

Constance E. Kassor, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Lawrence University, Main Hall 411, Appleton, WI 54911
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EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D., West and South Asian Religions, Emory University
2005 B.A., Philosophy, Certificate in Buddhist Studies, Smith College

EMPLOYMENT

2016-present Lawrence University, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
2013-2016 Smith College, Visiting Lecturer, Religion Department
2012-2015 Rangjung Yeshe Institute Online Learning Program, Instructor and Course Developer

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

2013 “Is Gorampa’s ‘Freedom From Conceptual Proliferations’ Dialetheist? A Response to Garfield, Priest, and Tillemans.” *Philosophy East & West*, Vol. 63, Issue 3
2011 “Gorampa Sonam Senge on the Refutation of the Four Extremes,” in *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines*, no. 22
2009 “Buddhism in American Prisons.” *TransBuddhism: Transmission, Translation, Transformation*, Nalini Bhushan, Jay L. Garfield, and Abraham Zablocki, eds., Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press

Encyclopedia Entries

Forthcoming “Gorampa Sonam Senge.” *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, Wiley
2011 “Gorampa [go rams pa].” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Manuscripts in Preparation

“The Context(s) of ‘Correct Seeing’: Truth and Fiction in Tibetan Madhyamaka” (under review)
Unthinking the Thinkable: Rational Analysis, Nonconceptuality, and the Philosophy of Gorampa Sonam Senge
(book manuscript)
The Synopsis of Madhyamaka, an English Translation of *dbu ma'i spyi don* by Go rams pa bSod nams Seng ge (in collaboration with Ven. Dr. Khenpo Ngawang Jorden, Chödung Karmo Translation Group, International Buddhist Academy)

Other Publications

- 2016 “Review of *Engaging Buddhism: Why It Matters to Philosophy*.” *BuddhaDharma: The Practitioner’s Quarterly*
- 2011 “Remembering the Great Masters: Gorampa Sonam Senge.” *Melody of Dharma Magazine*, issue #6

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017-2018 Participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar, “The Good Life,” Lawrence University
- 2012 Medieval Academy of America, Hope Emily Allen Dissertation Research Grant, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2012 Participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Institute, “Investigating Consciousness,” College of Charleston
- 2011-2012 Andrew W. Mellon Internship, in collaboration with the exhibit, *Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism* at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Art, Emory University
- 2010-2011 Fulbright Institute of International Education Fellowship, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2009, 2012 Laney Graduate School Research Grant, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2007 Laney Graduate School Training Grant, Kathmandu, Nepal

INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2016 “How to Win Debates and Influence History: A Case Study From 15th-Century Tibet,” Smith College Alumnae South Asia Lecture Series, Northampton, MA, February 4
- 2014 “We Are What We Pretend To Be: Constructing Identity Through Argument in Tibetan Buddhism,” Emory University, Atlanta, GA, September 4
- 2013 “Thinking the Unthinkable: Rational Analysis, Nonconceptuality, and the Philosophy of Gorampa Sonam Senge,” Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 30
- 2012 “The Two Truths: The Scaffolding of Madhyamaka,” International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal, November 12
- 2012 “Madhyamaka in Tibet and Beyond: History, Development, Innovations,” International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal, November 11
- 2011 “What Does it Mean if Emptiness is Really Empty?” International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal, April 3
- 2011 “Why Study Gorampa? – On His Influence in Tibet, and Why He Should Be Influential in the West,” International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal, March 20

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2017 Discussant, “Responses to *Muslim Superheroes: Comics, Islam, and Representation*,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 18
- 2016 “The Roots of Compassion: Leaning Into Our Own Discomfort,” Five College Conference for Compassionate Leadership, Amherst, MA, April 16
- 2015 Panel organizer, “Women and Buddhist Philosophy,” American Academy of Religion

- annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 21
- 2015 “Rhetoric and Marginalization Through a Tibetan Buddhist Perspective,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 21
- 2015 “Tibetan Buddhists on Knowing How: Intellectualists, Anti-Intellectualists, Both, or Neither?” American Philosophical Association Central Division meeting, St. Louis, MO, February 18
- 2014 “Accounting for Appearances in Go rams pa bSod nams Seng ge’s *dbu ma’i spyi don*,” 17th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna, Austria, August 22
- 2011 “Nonimplicative Negation and Paraconsistency in Gorampa’s *spros pa dang bral ba*,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 18
- 2011 “The Suppression and Resurgence of Gorampa’s Philosophy,” Fulbright South and Central Asia Conference, Goa, India, March 15
- 2010 “Toward a Development of Western Madhyamaka: Who Does Nāgārjuna Want Us To Be?” Madhyamaka and Methodology Symposium, Smith College, Northampton, MA, April 24
- 2009 “How Do Buddhas Experience Emptiness, and What Does It Mean For the Rest of Us?” International Seminar of Young Tibetologists, Paris, France, September 7
- 2008 “Affirming and Negating Negation: Cataphatic and Apophatic Treatments of the *Catuṣkoṭi*,” American Academy of Religion Buddhist Philosophy Group, Chicago, IL, November 19
- 2008 “Gorampa, Negation, and the Tetralemma: A Critique of Tsongkhapa’s Approach to Emptiness,” Stanford Graduate Religion Conference on Transcendence, Stanford, CA, April 20

TEACHING

Lawrence University

Hinduism (Spring 2018)
 Religion and Comics (Spring 2018)
 Introduction to Religious Studies (Spring 2017, Winter 2018)
 Buddhist Philosophy: What is real, and how do we know? (Spring 2017)
 Buddhism in India and Tibet (Winter 2017)
 Religion in South Asia (Fall 2016)
 Freshman Studies (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

Smith College

Tibetan Buddhism (Spring 2016)
 Buddhism in America (Fall 2015)
 Buddhist Thought (Spring 2015)
 Gender, Religion, and Popular Culture in South Asia (Spring 2014)
 Religion in the Himalayas: Coexistence, Conflict, and Change (Spring 2014, Spring 2015)
 The Study of Buddhism (Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015)
 Buddhist Philosophy: Madhyamaka and Yogācāra (Spring 2013)

Amherst College

Religion in the Himalayas: Coexistence, Conflict, and Change (Fall 2015)

Hampshire College

Asian Religious Traditions in Text and Practice (Fall 2014)

Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Centre for Buddhist Studies at Kathmandu University

Buddhist Key Points (Summer 2013)

Introduction to Classical Tibetan (online) (2013-2015)

The Tibetan Alphabet (online) (Spring 2012-2015)

Emory University

Early and Medieval Buddhism (Spring 2012)

Technology and Pedagogy, A short course for Emory University's Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Orientation (Fall 2011)

Asian Religious Traditions, Teaching Associate (Fall 2008)

Buddhist Philosophy, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2008)

Early and Medieval Hinduism, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2007)

Study-abroad programs directed

Field Experience in Religious Studies: Buddhism in Nepal

A two-term course at Lawrence University on Buddhist philosophy and practice, involving fifteen days of intensive study at the International Buddhist Academy in Kathmandu, Nepal (2017-2018)

Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program

A one-month intensive study-abroad program for fifteen college students at the Central University for Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India (2013-2016)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript reviewer, Wisdom Publications, 2016

Steering Committee Member, Buddhist Philosophy Group, American Academy of Religion, 2016-present

Director, Buddhist Studies Concentration, Smith College, 2013-2016

Co-coordinator, Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar, 2013-2016

Conference organizing committee member, XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Atlanta, GA, 2008

Indexer, various Buddhist studies manuscripts for Oxford University Press and Wisdom Publications, 2005, 2008, 2010

LANGUAGES

Classical Tibetan (reading)
Colloquial Tibetan (conversational)
Sanskrit (reading)
Hindi (basic knowledge)

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Buddhist Academy, Affiliated researcher (Boudhanath, Nepal)
Chödung Karmo Translation Group, Translator (Boudhanath, Nepal)
Vasudhaiva Institute, Faculty (Oslo, Norway)
American Academy of Religion, Buddhist Philosophy Group Steering Committee member
American Philosophical Association
International Association of Buddhist Studies
Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, Ordained minister