

## CHARLES D. ORZECH

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**EDUCATION:** Ph.D. Divinity, History of Religions, University of Chicago, 1986  
Yale-China International Asian Studies Program at Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1981-1982  
M.A. Divinity, University of Chicago, 1975  
Middlebury College Chinese Summer Language Institute (Elem. & Adv. Mandarin), 1973, 1975  
B.A. Independent Concentration Religion / East Asian Languages, University of Massachusetts, 1974 *cum laude*

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Professor of Religious Studies, Colby College, September 2017-  
Honorary Research Fellow, Theology & Religious Studies, University of Glasgow, August 2017-  
Reader in Religion, Conflict, and Transition, School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow, 2013-July 2017  
Professor Emeritus, University of North Carolina Greensboro, August 2013-  
Professor, University of North Carolina Greensboro, August 2007-2013  
Associate Professor, University of North Carolina Greensboro, August 1996-2007  
Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina Greensboro, August, 1990-July 1996  
Lecturer, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1985-88  
Visiting Lecturer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring 1984, Spring 1985, Spring 1986  
Visiting Instructor, Guilford College Fall 1980, Summer 1983, Spring 1984-Fall 1985  
Instructor, Elon College (World Religions), Winter 1980-1981

### ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:

Chair, Art Department, Colby College, September 2018-  
Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 1998-2004

#### Accomplishments:

- Administered budget of \$750,000, ten faculty and staff
- Represented department on the College Administrative Council
- Oversaw campaign to raise \$1.5 million for Jewish Studies Program and Levinson Program endowment
- Oversaw Department External Review, produced review report
- Oversaw SACS accreditation process for department and produced necessary reports
- Developed plan for assessment of the major
- Developed co-curricular programming: Jewish studies lecture series, etc.
- Developed plan to strengthen undergraduate major

Representative to UNC system for UNC-China connections, 2004-2009  
Chair: General Education Assessment Committee for Philosophy/Religion/Ethics courses 2000-2004  
Provost's Committee for the Future of International Programs, 2002  
Chancellor's ad-hoc committee on International Programs, 1989-1990  
Director, International Studies, 1988-1990

#### Accomplishments:

- Increased faculty participation
- Recruited students
- Oversaw International Studies curriculum revision and expansion

Director, International Studies Living-Learning Center, UNCG, 1988-1990

#### Accomplishments:

- Planned and developed new living-learning community
- Recruited students
- Developed and administered co-curricular programs (lectures, seminars, film series)

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences College Council, 1992-1993; Vice Chair, 1991-1992 (Representative body advisory to the Dean on all aspects of policy)

Program Leader, UNCG Summer Abroad—Exeter, England, 1989

## **MAJOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

Steering Committee, Economics and Capitalism in the Study of Buddhism Seminar, American Academy of Religion, 2015-2020  
Steering Committee, Tantric Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, 2016-  
Editorial Board, *Religions*, 2015-2018  
Editorial Board, the *e-Journal of East And Central Asian Religions*, 2015-  
Steering Committee, Buddhism Section, American Academy of Religion, 2011-2014  
Steering Committee, Tantric Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, 2007-2010; 2016  
Chair, Tantric Studies Consultation, American Academy of Religion, 2005-2007  
Steering Committee, Tantric Studies Consultation, American Academy of Religion, 2005-2007  
Chair, Tantric Studies Seminar, American Academy of Religion, 2000-2004  
Treasurer, Society for Tantric Studies, 2000-2016  
Advisory Board, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 1999-2001  
President, Southeast Region, American Academy of Religion, 1994-95  
Vice President and Program Chair, Southeast Region, American Academy of Religion, 1993-1994  
Chair, History of Religions Section, Southeast Region, American Academy of Religion, 1989  
Program Chair, Society for Tantric Studies Meetings, 1985, 1997, 2002, 2005  
Steering Committee, Society for Tantric Studies, 1985  
Co-founder, Society for Tantric Studies, 1985-1992

## **GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS:**

Leverhulme Research Fellow (*World Religions Museums: Displaying the Divine, Shaping Cultures*) 2016-2017  
Carnegie Research Incentive Fund 2015-2016  
University of Glasgow College of Arts Strategic Research Grant 2014-2015  
Institute Advanced Studies Research Group Chinese / Tibetan Tantric Buddhism, Hebrew University, 2014  
National Humanities Center Henry Luce Fellowship 2009-2010  
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship 2005-2006  
UNCG Competitive Faculty Grants, 2004-2005; 2010-2011  
Competitive Residency: Wildacres Writers Retreat 2001  
American Academy of Religion, Best First Book in History of Religion 1999  
American Council of Learned Societies Travel to International Meetings Grant, 1995  
UNCG Excellence Foundation Summer Grant 1993  
NEH Grant for Travel to Collections 1992  
Competitive Faculty Research Assignments, UNCG, Spring, 1991, 1999, 2004  
NEH Summer Stipend, *Politics and Transcendent Wisdom*, 1990  
NEH Summer Seminar: Buddhism & Culture (UCLA) 1989  
Rotary International Graduate Fellowship, Hong Kong, 1981-1982  
Inter-University Center, Stanford University Study in Taipei, 1978 (declined)

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

### **Monographs:**

*World Religions Museums: Displaying the Divine, Shaping Culture*. Material Religions Series, Bloomsbury Academic, May, 2020. 224 pages.

