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Department of Religion
Boston University
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Academic Positions

- 2002- Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Humanities
Boston University
- 1990- Associate Professor of Religion
Department of Religion
Boston University
- 1989-1991 Senior Lecturer in the History of Religions
Harvard Divinity School
- 1985-1989 Associate Professor of the History of Religions
Harvard Divinity School
- Fall 1987 Visiting Associate Professor of Buddhist Studies
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 1980-1985 Assistant Professor of the History of Religions
Harvard Divinity School
- 1978-1980 Instructor in Religion
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

Administrative Positions

- Institute for Philosophy and Religion*
Boston University
- 2003- Director
- Division of Religious and Theological Studies*
Boston University
- 1991-98 Associate Director
- 1992-93 Acting Director

Center for the Study of World Religions
Harvard University

1989-90 Administrative Director
1981-85 Assistant Director (Acting Director, Spring 1993).

Education

- 1980 Ph.D. Harvard University (the Study of Religion) Dissertation: "A Question of Nihilism: Bhāvaviveka's Response to the Fundamental Problems of Mādhyamika Philosophy"
1975 M.A. Oxford University (Theology)
1971 B.A. Oxford University (Theology, with a specialization in classical Hebrew composition)
1968 B.A. Harvard University (English)

Books

Understanding Buddhism. London: Duncan Baird, 2002 (published by Oxford University Press USA as *Buddhism*).

To See the Buddha: A Philosopher's Quest for the Meaning of Emptiness. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992. Reprinted by Princeton University Press, 1994.

Jñānagarbha's Commentary on the Distinction between the Two Truths. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987.

Book Edited

India and the West: The Problem of Understanding. Selected Essays of J. L. Mehta. CSWR Studies in World Religions 4. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1985.

Articles

"Responsibility Without a Self." Forthcoming in *Responsibility*. Ed. Barbara D. Smith. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2005.

"Buddhist Philosophy." Forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. 2nd Edition. 2005.

"Defining a Usable Past: Indian Sources for Shin Buddhist Theology." Forthcoming in *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, third series, no. 5, 2004.

"The Satisfaction of No Analysis: On Tsong kha pa's Approach to Svātantrika Madhyamaka." In *The Svātantrika-Prāsaṅgika Distinction*. Ed. Georges B.J. Dreyfus and Sara L. McClintock. Somerville, Massachusetts: Wisdom Press, 2003.

- "Jaspers and Nāgārjuna." In *Karl Jaspers on Philosophy of History and History of Philosophy*. Ed. Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. and Raymond J. Langley. Humanity Books: Amherst, New York, 2003.
- "If I Should Die Before I Am Awakened: Buddhist Reflections on Death." In *If I Should Die*. Ed. Leroy S. Rouner. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001.
- "Cooking the Last Fruit of Nihilism: Buddhist Approaches to Ultimate Reality." In *Ultimate Realities*. Ed. Cummings Neville. New York: State University of New York Press, 2001.
- "Beginningless Ignorance: A Buddhist View of the Human Condition." In *The Human Condition*. Ed. Cummings Neville. New York: State University of New York Press, 2001.
- "'With Great Noise and Mighty Whirlpools, the Ganges Flowed Backwards': Buddhist Approaches to Truth," In *Religious Truth*. Ed. Cummings Neville. New York: State University of New York Press, 2001.
- "Contested Identities: The Study of Buddhism in the Postmodern World." In *A Magic Still Dwells: Comparative Religion in the Postmodern Age*. Ed. Kimberley C. Patton and Benjamin C. Ray. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.
- "The Concept of the Ultimate in Madhyamaka Thought." In *The Sound of Liberating Truth: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues in Honor of Frederick J. Streng*. Ed. Sallie B. King and Paul O. Ingram. Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 1999.
- "Wander Lonely as a Rhinoceros." In *Loneliness*. Ed. Leroy S. Rouner. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1998.
- "Is There a Buddhist Philosophy of Nature?" In *Buddhism and Ecology: The Interconnection of Dharma and Deeds*. Ed. Mary Evelyn Tucker and Duncan Ryuken Williams. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997. Reprinted in *Philosophies of Nature: The Human Dimension*. Ed. R. S. Cohen and A. I. Tauber. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1998.
- "A Buddhist Approach to Repentance." In *Repentance: A Comparative Perspective*. Ed. Amitai Etzioni and David Carney. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 1996.
- "Buddhist Approaches to Death." In *The Religion Factor: An Introduction to How Religions Matter*. Ed. William Scott Green and Jacob Neusner. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- "By the Power of the Buddha." *Dharma World* 22 (Sept. / Oct. 1995).
- "The Ghost at the Table: On the Study of Buddhism and the Study of Religion." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 63 (1995): 1085-1110.

"Ambedkar, B. K.," "Bon," "Buddha Image," "Buddhaghosa," "Buddhist Thought," "Circumambulation (Buddhist)," "Darshana (Buddhist)," "Deer Park," "Diamond Sutra," "Dutthagamani," "Emptiness," "Gesar," "Heart Sutra," "Jataka," "Madhyamaka," "Mahabodhi Society," "Mind-Only," "Om Manipadme Hum," "Perfection of Wisdom," "Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit," "Tathata," "Thammayut," "Vimalakirti," and "Yogacara," in *The Harper's Dictionary of Religion*, ed. Jonathan Z. Smith and William Green, 1995.

"Buddhism in the World and in America," in *World Religions in American: An Introduction*. Ed. Jacob Neusner. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox Press, 1994.

