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Boston University
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Academic Positions

- 2009- Professor of Religion
Department of Religion
Boston University
- 2002-5 Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Humanities
Boston University
- 1990-2009 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

- Core Curriculum*
Boston University
2007-13 Assistant Dean and Director
- Core Curriculum*
Boston University
2005-6 Acting Director
- Institute for Philosophy and Religion*
Boston University
2003-8 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: Bhavaviveka's Response to the Fundamental Problems of Madhyamika 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

Bhaviveka and His Buddhist Opponents. Harvard Oriental Series 70. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008.

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.

Books Edited

Deliver Us From Evil. Boston University Studies in Philosophy and Religion. New York: Continuum, 2008.

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

"Bhaviveka." Oxford Bibliographies of Buddhism. 2012.

"Sifting through the Wreckage: Bhavaviveka and the Problem of Religious Experience." In *Bukkyō to seimei rinri no kakehashi [Bridging Buddhism and Bioethics]*. Kyoto: Center for Humanities, Science, and Religion, Ryuoku University, 2010.

"'Show Me Your Resurrection': Preaching on the Boundary of Buddhism and Christianity." In *Interreligious Hermeneutics*. Ed. Catherine Cornille and Christopher Conway. Cascade Books, 2010.

"Compassion and Wisdom: Buddhist and Christian Reflections on the Fundamental Problems of Bioethics." In *Bukkyō to seimei rinri no kakehashi [Bridging Buddhism and Bioethics]*. Kyoto: Institute for Open Research, Ryuoku University, 2008.

"Responsibility Without a Self." In *Responsibility*. Ed. Barbara D. Smith. Lexington Books, 2006.

- "Defining a Usable Past: Indian Sources for Shin Buddhist Theology." *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 Svatantrika Madhyamaka." In *The Svatantrika-Prasangika Distinction*. Ed. Georges B.J. Dreyfus and Sara L. McClintock. Somerville, Massachusetts: Wisdom Press, 2003.
- "Jaspers and Nagarjuna." 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 Mahayana Buddhist Ritual." *Journal of Ritual Studies* 4 (1990): 61-95.
- "Indian Commentaries on the Heart Sutra: The Politics of Interpretation." *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 10 (1987): 69-79.
- "Bhavaviveka'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 Svatantrika 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 Mahayana 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.
- "Bhavaviveka's Critique of Yogacara 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.
- "Bhavaviveka and the Early Madhyamika 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

- Dan Lusthaus. *Buddhist Phenomenology: A Philosophical Investigation of Yogacara Buddhism*. *Journal of the American Association of Asian Studies* (2005).
- 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

- "Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism as Reflected in the Asian Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts," a lecture to the Gallery Instructors at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, January, 2014.
- "Stand up , O Warrior, Afraid of Death': Philosophy and Narrative in Aśvaghōṣa's 'Life of the Buddha,'" paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, November, 2013.
- "Buddhism and the Challenge of Modernity," a lecture in the series "Sydney Ideas," University of Sydney, September, 2013.
- "Modes of Recognition: Theoretical Aspects of Mahāyāna Buddhist Narrative," a series of eight lectures as UBEF Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies, University of Sydney, September-October, 2013.
- "Vinītadeva's Commentary on Dignāga's Ālambanaparīkṣā." Research presented at a meeting of the Australian working group on Tibetan Yogācāra, Denali, Alaska, July, 2013.
- "Āśvaghōṣa's "Life of the Buddha" as a Core Text." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Core Texts and Courses, Ottawa, April, 2013.
- "Dignāga's Ālambanaparīkṣā and the Tibetan Commentarial Tradition." Research presented at a meeting of the Australian working group on Tibetan Yogācāra, Australian National University, January, 2013.
- "Dignāga in the Controversial Setting of Sixth-Century Buddhist Philosophy." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 2012.
- "Sanchi and the History of Buddhist Art in India." Lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2012.
- "The Teaching of Vimalakīrti as a Core Text." Lecture at St. John's College, Santa Fe, 2012.
- "The Devotional Function of Early Buddhist Art." Lecture at the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis, 2012.
- "Buddhist Responses to the Problem of Modernity." Lecture at the University of Oklahoma, 2011.
- "Undigested Pride: Bhaviveka and the Dispute between Madhyamaka and Yogacara. Paper presented at the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Taipei, 2011.
- "Satisfaction Without Analysis: Buddhism, Madhyamaka, and Conventional Reality." Keynote Lecture at a Conference on Madhyamaka and Methodology, Smith College April 23-25, 2010.
- "Satisfaction Without Analysis: A Madhyamaka View of Conventional Reality." Paper presented to the Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University, March 12, 2010.
- "Permeable Boundaries and Contested Identities," paper presented at the World Council of Churches Consultation on Christian Identity in Relation to Buddhists, Colombo, Sri Lanka, December, 2009.
- "Bhaviveka the Debater," "The Integrity of Buddhist Scripture," and "Two Models of Emptiness," lectures presented at National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, November 2009.
- "Show Me Your Resurrection," paper presented at "Understanding the Religious Other: Western Hermeneutics and Interreligious Dialogues," Boston College Symposium on interreligious Dialogue, September, 2009.
- "What Is Buddhist Philosophy?" presented at Ryukoku University, 2006 and Saginaw Valley State University, 2007.
- "We Are All Bioethicists Now," presented at a conference on religion in the nuclear age, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan, June, 2005.
- "Bhavya and His Buddhist Opponents," presented at Tokyo University, June, 2005.

"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 Gita 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 Saddharmapundarka and Sukhavativyuha Sutras 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": Svatantrika- and Prasangika 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

Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Humanities, Boston University, 2003-2005.
Senior Fellow, Boston University Humanities Foundation, 1999-2000, 2001-2003.
National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for Independent Study and Research, 1998-1999.
Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching, May, 1998.

Professional Societies

International Association of Buddhist Studies
American Academy of Religion

Recent Service to the University

Provost's Committee on "One BU," 2009
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, 2000-2004.

Courses at Boston University

Gurus and Lamas in America. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Religion. Buddhism.
Religions of the World: Eastern. Classical Texts and Sacred Writings in Eastern Religion.
Hinduism. Core Curriculum: Humanities I and II. Sacred Journeys. Buddhist Tantra in
Indian and Tibet.

Languages

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

Professionally Related Activities

Visiting Committee, Harvard Divinity School 2008-2013.

Buddhist Philosophy Group Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2012-

Buddhist Studies Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2007-11.

Coordinator of Book Awards, American Academy of Religion, 2004-8.

Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2001.

Member, Long-Range Planning Committee of the American Academy of Religion, 1999-2001.