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/museums-of-world-religions-9781350016248/>

*Politics and Transcendent Wisdom: The Scripture for Humane Kings in the Creation of Chinese Buddhism*. Hermeneutics Series. The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998. 351 pages (includes 80 page translation). <https://www.psupress.org/books/titles/0-271-01715-5.html> Paperback, 2008.

### **Edited volumes:**

*Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia*. E. J. Brill, 2011. 1200 pages. Orzech served as General editor, China area editor, and author of nine articles and comprehensive bibliography totaling approx. 86,000 words. "Esoteric Buddhism in the Tang: From Atikūta to Amoghavajra (651–780)." "After Amoghavajra: Esoteric Buddhism in the Late Tang." "Vajrabodhi (671–741)." "Esoteric Buddhism Under the Song: An

Overview.” “Translation of Tantras and Other Esoteric Buddhist Scriptures.” “Introduction: Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia: Some Methodological Considerations” (with Richard K. Payne and Henrik H. Sørensen). “Mudrā, Mantra, and Mandala” (with Henrik H. Sørensen). “Homa” (with Richard K. Payne). “Stūpas and Relics in Esoteric Buddhism” (with Henrik H. Sørensen).

*Festschrift Honoring James H. Sanford. Pacific World*. 3rd series, no. 8, 2006 (published Fall 2008). Guest editor and author of two essays: “Preface.” 1-8. “Looking for Bhairava: Exploring the Circulation of Esoteric Texts Produced by the Song Institute for Canonical Translation.” 139-166.  
<https://pwj.shin-ibs.edu/pacific-world-third-series-number-8-fall-2006>

### **In Preparation:**

“In Comparison a Translation Lies: Museums of World Religions and the Intersemiotic” (under contract, *Routledge Handbook of Translation and Religion*, due March 8, 2020)  
“What is Buddhist Mysticism.” For Routledge *Handbook of Comparative Mysticism* (due April 2020)  
“Zhenyan Buddhism,” For *Brill Encyclopedia of Buddhism* (under contract, due December 2020)  
*Tantric Subjects: Liturgy and Vision in Esoteric Buddhism*. (Under contract for Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism Series, due September 2020)

### **Journal Articles and Book Chapters:**

“A Note Concerning Contemplation of the Marks of the Buddha.” Chapter 6 in *Methods in Buddhist Studies: Essays in Honor of Richard Payne*. Bloomsbury. (2019), pp. 86-92.  
“Giving the Gods Their Due,” *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, 3rd ser., no. 20 (2018): 385-89.  
“Tantric Subjects: Liturgy and Vision in Chinese Esoteric Ritual Manuals.” In Yael Bentor and Meir Shahar, eds., *Chinese and Tibetan Esoteric Buddhism*. Leiden/Boston: E.J. Brill, 2017, pp. 17-40.  
<https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004340503>  
“World Religions Museums: Dialogue, Domestication, and the Sacred Gaze.” In Bruce M. Sullivan, (ed.) *Sacred Objects in Secular Spaces*. Bloomsbury. (2015), pp. 133-144 <http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/sacred-objects-in-secular-spaces-9781472590831/>  
“Ritual Subjects: Homa in Chinese Translations and Manuals from the Sixth through Eighth Centuries.” In: Richard K. Payne, and Michael Witzel, (eds.) *Homa Variations: The Study of Ritual Change Across the Longue Durée* (Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 266-287  
<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199351572.do>  
“On the Subject of Abhiṣeka,” *Pacific World*, 3rd Series, no. 13 (Fall 2011, appeared Fall 2012): 113-128.  
“The Trouble with Tantra in China: Reflections on Method and History.” In *Transformations and Transfer of Tantra in Asia and Beyond*. Ed. by István Keul. Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2011, 285-308.  
“A Tang Esoteric Manual for Rebirth in the Pure Land.” In *Path of No Path: Contemporary Studies in Pure Land Buddhism Honoring Roger Corless*. Ed. By Richard K. Payne. Berkeley: Institute of Buddhist Studies and Numata Center for Buddhist Research and Translation, 2009, 31-55.  
“The ‘Great Teaching of Yoga,’ the Chinese Appropriation of the Tantras, and the Question of Esoteric Buddhism.” *Journal of Chinese Religions* 34 (2006): 29-78.  
“Metaphor, Translation, and the Construction of Kingship in the Sūtra for Humane Kings and the *Mahāmāyūrī-vidyārājñī Sūtra*.” *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* 13 (2002-2003, published 2004): 101-129.  
“Tantra.” In *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*. 2 vols. Macmillan and The Free Press, 2003. 2: 823a-826b. (co-authored with Ronald Davidson).  
“*Fang yankou* and *pudu*: Translation, Metaphor, and Religious Identity.” In *Daoist Identity: History, Lineage, and Ritual*. Ed. by Livia Kohn and Harold Roth. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002, 213-34.  
“Worship of the Ladies of the Dipper” (translation with introduction, co-authored with James H. Sanford). In *Tantra in Practice*. Ed. by David Gordon White. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000, 383-395.  
“Buddhism’s Assimilation to T’ang Political Culture” (translation with introduction). In *Sources of Chinese Tradition*. Ed. by William Theodore de Bary. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999. 1: 476-480.  
“Maṇḍalas on the Move: Reflections from Chinese Esoteric Buddhism Circa 800 C.E.” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 19.2 (1996): 209-244.

