

**Curriculum Vitae ~ Rafal K. Stepien**  
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Austrian Academy of Sciences  
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## 1. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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### **Austrian Academy of Sciences**

Research Associate, 2023 – present  
Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

### **European Research Council**

Principal Investigator, 2023 – 2028  
‘The Ethics of Empty Beliefs: Chinese Buddhist Philosophy in the ‘Period of Disunity’’  
Host Institution: Austrian Academy of Sciences

### **Journal of Buddhist Philosophy**

Editor-in-Chief, 2024 – present (Associate Editor, 2021 – 2024)  
Albany: State University of New York Press

## 2. FORMER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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### **Leiden University**

University Lecturer in Chinese Religions, 2023 onward (declined)  
Leiden Institute for Area Studies  
Faculty of Humanities

### **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**

Assistant Professor in Comparative Religion, 2019 – 2023  
Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies  
Coordinator, Masters in Asian Studies, 2021 – 2023 (Deputy Coordinator 2019 – 2021)  
School Academic Integrity Officer, 2021 – 2023  
Courtesy Appointment, Philosophy Programme, School of Humanities, 2020 – 2023

### **Heidelberg University**

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, 2018 – 2019 (fixed term)  
Cluster of Excellence ‘Asia and Europe in a Global Context’  
Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies  
Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies  
Awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

### **University of Oxford**

Berggruen Research Fellow in Indian Philosophy, 2016 – 2018 (fixed term)  
Faculty of Philosophy and Wolfson College  
Associate member, Faculty of Oriental Studies  
Fellow, Berggruen Philosophy & Culture Center

### **Hampshire College**

Assistant Professor of Asian Religions, 2015 – 2018 (on leave 2016 – 2018)  
School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies  
Faculty Advisor, Five College Buddhist Studies Certificate Program, 2015 – 2016

### **Stanford University**

Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Postdoctoral Scholar, 2015 – 2017 (fixed term, declined)  
Inaugural recipient of fellowship awarded once every two years to a single scholar worldwide in all fields of Buddhist studies who is up to five years out from completion of the Ph.D.

### **Institute of Ismaili Studies, London**

Lecturer of Philosophy, 2012 – 2013 (fixed term)  
Graduate Program in Islamic Studies & Humanities, Masters Program in Muslim Societies & Civilizations

### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

Persian ~ English Interpreter in Afghanistan, September 2001 – May 2004

Responsibilities: Interpreting among ICRC delegates and detainees (prisoners of war, security/political detainees, vulnerable persons); interpreting among ICRC representatives and civil/military authorities in official, high-level meetings; composing and translating official documents and internal reports; organizing and undertaking detention visits and dissemination sessions of international humanitarian law; liaising and co-ordinating activities with other humanitarian agencies, NGOs, and the United Nations.

### **3. DEGREE STUDIES**

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#### **Ph.D. Columbia University, USA, 2009 – 2015**

East Asian Languages and Cultures ~ Religion

Inaugural Cihui Foundation Faculty Fellow in Chinese Buddhism

Dissertation: *Being and Believing in Buddhism and Islam*

Advisory Committee:

- Souleymane Bachir Diagne,  
Professor of Philosophy, French & Romance Philology
- Bernard Faure,  
Kao Professor of Japanese Religions (Advisor)
- Robert Thurman,  
Jey Tsong Khapa Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies
- Chun-fang Yu,  
Sheng Yen Professor in Chinese Buddhist Studies (Advisor Emerita)

#### **M.Phil. Columbia University, USA, 2010 – 2012**

East Asian Languages and Cultures ~ Religion

Examination Fields:

- Chinese Buddhism
- Indian Buddhism
- Islam and Sufism
- Theory and Method in the Study of Religion

#### **M.A. Columbia University, USA, 2009 – 2010**

East Asian Languages and Cultures ~ Religion

Master's Thesis: 'The Fourfold Instantiation: A Study in Nāgārjuna's Logics'

#### **M.Phil. University of Cambridge, UK, 2008 – 2009**

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies & Robinson College

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies ~ Persian

Master's Thesis: 'The Mystic Poetry of 'Aṭṭār Nayshābūrī'

Awarded with Distinction

#### **B.A. & M.A. University of Oxford, UK, 2004 – 2008**

Institute for Chinese Studies & Wadham College

Oriental Studies ~ Chinese

Honours Thesis: 'The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei'

Awarded in the Final Honour School

#### **B.A. University of Western Australia, 1996 – 1999**

Double Major in English and Philosophy

Awarded S. A. Grave Prize in Philosophy

#### 4. SUPPLEMENTARY STUDIES

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**Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University, USA**

Exchange Scholar, 2014 – 2015

**Wadham College, University of Oxford, UK**

Academic Visitor, 2012 – 2013

**Higher Language Institute, Damascus University, Syria**

Intensive Intermediate Arabic Language Course, July 2010

**Fo Guang Shan Monastery, Taiwan**

‘Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program’, July 2007

**Peking University, China**

Intensive Advanced Chinese Language Study Program, March – July 2006

**Alliance Française Examination Centre, Western Australia**

Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF), June 2004

**Department of Persian Language and Literature, University of Esfahan, Iran**

Intensive Persian Literature Study Program, April 2000 – July 2001

**Office of International and Scientific Co-operation, University of Esfahan, Iran**

Intensive Persian Language Study Program, January – April 2000

**Faculty of Modern Foreign Literature, University of Bologna, Italy**

Advanced Italian Literature Study Program, January – November 1999

**Interfaculty Centre of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Bologna, Italy**

Intensive Intermediate Superior Italian Language Course, January – March 1999

#### 5. RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

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**Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Italy**

