

## THOMAS MICHAEL

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### EDUCATION

- 2001 Ph.D. University of Chicago, Divinity School. Dissertation: *The Body, the World, and Soteriology in Early Daoism*; passed with “Distinction”.
- 1992 M.A. University of Chicago, Religious Studies.
- 1991 B.A. Portland State University, English Literature; French Language and Literature; Philosophy; Minor in Chinese Language.

### POSITIONS HELD

- 2008- present Assistant Professor, Boston University
- 2002- 2008 Assistant Professor, George Washington University
- 2001- 2002 Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- 1999- 2001 Instructor, DePaul University
- 1999- 2001 Instructor, Columbia College
- 1998- 2001 Instructor, Graham School of General Studies, University of Chicago

### BOOKS

- 2015 *In the Shadows of the Dao: Laozi, the Sage, and the Daodejing*. State University of New York Press, under contract and forthcoming.
- 2005 *The Pristine Dao: Metaphysics in Early Daoist Discourse*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

### REFEREED ARTICLES

- n.d. “Ge Hong and the Imagining of Early Daoism.” *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, under review.
- 2015 “Shamanism Theory and the Early Chinese *Wu*.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 83:1, forthcoming.
- 2015 “Ge Hong’s *Xian*.” *Journal of Daoist Studies* 6, forthcoming.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2011 “The That-Beyond-Which of the Pristine Dao: Cosmology in the *Liezi*.” In *Riding The Wind: New Essays on the Daoist Classic, The Liezi*, edited by Ronnie Littlejohn and Jeffrey Dippmann, pp. 101-26. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- 2005 “Confucius and Laozi- Two Visions of the Dao of Antiquity.” In *Metaphilosophy and Chinese Thought: Interpreting David Hall*, edited by Ewing Chinn and Henry Rosemont, Jr., pp. 169-78. New York, NY: Global Scholarly Publications.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

- 2013 Review of *Daoist Ritual, State Religion, and Popular Practices: Zhenwu Worship from Song to Ming (960-1644)*, by Shin-yi Chao. *China Review International* 18/4, in-press.
- 2006 Review of *The Construction of Space in Early China*, by Mark Edward Lewis. *China Review International* 13/1: 201-04.
- 2005 Review of *Monastic Life in Medieval Daoism: A Cross-cultural Perspective*, by Livia Kohn, and *The Penumbra Unbound: The Neo-Taoist Philosophy of Guo Xiang*, by Brook Ziporyn. *Journal of Religion* 85/2: 345-47.
- 2005 Review of *Korean Shamanism: The Cultural Paradox*, by Chongho Kim. *Journal of Asian Studies* 64/3: 764-66.
- 2004 Review of *Reconsidering the Correlative Cosmology of Early China: Special Issue, Bulletin [off] The Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities*, edited by Magnus Fiskesjo. *China Review International* 11/1: 72-6.
- 2004 Review of *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine*, by Shigehisa Kuriyama. *China Review International* 111:130-33.
- 2003 “Debating the Spirit in Early China: Review of: *To Become a God: Cosmology, Sacrifice, and Self-Divinization in Early China*, by Michael J. Puett. *Journal of Religion* 83/3: 421-29.
- 2003 Review of *Korea- A Religious History*, by James Grayson. *Journal of Asian Studies* 62/4; 1252-254.
- 2002 “Closing the Gap between Daoist Studies and Religious Theory: Two Recent Publications: *Society and the Supernatural in Sung China* by Edward Davis; *Daoism and Ecology: Ways Within a Cosmic Landscape*, N. J. Girardot, James Miller, and Liu Xiaogan, editors. *Journal of Religion* 82/3: 424-29.
2001. Review of *Classic of Mountains and Seas*, by Anne Birrell, and *The Aspirations and Standards of Taoist Priests in the Early T'ang Period*, by Florian Reiter. *Journal of Religion* 81/4: 678-80.
- 2002 Review of *Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China*, by Aihe Wang. *Journal of Religion* 82/2: 326-28.
- 2001 Review of *Original Tao: Inner Training and the Foundations of Taoist Mysticism*, by Harold Roth. *Journal of Religion* 81/2: 330-32.
- 2000 Review of *Mysticism and Kingship in China: The Heart of Chinese Wisdom*, by Julia Ching. *Journal of Religion* 80/1: 167-68.
- 2000 Review of *Asceticism in Early Taoist Religion*, by Stephen Eskildsen. *Journal of Religion* 80/1: 165-66.