- "Saving the Burning-Mouth Hungry Ghost" (translation with introduction). In *Religions of China in Practice*. Ed. by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996, 278-83.
- "The Scripture on Perfect Wisdom for Humane Kings Who Wish to Protect Their States" (translation with introduction). In *Religions of China in Practice*. Edited by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996, 372-80.
- "A Buddhist Image of (Im)Perfect Rule in Fifth-Century China." *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* 8 1995: 139-53.
- "The Legend of the Iron *Stūpa*" (translation with introduction). In *Buddhism in Practice*. Ed. by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, (1995): 314-17.
- "'Provoked Suicide' and the Victim's Behavior: The Case of the Vietnamese Self-Immolators." In *Curing Violence*. Ed. by Mark I. Wallace and Theophus H. Smith. Polebridge Press, 1994, 137-160.
- "Esoteric Buddhism and the *Shishi* in China." In *The Esoteric Buddhist Tradition: Selected Papers from the 1989 SBS Conference*. Ed. by Henrik H. Sorensen. Copenhagen: Seminar for Buddhist Studies, 1994, 51-72.
- "Resurrecting a Corpse to Find Treasure" and "Entering the Princess Grotto" (translations with introductions). In *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*. Ed. by Victor Mair. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994, 116-120.
- "Mechanisms of Violent Retribution in Chinese Hell Narratives." *Contagion: Journal of Violence, Mimesis, and Culture* 1 (1994): 111-128.
- "Seeing *Chen-yen* Buddhism: Traditional Scholarship and the Vajrayāna in China." *History of Religions* 29 (1989): 87-114.
- "Puns on the Humane King: Analogy and Application in an East Asian Apocryphon." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 109 (1989): 17-24.
- "*Chen-yen* Buddhism." *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. by Mircea Eliade. Macmillan, 1987. 3: 233b-238a.
- "Mahāvairocana." *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. by Mircea Eliade. Macmillan, 1987. 9: 126a-128b.
- "Śubhakarasiṃha." *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. by Mircea Eliade. Macmillan, 1987. 14: 96b-97b.
- "Vajrabodhi." *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. by Mircea Eliade. Macmillan, 1987. 15: 181a-b.
- "Amoghavajra." *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. by Mircea Eliade. Macmillan, 1987. 1: 238a-239a.

### Translations and Reprints:

- Politics and Transcendent Wisdom: The Scripture for Humane Kings in the Creation of Chinese Buddhism* is being translated for a series on key works of Western Sinology (trans. Bai Zhaojie 白照傑). Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju 中西書局. <http://blogs.ubc.ca/dewei/域外研究叢刊/>
- "Shuo guanding" 说灌顶. In: Shen Weirong, ed., *Da xi le yu da yuan man: qing zhu Tan Xiyong xian sheng ba shi hua dan Han Zang fo xue yan jiu lun ji* 大喜乐与大圆满—庆祝谈锡永先生八十华诞汉藏佛学研究论集 (Supreme Bliss and Great Perfection: Studies in Sino-Tibetan Buddhism in Honor of Master Tam Shek wing's 80th Birthday). Beijing: Zhongguo Zang xue chu ban she, 2014), pp. 663-674. Translation of "On the Subject of Abhiseka."
- "Seeing *Chen-yen* Buddhism: Traditional Scholarship and the Vajrayāna in China," from *History of Religions* 29 (1989): 87-114 in *Buddhism: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies*, edited by Paul Williams, Volume 6, Routledge, 2005.
- "Vajrabodhi." in *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. Lindsay Jones. Vol. 14. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. 9509-9510. Reprint from *ER* first edition, 1987.
- "Śubhakarasiṃha," in *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. Lindsay Jones. Vol. 13. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. 8803-8804. Reprint from *ER* 1st ed., 1987.
- "Amoghavajra," in *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. Lindsay Jones. Vol. 1. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. 293-294. Reprint from *ER* 1st ed., 1987.
- "Mahāvairocana," in *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. Lindsay Jones. Vol. 8. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. 5607-5609. Reprint from *ER* 1st ed., 1987.
- "Zhenyan," in *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Ed. Lindsay Jones. Vol. 14. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. 9960-9964. Reprint from *ER* 1st ed., 1987.
- "The Scripture on Perfect Wisdom for Humane Kings Who Wish to Protect Their States" (translation with introduction). In *Religions of Asia in Practice*. Edited by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, 430-438.