Visiting Fellow, June-July 2022

**Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, UK**

‘Religious Diversity and the Secular University’ Workshop Participant, July 2021  
(accepted, but participation cancelled due to Covid-related travel restrictions)

**Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme, University of Cambridge, UK**

Visiting Scholar, June 2016

**Centre of Buddhist Studies, University of Hong Kong, China**

Visiting Researcher, July 2013

**Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies and Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan**

Visiting Scholar, June 2013

**College of Buddhist Studies, Fo Guang University, Taiwan**

Visiting Researcher, June 2013

**Faculties of Literature and Human Sciences & Divinity and Islamic Sciences, University of Tehran**

Visiting Researcher, May – June 2009

**Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia (Encyclopedia Islamica), Iran**

Visiting Researcher, May – June 2009

#### 6. RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & ACADEMIC AWARDS

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\* denotes nationwide competition; \*\* denotes worldwide competition

**\*\*European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant**

Principal Investigator, 2023 – 2028, €1.5 million

‘The Ethics of Empty Beliefs: Chinese Buddhist Philosophy in the ‘Period of Disunity’’

**Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore**

‘Buddhist Nationalisms in Comparative Contexts: Interreligious Peace and Conflict in Southeast Asia’. Research Grant Principal Investigator, 2021-2023

**\*\*Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, UK**

‘Religious Diversity and the Secular University’ Workshop Scholarship, July 2021  
(participation cancelled due to Covid-related travel restrictions)

**\*\*Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, Heidelberg University, 2018 – 2020

**\*\*Berggruen Philosophy & Culture Center**

Berggruen Research Fellowship in Indian Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2016 – 2018

**Hewlett-Mellon Endowment, Hampshire College**

Faculty Development Grant, Summer 2016

**\*\*Stanford University**

Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Postdoctoral Scholarship, 2015 – 2017 (declined)

**\*\*Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange**

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Chinese Studies, 2014 – 2015  
Chinese-studies equivalent to the American Fulbright Program

**\*South Central Modern Language Association**

Graduate Student Grant, Summer 2014

**Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University**

Winner of the Teaching Scholars competition, Summer 2014

**Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University**

International Travel Fellowship, 2013 – 2014

**\*South Central Modern Language Association**

Jafar and Shokoh Farzaneh Paper Prize in Persian Literature and Culture, Runner-up, 2013

**\*New York Conference on Asian Studies, State University of New York, and Association for Asian Studies**

Marleigh Grayer Ryan Graduate Writing Prize, 2013

**Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University**

IRCPL Graduate Research Fellowship, Summer 2013

**\*\*Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies, Taiwan**

Graduate Research Fellowship, 2012 – 2013

**\*Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)**

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities for Dissertation Research in Original Sources, 2012 – 2013

**Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University**

Weatherhead Fellowship, Summer 2010

**\*\*Cihui Foundation and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University**

The inaugural Cihui Foundation Faculty Fellowship in Chinese Buddhism, 2009 – 2015  
Columbia’s ‘highest honor’ at entrance to a graduate student

**\*British Institute of Persian Studies**

Travel Award, Summer 2009

**Robinson College, University of Cambridge**

Academic Expenses Travel Grant, Summer 2009

**\*\*Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge**

Soudavar Memorial Research Scholarship in Persian Studies, 2008 – 2009

Typically awarded annually to a single student from an international pool of applicants

**Soudavar Memorial Foundation**

Research Scholarship, 2008 – 2009

**Governing Body, Wadham College, University of Oxford**

Undergraduate Scholarship, 2005 – 2006

**Khosraw Eghbal Fund**

Travel Award, Summer 2005

**University of Western Australia**

Frank Gamblen Scholarship, 1999

**Faculty of Arts, University of Western Australia**

S. A. Grave Prize for “the most outstanding student” in Philosophy, 1998

## 7. LANGUAGES

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### Reading

Sanskrit, Classical Chinese, Classical Persian, Classical Arabic

### Reading and Speaking

English, French, Italian, Polish, Modern Chinese (Mandarin), Modern Persian (Dari and Farsi), German (A2)

## 8. PUBLICATIONS

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### A. Books

#### Monographs

#### **3) *Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy: Nāgārjuna and the Ethics of Emptiness***

New York: Oxford University Press, 2024, *xiv* + 400 pp.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2024OxfordUP>

- Subject of dedicated panel at ‘Madhyamaka in South Asia and Beyond’ International Conference, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, 2024. Discussants:
  - Jay Garfield, Smith College & Harvard University
  - Anne MacDonald, Austrian Academy of Sciences
  - Sonam Kachru, Yale University
  - Jan Westerhoff, University of Oxford

#### Edited Books

#### **2) *The Three Jewels: Essaying Buddhist Philosophy of Religion***

Albany: State University of New York Press

Under contract, forthcoming.

#### **1) *Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature***

Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020, *xiii* + 381 pp.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2020SUNY>

- Nominated by the publisher for the 2021 International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize.
- Subject of dedicated presentation at 12<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asia Scholars: ‘Crafting a Global Future’, Kyoto, August 2021.
- Reviewed by Jason Wirth in *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2024: 99-102.
- Reviewed by Jia Qiao, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, No. 3, September 2023: 436.
- Reviewed by Vesna A. Wallace in *Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 73, No. 1, January 2023: 1-5.
- Reviewed by Jens Schlieter in *Religion*, Vol. 52, No. 2, 2022: 343-346.
- Reviewed by Stephen C. Walker in *Buddhist Studies Review: Journal of the UK Association of Buddhist Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2021: 105-108.
- Reviewed by Joseph O’Leary in *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 1, 2021: 209-213.
- Reviewed by Bart Dessein in *H-Buddhism*, 2021.

