

RICHARD H. DAVIS

Religion Program
Bard College
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TEACHING POSITIONS: Current Position

Bard College: Professor, Religion and Asian Studies Programs, 1997-present.
Chair, Religion Program (2002-present)
Asian Studies (2010-2011, 2012-present)

Previous Positions

Yale University: Assistant and Associate Professor, Dept. of Religious Studies, 1987-97.
School of the Art Institute of Chicago: Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Art History, 1986-87.
University of Chicago: Instructor, Social Science Collegiate Division, 1987.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (honors), 1986: University of Chicago, South Asian Languages and Civilization
Dissertation: "Ritual in an Oscillating Universe"
Advisor: Ronald Inden
Committee: Bernard Cohn, A.K. Ramanujan

M.A., 1978: University of Toronto, Center for Religious Studies
Thesis: "The Uses of Purity in Medhatithi's *Manubhasya*"
Advisor: Narendra K. Wagle

B.A., 1973: University of Chicago, History and Philosophy of Religion
Bachelor's Paper: "Nagarjuna's Philosophy of Language"
Advisor: Frank Reynolds

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

Global India circa 100 CE: South Asia in Early World History (Key Issues in Asian Studies) (Ann Arbor, MI: Association for Asian Studies, 2010)

A Priest's Guide for the Great Festival: Aghorasiva's Mahotsavavidhi (South Asia Research) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010)

Lives of Indian Images (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997)
Republication in paper, 1999

Republication in India, by Motilal Banarsidass, 1999

Winner, 1999 Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Award for best book in South Asian studies, from Association for Asian Studies

Excerpts in S. Brent Plate, ed., *Religion, Art, and Visual Culture: A Cross-Cultural Reader* (New York: Palgrave, 2002), pp. 176-181.

Excerpt in Rebecca M. Brown and Deborah S. Hutton, eds., *Asian Art* (Blackwells Anthologies in Art History) (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006). Pp. 127-139.

Ritual in an Oscillating Universe: Worshiping Siva in Medieval India (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991)

Republication in India, by Motilal Banarsidass, 2000

Catalogue

Gods in Print: Masterpieces of India's Mythological Art (San Rafael, CA: Mandala Publishing, 2012)

My contributions: "Introduction: A New Hindu Pantheon," chapter introductions, and all captions

Edited Volumes

Picturing the Nation: Iconographies of Modern India (New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2006)

Images, Miracles, and Authority in Asian Religious Traditions (Boulder: Westview Press, 1998)

Articles in Journals and Edited Volumes

"Krishna Enters the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 21.2 (2013): 31-42.

"Temple in a Frame: God Posters For and Of Worship," online publication by Tasveer Ghar: A Digital Archive of South Asian Popular Visual Culture, 2005.

(<http://www.tasveergharindia.net/cmsdesk/essay/97>)

Published in print, in *Tasveerghar: The Best of Tasveerghar*, eds. Sumathi Ramaswamy, Christine Brosius, and Yousuf Saeed (New Delhi: Yoda Press,

- forthcoming, 2013)
- “The *Paramparas* of Trautmann,” in *Knowing India: Colonial and Modern Constructions of the Past*, ed. Cynthia Talbot (New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2011). Pp. 388-393.
- “Addition, Erasure, and Adaptation: Interventions in the Rockcut Monuments of Mamallapuram” [with Vidya Dehejia], *Archives of Indian Art* 60.
- “Temples, deities, and the law,” in *Hinduism and Law: An Introduction*, eds. Timothy Lubin, Donald R. Davis, Jr., and Jayanth K. Krishnan (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). Pp. 195-206.
- “Manifestations of Siva in a Temple Festival: Iconography from a Priest’s Perspective,” in *Kaladarpana: The Mirror of Indian Art: Essays in Memory of Shri Krishna Deva*, eds. Devangana Desai and Arundhati Banerji (New Delhi: Arya Books, 2009).
- “Temple Festivals Present and Past,” *Tirukkuta Nannirallup Peruvila* (Festival Souvenir Volume) (Madurai: Minakshi-Sundaresvara Temple, 2009). Pp. 366-368.
- “Material and Visual in South Asia,” *Material Religion* 5.3 (2009): 361-363.
- “The Dancing Shiva of Shivapuram: Cult and Exhibition in the Life of an Indian Icon,” in *A Place for Meaning: Art, Faith, and Museum Culture*, eds. Amanda Millay Hughes and Carolyn H. Wood (Chapel Hill, NC: Ackland Art Museum, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009). Pp. 81-92.
- “The Rise and Fall of a Sacred Place: Ayodhya over Three Decades,” in *Culture and Belonging in Divided Societies: Contestation and Symbolic Landscapes*, ed. Marc Howard Ross (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009). Pp. 25-44.
- “A Hindu Golden Rule, In Context,” in *The Golden Rule: The Ethics of Reciprocity in World Religions*, eds. Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton (London: Continuum, 2008). Pp. 146-156.
- “Ethnosociology,” in *Studying Hinduism: Key Concepts and Methods*, eds. Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby (London: Routledge, 2008). Pp. 125-138.
- “Tolerance and Hierarchy: Accommodating Multiple Religious Paths in Hinduism,” in *Religious Tolerance in the World Religions*, eds. Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton (West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Foundation Press, 2008). Pp. 360-376.
- “From the Wedding Chamber to the Museum: Relocating the Ritual Arts of Madhubani,” in *What’s the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context*, eds. Jan Mrazek and Morgan Mitelka (Honolulu: University of Hawai’I Press, 2007). Pp. 77-99.
- “People of the Festival” [with Leslie C. Orr], in *Mélanges tantriques à la mémoire d’Hélène Brunner*, eds. Dominic Goodall and André Padoux (Collection indologie, 106) (Pondichery: French Institute of Pondichery, 2007). Pp. 73-97.
- “Who’s Who in the Cola Festival,” in *Sahrdaya: Studies in Indian and SouthEast Asian Art in Honour of Dr. R. Nagaswamy*, eds. B. Baumer, C. Prapandvidya, R. N. Misra, and D. Handa (Chennai: Tamil Arts Academy, 2006). Pp. 191-200.
- “Presence and Translucence: Appar’s guide to devotional receptivity,” in *Presence: The Inherence of the Prototype within Images and Other Objects*, eds. Rupert Shepherd and Robert Maniura (Histories of Vision) (Aldershot, U.K.: Ashgate, 2006). Pp. 87-104.
- “Memories of Broken Idols,” in *The Experience of Islamic Art on the Margins of Islam*, ed.