## Reviews:

- “The Material Representation of the Ethereal,” Review of the exhibit “Heavenly Creatures: Angels in Faith History and Popular Culture,” St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art Glasgow, Scotland 10/02/2015—17/04/2016 for *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* 12.3 (2016): 399-401. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17432200.2016.1192145>
- Review *The Making of a Bodhisattva: Dizang in Medieval China*, by Zhiru. *Journal of Chinese Religion* 36 (2008): 210-211.
- Review of *Tantra: Sex, Secrecy, Politics, and Power in the Study of Religion*, by Hugh B. Urban. *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 15 (2006): 156-159.
- Review of *Coming to Terms with Chinese Buddhism: A Reading of the Treasure Store Treatise*, by Robert H. Sharf. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72 (2004): 1073-1076.
- Review of *The Weaving of Mantra: Kūkai and the Construction of Esoteric Discourse*, by Ryūichi Abé. *The Journal of Religion* 81 (2001): 507-509.
- Review of *Mantra et mandarins: Le bouddhisme tantrique en Chine*, by Michel Strickmann. *Journal of Chinese Religions* (1999): 186-191.
- Review of *Buddhism in Chinese Society: An Economic History from the Fifth to the Tenth Centuries*, by Jacques Gernet. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 26 (1998): 190-193.
- Review of *The Scripture on the Ten Kings and the Making of Purgatory in Medieval Chinese Buddhism*, by Stephen F. Teiser. *The Journal of Religion* 77 (1997): 184-185.
- Review of *From Benares to Beijing: Essays on Buddhism and Chinese Religion*, edited by Shinohara and Schopen. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 2 (1993): 191-193.
- Review of *Death Ritual in Late Imperial and Modern China*, edited by James L. Watson and Evelyn S. Rawski. *Pacific World* 8 (1992): 115a-116b.
- Review of *Studies in Chinese Buddhism*, by Arthur F. Wright. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 19 (1991):189-190.
- Review of *Sudden and Gradual: Approaches to Enlightenment in Chinese Thought*, edited by Peter Gregory. *History of Religions* 31 (1991): 93-94.
- "Reality Words." Review of *Shingon Buddhism*, by Taikō Yamasaki. *History of Religions* 30 (1990): 213-215.
- "Answering Difficult Questions." Review of *Buddhist Cosmology*, by Randolph Kloetzli. *History of Religions*, 24 (1985): 282-284.
- Review *Confucianism and Christianity*, by Julia Ching. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 103 (1983): 640-41.
- Review *The Throat of the Peacock*, by Harold Isaacson. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 103 (1983): 461a-62a.
- Review of *Neo-Confucian Thought in Action: Wang Yang-ming's Youth (1472-1509)*, by Tu Wei-ming. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 99 (1979): 319a-320a.

## Invited Lectures:

- "Material Spirits: Agency and Religious Objects in Museum Collections," State Museum of the History of Religions, St. Petersburg, Russia, December 21, 2017
- "Liturgy, Icon, and Text in the Development of Esoteric Buddhism," Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University, February 16, 2017
- "Liturgy, Icon, and Text in the Development of Esoteric Buddhism," University of British Columbia, February 9, 2017
- "Objects in Museums: Idols, Icons, Agency," St Petersburg Cultural Forum, St. Petersburg, Russia, December 2, 2016
- "Liturgy and Subject: Icon, Vision, and Text in the Making of Esoteric Buddhism," Buddhist Studies Research Seminar, Kings College, London, 11 March, 2016
- "Asian Religions and World Religions: Reflections on Taxonomy and the Study of Buddhist Liturgy," Inaugural lecture for the series Asian Religions – Boundaries, Connections, Identities, University of Edinburgh, December 2, 2015
- "Liturgy and Vision in Chinese Esoteric Ritual Manuals." Research Seminar, Religious Studies, Bristol University, 24 March, 2015.
- "Tantric Subjects: Liturgy and Vision in Chinese Esoteric Ritual Manuals." Conference on Chinese and Tibetan Tantric Buddhism, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, June 16-18 2014.



