

## GINA COGAN

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Ph.D. 2004 Columbia University, Buddhist Studies  
M.A. 1995 New York University, Religious Studies  
B.A. 1990 Georgetown University, Philosophy

## POSITIONS HELD

2007-present	Assistant Professor of Religion  Joint Appointment in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies	Boston University
2005-2007	Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion	Boston University
2004-2005	Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Early modern Japanese Buddhism, Buddhist nuns, Rinzai Zen, Buddhist monastic precepts, gender and Buddhism, Buddhism and the state

## AWARDS

Short-term Research Travel to Japan award. Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies/Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, 2011.  
Boston University Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship, 2009-10  
Japan Foundation Short-Term Summer Research Grant, June-August 2007  
Japan Foundation Post Doctoral Fellowship Recognition Program, November 2004  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University 2004 -2005  
Dissertation Research Fellow, Japan Foundation, 2001-2002  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Study, 1998-1999  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Columbia University, 1997-1998  
President's Fellowship, Columbia University, 1995-2002  
Religion Department Fellowship, New York University, 1992-1994

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

*The Princess Nun: Bunchi, Buddhist Reform, and Gender in Early Edo Japan.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center Press, 2014.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

“Religious Change in East Asia, 1400-1800.” With co-author Eugenio Menegon. In Bentley, Jerry H. and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, eds., *The Cambridge World History Volume VI: The Construction of a Global World, 1400-1800 CE*. Oxford: Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.

“Serving the Buddha Through Serving the Emperor: Imperial Buddhist Monks and Nuns as Abbots, Abbesses and Adoptees in Edo Japan.” In Wilson, Liz, ed. *Family in Buddhism: Buddhist Vows and Family Ties*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2013.

“Precepts at Enshōji: The Rules of a Seventeenth-century *Amadera*.” In *Bridging Worlds: Buddhist Women’s Voices Across Generations*, edited by Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Taipei: Yuan Chuan Press, 2004, pp. 237-240.

**REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

“Time Capsules for Tradition: Repositioning Imperial Convents for the Meiji Period.” *U.S. – Japan Women’s Journal, English Supplement*, 30-31, 2006, 80-104.

“Gender and Authenticity in Contemporary Japanese Pop Music: 1980-2000.” With co-author Brian Cogan. In *Popular Music and Society* February 2006, pp. 87-108.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Review of Paula Arai, *Bringing Zen Home: The Healing Heart of Japanese Women’s Rituals*, *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 67, no. 2, Spring 2013.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANEL ORGANIZATION**

“Hakuin, the Lotus Sutra, and Filial Piety.” Talk given at the International Lotus Sutra Seminar 2014, sponsored by Rissho Kosei-kai International, held in Tokyo. May 29-31, 2014.

“Buddhist Masculinities: Rhetorics and Representations.” Panel organized for the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in Baltimore, November 22-25, 2013. Also served as presider.

“Bringing the Center to the Periphery: Buddhist Travel as the Extension of Masculine Authority.” Paper presented at the panel “The Gender of Early Modern Japanese Buddhism, 1640-1882,” as part of the Early Modern Japan Network meeting at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego CA, March 21, 2013.

“‘Hey, you, get off of my cloud.’ Reclusion and Recreation in the Imperial Family in Seventeenth Century Japan.” Paper presented at a workshop on Leisure and the State, Boston University, Boston, MA. November 5, 2010.

“The ‘Kanbun 4 Regulations:’ Morals and Manners at a Seventeenth-Century Imperial Convent.” Paper presented at the annual Numata Buddhist Studies Conference, on Buddhist Training in Japan, at the University of Toronto, April 18, 2009.

“Nuns as Teachers, Nuns as Students: Issues of Authority and Identity for Women in Early Modern Japanese Buddhism.” Paper presented at “Religious Women in the Premodern World,” a three-day

symposium on nuns in premodern Asia and Europe, held at Chateau de la Bretesche, Missilac, France, July 6-9, 2008.

“Serving the Buddha Through Serving the Emperor: Imperial Buddhist Monks and Nuns as Abbots, Abbesses and Adoptees in Edo Japan.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Washington, D.C., November 20, 2006. Organized and proposed the panel *Clerics and Family, Clerics as Family: Rethinking the Role of Families in Monastic Buddhism*, at which this paper was presented.

“The Ordination of Women in Japan.” Talk given at the Buddhist Christian Dialogue 2005 conference at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, June 4, 2005.

“The Presence of the Buddha: Cosmic Connection, Temporal Continuity, and Historical Consciousness in the Lineages of Early Modern Japanese Buddhist Nuns.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio Texas, November 20, 2004, at a panel, *Writing Women into Religious History/ies*, co-organized with Anne Murphy assistant professor of religion at the New School for Social Research.