- Irene A. Bierman (Reading, U.K.: Ithaca Press, 2005). Pp. 133-156.
- “Altruism in Classical Hinduism,” in *Altruism in the World Religions*, eds. Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton (Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2005). Pp. 159-178.
- “Images: Veneration of Images,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion* (2nd edition), ed. Lindsay Jones (Detroit: Thompson Gale, 2005). Vol. 7, pp. 4379-4388.
- “The Cultural Background of Hindutva,” in *India Briefing: Takeoff at Last?* eds. Alyssa Ayres and Philip Oldenburg (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 2005). Pp. 107-139.
- “Iconoclasm in the era of strong religion,” *Material Religion* 1, 2 (2005): 261-267.
- “A Muslim Princess in the Temples of Visnu,” *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 8, 1-3 (2004): 137-156.
- “Devotional Aesthetics and Temple Icons,” *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai* 79 (2004): 45-62.
- “South Asia in the New Global History Textbooks,” *Education About Asia* 9, 1 (2004): 39-40.
- “Chola Bronzes in Procession,” in *The Sensuous and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India*, ed. Vidya Dehejia (New York: American Federation of Arts, 2002). Pp. 46-63.
- “Hudson Rethinks Bhagavata Thoughts,” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 11, 1 (2002): 27-44.
- “Wooden Flowers in the Museum: Reflections on a Decorated Nataraja,” *Orientations* 33,9 (2002): 54-61.
- “Indian Image Worship and Its Discontents,” in *Representation in Religion: Studies in Honor of Moshe Barasch*, eds. Jan Assmann and Albert I. Baumgarten (Leiden: Brill, 2001). Pp. 107-132.
- “Lighting Lamps of Ghee: Inscriptions and the Reconstruction of Medieval Hinduism,” in *Religious Texts and Material Contexts*, eds. Jacob Neusner and James F. Strange (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2001). Pp. 219-243.
- “Sadyojyoti’s Tattvatraya Nirnaya,” *Journal of Oriental Research* (Dr. S. S. Janaki Commemoration Volume) 68-70 (2000): 191-206.
- “Praises of the Drunken Peacocks,” in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. David Gordon White (Princeton Readings in Religion) (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000). Pp. 131-145.
- “The Story of the Disappearing Jains: Retelling the Saiva-Jain Encounter in Medieval South India,” in John E. Cort, ed., *Open Boundaries: Jain Communities and Cultures in Indian History* (Albany: S.U.N.Y. Press, 1998), pp. 213-224
- “The Iconography of Ram’s Chariot,” in *Contesting the Nation: Religion, Community and the Politics of Democracy in India*, ed. David Ludden (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996). Pp. 27-54.
Published in India as: *Making India Hindu: Community, Conflict, and the Politics of Democracy* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996).
Second edition: Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- “Writing as if Icons are Really Alive,” WorldWideWeb publication (Philadelphia: Center for the Advanced Study of India, 1996).
Published in print, in *Ethnography and Personhood*, ed. Michael Meister (Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 2000). Pp. 87-100.