- “Liturgy and Vision in Tang Esoteric Buddhism” Theology and Religious Studies Liturgy Seminar, Glasgow, March 3 2014.
- Invited respondent: “Religious Negotiations at the Boundaries,” Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University, Feb. 22-23, 2013.
- “Buddhist Brahmins: Ritual and the Production of the Subject in Esoteric Buddhism.” Workshop on East Asian Buddhism and Buddhist Art, National Humanities Center, April 20, 2012.
- "Is there Such a Thing as Esoteric Buddhism? Recent Debates about Tang and Song Mijiao in Western Scholarship." Renmin University, Beijing, June 4, 2010 and Department of Overseas Sinology, Beijing Foreign Studies University, June 13, 2010.
- “The Yoga in China: Narratives of Identity, Syncretism, and Hybridity and the Study of East Asian Buddhism,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Oct. 23, 2009.
- “Dimensions of Song Esoteric Buddhism,” Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, December, 2008.
- “The Trouble with Tantra in China: Reflections on Method & History,” Freie Universität, Berlin, Dec., 2008.
- “The Secrets of Three Mountains: Esoteric Buddhism in the Making of Song China.” Religious Studies Faculty Colloquium, University of North Carolina Greensboro, October, 2008.
- “Esoteric Buddhism in the Song Dynasty,” Numata Lecture, Institute for Buddhist Studies Berkeley, April 2007.
- “When does ‘Deity Yoga’ Begin: Evidence from Chinese Sources.” Workshop on Esoteric Buddhism, University of California at Berkeley, April 27, 2007
- “Buddhism and the Beats,” Hyderabad University Department of English, February, 2004.
- “Amoghavajra’s List of Scriptures, 771 C.E.: Translating the Late Mahāyāna to China.” John King Fairbank Center, Harvard University, March 2003.
- “Museum as Metaphor in A Pluralistic Society: The Politics of Contact Zones” Five Faiths Colloquy, Ackland Art Museum and Luce Foundation. Chapel Hill, August 2002.
- “Metaphor and Kingship in Chinese Esoteric Buddhism,” Department of Religion & Philosophy, North Carolina State University, April 24, 2001.
- “Images of Empire: Renegotiating Religion and Kingship in the Tang,” Evans-Wentz Conference, Stanford University, May, 27-30, 1999.
- “Fang yankou and pudu: Translation, Metaphor, and Religious Identity,” College of Charleston, Feb., 1999.
- "Fang yankou and pudu: Metaphor and Translation," Second American Japanese Conference on Taoism (sponsored by Boston University), June, 1998.
- "Politics and Enlightenment: Reflections on Method," Buddhist Studies Colloquium, Stanford University, May, 1998.
- "Ritual and Polity in the Creation of National Protection Buddhism," Conference on State and Ritual in East Asia, Collège de France and Columbia University, Paris, June 1995.
- "Before (and After) Kūkai: Reflections on Tantrism in China," Conference on Mandalas, University of Chicago, April, 1995.
- "Forging Revelation: Chinese Esoterism and Postmodern Thought," Public lecture, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina Greensboro, April 1989.
- "Sacrifice and Creativity: Buddhist Self-Immolation," Public Lecture sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina Greensboro, January, 1987.

#### **Papers Presented at Scholarly Societies / Seminars:**

- “Material Spirits: Religious Objects in Museums,” Faculty Forum, Colby College, March 8, 2018.
- “Giving the Gods Their Due,” Tantrification of Gods and Deities in Medieval Japan: Bernard Faure’s Gods of Medieval Japan. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November, 2017.
- “What is Buddhist Mysticism,” Conference on Mysticism, Glasgow University, December 2016.
- “Asian Religious Objects in Museums: Idols, Icons, Agency,” for a panel on "Changing the Senses: Religious Objects in Museum Space" European Association for the Study of Religions, Helsinki, Finland, July, 2016
- “Why has the Buddha become a Neo-Axial Thinker: World Religions and Invocations of the Axial Age in the Era of Global Capital,” the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November, 2014.
- “Liturgy and Vision in Tang Esoteric Buddhism,” Theology and Religious Studies Seminar, University of Glasgow, March, 2014.

- “Subjects of Liturgy: Vision, Text, and Image in Tang Esoteric Ritual Manuals,” panel on “Vision, Text, and Image in Buddhism,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Baltimore, November 2013.
- “What Jōjin Saw: Glimpses of Esoteric Buddhism in the Song Capital 1073 C.E.,” panel on Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia, International Association of Buddhist Studies. Atlanta, June, 2008.
- Panel / Workshop organized on Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia, American Academy of Religion. San Diego, November, 2007.
- “Tantras and Translation in the Tang and Song,” panel on “Tantric Buddhism through the Chinese Looking Glass,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Washington, D.C. November, 2006.
- “Looking for Bhairava: The Cult of Terrifying Deities in Continental East Asia,” Society for Tantric Studies. Flagstaff, October, 2005.
- “The Idea of the Esoteric: Using Theories of Translation and Metaphor to Explore Bukong’s Propagation of Esoteric Buddhism in Tang China,” panel on “Translators and Translation Strategies in Buddhist History,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Toronto, November, 2002.
- “Lords of Light: On the Emergence of the term Mingwang as a Translation of Vidyārāja, Reflections on Metaphor and Theory in the Study of Chinese Esoteric Buddhism” Society for Tantric Studies. Flagstaff, October, 2002.
- “Sweet Dew: Metaphor, Translation, and Taoist Ritual in a Tantric Key,” conference on Tantra and Daoism. Boston University, April, 2002.
- “Theories of Sacrifice and the Ghost Festival in China,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November, 2001.
- “Secret Pure Land: The Kalpa for Contemplation of and Making Offerings to Amitāyus Tathāgata,” presented at the Association of Asian Studies. San Diego, March, 2000.
- “Ritual, Translation, and the Matter of Secrecy,” Tantric Studies Seminar, American Academy of Religion, Orlando, November, 1998.
- “Body and Body Politic in the Creation of Chinese Esoteric Buddhism: Orientalist Agendas and Tantric Soteriology,” Comparative Studies, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November, 1997.
- “Like Worms in a Lion's Flesh”: Ideology and History in the Making of the Scripture for Humane Kings, Buddhism Section, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November, 1997.
- “Theories of Sacrifice and the Rite of Releasing the Burning Mouths,” panel on Food and Sacrifice, Chinese Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, November, 1995.
- “Teaching Tantrism in the West,” presentation for North Carolina Religious Studies Association, Chapel Hill, October 1995.
- Presidential Address, American Academy of Religion Southeast, “Chinese Hells Past and Present: Reflections on Persisting Traditions,” Gainesville, March, 1995.
- “The Mechanisms of Violent Retribution in Chinese Hell Narratives,” Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Chapel Hill, April, 1993.
- “Lots of Textbooks and Few Good Choices: Resources for Teaching the World Religions Course, Southeast Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, March, 1992.
- “Grave Competitions: Buddhist and Taoist Rites For Hungry Ghosts,” American Academy of Religion, Anaheim, Nov. 1989.
- “Esoteric Buddhism in the Post-T'ang: The Pure Land and the Ghost Festival,” Conference on the Esoteric Buddhist Tradition, Samsø, Denmark, Aug. 1989.
- “Agni's Robe: Buddhist Self-Immolation,” Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, March 1989.
- “Seeing Chen-yen Buddhism: Traditional Scholarship and the Vajrayāna in Chinese Religion,” Association of Asian Studies, San Francisco, March, 1988.
- “Tantra in China and Chinese Tantra,” Society for Tantric Studies Meeting, Chapel Hill, April, 1987.
- “The Ācārya as Textual Paradigm: Structure and Context in the Lives of Pu-k'ung,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November, 1986.
- “The Center in Here and the Center Out There: Sagehood and Centrality in the Confucian Tradition,” Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March, 1984.