**CONFERENCE AND COLLOQUIUM PAPERS**

- 2011 “Where Have All the Women Gone: The Role of Women in the *Zhuangzi*.” Seventh International Conference on Daoist Studies. Changsha, Hunan, China.
- 2010 “Ge Hong and the Formation of the Medieval Daoist *Xian*.” American Academy of Religion, Session A31-315. Atlanta.
- 2009 “The Knowledge and Brightness of Sages in the *Daodejing*.” Fifth International Conference on Daoist Studies. Hubei, China.
- 2008 “The Influence of *Wu*-Shamanism on *Xian*-transcendents in Ge Hong’s *Shenxian Zhuan*.” American Academy of Religion, Session A2-317. Chicago.

- 2007 “The Bodhisattva Path in the Diamond Sutra.” The Bodhisattva Path: A Colloquium of Recent Work by Faculty of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. Washington, D. C.
- 2007 “‘Following Peng and Xian to the Place Where They Live’: Ecstatic Journeys in the Land of Chu: Comparing Jiu Ge Shamans, Li Sao Poets, and Daoist Sages in the Period of the Warring States.” The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Society for Shamanistic Research. Budapest, Hungary.
- 2007 “‘Solemn, Like a Guest’: Laozi’s Archetype of the Sage.” The International Forum on the *Daodejing*. Xian, China, and Hong Kong.
- 2006 “‘Ecstatic Journeys in the Land of Chu.’” Third International Conference on Daoist Studies. Fraueninsel Chiemsee, Germany.
- 2005 “‘The Bright Dao Appears Dark’: Is Early Daoism Possible?” American Academy of Religion, Session A20-27. Philadelphia.
- 2005 “‘Is Early Daoism Possible?’” Southeast Early China Round Table. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 2005 “‘Eroticized Gender Relations Among Shamans and Deities in the *Jiu Ge (Nine Elegies)* of Early China.” 9<sup>th</sup> International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women: Embracing the Earth: East-West/North-South.” Seoul, Korea.
- 2005 “‘The Influence of *Wu*-Shamanism on *Xian*-transcendents in Ge Hong’s *Shenxian Zhuan*.” International Conference on Daoist Studies. Zhejiang, China.
- 2005 “‘Two Visions of the Dao of Antiquity.’” Association of Asian Studies, Southeast Early China Roundtable Special Session. Chicago.
- 2004 “‘Within It: Sages, Gourds, and Cauldrons.’” Daoist Studies Today: An International Conference. Sichuan, China.
- 2004 “‘Within It: Sages, Gourds, and Cauldrons.’” Washington Area Traditional China Colloquium. Washington, D.C.
- 2004 “‘Huangdi Had 25 Sons: Early Chinese Myth.’” Association of Asian Studies, Southeast Early China Roundtable Special Session. San Diego.
- 2003 “‘The Arrival of the Spirits Darkens the Sun: Early Chinese Shamanism.’” American Academy of Religion, Session A273. Atlanta.
- 2003 “‘The Descent of the Spirits Darkens the Sun’: Two Visions of Shamanism in Early China.” Mid-Atlantic Regional/ Association of Asian Studies. Washington, D.C.
- 2003 “‘Shamans and the Wu: Textual Representations from Early China.’” Southeast Early China Round Table. Berea, Kentucky.
- 2003 “‘*Kongzi Wen Yu Laozi*: Two Faces of the Tao.’” Conference in Honor of David Hall. Trinity University, Texas.

#### INVITED LECTURES AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2005 “‘Some Issues Relating to the Study of Early Chinese Shamanism.’” Faculty Lecture Series, Elliott School of International Studies. George Washington University.
- 2005 One day lecture series at Sichuan University. Organized by the Institute of Daoism and Religious Studies. Sichuan University.
- 2005 “‘Introduction to the I-Ching.’” One day seminar, Smithsonian Museum. Washington, D.C.
- 2004 “‘Early Daoism and Metaphysics.’” Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2004 “‘Daoist Studies in America.’” Presentation at National Cheng Kung University. Taiwan.
- 2004 “‘South-east Asian Buddhism.’” Foreign Service Institute. Arlington, VA.