### B. Edited Journal Issues

#### **2) *APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2019.**

Newark: The American Philosophical Association.

Guest Edited Special Issue: *Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms*.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019FallAPA>

1) *APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Spring 2019.

Newark: The American Philosophical Association.

Guest Edited Special Issue: *Buddhist Philosophy Worldwide: Perspectives and Programmes*.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019SpringAPA>

### C. Articles

#### Peer Reviewed Articles: Published

27) **‘How Not to Diversify Philosophy of Religion: A Critique from the Twenty-First Century’**.

*Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*, 2024: 1-8.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2024Sophia>

26) **‘Interdisciplinarity in Non-Disciplines: Archive and Academe in Religious Studies’**

*Numen*, Vol. 70, No. 5. Leiden: Brill, 2023: 473-513.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2023Numen>

25) **‘Prolegomena to a Buddhist Philosophy of Religion’**

*International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, Vol. 94, No. 1. Dordrecht: Springer, August 2023: 63-89.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2023IJPOR>

24) **‘Tetralemma and Trinity: An Essay in Buddhist and Christian Ontologies’**

*Comparative and Continental Philosophy*, Vol. 14, No. 3. London: Taylor & Francis, 2023: 236-254.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2023CCP>

23) **‘Contest, Game, Disgrace: On Philosophy and Buddhism’**

*Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 72, No. 4, October. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2022: 1066-1088.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2022PEW>

22) **‘The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons’**

*Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*, No. 4. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2022: 93-120.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2022JBP>

21) **‘Substantialism, Essentialism, Emptiness: Buddhist Critiques of Ontology’**

*Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Vol. 49, No. 5. Springer, 2021: 871-893.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2021JIP>

20) **‘Interreligious Relations with No Self: A Mystical Path to Omnilogue?’**

*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. 31, No. 4, October. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, 721-741.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2021JRAS>

19) **‘Indian Buddhist and Continental Christianate Critiques of Ontology: An Exercise in Interreligious Philosophical Dialogue’**

*Interreligious Relations*, No. 22, January/February. Singapore: SRP, 2021, 1-14. Approved for republication: see #29.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2021IRR>

18) **‘Philosophy, Literature, Religion: Buddhism as Transdisciplinary Intervention’**

Stepien, Rafal K. (ed.). *Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020, 1-31.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2020SUNYIntro>

**17) ‘The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons’**

Stepien, Rafal K. (ed.). *Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020, 231-260 (separately submitted, peer-reviewed, and published in *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*: see #22).

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2020SUNYChap>

**16) ‘Abandoning All Views: A Buddhist Critique of Belief’**

*The Journal of Religion*, Vol. 99, No. 4. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, October 2019, 529-566.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019JOR>

**15) ‘Buddhist Philosophy? Arguments From Somewhere’**

*APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2019. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 11-15.

Guest Edited Special Issue: *Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms*.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019APA>

**14) Review Article of: Westerhoff, Jan. *The Golden Age of Indian Buddhist Philosophy*. The Oxford History of Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.**

*Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies*, Vol. 16. Oxford: Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, May 2019, 171-187.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019JOCBS>

**13) ‘Orienting Reason: A Religious Critique of Philosophizing Nāgārjuna’**

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 86, No. 4. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018, 1072-1106.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2018JAAR>

**12) ‘Do Good Philosophers Argue? A Buddhist Approach to Philosophy and Philosophy Prizes’**

*APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol. 18, No. 1, Fall 2018. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 13-15.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2018APA>

**11) Review Article of: Lin, Chen-kuo and Radich, Michael (eds.). *A Distant Mirror: Articulating Indic Ideas in Sixth and Seventh Century Chinese Buddhism*. Hamburg: Hamburg University Press, 2014.**

*Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies*, Vol. 11. Oxford: Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, 2016, 237-264.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2016JOCBS>

**10) ‘Rūmī, Balkhī, Mevlvī: The Ambiguities of Identity in the Poetry of Jālāl al-Dīn Muḥammad (1207-1272 CE)’**

Michalak, Mirosław and Zaborowska, Magdalena (eds.). *In Quest of Identity: Studies on the Persianate World*. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Akademickie Dialog, 2015, 177-192.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2015IQI>

**9) ‘The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei (王維 699-761)’**

*Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory*, Vol. 16, No. 2, 2014.

University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 207-238.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2014ILS>

**8) ‘A Study in Sufi Poetics: The Case of ‘Aṭṭār Nayshābūrī’**

*Oriens: Journal of Philosophy, Theology and Science in Islamic Societies*, Vol. 41 No. 1, 2013. Leiden: Brill, 77-120.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2013Oriens>



7) **‘Love or Devotion? From Persia or the Beyond? – A Persian Sufi Perspective’**

*TAASA Review: The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia*, Vol. 21, No 1, 2012.

Potts Point: The Asian Arts Society of Australia, 11-13.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2012TAASA>

Peer Reviewed Articles: Withdrawn

6) **‘Nāgārjuna’s Tetralemma: Tetrāletheia & Tathāgata, Āssetion & Anontology’**

*Journal of Indian Philosophy*. Springer, 10,700 words.

Submitted, peer-reviewed, and accepted in 2018, withdrawn for use instead in monograph:

*Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy: Nāgārjuna and the Ethics of Emptiness*.