### **Responding (R) or Presiding (P):**

- Seminar on Economics and Capitalism in the Study of Buddhism, Denver, Nov. 2018 (R)
- Politics, Imperial Institutions, and Religion in Imperial China, Chinese Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, November, 2015 (R)
- Demonology and Dhāraṇī in Buddhism and Daoism, Buddhism Section & Chinese Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 2012 (R)
- Korea / Japan session: Workshop East Asian Buddhism and Buddhist Art, National Humanities Center, April 2012 (P)
- Margins of Buddhism in China, Buddhism Section, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, 2011(P)
- Tantric Studies Group and the Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation: Conversation and Collaboration, American Academy of Religion, Montréal, 2009 (P)
- Science Fictional Asia, Religion & Popular Culture Group, American Academy of Religion, Montréal, 2009 (R)
- Sexuality and Gender in Tantric Traditions, Tantric Studies Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, 2005 (R)
- The Social and Political Dimensions of Tantra, and Tantric Studies, Tantric Studies Seminar, American Academy of Religion, Boston, 1999 (R)
- Death by Design: Voluntary Terminations of Life in South Asian Religions, Religion in South Asia Section and Ritual Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, 1997 (R)
- Studying Tantric Traditions, Indigenous Terminology and Scholarly Categories, Tantric Studies Seminar, American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, 1995 (P)
- A Future Tantric Studies, Tantric Studies Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 1994 (P)
- Tantric Diaspora / Tantric Transformations in East Asia and Beyond, Society for Tantric Studies / Conference on South Asia, Madison, 1993 (R)

### **Reading Groups and Interdisciplinary Research Seminars:**

- Reading group in-progress research: Sarah Duff, Chris Walker, Jim Fleming, Dan Cohen, Mary Ellis Gibson, Colby 2017-2018
- Changing the Subject: Buddhism, Feminism, and the Self, Center for Critical Inquiry, (UNCG) 2008-2009
- Mythologies, Center for Critical Inquiry, (UNCG) 2007-2008; 2009

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Organization of International Scholarly Societies / Conferences / Seminars:**

- Co-founder (with James H. Sanford): Society for Tantric Studies. For the impact of the Society see the recent essays by Glen A. Hayes, "Tantric Studies: Issues, Methods and Scholarly Contributions." *Journal of Hindu Studies* 4.3 (2011): 221-230, and the continuation, "Tantric Studies part 2: The Flagstaff Meetings." *Journal of Hindu Studies* 5.2 (2012): 137-144.
- Tantric Studies Consultation, American Academy of Religion, 1994; 2005-2007 (proposals and organization)
- Tantric Studies Seminar, American Academy of Religion 1995-1999 (proposal and organization)
- Tantric Studies Group, American Academy of Religion 2007-2010 (proposal, organization, steering committee)
- Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff, AZ 2005
- Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff, AZ 2002
- Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Madison, WI 1993
- Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Chapel Hill, NC 1987

#### **Editorial Boards:**

- Religions* (2015-2018)
- The e-Journal of East and Central Asian Religions* (2015- )

#### **Manuscript Referee:**

- Oxford University Press, Oxford Bibliographies Online, University of California Press, Pennsylvania State University Press, Columbia University Press, University of Hawai'i Press, Wadsworth Publishing Co., Mayfield Press, Prentice Hall, Institute for Buddhist Studies, *History of Religions*, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, *Chunghwa Institute Journal*, *Ecclesiastical History Society*, Bloomsbury Academic, *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*