“Precepts at Enshōji: The Rules of a Seventeenth-century Japanese Convent.” Paper presented at the Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, March 18, 2004.

Enshōji to Bunchi, jūnanaseiki no amadera to kairitsu o megutte.” (Enshōji and Bunchi: A Study of a Seventeenth-century Convent and its Precepts) Paper Presented at the Amadera chōsa kenkyūkai. Nara, Japan, August 2002. (In Japanese)

“Precepts at Enshōji: The Rules of a Seventeenth-century *Amadera*.” Paper presented at the Seventh Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women, Taipei, Taiwan, July 2002.

#### INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“The Ins and Outs of Becoming a Buddha: Bodily Transformation and Gender in the Career of the Japanese Buddhist Nun Bunchi (1619-1697).” Talk given at the Female Authority colloquium held at Boston University. April 4, 2014.

“The Ins and Outs of Becoming a Buddha: Bodily Transformation and Gender in the Career of the Japanese Buddhist Nun Bunchi (1619-1697).” Talk given for the Women and Culture in the Early Modern World Seminar at Harvard University. February 20, 2014

“Bringing the Center to the Periphery: Buddhist Travel as the Extension of Masculine Authority in Eighteenth-Century Japan.” Talk given as part of the Boston University Center for the Study of Asia faculty lunch talk series. February 13, 2014

“Spatial Lineages: Travel and Legitimacy in Tokugawa-era Zen.” Presentation at Tertulia. Boston University Junior Faculty Research Colloquium. May 6, 2013.

“Austerity and Social Networks: Travel and the Rhetoric of Reclusion in the Work of the Early Modern Zen Monk Hakuin.” Talk given at the Boston University Religion Department Faculty Colloquium. October 16, 2012.

Respondent, Beyond Sectarianism. Two-day workshop on medieval Japanese Buddhism held at Harvard University, May 17-18, 2012.

Guest Speaker, Comparative Studies of the Premodern World Initiative. One of three speakers. Gave a talk on celibacy in early modern Japanese Buddhism. Boston University, March 22, 2012.

“The ‘Kanbun 4 Regulations:’ Morals and Manners at a Seventeenth-Century Imperial Convent.” Paper presented at Tertulia, Boston University, March 20, 2009

“Serving the Buddha Through Serving the Emperor: Imperial Buddhist Monks and Nuns as Abbots, Abbesses, and Adoptees in Early Modern Japan.” Lecture given as part of the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Japan Forum series, November 7, 2008

“Buddhist Nuns in Japan.” Talk given as part of the Asian Studies Lunch Series at Boston University, Thursday November 8, 2007

Respondent for two papers presented in Japanese on a panel on nuns and convents that was part of a two-day symposium, “Beyond Buddhology: New Directions in the Study of Japanese Buddhism,” held at Harvard University on November 2 and 3, 2007.

“Imperial Buddhist Nuns: Cooperation and Competition.” Talk given at Tertulia, Boston University, February 15, 2007

“The Ordination of Buddhist Nuns.” Talk given at the Anna Howard Shaw Center, Boston University, February 12, 2006.

“Competition, Cooperation, Criticism: Aristocratic Nuns and the Formation of Elite Religious Identities in Early Tokugawa Japan.” Lecture given as part of the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Japan Forum series, October 8, 2004.

## TEACHING

### COURSES TAUGHT AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

*World Religions: Eastern:* Introductory survey of Asian religions. Enrollment varies from 80 to 200 students. Fulfills humanities requirements for students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

*Buddhism:* Introduction to Buddhism covering both doctrine and practice. Enrollment varies from 20 to 50 students. Fulfills humanities requirements for students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

*Japanese Religion:* Introduction to Japanese religion. Enrolls from 10 to 50 students.

*Women and Religion:* Introduces students to women’s practice in a variety of traditions as well as to different approaches to the study of women, gender, and religion. Enrolls from 20 to 40 students.

Zen Buddhism

Buddhism in America, Women in East Asian Religion

**ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE****SERVICE WITHIN BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

Member, Executive board, Boston University Center for the Study of Asia. October, 2013-2015. Elected to five-member board for a two-year term.

Guest Speaker, Asia BU, February 12, 2012. Gave talk on early modern Japanese Buddhism to the undergraduate Asian Studies organization.

Organizer, guest lecture for the Boston University Faculty Gender and Sexuality Studies Group. Organized a lecture by Kevin Ohi, associate professor in the English department at Boston College, on his new manuscript for the Gender and Sexuality Studies group. November 20, 2011

Moderator, Roundtable on perceptions of Islam in the United States, March 23, 2011. Served as moderator for an open discussion that was part of Islam Awareness Week, sponsored by the Islamic Society of Boston University.