Non-Peer Reviewed Articles: Published

5) **‘Buddhist Nationalism in Asia: What It Means for Europe’**

*RSIS Commentary*, No. 119/2021, August 2021. Singapore: S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, 1-4.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2021RSIS>

4) **‘Buddhist Philosophy Today: Theories and Forms’**

*APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2019. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 1-2.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019FallAPA>

3) **‘Buddhist Philosophy Worldwide: Perspectives and Programmes’**

*APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Spring 2019. Newark: The American Philosophical Association, 1-2.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2019SpringAPA>

2) **‘The Impossibility of Language: Poetic Modes of Apophasis in Buddhist and Islamic Mystical Literature’**

*New York Conference on Asian Studies and Association for Asian Studies*, Buffalo: State University of New York, 2013, 6,800 words (published online).

Winner of the 2013 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Graduate Writing Prize.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2013NYCAS>

1) **‘The Mystic Poetry of ‘Aṭṭār and the Conference of the Birds’**

Scollay, Susan (ed.). *Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond*. Oxford: Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, in association with the State Library of Victoria, 2012, 89-93.

USA Edition: University of Chicago Press.

Selected as one of ‘The Best Art Books’ of 2013 by *The Art Newspaper* (#252, December 2013)

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2012LD>

D. Book Reviews

5) Ducor, Jérôme; Isler, Henry W. (ed. et trad.) (2022). *Jizang : Le sens des arcanes des Trois Traités, contribution à l’étude du Mādhyamika dans le bouddhisme d’Extrême-Orient*. Genève: Librairie Droz.

*Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, Vol. 86, No. 2, June 2023. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 383-385.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2023BSOAS>

4) Jones, C. V. (ed.) (2022). *Buddhism and Its Religious Others: Historical Encounters and Representations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

*Contemporary Buddhism: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1-2, 2023. Abingdon: Routledge, 190-193.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2023CB>

**3) Siderits, Mark; Keng, Ching; Spackman, John (eds.) (2021). *Buddhist Philosophy of Consciousness: Tradition and Dialogue*. Leiden: Brill.**

*Buddhist Studies Review: Journal of the UK Association of Buddhist Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 2, 2021. Sheffield: Equinox, 269-273.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2021BSR>

**2) Shi Huifeng. *Old School Emptiness: Hermeneutics, Criticism and Tradition in the Narrative of Śūnyatā*. Kaohsiung: Institute of Humanistic Buddhism, 2016.**

*Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, Vol. 81, No. 1, February 2018. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 158-160.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2018BSOAS>

**1) Heine, Steven. *Chan Rhetoric of Uncertainty in the Blue Cliff Record: Sharpening a Sword at the Dragon Gate*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.**

*Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, Vol. 24, 2017, 407-416.

<https://tinyurl.com/Stepien2017JBE>

## **9. PAPERS & PANELS**

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### **A. Invited Lectures**

**‘Dreaming Across Cultures: A Symposium’, University of Virginia, May 2024**

Dream Visitations Divine: Philosophies of Fictional Encounter in Buddhist, Islamic, and Christian Poetry

**Research Colloquium, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, November 2023**

Buddhist Philosophy of Religion? Essaying Potential Paradigms

**Munich School of Ancient Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, and Religious Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (LMU), Munich, November 2023**

Buddhist Philosophy of Religion: From Erasure to Episteme

**Guest Lecture in Buddhist Studies, Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University, October 2023**

From Religionate Buddhism to Buddhism as Religiosophy

**Guest Lecture in Buddhist Studies, Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University, October 2023**

Transculturating Philosophy of Religion: A Buddhist Intervention

**‘Identity and Cohesion: Intersections between Religion, Race, and Nationality’ Executive Programme, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies, May 2022**

Extremisms, Cohesion, and Identities: Global Flows of Ideas

**‘Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations’ Online Symposium, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, August 2021**

Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: The Case of Buddhist Nationalism

**‘Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations’ Online Symposium, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, November 2020**

Recent Developments in Buddhist Nationalism

**‘Religion, Conflict, and Peace-Building’ Executive Programme, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies, February 2020**

Ambivalence of the Sacred in Religious Traditions

**Oxford University Press Roundtable, ‘Envisioning the Future of Education: Nurturing and Empowering Thinking Culture’, Singapore, February 2020**

Thoughts on Thinking in the Classroom: Cross-Cultural Perspectives

(event cancelled due to Covid-19)

**‘Being, Substance, and Essence in Indian Philosophy: The Heart of the Matter’ Conference, University of Oxford, May 2019**

The Ethics of Metaphysics in Indian Buddhist Philosophy of Religion  
**Network Meeting of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Universität Bonn, November 2018**  
 Chinese Buddhist Philosophical Ethics of Belief

**President's Seminar, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, April 2018**  
 'Evidence' in Indian Philosophy: A Buddhist Perspective

**Department of Asian Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (LMU), Munich, July 2017**  
 On Emptying Self of View: A Buddhist Critique of First Philosophy

**'Substance and Essence in Indian Philosophy' Symposium, University of Oxford, June 2017**  
 Emptiness as Essencelessness in Indian and Chinese Madhyamaka Buddhism

**President's Seminar, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, May 2017**  
 Impermanence as Emptiness: A Buddhist Approach to Change

**Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in the Study of Religions, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, January 2017**  
 On Belief and Unbelief between Buddhism and Islam: An Interreligious Parologue

**Religious Studies Seminar, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, November 2016**  
 Paradox of Negation or Negation of Paradox? Nāgārjuna between India and China

**Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar, Smith College, April 2016**  
 Tetralemma as Teträletheia

**Comparative Religion & Theology Lecture Series, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, April 2015**  
 Adherence without Attachment in Buddhism and Islam

**Annual Conference, Association for Asian Studies, March 2015**

**Invited to present on special panel of prize-winning graduate papers**  
 Philosophy of Language at the Philosophical Limits of Language: A Comparative Approach to Buddhist and Islamic Literature

**College of Buddhist Studies, Fo Guang University, Taiwan, June 2013**  
 Nāgārjuna's Middle Way and the Logic of the Included Middle