- “A Brief History of Religions in India,” in *Religions of India in Practice*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton Readings in Religion) (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995). Pp. 3-52.
Reprinted in *Asian Religions in Practice: An Introduction*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999). Pp. 8-55.
Reprinted in *Religions of Asia in Practice: An Anthology*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002). Pp. 3-50.
- “The Rebuilding of a Hindu Temple,” in *Religions of India in Practice*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995). Pp. 627-36.
- “The Origin of Linga Worship,” in *Religions of India in Practice*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995). Pp. 637-48.
Reprinted in *Religions of Asia in Practice: An Anthology*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002). Pp. 150-61.
- “Trophies of War: The Case of the Calukya Intruder,” in *Perceptions of South Asia's Visual Past*, ed. Catherine B. Asher and Thomas R. Metcalf (Delhi: American Institute of Indian Studies, 1994). Pp. 161-77.
- “Three Styles in Looting India,” *History and Anthropology* 6,4 (1994): 293-317.
- “Indian Art Objects as Loot,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 52,1 (1993): 22-48.
Reprinted in *Architecture in Medieval India*, ed. Monica Juneja (South Asian History: Readings and Interpretations) (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2001). Pp. 584-613.
Reprinted in Sunil Kumar, ed., *Demolishing Myths or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India* (Delhi: Three Essays Press, 2008). Pp. 23-64.
- “Becoming a Siva, and Acting as One, in Saiva Worship,” in *Ritual and Speculation in Early Tantrism: Studies in Honour of Andre Padoux*, ed. Teun Goudriaan (Albany: S.U.N.Y. Press, 1992). Pp. 107-119.
- “Loss and Recovery of Ritual Self among Hindu Images,” *Journal of Ritual Studies* (Special Issue: "Art in Ritual Context") 6,1 (1992): 43-61.
- “Aghorasiva's Background,” *Journal of Oriental Research* (Dr. S.S. Janaki Felicitation Volume) 56-62 (1992): 367-78.
- “Bhakti Poetry” [interview] in *Vaisnavism: Contemporary Scholars Discuss the Gaudiya Tradition*, ed. Steven J. Rosen (New York: Folk Books, 1992). Pp. 89-100;
Reprinted in *Journal of Vaisnava Studies* 4, 4 (1996): 5-16.
- “Enlivening Images: The Saiva Rite of Invocation,” in *Shastraic Traditions in Indian Arts*, *Beitrag zur Sudasienforschung* No. 125, ed. A.L. Dallapiccola (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1989). Pp. 351-59.
- “Cremation and Liberation: A Saiva Siddhanta Revision,” *History of Religions* 28, 1 (1988): 37-53.
- “Way of Life: King, Householder, Renouncer” (review article), *Contributions to Indian Sociology* n.s. 20,1 (1986): 135-48.
- “South Asia at Chicago: A History,” COSAS New Series No. 1 (Chicago: University of Chicago Committee on Southern Asian Studies, 1985).
- “Cola *Meykkirttis* as Literary Texts,” *Tamil Civilization* 3,2-3 (1985): 1-5.

Book Reviews

- The World's Parliament of Religions: The East/West Encounter, Chicago, 1893*, by Richard Hughes Seager, In *H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (2012), 2 pp. www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=32292.
- Introduction to the History of Indian Buddhism*, by Eugène Burnouf, translated by Katie Buffetrille and Donald S. Lopez, Jr., In *H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (2011). 2 pp.
- Diptagama: Edition critique (Tome III)*, by Marie-Luce Barazer-Billoret, Bruno Dagens, and Vincent Lefevre, and *Two Saiva Teachers of the Sixteenth Century: Nigamajñana I and His Disciple Nigamajñana II*, by T. Ganesan, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 130.3 (2010): 492-493.
- Diptagama: Edition critique*, edited by Marie-Luce Barazer-Billoret, Bruno Dagens, and Vincent Lefevre, and *The Pancavaranastava of Aghorasiva*, edited by Dominic Goodall, et al., In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 128, 1 (2008): 22-23.
- Bhoga Karika of Sadyojata with the Commentary of AghoraSiva*, by W. A. Borody, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 128.2 (2008): 393-394.
- Ajanta: History and Development, vol. 1: The End of the Golden Age*, by Walter Spink, In *Material Religion* 4,1 (2008): 110-112.
- Ramayana of Valmiki* (5 volumes): "A Loeb Library for Sanskrit Classics," in *New York Sun, Arts and Letters*, May 21, 2007.
- Photos of the Gods: The Printed Image and Political Struggle in India*, by Christopher Pinney, In *Journal of Asian Studies* 65, 3 (2006): 648-651.
- Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India*, by James W. Laine, In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72, 4 (2004): 1045-50.
- Tiruvannamalai: Un lieu sivaite du Sud de l'Inde, vol 3: Rites et fetes*, by Francoise L'Hernault and Marie-Louise Reiniche, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124, 2 (2004): 382-383.
- Precolonial India in Practice: Society, Region, and Identity in Medieval Andhra*, by Cynthia Talbot, In *American Historical Review* 108 (2003): 498-99.
- Querying the Medieval: Texts and the History of Practices in South Asia*, by Ronald Inden, Jonathan Walters, and Daud Ali, In *Journal of Asian Studies* 61, 4 (2002)
- Women under the Bo Tree: Buddhist Nuns in Sri Lanka*, by Tessa J. Bartholomeusz, In *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 37.3 (2000): 372-74.
- Indian Epigraphy*, by Richard Salomon, In *Journal of Asian Studies* 59.2 (2000): 478-80.
- Tipu Sultan's Search for Legitimacy*, by Kate Brittlebank, In *Religious Studies Review* 26.1 (2000): 116.
- The Dance of Siva: Religion, Art and Poetry in South India*, by David Smith, In *Religious Studies Review* 24, 1 (1998): 121.
- The Raja's Magic Clothes: Re-Visioning Kingship and Divinity in England's India*, by Joanne Punzo Waghorne, In *History of Religions* 36, 2 (1997): 391-93.
- Dialogue and History: Constructing South India, 1795-1895*, by Eugene F. Irschick, In *Religious Studies Review* 22, 1 (1996): 84.
- The Ramayana of Valmiki: An Epic of Ancient India. Volume III: Aranyakanda*, by Sheldon I. Pollock, In *Journal of Asian Studies* 53, 1 (1994): 263-4.
- The Aphorisms of Siva: The SivaSutra with Bhaskara's Commentary, the Varttika*, by Mark S.G. Dyczkowski, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 114, 2 (1994): 312.
- Saints, Goddesses and Kings: Muslims and Christians in South Indian society, 1700-1900*, by Susan Bayly, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 114, 1 (1994): 127-29.

