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**Professor of Religion**  
**The University of Vermont**  
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## **Education**

Ph.D. University of Chicago, 2006  
M.A. University of Chicago, 1997  
B.A. Swarthmore College, with Honors, 1992

## **Professional Experience**

### ***The University of Vermont,***

Professor of Religion, 2018 to present  
Associate Professor of Religion, 2012 to 2018.  
Assistant Professor of Religion, August 2006 to 2012.

Classes: “Religions in Asia,” “TAP: Religion and Violence,” “Religion and Globalization,”  
“Interpretation of Religion,” “Religion in China,” “Religion in Japan,” “Buddhist Traditions,”  
“Religion, Law and Discipline,” “Religion, Nation, State” “Religion and Secular Culture”  
“Humanities Scholars: Ghosts in the City”

***Mahidol University***, Bangkok Thailand, International PhD Programme in Buddhist Studies,  
Visiting Research Professor, December 2013-June 2014.

***Institute of South East Asian Studies***, Singapore, Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre  
Visiting Research Fellow, December 2009 to May 2010.

***Loyola University Chicago***, Instructor, Department of Theology, 2004-2005.  
“Introduction to Buddhism”

***The University of Chicago***, Alma Wilson Teaching Fellow in the College, Winter 2004.  
(“Buddhism in Contemporary China”)

***Wat Chetuphon Buddhist Secondary School***, Chiang Mai, Thailand, ESL instructor, 1994.

***JET Program(me), Hokkaido Board of Education***, Hokkaido, Japan, ESL Instructor.  
Asahikawa North High School; Asahikawa-City, 1993 to 1994; Soya Board of Education,  
Wakkanai-City, 1992 to 1993.

## **Research and Scholarship**

### ***Books***

*Educating Monks: Minority Buddhism on China’s Southwest Border*. Honolulu: University of  
Hawai’i Press, 2017. (Paper edition 2019)

*Theravada Buddhism in Colonial Contexts* (editor). New York: Routledge, 2018.

### ***Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)***

“Belt and Road Buddhists: Religion-Making and the Rebuilding of Minority Buddhism in the

- Reform Era,” *Review of Religion and Chinese Society* 7 (2020): 92-119.  
doi:10.1163/22143955-00701005.
- “Bad Gifts, Community Standards and the Disciplining of Theravāda Monks,” *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 35: 1 (2020). 53-70. Special issue, “Ethics of Religious Giving in Asia,” edited by Michael Feener, Keping Wu, Thomas Borchert, and Francis Lim.
- “Political Disrobing in Thailand,” with Susan Darlington, Hampshire College. *Buddhism, Law and Society* 3 (2017/2018): 113-156.
- “The Buddha’s Precepts on Respecting Other Races and Religions? Thinking about the Relationship of Race/Ethnicity and Theravāda Buddhism.” *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 29: 3 (2014): pp. 591-626.
- “Monastic Labor: Thinking about the Work of Monks in Contemporary Theravada Communities.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 79: 1 (March 2011): pp. 162-192.
- “The Abbot’s New House: Thinking about how Religion Works among Buddhists and Minorities in Contemporary China.” *Journal of Church and State* 52: 1 (2010): pp. 112-137.
- “Worry for the Dai Nation: Sipsongpanna, Chinese Modernity and the Problems of Buddhist Modernism.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 67: 1 (February, 2008): pp. 107-142.  
Cited as a “Top 10 most cited article;” April 3, 2011.  
[<https://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=JAS&tab=mostcited#tab>]
- “Buddhism, Politics and Nationalism in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries.” *Religion Compass* 1: 5 (2007): pp. 529-546.
- “Training Monks or Men: Theravāda Monastic Education, Subnationalism and the National Sangha of China.” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 28: 2 (2005): pp. 241-272.