**'Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond' Exhibition Lecture, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, January 2013**  
 Divine Ascent: Prophet, Poets, Pilgrim Birds, and the Art of Illustrating the Unutterable

**Graduate Research Forum, Robinson College, University of Cambridge, October 2008**  
 The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei

**Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, May 2008**  
 Transmission Outside the Scriptures: The Empty Poetry of Wang Wei (701 – 761 CE)

**Interdisciplinary Seminars in the Study of Religions, Oriel College, University of Oxford, February 2008**  
 The Teachings and Spirituality of Al-Ghazālī

## **B. Conference Papers**

**'When the Himalayas Encounter the Alps: The Past, Present and Future of Asia-Europe Buddhist and Other Religious Exchanges' Conference, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, August 2024**  
 'Buddhism, Philosophy, Europe: Surveys, Critiques, Proposals' (accepted)

**'Madhyamaka in South Asia and Beyond' International Conference, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, August 2024**  
 'Nāgārjuna's *Twelve Gates Treatise* (十二門論)? A Contribution to Chinese Madhyamaka/Sanlun Buddhist Philosophy' (accepted)

**'Buddhist Philosophy between India and China: From Madhyamaka to Sanlun' Workshop, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, August 2024**  
 'Nāgārjuna's *Twelve Gates Treatise* (十二門論)? A Contribution to Chinese Madhyamaka/Sanlun Buddhist Philosophy' (accepted)

**XXV World Congress of Philosophy, 'Philosophy across Boundaries', La Sapienza University, Rome, August 2024**  
 'Philosophy across Disciplinary Boundaries: A Buddhist Case Study of Poetry as Philosophy' (accepted)

**Deutscher Orientalistentag, Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society), Freie Universität Berlin, September 2022**

‘Twelve Gates to the Middle Way: Buddhist Philosophy Between India and China’

**19<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Seoul National University, August 2022**

‘Prolegomena to a Buddhist Philosophy of Religion’

**‘Beyond Free Will: Variety in Understanding of Choice, Luck, and Necessity’ Conference, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University, June 2022**

‘Does a Buddha Do? A Buddhist Conception of Non-conceptual, Non-intentional Volition’

**Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2022**

‘Global Philosophy of Religion? From Others’ Erasure to Other’s Proofs’

**Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2022**

‘Purifying the Pure Land: Unearthing the Ideological Roots of Buddhist-Islamic Violence in Southeast Asia’. Panel on Interreligious Perspectives on Conflict in Communities, Traditions, and Movements

**‘Buddhist Identities in Twenty-First Century Asia’ Conference, Faculty of Divinity and Global Humanities Initiative, University of Cambridge, April 2022**

‘A Buddhist People? Identities and Interreligious Violence in Southeast Asia’

**Conference of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy: ‘Chinese Philosophy: Paths between Convergence and Divergence’, December 2021**

‘Is Reality Literary? Chinese Buddhist Poetics as Metaphysics’

**Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2021**

‘Buddhism in Philosophy: Structural and Pedagogical Proposals for Religion Departments’

Panel on Buddhist Philosophy in Philosophy Departments: Training Students, Hiring, Teaching

**‘Reading Mahāyāna Scripture’ Conference, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, September 2021**

‘On Numen in Antinomianism, or Reading Religion in Irreligion’

**Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, August-September 2021**

‘Reconceptualizing ‘Philosophy’ of/and/as ‘Religion’ from Buddhist Sources’

**12<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asia Scholars: ‘Crafting a Global Future’, Kyoto, August 2021**

‘Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature’

**‘Teaching East Asia in the Humanities’ Conference, April 2021**

‘宗教學, 哲學, 文學: Rethinking ‘Religion’, ‘Philosophy’, and ‘Literature’ in the Study of Buddhism’

**Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, December 2020**

‘Why Are My Humanities So Black-and-White? Buddhist Lessons in Undisciplining Religion, Literature, and Philosophy’

**United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies Annual Conference, University of Manchester, July 2020**

‘Buddhism Between Philosophy and Literature’

(paper accepted, but conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

**Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2020**

‘Interreligious Relations in the Absence of a Self: A Mystical Path to Dialogue?’

(paper accepted, but conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

**1<sup>st</sup> International Conference, International Society of East Asian Philosophy, Meiji University, Tokyo, December 2019**

‘Nāgārjuna and the *Twelve Gates Treatise* (十二門論): Towards a Chinese Madhyamaka Philosophy’

**11<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asia Scholars: ‘Asia and Europe, Asia in Europe’, Leiden University, July 2019**

‘Philosophy and Religion: Buddhist Arguments and Agreements’

**4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Madhyamaka Studies, ‘Linguistic Challenges: Mādhyamikas and their Key Words’, International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, Tokyo, December 2018**

‘*Drṣṭi* (觀) as *Grāha* (取, 執) in Indian and Chinese Madhyamaka’

- Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2017**  
‘Enlightening Literature: A Chinese Buddhist Approach to Emptiness of Word and Mind’
- XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, August 2017**  
‘Chinese Buddhist Literature, Literary Theory, and Philosophy of Language: A Study of Liu Xie & Chan’
- World Congress on Logic and Religion, Institute of Philosophy, University of Warsaw, June 2017**  
‘On the Para-Logic of Religious Belief: A Buddhist Critique of Buddhism’
- Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, University of Oxford, April 2017**  
‘Illusory Selves in Action, Delusory Views in Thought: A Buddhist Approach to the Abandonment of All’
- Khamriyya* as a World Poetic Genre: Comparative Perspectives on Wine Poetry in Near and Middle Eastern Literatures, University of Cambridge, June 2016**  
‘On Wine and Oneness: The Sober Lives and Drunken Lines of Hāfez and Hanshan’
- Annual Meeting, American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 2016**  
‘The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons’
- Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2015**  
‘From the ‘Cessation of Conceptualization’ to the ‘Abandonment of All Views’: An Ultimate Reading of Nāgārjuna’s *Mūlamadhyamaka-kārikā*’
- Annual Meeting, American Philosophical Association (Central Division) & International Society for Buddhist Philosophy, February 2015**  
‘On Anti-Language Language in Linji, or Sticks and Stones May Break His Bones, But Words Will Kill the Buddha’
- Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2014**  
‘*Catuṣkoṭī? Si Ju* (四句)? Tetralemma? A Study of Hermeneutic Strategies in Sanskrit-, Chinese-, and European-Language Interpreters of Nāgārjuna (龍樹)’
- Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2014**  
‘When will the limitless be tamed in talk?’ On the Multiplicity of Poetic Voices in Rūmī’s *Maṣnavī*
- ‘Ways of Knowing’ Graduate Conference on Religion, Divinity School, Harvard University, October 2014**  
‘On the Use of Views (*Dṛṣṭi*) as Means (*Upāya*): A Methodological Case Study in the Philosophical Study of Religion’
- Annual Conference, South Central Modern Language Association, October 2013**  
‘A Play of Masks and Mirrors: Mawlānā Rūmī and the Apophatic Poetics of the *Maṣnavī*’
- New York Conference on Asian Studies, State University of New York at Binghamton, September 2013**  
‘The Impossibility of Language: Poetic Modes of Apophasis in Buddhist and Islamic Mystical Literature’
- The International Conference of Iranian Studies, University of Warsaw, April 2013**  
‘Rūmī, Balkhī, Mevlevī: The Ambiguities of Identity in the Poetry of Jālāl al-Dīn Muḥammad (1207-1272 CE)’
- Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2012**  
‘The Fourfold Emptiness of the Fourfold Self: Nāgārjuna’s Tetralemma as the Middle Way’
- Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2011**  
‘Poetic Modes of Apophasis in Buddhist and Islamic Mystical Literature’
- Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2010**  
‘The Mystic Poetry of ‘Aṭṭār Nayshābūrī’
- Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University, February 2010**  
‘Unsayings as Emptiness in Mahayana Literature’
- Annual Conference, Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Western Sydney, December 2007**  
‘The Imagery of Emptiness in the Poetry of Wang Wei’

### **C. Conference Panels**

**XXIII Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Jagiellonian University and the Polish Society for the Study of Religions, August 2025**

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Reimagining Religion, Rethinking Philosophy: Theories and Methods from Buddhist Sources' (accepted)

**XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Leipzig University, August 2025**

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Buddhist Philosophy between India and China: From Madhyamaka to Sanlun and Beyond' (accepted)

**'Madhyamaka in South Asia and Beyond' International Conference, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, August 2024**

Panel Organizer and Chair, Book Discussion Panel: '*Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy: Nāgārjuna and the Ethics of Emptiness*' (accepted)

**'Madhyamaka in South Asia and Beyond' International Conference, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, August 2024**

Organizer and Chair of two panels: 'Buddhist Philosophy between Madhyamaka and Sanlun: From Nāgārjuna to Sengzhao' and 'Buddhist Philosophy between Madhyamaka and Sanlun: From Sengzhao to Jizang' (accepted)

**Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, August 2024**

Workshop Organizer, 'Buddhist Philosophy between India and China: From Madhyamaka to Sanlun'

**Executive Programme, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies, Singapore, May 2023**

Lead Organizer, 'Religions and Non-Religions: Dynamics and Impacts on Plural Societies'

**Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, January 2023**

Organizer, 'Buddhist Nationalisms in Myanmar and Sri Lanka: Rhetoric, Responses, Challenges' Symposium

**Deutscher Orientalistentag, Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society), Freie Universität Berlin, September 2022**

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Metaphysics Between Reality and Truth: Studies in Sanlun 三論 Buddhist Philosophy'

**Annual Conference, European Academy of Religion, Bologna, June 2022**

Panel Organizer and Chair '~~Philosophy of Religion?~~ Buddhist Arguments and Erasures'

**Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, April 2022**

Moderator, 'Hindu Nationalism and Implications for Multicultural Societies' Public Lecture

**Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, November 2021**

Organizer, 'Buddhist Nationalisms in Southeast Asia: Implications for Plural Societies' Symposium

**United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies Annual Conference, University of Manchester, July 2020**

Panel Organizer, 'Fruits and Frictions: Transculturing Buddhist Philosophy from East to West' (panel accepted, but conference cancelled due to Covid-19)

**1<sup>st</sup> International Conference, International Society of East Asian Philosophy, Meiji University, Tokyo, December 2019**

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Ontology, Epistemology, Language: East Asian Madhyamaka Perspectives'

**11<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asia Scholars: 'Asia and Europe, Asia in Europe', Leiden University, July 2019**

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Contesting Philosophy: Asian Arguments'

**Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2017**

Panel Organizer and Chair, 'Literary Forms of Argument in Chinese Buddhist Philosophy'

**Annual Ratio Conference, ‘Self and Attention: Cross-Cultural Perspectives’, University of Reading, April 2017**

Facilitator, Roundtable Discussion

**Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2016**

Panel Organizer and Respondent, ‘Paradox in Buddhist Philosophy’

Panel Chair, ‘Narrative and Philosophy in Buddhism’

**Annual Meeting, American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 2016**

Organizer and Chair of three-panel seminar on ‘Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature’.