Library Liaison, Fall 2010 – Spring 2014. Communicate with the bibliographer for religion books at Mugar Memorial Library as the representative of the Religion department.

Member, Religion Department Curriculum Committee, 2009-10. On three-person committee charged with reviewing Religion Department offerings for undergraduates

Guest speaker, LGBTQ ministry at Marsh Chapel, November 18, 2009. Gave an informal talk on Buddhism and homosexuality.

Member, organizing committee for Honoring Eve, April-October 2009. Member of a group of faculty organizing a one-day symposium honoring the work of Eve Sedgwick held Oct 31 at Boston University. Co-leader of two undergraduate workshops designed to increase student awareness of and involvement in this symposium.

Representative, Major Choices, 2008, 2009. In the Fall semester of 2008 and 2009, represented the Religion Department at the Major Choices expo, an event designed to expose undeclared students to various majors.

Advisor, Boston University Summer Advising Program. Summer 2009-2011. Advised incoming freshmen on their Fall semester schedules.

Member, Humanities Curriculum Committee. 2008-2009, Fall 2013. Member of a committee that reviews and recommends for college-wide approval syllabi and degree programs within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Member, Boston University Center for the Study of Asia charter committee, Spring 2008. Collaborated on writing the charter for this new interdisciplinary center.

Member, search committee. 2007-2008. Member of a search committee that reviewed applications for a junior position in Religions of Asia, leading to a hire in Chinese Religions.

Co-Organizer, Tertulia 2007-2008. With another faculty member, organized this monthly series for junior faculty in the humanities in which members present their research and go to dinner afterwards. Booked rooms for presentations, arranged audio-visual equipment and took charge of mailing list.

Co-Organizer, Asian Studies Faculty Lunch Series, 2007-2008. With another faculty member, arranged this monthly lunch at which member of the BU faculty from all schools and disciplines relating to Asia presented their research.

Chair, Committee on Graduate Program Requirements, summer 2007. Led a three-member committee designed to assess the requirements of the Division of Religious and Theological Studies Ph.D. programs by comparing them to similar programs in the humanities at Boston University and other Ph.D. programs in religion. Convened meetings and prepared a report that was submitted to the College of Arts and Science Religion department in the September 2007 that incorporated my comparative research and interviews by the two other members of faculty in religion

Associate Director, Division of Religious and Theological Studies, 2006-2008. Led monthly workshops for teaching assistants and interviewed graduate students in order to place them in teaching assistant positions for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic year.

Faculty advisor, Students for Camp Heartland, a student organization that raises money for a summer camp for children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. 2006-2009

Faculty advisor, Women's Interfaith Action Group, a student organization that runs events designed to promote interfaith understanding. 2006-2008.

## **SERVICE OUTSIDE OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

### **American Academy of Religion**

Member, steering committee. 2008-2012. On the steering committee of a consultation, Religion, Memory, History, that is part of the American Academy of Religion. Developed calls for papers and evaluated submissions for our allotted two sessions in consultation with other steering committee members and the co-chairs of the consultation.

### **Asian Studies and Buddhist Studies Community**

Reader, Fellowship Applications, National Humanities Center, Fall 2012, 2013.  
Read fellowship applications pertaining to women in Japanese religion.

Member, Advisory Board, Japan Studies Dissertation Reviews. Fall 2012-present.  
Suggest dissertations to review and reviewers in the field of Japan studies for this series of reviews of recent dissertations.

Reviewer, Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship. Fall 2009. On a panel of thirteen reviewers. Evaluated applications for a fellowship enabling scholars to use the Asian Division Reading Room at the Library of Congress.

## **Boston Community**

Lecture “Buddhism in Japan” delivered to undergraduate classes at Showa Boston in Brookline MA. This is a branch of Showa Women’s University of Tokyo run for Showa students who want to learn English in the United States. March 9, 2009, December 10, 2011, and December 4, 2012.

#### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

Member, Kyoto joshi daigaku komonjo kenkyūkai, Kyoto, Japan, April-August 2002. Member of a research group at Kyoto Women’s University that met weekly to catalogue the archives of Mishima Jinja, a Shinto shrine.

Member, ama monzeki komojo chōsa, Kyoto and Nara, Japan, 2001-2002, 2008. Member of a research group led by Oka Yoshiko of Otemae University and Nishiguchi Junko of Sōai University and funded by Japan’s Ministry of Culture and Science. This group surveyed and catalogued documents from the archives of two convents, Reikanji and Chūgūji, during three three-day surveys.

Reviewer, *Publisher’s Weekly*, 1999-2001. Reviewed books on Buddhism and Asian religion.

#### **LANGUAGES**

Reading and speaking proficiency in modern Japanese

Reading proficiency in classical Japanese

Reading competence in classical Chinese and Sanskrit

Reading competence in French

#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

Associate in Research, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University