#### **Book Chapters (peer-reviewed)**

- “Merit, “Corruption,” and Economy in the Contemporary Thai Sangha,” in *Monks, Money and Morality: the Balancing Act of Contemporary Buddhism*, edited by Christoph Brumann, Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko, and Beata Świtek, 55-79. Bloomsbury, accepted (2020) and in publication.
- “Introduction” and “Shifts in Buddhist Authority in Sipsongpanna under Chinese Colonialism,” *Theravada Buddhism Colonial Contexts*, edited by Thomas Borchert. Routledge, 2018.
- “Conscripts’ of Chinese Modernity? Transformations of Theravada Buddhism in Southwest China.” In *Theravada Buddhist Encounters with Modernity*, edited by Steven Collins and Juliane Schober. Routledge, 2018. Pp. 137-149.
- “In Defense of Dharma: Reflections on Buddhism and Politics,” co-authored with Ian Harris, for *Teaching Buddhism*, edited by Gary DeAngelis and Todd Lewis. Oxford University Press, 2017. Pp. 103-121.
- “History and Diversity of Religions,” in *On Human Nature: Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Politics and Religion*, edited by Michel Tibyarenc and Francisco Ayala. Elsevier, 2016. pp. 663-675.
- “On Being a Monk and a Citizen in Thailand and China.” In *Buddhism and the Political Process*, edited by Hiroko Kawanami. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016. Pp. 11-30.
- “Monk and Boy: Becoming a Novice in Contemporary Sipsongpannā.” In *Buddhist Children*, edited by Vanessa Sasson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Pp. 247-265.
- “Of Temples and Tourists: The Effects of the Tourist Political Economy on a Minority Buddhist Community in Southwest China.” In *State, Market and Religion in Chinese Societies* edited by Joseph Tamney and Fenggang Yang. Leiden: Brill, 2005. Pp. 87-111.

#### **Review Essays, Anthologies, Bibliographies**

- “Nation-state and Monastic Identity,” *Oxford Handbook of Buddhist Practice*, edited by Paula Arai and Kevin Trainor. Accepted for publication, June 2020. Forthcoming 2021.

- “Buddhist Monastic Education in Contemporary Asia,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*. Accepted March 2020, revisions submitted April 2020. In publication. [peer-reviewed]
- “The Sangha as an Institution,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, September 2017. [peer-reviewed]
- “Buddhism and Religious Freedom: a sourcebook, theological and legal texts.” Author of introduction and Commentary. Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University, November 2016.
- “Buddhism.” In *Understanding the Religions of the World*, edited by Willoughby H. Deming. Wiley Blackwell, 2015 (61-114).
- “Scratching the Surface of Religion and “Religion” in Contemporary China: A Review of Anthologies on Religion in Reform Era People’s Republic of China.” *Religious Studies Review*, 38: 3 (September 2012). Pp. 125-135.
- “Sangha,” *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Buddhism*. Ed. Richard Payne. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. [peer-reviewed]
- “Buddhisms of French Indochina: Reconsidering Buddhist Modernities and Buddhist Nationalisms in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” *Religious Studies Review*, 35: 4 (2009): pp. 247-252.

### **Recent Book Reviews**

- J.L. Cassaniti, *Remembering the Present: Mindfulness in Buddhist Asia* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2018). *Journal of Asian Studies* (forthcoming).
- Khammai Dhammasami, *Buddhism, Education and Politics in Burma and Thailand: from the seventeenth century to the present* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018). *History of Education* 49 (published July 2019; <https://doi.org/10.1080/0046760X.2019.1638455>)
- With Anne Hansen, “Travels through the Buddhist Ecumene: Commentary on *Architects of Buddhist Leisure*.” Justin Thomas McDaniel, *Architects of Buddhist Leisure* (University of Hawaii Press, 2016). *Heidelberg Ethnology*, Occasional Paper, no. 5 (2017): pp. 8-12.
- Thomas Jansen, Thoralf Klein and Christian Meyer, eds, *Globalization and the Making of Religious Modernity in China: Transnational Religions, Local Agents, and the Study of Religion, 1800-Present* (Leiden: Brill 2014). *Journal of Chinese Religions* 44, 1 (2016): 86-88.
- Justin McDaniel, *The Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk: Practicing Buddhism in Modern Thailand* (Columbia UP, 2011). *History of Religions* 55, 3 (2016): 361-364.
- Pattana Kitiarsa, *Mediums, Monks and Amulets: Thai Popular Buddhism Today* (Silkworm Books, 2012), in *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 29: 1 (2014).

### **Recent Blog Essays**

- “Overlooking official responses: Thai Buddhist institutions and Covid-19,” *The Immanent Frame* (<https://tif.ssrc.org/2020/09/03/overlooking-official-responses-thai-buddhist-institutions-and-covid-19/>), 9/3/2020.
- “Why Buddhist monks collect alms and visit households even in times of social distancing,” *The Conversation.com* (<https://theconversation.com/why-buddhist-monks-collect-alms-and-visit-households-even-in-times-of-social-distancing-128452>), July 14, 2020.
- “Silencing the Monks,” *The Immanent Frame* (<https://tif.ssrc.org/2019/03/21/silencing-the-monks/>), March 2019
- “Monks, Nuns and Sons,” posted to Religion@uvm, October 2015
- “Imperfect Refuge,” *Tricycle* <http://www.tricycle.com/blog/imperfect-refuge>, May 2015

