford University Press; London: Duncan Baird, 2001) has been published in Norwegian translation as *Buddhisme: Et illustrert oversiktsverk*, Damm, 2002; in Dutch translation as *Boeddhisme: Het geïllustreerde standaardwerk*, Het Spectrum, 2002; and in French translation as *Bouddhisme, art et philosophie, histoire et actualité*, Sélection du "Reader's digest," 2002. The paperback edition (2004) has been published in Spanish translation as *Budismo*, Blume, 2006; in French translation as *Bouddhisme*, Evergreen, 2007; in Dutch translation as *Boeddhisme*, Librero, 2008; and in German translation as *Buddhismus* (2008).

*Relics, Ritual, and Representation in Buddhism: Rematerializing the Sri Lankan Theravāda Tradition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997; paperback ed., 2007.

#### Articles:

Contributor and editorial board member, *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Damien Keown and Charles Prebish, New York: Routledge, 2007: fifteen articles related to the subject of Buddhist sacred places (pp. 71-73; 76-80; 205-07; 436-37; 465-66; 475-76; 587; 630-42; 651-53; 669-70; 715-19; 773-74; 799-801).

"Introduction" to *Sacred Texts: The Dhammapada*, tr. by F. Max Müller, London: Watkins Publishing, 2006.

"Pilgrimage" in the *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, ed. by Robert E. Buswell, New York: Macmillan, 2004.

“Seeing, Feeling, Doing: Ethics and Emotions in South Asian Buddhism,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 71 (2003), pp. 523-529.

“Constructing a Buddhist Ritual Site: Stupa and Monastery Architecture,” in *Unseen Presence: The Buddha and Sanchi*, edited by Vidya Dehejia, Bombay: Mārg Publications, 1996.

“In the Eye of the Beholder: Nonattachment and the Body in Subhā’s Verse (*Therīgāthā* 71),” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 61 (1993), pp. 57-79.

“*Pasanna/pasāda* in the Pāli *Vaṃsa* Literature,” *Vidyodaya Journal of Social Sciences* 3 (1989), pp. 185-190 (appeared in 1992).

“When Is a Theft Not a Theft? Relic Theft and the Cult of the Buddha’s Relics in Sri Lanka,” in *Numen* 39 (1992), pp. 1-26.

Book reviews:

Susanne Mrozik, *Virtuous Bodies: The Physical Dimensions of Morality in Buddhist Ethics* (2007) in *Journal of Religion* 89 (2009), pp. 456-457.

Greg Bailey and Ian Mabbett, *The Sociology of Early Buddhism* (2003) in *Religion* 37 (2006), pp. 90-92.

Jacob Kinnard, *Imaging Wisdom: Seeing and Knowing in the Art of Indian Buddhism* (1999) in *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 7 (2000), pp. 9-13.

John Clifford Holt, *The Religious World of Kīrti Śrī: Buddhism, Art, and Politics in Late Medieval Sri Lanka* (1996) in *Journal of Religion* 78 (1998), pp. 163-164.

Reginald A. Ray, *Buddhist Saints in India: A Study in Buddhist Values and Orientations* (1994) in *History of Religions* 37 (1997), pp. 96-98.

Patrick J. Geary, *Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Central Middle Ages* (1990) in *Numen* 40 (1993), pp. 202-203.

Kenneth W. Morgan, *Reaching for the Moon: On Asian Religious Paths* (1990), in *South Asia in Review* 15 (1991), p 67.

K.M. de Silva and Howard Wriggins, *J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka: A Political Biography, Volume I* (1988) in *Columbia University Southern Asian Institute Newsletter* 15 (1990), pp. 24-25.

Work accepted for publication:

Articles:

“*Buddhist Hymns and Medieval Plainsong: Reflections on Neuroscience, Music and Religion*” (in collaboration with Anne L. Clark) in *Chasing Down Religion: In the Sights of History and the Cognitive Science: Essays in Honour of Luther H. Martin*, ed. Donald Wiebe and Panayotis Pachis, Thessaloniki, GR: Vaniyas Publications, forthcoming.