"The Power of the Buddha's Absence: On the Foundations of Mahāyāna Buddhist Ritual," *Journal of Ritual Studies* 4 (1990): 61-95.

"Indian Commentaries on the Heart Sūtra: The Politics of Interpretation," *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 10 (1987): 69-79.

"Bhāvaviveka's Vision of Reality: Structure and Metaphor in a Buddhist Philosophical System," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 55 (1987): 39-54.

"Perspectives on the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue," in *The Christ and the Bodhisattva*, ed. S. Rockefeller and D. Lopez. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987.

"The Concept of Reason in Jñānagarbha's Svātantrika Madhyamaka," in B. K. Matilal and R. D. Evans, ed., *Buddhist Logic and Epistemology*: 265-90. Dordrecht: D. Reidel, 1986.

"Gratitude to an Empty Savior: A Study of the Concept of Gratitude in Mahāyāna Buddhist Philosophy," *History of Religions* 25 (1985): 57-75. Reprinted in *Spoken and Unspoken Thanks: Some Comparative Soundings*. CSWR Studies in World Religions 5. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.

"Bhāvaviveka's Critique of Yogācāra Philosophy in Chapter XXV of the Prajñāpradīpa," in Christian Lindtner, ed., *Miscellanea Buddhica*: 25-75. Copenhagen: Akademisk Forlag, 1985.

"Emptiness and the Historical Process: A Contribution to the Theological Encounter between Christians and Buddhists," *Buddhist Christian Studies* 3 (1983): 7-19.

"Bhāvaviveka and the Early Mādhyamika Theories of Language," *Philosophy East and West* 28 (1978): 323-37.

Short Articles and Opinion Pieces

"Tibet: The Destruction and Persistence of a Sacred Landscape." *Land Forum*, Fall 1999. "The Road to Mandala," in *Books and Religion*, Spring 1992. "Bearing the Weight of Glory," in *Books and Religion*, Fall, 1991. "Experiencing the Passion of Islam," in *Books and Religion*, Summer, 1991.

Reviews

John J. Makransky, *Buddhahood Embodied: Sources of Controversy in India and Tibet*. *History of Religions* 42 (2002): 180-185.

Jose Ignacio Cabezon, *Buddhism and Language: A Study of Indo-Tibetan Scholasticism*. *The Journal of Religion* 75 (1995): 453-455.

"*The Encyclopedia of Religion and the Study of Buddhism*," *Critical Reviews of Books in Religion* (1989): 105-116.

Teaching Resources

"Buddhism," a series of 24 video and audio lectures published by The Teaching Company, Chantilly, Virginia. 2002.

"A Season of Teaching: A Casebook for College and University Teachers of Religion," 2002

Recent Papers and Lectures

"Beyond the Bhagavad Gītā: Religion and Performance in the Core Curriculum," presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Core Texts and Courses, Dallas, Texas, April, 2004.

"Is 'Buddhist Environmentalism' a Contradiction in Terms?" presented at an international conference on Buddhism and the Environment, Berkeley, California, September, 2003.

"The Gift of Fearlessness," presented in a panel on "Terror and Human Nature" at the annual meeting of the Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Monterey, California, May, 2003.

"Teaching the Bhagavad Gītā in the Core Curriculum," presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Core Texts and Courses, Atlanta, Georgia, April, 2003.

"Defining a Usable Past: The Saddharmapūṇḍarīka and Sukhāvāṭīvyūha Sūtras as Resources for a Contemporary Buddhist Theology," presented at the Sixth Annual Conference on the Lotus Sutra, Tokyo and Bandaiso, July 12-18, 2001.

"If I Should Die Before I Am Awakened: Buddhist Reflections on Death": presented at the Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion, March, 2000.

"Satisfaction with No Analysis": Svātantrika- and Prāsaṅgika Madhyamaka in the Indian Sources: presented at the 12th Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Lausanne, Switzerland, August, 1999.

"Metaphors Buddhists Live By": presented at the Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, November 1998 and at The Oriental Institute, Oxford University, May 1999.

Lecturer on the Boston University Alumni tour of India, January, 1999.

"The Sources of the Tantric Tradition": Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, November, 1998.

Recent Honors

Senior Fellow, Boston University Humanities Foundation, 1999-2000, 2001-4.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for Independent Study and Research, 1998-9.

Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching, Boston University, May, 1998.

Recent Service to the University

Coordinator of the first year humanities in the Core Curriculum 2002-
Writing Coordinator, Core Curriculum, 2001-2003.
University Promotion and Tenure Committee, 1998, 2001.
Chair, CAS Committee on Sexual Harassment, 1996-2002.
Committee to Review the Core Curriculum, summer 2000.
Search Committee for Director of Core Curriculum, 2001.
College Writing Program Advisory Committee, 2000-

Courses at Boston University

Gurus and Lamas in America, 2003. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of
Religion, 1991-8. Buddhism, 1990-. Religions of the World: Eastern, 1991-.
Classical Texts and Sacred Writings in Eastern Religion, 1993-. Hinduism, 1994-.
Core Curriculum: Humanities II, 1993-8. Sacred Journeys, 1996-. Buddhist Tantra
in Indian and Tibet, 2000.

Languages

Sanskrit, Tibetan, Pali, French, German, Greek, Hebrew

Professionally Related Activities

Coordinator of Book Awards, American Academy of Religion, 2004-.
Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2001.
Co-Chair, National Council of Churches, Interfaith Relations Commission.
Member, Long-Range Planning Committee of the American Academy of Religion,
1999-2001.