**Grant Referee:**

Colby College Humanities Grants, American Council of Learned Societies / Ho Foundation 2015 National Humanities Center, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships Selection Committee, 2008 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, UNCG Nomination Committee, 1997 National Endowment for the Humanities Study Grants for College Teachers Selection Committee, 1994

**Proposal Referee (recent):**

European Association of Chinese Studies Conference, Glasgow, 2018  
Various for American Academy of Religion, Society for Tantric Studies, etc., 2017-2020

**Workshop Leader / Consultant:**

Workshop for Glasgow Museums on Religious Objects and Museums in support of the renovation of the Burrell Collection and the St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art (with Victoria Harrison, University of Glasgow), June, 2016

**Core Participant, Presenter, Consultant:**

Five Faiths Project (sponsored by the Ackland Museum of Art and the Luce Foundation). Three-year series of workshops designed to produce a guide for museums for interaction with and service to religious communities. See the resulting book: Amanda Hughes and Carolyn Wood, *A Place for Meaning: Art, Faith, and Museum Culture*, Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina, 2009. <https://archive.org/details/placeformeaninga00ackl>  
<https://uncpress.org/book/9780974365633/a-place-for-meaning/>

**External Reviewer for Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion:**

Colorado College, Eckerd College, Bloomfield College

**Professional Memberships:**

American Academy of Religion; International Association for Buddhist Studies; Society for Tantric Studies (Co-founder)

**TEACHING:****Courses Developed and Taught (Colby College):**

RE114 Introduction to Religious Studies: Religion, Ritual and the Body  
EA263/RE263 East Asian Studies: Buddhism Across East Asia: Chan and Zen Traditions  
RE231 The Religious Life of Things  
RE145 Mysticism (part of integrated studies cluster, Fall 2018—has not yet been offered)  
RE265 Buddhism: An Introduction  
RE331 Mysticism, Spirituality and Religious Experience (to be offered Spring 2020)

**Advising (Colby College):**

First year advisor, 2018-2020  
Ad-hoc advising for Art Department

**Courses Developed, Convened, and Taught on (University of Glasgow):**

Convener, The Search for Meaning: Asian Religious Traditions (Level 1); Religion, Culture, and Controversy (Level 2); Mysticism (Level 2); Convener: Buddhism (Honours—Levels 3 & 4); Convener: Chan and Zen Traditions (Honours—Levels 3 & 4); Co-convener: MLitt Core: Religion, Theology, and Culture (with Prof. George Pattison); Convener: MLitt Core 2: Reading, Religion, and Culture (the Core classes are the theory classes for the MLitt degree)

**Courses Developed and Taught (UNCG):**

**Lower Level:** Religion, Ritual, and the Body; Buddhism and the Search for Happiness (Lloyd International Honors College); Images of China in Film (International Studies Program); Religion, Story, and Space (Summer

Program in Exeter, UK); Myth, Ritual, and the Arts: Christianity, Buddhism, Islam; Religion in Contemporary Culture: Religion and Film; Introduction to Religious Studies Non-Western Religions: Classical India & Classical China; Buddhism; Hinduism; Chinese Religions; Religions of China and Japan.

**Upper Level Seminars (all writing intensive):** Religious Movements and Communities: Millennialism; Religious Movements and Communities: Christian and Buddhist Monasticism (w. D. Krueger); Philosophical Issues in Religion: Religious Language; Philosophical Issues in Religion: Semiotics and Religious Images; Myth and Theory; Religions of China, Selected Topics: Daoism and Chinese Religion; Religions of China, Selected Topics: Chan and Chinese Buddhism; Religions of Japan, Selected Topics: Chan/Zen; Senior Seminar (capstone course, writing and speaking intensive); Senior Honors Theses supervisions

**Graduate Teaching, Supervision, Consultation, and Mentoring:**

Opposition committee (Ph.D. defense) Harriet Hunter, University of Leiden, September, 2018

Ph.D. supervision: Liu Shiyin, "Deciphering James Legge's 'Confucianism,'" University of Glasgow (2015-2020)

Ph.D. supervision Michael O'Brien, "Religious Science Fiction: Farmer, Dick and Bonhoff," University of Glasgow (2015-)

MLitt Core (Glasgow): Religion, Theology, and Culture (Year-long 2015-2016 with Prof. George Pattison)

MLitt Core (Glasgow): Reading, Religion, and Culture (Spring 2016)

MLitt dissertations, Alicia Hennebery, Zsolt Safian, University of Glasgow (2014-2016)

Ph.D. committee: Geoffrey Goble, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, 2007-2012

MA consultation: Mr. Budd Wilkins (UNCG)

Ph.D. committee: Kexi Liu, Music, University of North Carolina Greensboro, 1991-1993

Grant writing mentor (Joanne Murphy, Classics, UNCG)

New Faculty Mentor, Elizabeth Bucar (UNCG)

**SELECTED UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE:**

**University and College:**

Ex-officio, Board of Governors, Colby College Museum, Fall 2018-

Environmental Humanities Committee, Fall, 2018-

Compagna-Sennett Fellowship Selection Committee, 2017-

Committee on Mission and Priorities, 2018-2019

Grant writing workshops (with Prof. Mary Gibson), Colby College, Spring 2018

Examination Convener Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow 2015

Learning and Teaching Lead Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow 2013-2015