Panels on ‘Literature, Literary Theory, and Philosophy’, ‘Buddhist Philosophy as Literature’, & ‘Buddhist Literature as Philosophy’

## **10. UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

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### **A. Own Courses**

#### **Encountering Religions in Plural Societies: Comparative and Contrastive Perspectives**

MSc in Asian Studies, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2020-2023

Course studies diverse approaches to a wide range of religiously meaningful issues in Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism in the Asian context

#### **Asian Religions, Interreligious Relations, and Conflict**

MSc in Asian Studies, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2019-2023

Course studies interreligious relations among Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Hinduism as well as their relations with Christianity and Islam in the context of historical and contemporary cultural and political developments throughout Asia

#### **Buddhist Philosophy**

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, Hilary 2017

Course studies Indian, Tibetan, Chinese, and Japanese Buddhist philosophy on topics in ontology, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, logic, and ethics

#### **Comparative Religious Ideas**

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Spring 2016

Course studies Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism in units on ‘The Human Condition’, ‘Ultimate Realities’, and ‘Religious Truth’

#### **Chinese Religions**

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Spring 2016

Course studies Buddhist, Confucian, and Daoist thought and practice

#### **Chinese Buddhist Philosophy**

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Course studies Weishi, Huayan, Tiantai, and Chan Buddhism

#### **The Buddha’s Buddhism**

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Course studies the Buddha’s life and lives, times, and teachings

#### **Comparative Mystical Literature: Law, Logic, Language**

Lecturer, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University, Summer 2014

Winner of the 2014 Summer Teaching Scholars competition

Course studies Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic mystical literature

#### **Buddhist Philosophy**

Lecturer, Fo Guang Shan ‘Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program’

Fuyan Temple, Hunan and Shengshou Temple, Zhejiang, China, Summer 2013

Course studies Indian, Tibetan, Chinese, and Japanese Buddhist philosophy

#### **Knowledge, World, and Action: An Introduction to Philosophy**

Graduate Program in Islamic Studies and Humanities, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London,

Autumn 2012

Course studies Western and Islamic philosophy in units on 'Knowledge & Truth', 'Being & Reality', 'Freedom & Determinism', 'God & Divine Attributes', and 'Morality & Virtue'

## **B. Co-Taught Courses**

### **Encountering Religions in Plural Societies: Comparative and Contrastive Perspectives**

MSc in Asian Studies, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Trimester 1, 2019-2020

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on religious ethics and philosophy of religion

### **Aspects of Buddhism**

Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context', Heidelberg University,

Summer 2019

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on Buddhist literature, contributing to student assessment structure

### **Indian Philosophy**

B.Phil. Masters Course, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, Trinity 2017

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on Buddhist philosophy in course studying Indian metaphysical and epistemological debates among schools including the Mīmāṃsā, Vedānta, Vaiśeṣika, Nyāya, Saṃkhya, Madhyamaka, and Yogācāra

### **Study of Buddhism**

Religion, Smith College, Fall 2015

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on research methodologies in Buddhist studies

### **Text, Image, Culture, Structure: Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies Research Seminar**

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on research methodologies in Buddhist studies

### **The Theory and Practice of Translation**

Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Hampshire College, Fall 2015

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on the practice of translation and interpretation

### **Asian Humanities Major Texts: Middle East and India**

Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Global Core Curriculum,

Columbia University, Fall 2013

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on religious literature

### **Muslim Traditions of Enquiry**

Masters Program in Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, Spring 2013

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on philosophy modules

### **Methodology Seminars for Graduate Students**

Lecturer, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, Michaelmas 2012

Responsibilities: Lecturing and leading discussion on comparative religious studies

## **C. Teaching Assistantships**

### **Chinese Religious Traditions**

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Chun-fang Yu

Religion and East Asian Languages and Cultures, Global Core Curriculum,

Columbia University, Fall 2011

Responsibilities: Lecturing on Chinese religious literature (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist), assessing all essays and exams, holding regular discussion seminars/tutorials

### **Introduction to East Asian Civilization: China**

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Annabella Pitkin

East Asian Languages and Cultures, Global Core Curriculum, Columbia University, Fall 2010

Responsibilities: Assessing essays and exams, holding regular discussion seminars/tutorials, designing assessment structure



## **Comparative Mysticism**

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Paul Weinfield, Religion, Columbia University, Spring 2010

Responsibilities: Assessing essays and exams, holding regular discussion seminars/tutorials, designing assessment structure

## **11. RESEARCH SUPERVISION & ASSESSMENT**

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### **A. Post-Doctoral**

#### **Two Truths, One Reality: Jizang's Arguments for Two Truths as an Integrative Explanation of One Indivisible Reality**

Primary Supervisor, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chinese Buddhist Philosophy

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Funded by the European Research Council, 2024 – 2027 (scheduled)

### **B. Doctoral**

#### **Two Truths Theory in the Chinese Sanlun School in Relation to Indian Madhyamaka**

Primary Supervisor, Ph.D. Dissertation

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences &

Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna

Funded by the European Research Council, from 2024 (scheduled)

#### **To Be or not to Be: A Study of Xuanzang's Conundrum between Yogācāra's Anti-Realism View and Continuity of 'Self' and Karma in Cheng Weishi Lun**

Primary Supervisor, Ph.D. Dissertation

Philosophy Programme, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University, 2020 – 2023

#### **From Lack of Reflection 思 to Moral Failure: Moral Psychology in Mencius**

University Examiner, Ph.D. Dissertation

Philosophy Programme, School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University, 2022