“Buddhism in a Nutshell: The Uses of *Dhammapada* 183,” in *Embedded Religions: Essays in Honor of W. S. Karunatilake*, ed. by Carol Anderson, Susanne Mroziak and R. M. W. Rajapakse, Colombo, Sri Lanka: S. Godage and Brothers, forthcoming.

Research in progress:

*The Uses of the Dhammapada*, a monographic study of the diverse cultural appropriations of the *Dhammapada* in Sri Lanka, and its role in the representation of Buddhism by Euro-American scholars.

Editing a special double issue on relic veneration for the journal *Numen*; the volume will include five invited articles on relic practices in Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Jainism, and Judaism; I will contribute an article-length introduction; scheduled for publication in 2010.

Scholarly advisor and interviewee for a two-hour “Life of the Buddha” documentary currently under development by David Grubin Productions for PBS, forthcoming in March 2010.

Conference papers:

“Relic Practices Across Traditions,” panel organizer and respondent, Comparative Studies in Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 7, 2009.

“Buddhist Stūpas and Chronicles in Sri Lanka: Constructions of Religious and Political Authority,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Conference, April 1, 2005.

“Ethics and Emotions in South and Southeast Asian Buddhism,” panel respondent, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, March 24, 2001.

“Reflections on Textualization and Contextualization: The *Dhammapada* in the Sri Lankan Sinhala Buddhist Tradition,” Workshop on Asian Classics in a Multicultural Core Curriculum, East-West Center, University of Hawaii at Manoa, December 28, 1994-January 4, 1995.

“Strategies of Authoritative Presence: Relics, Texts, and Rituals in Sri Lankan Theravāda Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 23, 1992.

“Now You See Him, Now You Don’t: Reflections on the Departed Buddha and the Notion of Popular Religion in Theravāda Buddhism,” North American Association for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, November 23, 1991.

“In the Eye of the Beholder: Nonattachment and the Body in Subhā’s Verse (*Therīgāthā* 71),” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, New England Region, March 30, 1990.

“When Is a Theft Not a Theft? Relic Theft and the Cult of the Buddha’s Relics in Sri Lanka,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, New England Region, March 31, 1989.

## Seminars and Presentations

“Ritual Representations: Some Reflections on Masks and Healing Rites in Sri Lanka,” Fleming Museum, March 19, 2008.

“The Uses of the *Dhammapada*: Cultural Appropriations of a Classic Buddhist Text,” invited presentation to the Columbia University Buddhist Studies Seminar, April 16, 2007.

"Buddhist Traditions," invited presentation in World Religions course at Community College of Vermont, March 9, 2006.

“Cultural Appropriations of the *Dhammapada*,” invited presentation sponsored by the Dept. of Asian Studies, Cornell University, November 15, 2004.

“The Buddha Embodied in Sculpture,” lecture on the history of the Buddha image in connection with the exhibition, “Arts of Asia: Recent Acquisitions from the Nalin, Duke, and Pickens Collections,” UVM Fleming Museum, April 28, 2004.

“An Introduction to Buddhist Meditation,” Adult Education Forum at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, February 8, 2004.

“An Introduction to Indian Buddhism,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Rutland, January 16, 2004.

“Religions and Rituals of Theravada Buddhism,” presentation to “Tracing the Path to Harmony: The Philosophies and Religions of Asia” workshop, UVM Asian Studies Outreach Program, Rutland, December 12, 2003.

Interviewed about Buddhism for local public-access television (channel 15) talk-show program, “The Three Jewels,” June 26, 2003.

“India: Buddhism, The Teaching of the Great Vehicle,” presentation to the Elder Education Enrichment program, Burlington, March 28, 2003.

Interviewed in London for a BBC-Discovery Channel program entitled, “The Life of the Buddha.” Sections of my filmed interview were included in the hour-long program, which aired in the U.K. on March 23, 2003; released in the U.S. by Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2004.

“Buddhism in Thailand,” workshop presentation for the UVM Asian Studies Outreach Program, broadcast statewide over the Distance Learning network, January 23, 2002.

“Representing Buddhism in Word and Image,” presentation and discussion at the Center for Cultural Pluralism, in conjunction with a gallery exhibit of my photographs of Sri Lankan Buddhist ritual sites, November 28, 2001.