Learning and Teaching Committee, School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow 2013-2015

College of Arts and Sciences Budget and Planning Committee, UNCG 2012

College of Arts and Sciences Research Assignment Committee, UNCG 2006-2008

Facilitator, Grant Writing in the Humanities Workshops, UNCG 2007

College of Arts and Sciences Budget and Planning Committee, UNCG 2005-2009

Center for Critical Inquiry, 2005 Site visit/report Hyderabad University SIP (w Mary Gibson, English), 2004

Arts & Humanities Research Foci Committee, UNCG 2001-2004

Chair: University General Education Curriculum Philosophy/Religion/Ethics Assessment, UNCG 2000-2004

University Honor Board, UNCG 1999-2000

College of Arts and Sciences Administrative Council, UNCG 1998-2004

Southern Atlantic States Association for Asian and African Studies (SASASAAS) representative, UNCG1996-2004

Pre-major Advising Center, UNCG 1992-1993

Review panel for National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Grants, UNCG 1992

Non-Western Area Curriculum Committee, UNCG 1991-2001

International Studies Committee, UNCG 1988-1995

Member Graduate Faculty, University North Carolina Greensboro, UNCG 1986-2013

**Department and Program Committees:**

Member, Biblical Studies Faculty Fellow search, Colby College, Fall 2017

Member, American Christianity Faculty Fellow search, Colby College, Spring 2018

Compagna-Sennett Selection Committee, 2017-present  
Chair, renewal committee Associate Prof. Gary Green (Art) 2019  
Chair, renewal committee Associate Prof. Garry Mitchell (Art) 2020  
Convener: Learning and Teaching, Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow 2013-2015  
Research Committee, Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow 2013  
Committee to reconfigure the taught MLitt, Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow 2013-  
Undergraduate Studies Director, UNCG, 2012-2013  
Member: Islam search committee, UNCG 2012  
Host, Religious Studies Honor Society Inductions, 2010, 2011 Chair: Department Tenure committee, 2007-2008  
Chair: Islam Search committee, UNCG 2006-2007  
Department Library Representative, UNCG 2004-2008  
Department Honors Liaison, UNCG 2004-2007  
Chair: Christian Thought search committee, UNCG 2004-2005  
Affirmative Action Officer: Bernard Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies search, UNCG 2004-2005  
Member: Post Tenure Review committees, (Levinson, 2004-2005, Hart 2006-2007, Bregman 2010-2011)  
Chair: Post Tenure Review committees, (Krueger, Ramsey, 2003-2004, Rogers, 2010-2011)  
Chair: Departmental SACS /Accreditation committee, UNCG 2003-2004  
Advisor: Religious Studies Club, UNCG 2001-2005; 2012  
Chair: South Asia / Tibet search committee, UNCG 2001-2002  
Affirmative Action Officer: African American Religions search committee, UNCG 2000-2001  
Member: East Asian History search committee, (History Department), UNCG 1999-2000  
Chair: Department Self Study committee, UNCG 1999-2000  
Chair—Committee for Assessment of the Major, UNCG 1999-2004  
Ashby Residential College Faculty, UNCG 1988-2009, 2013

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Presentation on “Angels” in Buddhism in conjunction with the exhibit “Heavenly Creatures: Angels in Faith History and Popular Culture,” St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Culture, October 4, 2015  
“Seeing Buddha,” lecture for “Seeing God” series, St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Culture, December 7, 2014  
North Carolina Humanities Council Speakers Forum (various venues), 1998-2011 “Buddhism and the Search for Happiness” “Religion, Story, and Church Architecture”  
“Religion and Sexual Orientation in Traditional India and China” for Spirituality and Sexuality Week (UNCG)  
Presentations on teaching about non-Western cultures for public school teachers (Guilford and Alamance Counties, North Carolina)  
Presenter: North Carolina Center for the Advancement for Teaching (Residential Center for K-12 Teachers)  
Presentations for church organizations, including Guilford Friends Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, The Shepherd Center, Chapel Hill Zen Center, etc.

#### **RESEARCH TRAVEL (including consultation with museum curatorial staff):**

St. Petersburg, Russia (State Museum for the History of Religions), Nov. 2015; Feb. 2016; Dec. 2017  
Nicolet, Quebec (Le Musée Des Religions du Monde), June, 2015, April 2018  
Marburg, Germany (Religionskundliche Sammlung), June 2015; June 2017  
Taipei, Taiwan (Museum of World Religions), October, 2016  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina (Ackland Museum of Art), July 2015  
Ajanta, Ellora, and other cave sites, Maharashtra, India; Dunhuang, China, May-June 2011  
Dunhuang and Wutaishan, China, May-June 2010  
Yunnan, China, May-June 2006  
Southwest China (Sichuan and Yunnan), May-June 2005  
India (Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh); Southwest China (Sichuan & Yunnan), December 2003-June 2004  
India and Nepal (Varanasi, Kathmandu, Kolkata), December 1998-January 1999  
Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Japan, January-July 1991  
Dissertation Research in Hong Kong, May 1981-July 1982