- Culture and Power in Benares: Community, Performance, and Environment, 1800-1980*, by Sandria B. Freitag, In *Journal of Ritual Studies* 8,1 (1994): 150-52.
- The Cult of Draupadi 2: On Hindu Ritual and the Goddess*, by Alf Hiltebeitel, In *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 29, 1-2 (1994): 133-34.
- Women, Branch Stories, and Religious Rhetoric in a Tamil Buddhist Text*, by Paula Richman, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 111, 4 (1991): 843-44.
- The Mumuksuppati of Pillai Lokacarya with Manavalamamuni's Commentary*, by Patricia Y. Mumme, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 110, 1 (1990): 151-52.
- The Doctrine of Vibration*, by Mark S.G. Dyczkowski, In *History of Religions* 29, 4 (1990): 424-26.
- Kilaiyur-Melappaluvur: Epanouissement d'une Dynastie Princièrre en Inde a l'Epoque Cola*, by Blandine Legrand, In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 109, 2 (1989): 323-25.
- "Minorities" on Themselves, by Hugh van Skyhawk, In *Journal of Asian Studies* 47, 3 (1988): 689-91.

PRESENTATIONS

2013

- Respondent for Panel on "On the margins of Jainism," American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD.
- "South Indian Temple Festivals in History" and "Sources of the South Indian Mahotsava," Workshop and Conference on "The Archeology of Bhakti," Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient, Pondicherry, India.
- "What Do the Hindu Gods Look Like Now?" Queens College Year of India Lecture Series, New York, NY.
- "Reflections on Bard's Asian Humanities Seminar," Workshop on Asian Civilizations, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

2012

- Respondent for Panel on "Indian religions and the Limits of Royal Patronage," American Academy of Religion, Chicago.
- "Pilgrim Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," New York Conference for Asian Studies, SUNY-New Paltz, New Paltz, NY.
- "Boat over Troubled Water: The *Bhagavad Gita* and Indian Nationalists," Hindu Studies Colloquium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- "A Mixture of Pure Waters: Thoreau Reads the *Bhagavad Gita* at Walden Pond," Department of Religion and Center for Humanities, Tufts University, Medford, MA.
- "Wilkins, Kasinatha, Hastings and the *Bhagavad Gita*," Department of Religious Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

2011

- "Three Hundred Gitas: The Reception of the *Bhagavad Gita* in the Twentieth Century," School of Art and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- "A Mixture of Pure Waters: Thoreau Reads the *Bhagavad Gita* at Walden Pond," Jnanapravaha, Mumbai.
- "Staging Hinduism in an American Museum," Roundtable on "Exhibiting the Art of India: Dilemmas and Discourses," Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA.
- "The Fate of God Posters Abroad," Conference on "The Conquest of the World as Picture," School of Art and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and at conference on "Making India Visible," Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.
- "Teaching Sanskrit at a Liberal Arts College," Workshop on South Asian Language Pedagogy,