- 2003 "South-east Asian Buddhism." Foreign Service Institute. Arlington, VA.  
 2003 "Tibetan Buddhism." Knoxville Museum of Art. Knoxville, Tennessee.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

- 2014 Junior Scholar Academic Leave of Absence, Boston University.  
 2012 Humanities Foundation Junior Faculty Fellowship, Boston University.  
 1999 Dissertation Writing Fellowship from the Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago.  
 1994 Chinese Language Scholarship, National Taiwan Normal University.  
 1991 Outstanding Student Award, French Department, Portland State University.  
 1990 Scholarship of Merit Award, English Department, Portland State University.

#### **COURSES TAUGHT AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

- CAS RN 100: Introduction to Religion.  
 CAS RN 103: World Religions: Eastern.  
 CAS RN 210: Buddhism.  
 CAS RN 211: Chinese Religion.  
 CAS RN 243, CAS AN 243: Shamans and Shamanism.  
 CAS RN 360, GRS RN 660, STH TX 860: Daoist Religion.  
 CAS RN 361, GRS RN 661, STH TX 801: Confucian Religion; CAS LC 280: Chinese Classics.  
 CAS RN 363, GRS RN 663, STH TX 808: Zen Buddhism.  
 CAN RN 364, GRS RN 664, STH TX 878: Buddhist Literature  
 CAS RN 430, GRS RN 730, STH TX 860: Topics in East Asian Religion: Religion and Literature in East Asia; CAS LC470: Chinese Literature and Culture.  
 CAS RN 453, GRS RN 753, STH TX 893: Topics in Religion and Sexuality.  
 CAS CC101: Core Humanities I: The Ancient World.  
 CAS CC102: Core Humanities II: Antiquity and the Medieval World.

#### **OTHER COURSES TAUGHT**

- HIS 22: World Religions in Historical Perspective  
 REL 11: Chinese Religions  
 -Both courses offered at Sinoway International Education, International Summer School, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, Summer 2013.

#### **ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

- 2014 Conference Co-coordinator, 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Daoist Studies, to be held at Boston University, May 29- June 1.  
 2013 Peer reviewer for article manuscript submission, *Journal of Chinese Religions*.  
 2012 Member of Advisory Board, *Journal of Daoist Studies*, peer reviewer for article manuscript submissions.  
 2009 Peer reviewer for book manuscript, State University of New York Press.

#### **ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**

- 2013 Faculty Coordinator, Program in Scripture and the Arts.  
 2013 Third Reader for School of Theology Ph. D. Candidate  
 2013 Faculty Coordinator, Tertulia: Junior Faculty Seminar.

- 2012 Humanities Curriculum Committee.
- 2012 Faculty Coordinator, Tertulia: Junior Faculty Seminar.
- 2011 “Where Have All the Women Gone: The Role of Women in the Zhuangzi.” Presentation for Tertulia: Junior Faculty Research Seminar. Boston University.
- 2011 “Ge Hong and the Formation of the Medieval Daoist Transcendent.” Sponsored by the Boston University Program for Scripture & the Arts. Boston University.
- 2011 Humanities Curriculum Committee.
- 2011 Faculty Coordinator, Tertulia: Junior Faculty Seminar.
- 2011 Additional Reader for Oral Examination for the Degree of Ph. D.
- 2010 Search Committee for Modern Languages and Comparative Literature (MLCL): Assistant Professor of Chinese, Japanese and Comparative Literature
- 2009 Faculty Coordinator, Program in Scripture and the Arts.

#### **ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2013 Boston University Arts Initiative Award for the Program in Scripture and the Arts (\$2000).
- 2013 Boston University Center for the Humanities Off-cycle Grant Award for the Program in Scripture and the Arts (\$1500).
- 2013 Boston University Center for the Study of Asia Award for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Daoist Studies (\$1000).
- 2013 Boston University Academic Enhancement Fund Award for taking CAS RN/ AN 243 students to a city event (\$200).
- 2013 Boston University Center for the Humanities, Humanities Enhancement Project Award for Tertulia: Junior Faculty Seminar (\$3500).
- 2012 Boston University Center for the Humanities, Humanities Enhancement Project Award for Tertulia: Junior Faculty Seminar (\$3500).
- 2011 Boston University Academic Enhancement Fund Award for taking CAS RN/ AN 243 students to a city event (\$200).
- 2011 Boston University Center for the Humanities, Humanities Enhancement Project Award for Tertulia: Junior Faculty Seminar (\$3500).

#### **LANGUAGES**

- Reading and speaking proficiency in modern Chinese
- Reading proficiency in classical Chinese
- Reading proficiency in French

#### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

- American Academy of Religion
- Association of Asian Studies