

# Constance Kassor, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D.**, Religion, Emory University, 2014

**B.A.**, Philosophy, Smith College, 2005

**Languages:** Classical Tibetan, Modern Tibetan, Sanskrit

## EMPLOYMENT

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**Lawrence University** (2016-present)

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

**Smith College** (2013-2016)

Visiting Lecturer, Religion Department

**Ranjung Yeshe Institute Online Learning Program** (2012-2015)

Instructor and Course Developer

## PUBLICATIONS

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### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

**“Is Gorampa’s ‘Freedom From Conceptual Proliferations’ Dialetheist? A Response to Garfield, Priest, and Tillemans,”** in *Philosophy East & West*, Vol. 63, Issue 3, 2013

**“Gorampa Sonam Senge on the Refutation of the Four Extremes,”** in *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines*, no. 22, 2011

**“Gorampa [go rams pa]”** *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2011

**“Buddhism in American Prisons”** *TransBuddhism: Transmission, Translation, Transformation*, Nalini Bhushan, Jay L. Garfield, and Abraham Zablocki, eds., Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2009

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**“Review of *Engaging Buddhism: Why It Matters to Philosophy*”** in *BuddhaDharma: The Practitioner’s Quarterly*, Summer 2016

**“Remembering the Great Masters: Gorampa Sonam Senge,”** in *Melody of Dharma Magazine*, issue #6, 2011

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

***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)

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## GRANTS RECEIVED

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### **Medieval Academy of America** (2012)

Hope Emily Allen Dissertation Research Grant

### **National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Institute** (2012)

Awarded to participate in the institute, "Investigating Consciousness"

### **Andrew W. Mellon Internship** (2011-2012)

Developed educational materials for the exhibit, *Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism* at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Art

### **Fulbright Institute of International Education Fellowship** (2010-2011)

Awarded to conduct dissertation research in Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Laney Graduate School Research Grants** (2009, 2012)

Awarded to conduct dissertation research in Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Laney Graduate School Training Grant** (2007)

For training in colloquial Tibetan language in Kathmandu, Nepal

## SELECTED LECTURES and PRESENTATIONS

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### INVITED TALKS and PUBLIC LECTURES

#### **How to Win Debates and Influence History: A Case Study From 15<sup>th</sup>-Century Tibet**

(February 4, 2016) Smith College Alumnae South Asia Lecture Series, Northampton, MA

#### **We Are What We Pretend To Be: Constructing Identity Through Argument in Tibetan**

**Buddhism** (September 4, 2014) Emory University, Atlanta, GA

#### **Thinking the Unthinkable: Rational Analysis, Nonconceptuality, and the Philosophy of**

**Gorampa Sonam Senge** (July 30, 2013) Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal

#### **The Two Truths: The Scaffolding of Madhyamaka** (November 12, 2012) International

Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal

#### **Madhyamaka in Tibet and Beyond: History, Development, Innovations** (November 11,

2012) International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal

#### **What Does it Mean if Emptiness is Really Empty?** (April 3, 2011) International Buddhist

Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal

#### **Why Study Gorampa? – On His Influence in Tibet, and Why He Should Be Influential in the West** (March 20, 2011) International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

#### **The Roots of Compassion: Leaning Into Our Own Discomfort** (April, 2016) Five College

Conference for Compassionate Leadership, Amherst, MA

#### **Rhetoric and Marginalization Through a Tibetan Buddhist Perspective** (November, 2015)

American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA

#### **Tibetan Buddhists on Knowing How: Intellectualists, Anti-Intellectualists, Both, or**

**Neither?** (February 2015) American Philosophical Association Central Division meeting, St. Louis, MO

#### **Accounting for Appearances in Go rams pa bSod nams Seng ge's *dbu ma'i spyi don***

(August, 2014) 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna, Austria

#### **Nonimplicative Negation and Paraconsistency in Gorampa's *spros pa dang bral ba***

(November 2011) American Academy of Religion Buddhist Philosophy Group, San Francisco, CA

**The Suppression and Resurgence of Gorampa's Philosophy** (March, 2011) Fulbright South and Central Asia Conference, Goa, India

**Toward a Development of Western Madhyamaka: Who Does Nāgārjuna Want Us To Be?** (April 2010) Madhyamaka and Methodology Symposium, Smith College, Northampton, MA

**How Do Buddhas Experience Emptiness, and What Does It Mean For the Rest of Us?** (September, 2009) International Seminar of Young Tibetologists, Paris, France

**Affirming and Negating Negation: Cataphatic and Apophatic Treatments of the *Catuṣkoṭi*** (November 2008) American Academy of Religion Buddhist Philosophy Group, Chicago, IL

**Gorampa, Negation, and the Tetralemma: A Critique of Tsongkhapa's Approach to Emptiness** (April, 2008) Stanford Graduate Religion Conference on Transcendence, Stanford, CA

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## TEACHING

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### LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

**Religion in South Asia** (Fall 2016)

**Freshman Studies** (Fall 2016)

### 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) (Fall 2013-present)

**The Tibetan Alphabet** (online) (Spring 2012-present)

### EMORY UNIVERSITY

**Early and Medieval Buddhism** (Spring 2012)

**Asian Religious Traditions**, Teaching Associate (Fall 2008)

**Buddhist Philosophy**, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2008)

**Early and Medieval Hinduism**, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2007)

### OTHER TEACHING

**Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program**, Director (2013-2016)

Coordinated annual study-abroad program for fifteen college students at the Central University for Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India

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

**How to Write a CV or Résumé**, Series of workshops for Nepalese students interested in applying to colleges and universities in the U.S.A., United States Educational Foundation,

Kathmandu, Nepal (Spring 2011)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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

**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

**INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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**International Buddhist Academy** (Boudhanath, Nepal)

**Chödung Karmo Translation Group** (Boudhanath, Nepal)

**Jampa Choling Nunnery Institute** (Meeru, Kinnaur, India)

**Central University for Tibetan Studies** (Sarnath, India)

**Vasudhaiva Institute** (Oslo, Norway)

**American Academy of Religion**

**American Philosophical Association**

**International Association of Buddhist Studies**

**Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster** (Ordained minister)