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- Yale University, New Haven, CT.
Organizer and Chair, Panel on “Taxonomic Shifts and Indian Religious Art,” College Art Association, New York, NY.
- 2010
“A Mixture of Pure Waters: Thoreau Reads the *Bhagavad Gita* at Walden Pond,” Luther College, Decorah, IA.
- 2009
“Staging Hinduism in an American Museum,” Keynote Lecture for conference on “Heritage in Conflict and Consensus,” Institute for Advanced Theology, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.
“Minakshi’s Photo-Op,” Symposium of the American Council for Southern Asian Art, Denison University, Granville, OH.
“A Tale of Two Bronzes: From India to Los Angeles and Back Again,” Keynote address for Summer School symposium. “Objects on the Move: Circulation, Social Practice, and Transcultural Intersections,” University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany.
“Afterlives of the *Bhagavad Gita*: Oppenheimer, Isherwood, and the *Mahabharata* War,” Brown University, Providence, RI.
Participant in Roundtable Discussion on Sheldon Pollock, *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men*,” Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, IL.
- 2008
“Teaching South Asian Religions through the Arts,” Roundtable on Teaching Religion, American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL.
“Siva Crowned King of Madurai,” Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA.
Respondent for Panel on “Changing Uses of Buildings in India,” Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA.
- 2007
“Trautmann’s Legacy: *Aryans and British India*,” Conference on “Conceptualizing South Asia’s Past at Michigan: A Conference in Honor of Thomas R. Trautmann,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
“A History of Festivals in South India” Thyagaraja College, Madurai, Tamilnad, India.
“The Festival of the Devotees,” Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA.
“Temple in a Frame,” Critical Studies in South Asian Studies seminar series, New York University.
“The Art of the Procession,” South Asia Seminar, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- 2006
“Temple in a Frame,” American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC.
Respondent for Panel on “Powerful Objects: Materiality and Metonymy in Four Religious Traditions,” American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC.
Respondent for Panel “On History,” Conference on “Sacred Cows and False Prophets: A Conference in Honor of Ronald B. Inden,” University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
“The Art of the Procession,” Lehman Lecture, Department of Art, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME.
“What’s that British couple Doing in Jagannatha’s Procession,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Montreal, Quebec.
“Teaching Early Indian History,” Institute on Teaching about India, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Chattanooga, TN.
- 2005
“Ritual Inside and Outside the Text,” University of Chicago South Asian Seminar, Chicago, IL.
Respondent for Panel on “Money Problems: Money, Wealth, and Religion in South Asia,”

- American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Chola Images in Procession: Theory and Practice,” St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.
- “Chittrai Revisited: Continuity and Change in an Urban Temple Festival,” Columbia University South Asia Seminar, New York.
- “Aghorasiva’s Guide for an Ideal Temple Festival,” Conference on “Koyil: Invention, Imagination, Transmission and the Temples of Tamil Nadu,” University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- “Gods and their Places: Religious Dispute in Modern India,” Conference on “Contesting Culture: Narratives, Dramas and Representing Identity,” Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.
- “Chittrai Revisited: Changes in a South Indian Temple Festival,” Barbara Stoler Miller Memorial Conference, Columbia University, New York.
- 2004
- “Altruism, Dharma, and Devotion in Classical Hinduism,” Conference on “Altruism in the World Religions,” Institute for Advanced Theology, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.
- “Seeking God, God Seeking Us: Pilgrimage and Processions in South India,” Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.
- “Teaching Hinduism in an Age of Hindutva,” Madras Institute for Development Studies, Chennai, India.
- “Rewriting the History of India in the 1950s,” Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA.
- 2003
- “The Dancing Shiva of Shivapuram: Cult and Exhibition in the Life of an Indian Icon,” Keynote address for the Five Faiths Colloquium, Ackland Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
- “Lost and Found Bronzes,” Columbia University, Department of Art History, New York.
- “When Gods go to Bathe: Pilgrimage and Procession in India,” Conference on “Art and the Sacred: The Visual in Pilgrimage from Antiquity to China,” University of Chicago, Chicago.
- 2002
- “Lost and Found Bronzes: Ritual Burials, Lucky Finds, and the Art Market,” Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.
- “What’s that British Couple doing in Jagannatha’s Procession,” Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC.
- “Hudson Rethinks Bhagavata Thoughts,” Barbara Stoler Miller Memorial Seminar, Columbia University, New York.
- Participant in Round-table Discussion on “Recent Iconoclasm in South Asia,” College Art Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2001
- “Chola Bronzes and the Aesthetics of Bhakti,” University of Mumbai Department of Philosophy, Mumbai, India.
- “Relation of Indian Theist Philosophy and Temple Rituals,” MM Dr. P. V. Kane Memorial Lecture, The Asiatic Society of Bombay, Mumbai, India.
- “Preliminary Report: Processions in Medieval South India,” University of Delhi Department of History, Delhi, India.
- “Processions as Cultural Performances,” Conference on “Knowledge and its Objects in South Asia,” Columbia University, New York, NY.
- “Devotional Aesthetics and Temple Icons,” Workshop on “Value Systems in the Visual Arts of India and China,” Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K.
- “Two Ways of Looking at South Indian Bronzes,” Visual Culture Colloquium, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