#### **Terrorism in the Era of Rising Anti-Globalisation**

Assessor, Ph.D., S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021

#### **Perception and Illusion in Early Yogacara Buddhism**

Assessor, D.Phil., Faculty of Theology & Religion, University of Oxford, 2018

#### **Buddhist-Christian Dual-Belonging**

Assessor, D.Phil., Faculty of Theology & Religion, University of Oxford, 2017

### **C. Masters**

#### **Religions as 'Vestigial States': Rethinking State-Religion Relations in Singapore**

Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2023

#### **The Role of Religious Agency in Secularism: A Study of Protestant Christianity in Singapore**

Lead Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2022

#### **Rite to Religious Flourishing: Progressive Muslims' Attitudes to Ritualism**

Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2022

#### **The Factors Contributing to the Re-Emergence of Sufi Politics in Bangladesh**

Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021

#### **Divergent Responses to God in the Orient: Christianity in Korea and Japan**

Lead Marker, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021

#### **'Chinese Religion' as a Model for Interreligious Relations**

Supervisor, M.Sc. in Asian Studies Dissertation

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2019 – 2020

**Philosophy of Religion & Indian Philosophy**

Assessor, B.Phil. Masters Course, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2017

**Western Appropriations of Buddhist Mindfulness: Buddhism without the Metaphysics?**

External Supervisor, M.Phil., Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, 2017

**D. Undergraduate**

**Buddhist and Islamic Philosophy**

Theology & Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, 2017

**Buddhist Studies**

University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2015 – 2016

**Buddhism, Mind, and Emotion**

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**Buddhism and Movement: Healing for the Mind and Body**

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**Comparative Religion and Music**

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**Environmental Themes and Practices in the World's Religions**

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**Mythological Twins and the Underworld**

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**A Process Philosophy of Creativity**

Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**Philosophy of Religion and Metaphysics**

Hampshire College, Fall 2015

**Polytheism in a Modern Cultural Context**

Hampshire College, Fall 2015

**The Modern Mindfulness Revolution in the West and Its Implications**

Hampshire College, Fall 2015

**12. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & TRAINING**

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**External Peer-Reviewer: Journals**

- *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*
- *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*
- *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*
- *Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies*
- *Philosophy East and West*
- *Religion & Literature*
- *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*

**External Peer-Reviewer: Monographs**

- Bloomsbury Academic
- *Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK): English Translation of the Buddhist Canon and Publication Project*
- Cambridge University Press
- Springer

**Editorial Board Member**

- *Yin-Cheng Journal of Buddhist Studies*

**Coordinator**

M.Sc. in Asian Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021 – 2023 (Deputy Coordinator 2019 – 2021)

**School Academic Integrity Officer**

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021 – 2023

**Faculty Mentor**

M.Sc. in Asian Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2019 – 2023

**Interreligious Dialogue Skills Workshop**

Faculty Participant, Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore, 2021

**China Area Review Editor**

H-Buddhism, 2017 – 2020

International electronic network specifically for advanced academic specialists

**Editor, Indian Buddhist philosophy entries**

*History of Philosophy without any Gaps* podcast, 2017

**Hampshire Interfaith Project**

Faculty Advisor, Hampshire College, Spring 2016

**Five College Buddhist Studies Certificate Program**

Faculty Advisor, Hampshire College, 2015 – 2016

**Center for Buddhism and East Asian Religions, Columbia University**

Graduate Member, 2009 – 2015

**East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University**

Organizer, Ph.D. Dissertation Workshops for the Religion Group, 2013 – 2014

**Institute of Ismaili Studies, London**

Participant, Peer Observation of Teaching Program, 2012

**'Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond' Exhibition, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford**

Editor, Persian poetry translations, 2012

**East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University**

Senior Thesis Tutor, Fall 2011

**East Asian Languages and Cultures and University Committee on Asia and the Middle East, Columbia University**

Participant, Graduate Teaching Workshops in 'East Asian Humanities', 'East Asian Civilizations', and 'Major Texts: East Asia', 2010 – 2011

**Modern Languages Society, University of Cambridge**

Contributor, *Polyglossia: Cambridge University Modern Languages Journal*, 2009

**Wadham College, University of Oxford**

Contributor, *Undergraduate Prospectus*, 2005

**Department of Persian Language and Literature, University of Esfahan, Iran**

Editor and Translator (Persian ~ English) of several research articles and conference papers, 2001

**13. INTERVIEWS**

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M.Sc. in Asian Studies, Nanyang Technological University, 2021: <https://youtu.be/77zLSIkJP4E>

Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies Newsletter, Autumn 2018: <https://tinyurl.com/yxsymmw8>

Woodenfish Foundation, November 2015: <http://goo.gl/OiR6bQ>

Hampshire College Communications Department, October 2015: <https://goo.gl/8DmQFK>

Dharma Drum Mountain, March 2010 (in Chinese)

Merit Times (人間福報), July 2007 (in Chinese): <http://goo.gl/4opXwu>

**14. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (PAST & PRESENT)**

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American Academy of Religion

American Comparative Literature Association

American Philosophical Association

Association for Asian Studies

Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies

British Association for the Study of Religions

British Institute of Persian Studies

European Academy of Religion

European Association for Chinese Philosophy

European Association for the Study of Religions  
European Association of Chinese Studies  
International Association for the History of Religions  
International Association of Buddhist Studies  
International Society for Chinese Philosophy  
Modern Language Association of America  
Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies  
Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy  
United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies

## **15. OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Advantage Testing, New York, USA**

Tutor, September 2010 – July 2012, for SAT and ACT Exams; SAT Subject Tests and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in English Literature, French Language and Literature, World History; essay composition and study skills.

### **Children's International Summer Villages (CISV), Lucknow, India**

Junior Counsellor, January 1996

Responsibilities: Pastoral care of child participants; liaising between participants and program leaders; implementing program goals of inter-cultural cooperation and understanding.