### **Recent Paper Presentations**

- “False Monks and Bloody Amulets: Legal Pluralism and Problems in the Governance of Monks in Thailand and Southwest China,” Jun Zhou Lecture in Theravada Buddhism, University of Chicago Divinity School, January 14, 2020.
- “Weak and Autocratic? Institutional Aspects of the Supreme Sangha Council in Thailand,” Second International Conference on Buddhism and Law, SUNY Buffalo, September 26-28, 2019.
- Roundtable Participant, “Where China Meets Southeast Asia: Sipsongpanna in the Wake of China’s Rise,” AAS-in-Asia, Bangkok, July 1, 2019.
- “The Robes Make the Monk? On the Disciplining of Monks in Contemporary Thailand” Gatty Lecture in Southeast Asia, Cornell University, April 18, 2019.
- “Managing Monks in Modern Thai Buddhism,” to be presented at “Multiplicity of Asian Buddhist Modernities,” February 15-17, 2019, University of California-Berkeley.
- “Secularism, Legal Regimes and the Politics of Buddhism in Thailand,” Presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2018.
- “Curricula and the Goals of Buddhist Education in Sipsongpanna, Thailand and Singapore,” International Buddhist Education Conference – Structuring a Bilingual Buddhist Curriculum, Bodhi Buddhist Academy, Santa Ana, CA, June 7-10, 2018.
- “Intra-Buddhist Charity, Transnational Monastic Education and Economies of Prestige,” Sangha Economies, Max Plank Institute, September 21-22, 2017, Halle, Germany.

### **Recent Fellowships, Grants and Honors**

- REACH Grant (UVM) 2019-20, “Monastic Attitudes to Islam in Northern Thailand – Islamophobia or not?”
- Lattie Coor Faculty Collaboration Grant, supporting speaker series, “Religion and Law,” UVM Fall 2018
- Foundational Writing and Information Literacy Fellowship for Critical Reading, UVM, 2017-18
- Joan Smith Faculty Research Support Award, CAS, University of Vermont, 2017-2018
- Lattie Coor Faculty Collaboration Grant, supporting conference, “Buddhism Humanities and Ethnographic Methods,” University of Vermont, April 29-30, 2016.
- Fulbright Senior Fellowship (Thailand), 2013-14.
- Blakemore Foundation Language Refresher Grant 2013 – Advanced Study in Thai, Chiang Mai University, June-August, 2013.

### **Recent Service**

#### ***University of Vermont***

Faculty Senate:

Senator (Spring 2008; 2015-2022); Member Executive Council (Spring 2016; 2019-21)  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee to Review and Revise Senate Practices (2017-18)

College of Arts and Sciences:

Committee Member, CAS Academic Planning and Budgets 2008-2009, 2015-2018,  
2020-2023.

Committee Member, Ad hoc First-Year Experience Committee, Spring 2016, 2016-17  
Assistant Marshall, College of Arts and Sciences graduation, Spring 2017, 2018

Religion Department, Interim Chair, Department of Religion 2018-2019.

Asian Studies Program, Director, Spring 2012, 2016-2020

### ***Academic Community***

Advisory Panel, Pew Charitable Trust, Religious of Southeast Asia survey 2020-2021  
Thai Lao Cambodian Studies Group, Association for Asian Studies, Executive Council member,  
2016-2020; 2011-2014; Co-Chair 2019-21; Graduate Student Board Rep, 2003-2005.  
Member, AAR Buddhism Section Steering Committee, 2012-2017.  
Southeast Asian Buddhism Book Review Editor, H-Buddhism, 2009 to present.  
Lead Conference Organizer, New England regional meeting of AAS, October 17, 2020.  
University of Vermont  
“Theravāda Experiences of Secularism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries,” AAR, November 2018,  
Denver  
Organizer, Speaker Series in Religion and Law, University of Vermont, Fall 2018.  
Conference Organizer, “Buddhism, the Humanities and Ethnographic Methods,” University of  
Vermont, April 2016.

### ***Community***

Member, Addison Northwest School Board, March 2016 to March 2022.  
(Vice Chair, 2017-21; Facilities Committee Chair 2016-2021; Chair Superintendent  
Screening Committee, 2018).  
Expert Witness, Caledonia County District Attorney, September 2018.

### **Languages**

Modern Chinese, Thai and Dai-lue; Pali, Sanskrit, French (Reading)