- “Lighting Lamps of Ghee: Inscriptions and the Reconstruction of Medieval Hinduism,” Conference on “Religious Texts and Material Contexts,” University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL.
“The Impact of Images: Hinduism and Modernity,” Darien Community Association Academic Lecture Series on Global Issues, Darien CT.
- 2000
“The Religious Significance of Cola Bronzes,” Tamil Arts Academy, Chennai, India.
Participant in Workshop on “Value Systems in the Visual Arts of India and China,” Sussex Centre for Research in the History of Art, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K.
“Mother India’s Children: Displaying Devotion to the Nation,” Rudelson Lecture in Asian Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
“Tipu’s Tiger and Its Communities of Response,” Amherst College, Northampton, MA.
Organizer of Roundtable on “Iconographies of the Nation-State,” Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA.
- 1999
“Reflections on a Project with Dr. Janaki,” University of Texas South Asia Seminar, Austin, TX.
“Validity of Afterlives: The Didarganj Yaksi Reconsidered,” University of Pennsylvania South Asia Colloquium, Philadelphia, PA.
“The Lives of an Indian Image,” Drew University, Madison, NJ.
Organizer and Respondent in Panel on “Tracking Religious Specialists in South Asia and Beyond,” Association for Asian Studies, Boston.
- 1998
“Bharat Mata’s Children: Displaying Devotion to the Nation,” American Committee for Southern Asian Art, Charleston, SC.
Participant in Roundtable Discussion on “Indian Art and Performance: Effects of the World Market, Past and Present,” Independent Scholars of South Asia Seminar, Madison.
“Visions, Icons, and the Beginnings of Temple Hinduism,” University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
- 1997
“Intention and Efficacy in Hindu Devotionalism,” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco.
“Early Sightings of Vishnu,” University of Wisconsin Conference on South Asia, Madison.
Organizer of Panel on “The Iconography of the Indian Nation-State,” University of Wisconsin Conference on South Asia, Madison.
“Tipu’s Tiger and Its Communities of Response,” Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.
“Indian Image Worship and Its Discontents,” Jacob Taubes International Colloquium on “Iconoclasm: The Possibility of Representation in Religion,” Heidelberg, Germany; and Harvard University Committee on the Study of Religion, Cambridge, Mass.
Respondent in Panel on “Rethinking South Asian Ritual Traditions: The Jain Factor,” Association for Asian Studies, Chicago.
- 1996
“New Lives for a Nature Goddess: The Didarganj Yaksi in the Twentieth Century,” University of Michigan South and Southeast Asian Seminar, Ann Arbor.
“Memories of Broken Idols: Destruction and the Reconstruction of Indian Islam,” Giorgio Levi Della Vida Conference, University of California at Los Angeles.
“Indophilia and the Defining Moment of Indian Art,” College Art Association, Boston.
- 1995
“Muslims Worshiping in Hindu Temples,” University of Pennsylvania South Asia Seminar, Philadelphia, and American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia.
Respondent in Panel on “Comparative Study of Hinduisms and Judaisms,” American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia
“Lives of an Indian Religious Image: Divinized, Desecrated, Redeemed,” Center for the Advanced

- Study of India Seminar on Art and Ethnography, Philadelphia.
- "Tipu's Tiger and Its Communities of Response," Association of Art Historians (U.K.), London.
- 1994
- "After Iconoclasm: Hindu Narratives of Recovery," University of Wisconsin Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison.
- "Tipu's Tiger and Early Colonial Display," American Committee on South Asian Art, New York.
- "Somnath Reconstructed: Tracing a Communalized History," Association for Asian Studies, Boston.
- Respondent in Panel on "Temples: Real and Imagined," Association for Asian Studies, Boston.
- "The Iconography of Ram's Chariot," University of Pennsylvania South Asia Seminar, Philadelphia, PA.
- 1993
- Respondent in Panel on "Relations between Text and Ritual Practice in South Indian Hinduism," American Academy of Religion, Washington.
- "The Politics of Ram's Birthplace," Association of Yale Alumni Seminar on "Clash of Cultures: Ethnic and Religious Conflict in History," New Haven, and Yale International Studies Outreach Summer Institute on "Religious Conflict as a Global Phenomenon," New Haven.
- "Tales of Image Theft in South India," Asia Society Symposium on "From Temples to Television: Visual Symbols in the Religions and Politics of India," New York.
- "What Makes Siva Dance? Cosmology in Indian Art," Central Connecticut State University Philosophy Department, New Britain, Connecticut.
- "Temples, Art, and Dynastic Politics in Medieval South India," Yale Art Gallery, New Haven.
- 1992
- "Two Empires of India: Muslim North and Hindu South" and "Vasco da Gama and the Portuguese Encounter with the Hindu Gods," Association of Yale Alumni Seminar on "The World in 1492," New Haven.
- "Three Styles in Looting India," Association for Asian Studies, Washington.
- Participant in Round-table Discussion on "Greater Southern India in the Longue Duree," Association for Asian Studies, Washington.
- "Hindu Religious Images: Divinized, Desecrated, and Redeemed," Columbia University Department of Religion, New York.
- 1991
- "The Saiva-Jaina Encounter in South India," University of Wisconsin Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison.
- "The Politics of Rama's Birthplace," Yale Center for International and Area Studies, New Haven.
- "Unmiraculous Images: Early Muslim Encounters with the Idols of India," Association for Asian Studies, New Orleans.
- "Loss and Recovery of Ritual Self among Hindu Images," College Art Association, Washington.
- "The Dancing Siva from Pathur: Biography of an Indian Image," University of Chicago Department of Art, Chicago.
- 1990
- "Dynastic Images in the Medieval Indian State," University of Texas South Asia Seminar, Austin.
- Respondent in Panel on "Hindu Temple Imagery: Beyond Iconography," Association for Asian Studies, Chicago.
- 1989
- "Trophies of War: The Appropriation of Art Objects by Indian Rulers," A.I.I.S. Conference on "Perceptions of India's Past," Varanasi, India.
- "Becoming a Siva: Ritual and Moksa in Saiva Siddhanta," Columbia University Seminar on Oriental Thought and Religion, New York.

1988

"Pots, Diagrams, and Imagined Deities: Creating Space in Saiva Ritual," Association for Asian Studies New England Conference, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

"Who is a Brahman? What is a Veda? Contested Terrain in Indian Religions," Columbia University Southern Asian Institute, New York.

"Indian Art Objects as Loot," American Committee for South Asian Art, Richmond, Virginia.

"Cremation and Liberation," Oriental Club of New Haven.

Discussant in Panel on "The Visual in South Asian Culture," ACLS/SSRC Seminar on "South Asian Studies and the Humanities, New York.

1987

"The Displacement of the King in Saiva Abhiseka," American Academy of Religion, Boston.

1986

"Enlivening Images," Conference on "The Shastraic Tradition in the Indian Arts," Heidelberg University, West Germany.

"Cremation and Liberation," Association for Asian Studies, Chicago.

"Becoming a Siva: Saiva Rituals of Liberation," University of Chicago Workshop on South Asia, Chicago.

1984

"Cola Meykkirttis as Literary Texts," Tamil University Seminar on History and Archaeology of Tamilnadu during the Cola Period, Thanjavur, India.

1983

"Bhradisvara Temple as an Expression of Kingship," Tamil University, Thanjavur, India.

"South Asian Studies: What's the Point?" University of Chicago South Asian Seminar Series, Chicago.

1977

"Structure and Hermeneutic in the Krsna Legend," Canadian Association of Asian Studies, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS

2007

"Festivals of the Minakshi Temple," Online exhibition, hosted at Image Database to Enhance Asian Studies (www.ideasproject.org/collections)

1986

"Power, Devotion, and Dance: Photographs of South Indian Art," University of Chicago South Asia Commons.

HONORS AND GRANTS

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (2011-12)

Bard College Research Grant (2011-2012)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (2007)

Asian Cultural Council Fellowship (2007)

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2001-02)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers (2001-02)

American Institute for Indian Studies Short-term Research Grant (2001-02)

Bard College Research Grant (2000)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (1999)

ACLS / Cummings Foundation Contemplative Practices Fellowship (1999-2000)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers (1994)
Whitney Humanities Center Fellow, Yale University (1993-94)
Morse Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University (1990-91)
A.I.I.S. Short-term Research Grant (1990)
A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grant, Yale University (1989)
Paul Moore Fund for Undergraduate Instruction, Yale University (1988)
Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship (1985-86)
Committee on Southern Asian Studies Grant, University of Chicago (1985)
Fulbright-Hays Junior Research Fellowship (1983-84)
A.I.I.S. Language Training Fellowship (Tamil) (1981-82)
N.D.E.A. Title VI Language Fellowship (Tamil) (1979-81)
University of Chicago Humanities Fellowship (1978-79)
University of Toronto Open Fellowship (1976-78)
North American Aviation Management Scholarship (1969-73)

COURSES TAUGHT

Approaches to the Study of Religion (1992, 1993)
Asian Humanities Seminar (2009, 2010)
Bali: Religion, Culture, Society (2000)
Classical Indian Philosophy (2008, 2013)
Contemplative Traditions of Asia (1999, 2000)
Devotion and Poetry in Medieval India (1988, 1989, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2013)
Empires: Ancient and Modern (2008)
Gandhi: Life, Philosophy and Strategies of Non-Violence (2011)
Hindu Mythology (2008)
Hindu Religious Literature (1988, 1990, 1996)
Hindu Religious Traditions (1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2012)
Hinduism in the Epics (2004, 2007, 2011)
Hindus in the Modern World (1999)
History of Early India (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007)
History of Indian Buddhism (1989, 1990)
Interpretation of Cultures (1987)
Introduction to South Asian Civilization (1992, 1995)
Modern Study of Religion (1998, 2000)
Myth and Symbol in Indian Art (1986, 1987, 1991, 1993)
Myth and the Arts in India (1999, 2003, 2006)
Popular Arts in Modern India (2007, 2010, 2013)
Primitive Art in Civilized Places (1998)
Ramayana (First-year Seminar) (1999)
Reading Religious Texts (2000, 2003, 2010)
Religion Colloquium
Religion in Colonial Society (1992)
Religious Fundamentalisms and Secular States (1996)
Ritual and Performance Studies (2003, 2006)

Ritual in Indian Society (1988)
Sacred Pursuits (2012)
Sanskrit (Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced)
Seeing Gods: Vision, Image, and Temple (1998, 2001, 2003)
Tamil (Elementary)
Tibetan and Himalayan Art (1987)

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Bard College

Active Member of Programs in Religion and Asian Studies
 Chair, Religion Program (2000-01, 2002-present)
 Chair, Asian Studies Program (1998-99, 2005-06, 2010-11, 2012-13)
AAUP Executive Committee (2000-01, 2004-2005)
Faculty Senate, Chair (2002-03)
Faculty Evaluation Review Committee (2006-2008, 2012-2014)
 (Chair, 2013-2014)
College Evaluation Committee (2011)
Divisional Secretary, Social Studies Division (1998-99)
Council Member, Bard Graduate Studies Council (1998-99)
Faculty Evaluator, Social Studies Division (2000-01)
Search Committees: Chinese History position (1998)
 Buddhist Studies (Chair) (1999-2000)
 Japanese Studies (2000)
 Islamic Studies (Chair) (2002-03)
 Ethnomusicology (2005)
 Islamic Studies (Chair) (2006-07)
 Islamic Studies (Chair) (2007-08)
 Ethnomusicology (2012-13)
 Islamic Studies (Chair) (2013-14)
Participation in Successful College Grant Applications
 Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (1999)
 Luce Fund for Asian Studies (2000)
 Freeman Foundation Asian Studies Initiative (2001)
Participation in Bard-related symposia and workshops
 NEH Faculty Humanities Workshop, coordinated by Institute for Writing and Thinking (Apr
 2006, July 2006, Nov. 2006, March 2007)
 Institute for Advanced Theology programs:
 Miracles in the World's Religions (2003)
 Altruism in the World's Religions (2004)
 Public Policy and the Politics of Religious Tolerance (2007)
 The Golden Rule in World Religions (2008)
 Can War Be Just? (2012)
Board Member, NYSICCSI (Semester in India Consortium)
 Board Chair (2003)
Coordinator, Balinese Gamelan Ensembles at Bard (1998-2006)
 Member of Giri Mekar gamelan ensemble (1998-present)
Faculty Adviser, Sanskriters

Yale University

South Asian Studies Committee, Center for International and Area Studies (Chair, 1989-1996)
(Research Associate, 1997-present)
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies (1995-97)
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept. of Religious Studies, Yale University (1988-90)
Yale College Admissions Committee (1988-89)
Davenport College Freshman Counselor
Member, Gamelan Jagat Anyar (Balinese Gamelan Ensemble) (1993-1997)

General Scholarly Service

Association for Asian Studies

Associate Editor for South Asia, *Journal of Asian Studies* (1999-2004)
South Asian Regional Council, Association for Asian Studies (2001-2004)
Selection Committee, A. K. Coomaraswamy Award, Association for Asian Studies (2008-2010), Chair (2009-10)

American Council for Southern Asian Art

Secretary (1998-2001)

American Academy of Religion

Steering Committee, Religion in South Asia section (1995-98)
Steering Committee, Hinduism Group (2008-present), Co-chair (2011-present)

Manuscript Evaluation: Book Presses

S.U.N.Y. Press (1988, 1998), College Art Association Monograph Series (1993),
Association for Asian Studies Monograph Series (1994, 2009), E.J. Brill (1994), Oxford
University Press (1998, 2001, 2005, 2008, 2011), Indiana University Press (2002), Princeton
University Press (2002, 2008), University of British Columbia Press (2003), Columbia
University Press (2005), Georgetown University Press (2005), Blackwell (2006), University
of Hawaii Press (2010), French Institute of Pondicherry (2011), Yale University Press
(2012), University of California Press (2013)

Manuscript Evaluation: Journals

Art Bulletin (1997, 2000), *Journal of Asian Studies* (1998, 2007), *International Journal of
Hindu Studies* (1999, 2000, 2013), *International Journal of Cultural Property* (2000),
History of Religions (2006), *Material Religion* (2006), *Education about India* (2010),
Comparative Studies in Society and History (2012)

Project Reviewer:

Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College (1990, 1991, 1993)
Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (1991, 1997)
National Endowment for the Humanities (1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2004)
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (1997, 1999, 2000, 2003,
2005)

Fellowship Application Screener:

Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Field Research Fellowships
(2003, 2004, 2005)
National Endowment for the Humanities, Teaching Development Fellowships (2009)
Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowships (2012,
2013)

External Dissertation Examiner:

McMaster University (1990, 2003)
Columbia University (2000)

Concordia University (2008)
University of Madras (2011, 2013)

External Promotion Evaluations:

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (1999), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (1999), University of Denver (2000), Cornell University (2002), Wesleyan University (2003), Vassar College (2004), University of North Carolina (2004), Whitman College (2006), Mt. Holyoke College (2007), Northeastern University (2009), Tufts University (2010), University of Toronto (2011), University of Texas (2011, 2012), Southern Methodist University (2011), University of Montana (2011), State University of New York at New Paltz (2013), Johns Hopkins University (2013)

External Program Evaluations:

Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University (2002)
Asian Studies Program, Colgate University (2008)

Associated Colleges of the Midwest Semester in India Program (2011)

Consulting Editor, *Calliope* 3.4 (March/April 1993) Special Issue on "Hinduism"