“Dealing with Deities” Symposium on Religious Vows in South Asia, UVM, October 15, 2001, collaborated with Prof. Sufia Uddin in organizing the symposium and gave introductory presentation.

“Theravāda Buddhist Relic Veneration,” invited religion class lecture at Holy Cross College, November 10, 2000.

Panel presenter, Religion Department panel, “Religious Identity and Community,” Building Our Community Day, UVM, November 3, 1999.

Panel respondent, “Borderlands: The Phenomenology of Boundaries,” Symposium in Honor of Walter Brennehan, UVM, April 17, 1999.

“Some Reflections on the Current State of Buddhist Studies in the United States,” invited inaugural lecture to the Sri Lankan Association for Buddhist Studies and Research, Kelaniya University, June 15, 1998.

Participant in round-table discussion on “Religious Relics” in the “Focus on Faith” series broadcast over the BBC Worldservice, April 28, 1998 (participated with discussants in London by telephone link from Colombo).

“The Colombo Perahera and Contemporary Sri Lankan Buddhism,” invited lecture to U. S. Embassy personnel, U. S. Ambassador’s Residence, Colombo, Sri Lanka, February 2, 1998.

“Body Matters: Some Reflections on Presence in the Sri Lankan Theravāda Tradition,” invited paper presented at “Learning from Our Religious Pluralism”: An Alumni/ae Symposium on the Religious Traditions of Asia, Colgate University, October 18-20, 1996.

Panel discussant, “What Was the Book? The Clash Between Knowledge and Information,” Humanities Center Series, “From Dante to Data: The University and the Humanities in the Information Age,” February 29, 1996.

Panel discussant, “Religion in Sri Lanka: Local Production of Meaning,” Fifth Sri Lanka Studies Conference, Durham, NH, August 12, 1995.

“Re-presenting the Buddha: Relics and Ritual in Sri Lankan Theravāda Buddhism,” invited seminar presentation at the Columbia University Faculty Seminar on Asian Thought and Religion, October 1, 1993.

Invited participant in a workshop on “Temporality in Buddhism” held at the University of Chicago sponsored by the Committee on Southern Asian Studies, the Workshop on Buddhist Intellectual Practice, and the University of Chicago Divinity School, January 14-15, 1993.

“Relics and Representation,” Concordia University, Montreal, graduate seminar, “Images of the Buddha,” March 14, 1991.

“Taking Refuge in the Theravāda Buddhist Tradition,” St. Anselm’s College, Manchester, NH, class lecture, April 14, 1989.

## **University Service**

Chair of the UVM Department of Religion, 2005-present; acting department chair, 1999, 2003.  
Faculty Senate program review committee for ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies Program, 2006-07.  
Department chair search/review committees for English (1994), Women's Studies (2000), Philosophy (chaired; 2002), Religion (2002).  
Organized campus lectures by visiting scholars in 1991, 1992, 2002, 2004, 2007. 2009.  
Friends of Indian Music & Dance Board of Directors, 1995-present.  
Co-organizer of UVM symposium, "Crossing Boundaries: Perspectives on Ojibwa Religion," 1995.  
College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Standing, 1993-96.  
Asian Studies Program Committee, 1990-present.

## **Professional Service**

External tenure reviewer, 2003, 2004, 2005 (Cornell University, Franklin & Marshall College, Illif School of Theology).  
Article review for *Material Religion*, 2007, 2005; *Anthropology Today*, 2001.  
Proposal review for the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, 1997.  
Program Committee for the New England Conference Association for Asian Studies meeting, 1996.  
Proposal review for the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1995.  
Manuscript review for Routledge Press, 2009; Cambridge University Press, 2006; Princeton University Press, 2002; Curzon Press, 1997; Columbia University Press, 1994; and the State University of New York Press, 1993.  
Editorial Advisory Board of the *Dictionary of Religion, Society and Culture*, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.  
Editorial assistant for the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Macmillan, New York, 1987.

## **Professional Memberships**

American Academy of Religion  
Association for Asian Studies  
American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies  
Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka