

## ***CURRICULUM VITAE***

**LAUREN G. LEVE**

Department of Religious Studies  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
125 Carolina Hall, CB #3225  
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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Princeton University**

Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, 1999  
M.A., Department of Anthropology, 1993

#### **University of Chicago**

A.B., Anthropology, 1990

#### **Simon's Rock of Bard College**

A.A., Liberal Arts, 1987

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Department of Religious Studies  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies, 7/2011 to current  
Assistant Professor, 2004-2011  
    Department of Asian Studies, Affiliated Faculty  
    Curriculum in Global Studies, Affiliated Faculty

#### **New School for Social Research**

Department of Anthropology  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, 2002-2004

#### **Wellesley College**

Department of Anthropology  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, 1999-2002

#### **Tribhuvan University, Center for Nepal and Asian Studies (KTM, Nepal)**

Fulbright Foundation Research Associate, 1994-96

### **GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

#### **Institute for Arts and Humanities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Faculty Fellow, Fall 2007  
Ellison Family Faculty Fellow, Spring 2019

**Lenovo Instructional Innovation Grant.** UNC Center for Faculty Excellence.  
 “Himalayan Buddhism Through Virtual Reality: Developing 3D Models and Virtual Reality Experiences for Use in Teaching Himalayan Buddhism.” 2018.

**Course Development Grant for Integrated First Year Seminar.** With Dr. Lisa Pearce (UNC, Sociology). “Researching Religion in Women’s Lives.” 2017.

**Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research with the Institute for Arts and Humanities, UNC**  
 FIRE Grant: “Researching effects of climate change on Buddhist Holy Lakes in Tibet and India”  
 Awarded to a team of co-PIs: myself, Dr. Richard McLaughlin and Dr. Roberto Camasso from UNC’s  
 Math Department and Dr. Harvey Seim from UNC’s Department of Marine Sciences.) 2016.

**Carolina Asia Center**

Jimmy and Judy Cox Asia Initiative Summer Travel Award, 2014

**Carolina Women’s Center**

Faculty Scholar 2013-14

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Office of the Provost**

Junior Faculty Development Award, 2007

**Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation**

Research Award 2004

**Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University**

Program Fellow, 2004-2005 Academic Year

**Woodrow Wilson Society of Fellows, Princeton University**

1996-98

**Spencer Foundation**

Research and Writing Award for Education and Public Policy, 1998

**Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 1997-1998

**US Department of Education, Foreign Language and Area Studies (Title VI) Fellowship (Nepali)**

South Asia Program and Department of Modern Languages, Cornell University

Summer 1998

**Center of International Studies, Princeton University**

Daiwa Award, 1997

**J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board/Institute of International Education**

Fulbright Grant for dissertation research in Nepal, 1994-1996

**American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council**

Dissertation Fellowship for Area Research, 1994-1996

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## Books

*The Buddhist Art of Living in Nepal: Ethical Practice and Religious Reform*. London: Routledge. 2016.

- Winner of the 2017 James Fisher Prize for First Books on the Himalayan Region (awarded by the Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies)
- Reprinted for a special Nepal edition by Mandala Book Point, 2018 (now in second printing)

## Journal Articles

“Cruel Optimism, Christianity and The Post-Conflict Optic.” *Fieldsights - Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology Online*, March 24, 2014, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/cruel-optimism-christianity-and-the-postconflict-optic>

“Identity.” *Current Anthropology*. Vol. 52, No. 4 (August 2011): 513-535. 2011.

“Women’s Empowerment and Rural Revolution: Rethinking Failed Development” *Dialectical Anthropology*, Volume 33, Numbers 3-4, pp. 345-363, DOI: 10.1007/s10624-009-9130-9 (Special Issue: “Windows into a Revolution: Ethnographies of Maoism in South Asia”). 2009.

“‘Failed Development’ and Rural Revolution in Nepal: Rethinking Subaltern Consciousness and Women’s Empowerment.” *Anthropological Quarterly*. Vol. 80, no.1 (Winter 2007): 127-172. 2007. (Reprinted in *Theorizing NGOs: Feminist Struggles, States and Neoliberalism*. Victoria Bernal and Inderpal Grewal, eds. Durham: Duke University Press. 2014.)

“Subjects, States and the Politics of Personhood in Theravada Buddhism in Nepal.” *The Journal of Asian Studies*. Vol. 61, no. 3 (August 2002): 833-860. 2002.

“Between Jesse Helms and Ram Bahadur: NGOs, Women, ‘Participation,’ and ‘Empowerment’ in Nepal.” *PoLAR: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. Vol. 24, No. 1 (May 2001): 108-28. 2001.

Leve, Lauren and Lamia Karim

“Introduction: Privatizing the State: Ethnography of Development, Transnational Capital, and NGOs.” *PoLAR: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. Vol. 24, No. 1 (May 2001): 53-58. 2001.

Under review. “‘The Right Dharma for Today’: Mindfulness and Modernity in Contemporary Nepal.”

Under review. “Democracy, Secularism and Meditation in Nepal: Neoliberal Transition and Religious Change.”

## Book Chapters

“Becoming a Theravada Modernist Buddhist in Contemporary Nepal.” In *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism Through the Lives of Practitioners*. Todd Lewis, ed. New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell. 2014.

“‘Failed Development’ and Rural Revolution in Nepal: Rethinking Subaltern Consciousness and Women’s Empowerment.” In *Theorizing NGOs: Feminist Struggles, States and Neoliberalism*. Victoria Bernal and Inderpal Grewal, eds. Durham: Duke University Press. 2014.

“Women’s Empowerment and Rural Revolution: Rethinking ‘Failed Development.’” In *Windows into a Revolution: Maoism in South Asia*. Alpa Shah and Judith Pettigrew, eds. New Delhi: Social Science Press (with Berghahn, Oxford). 2012.

“Secularism is a Human Right!: Double-Binds of Buddhism, Democracy and Identity in Transnational Nepal.” In *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*. Sally Merry and Mark Goodale, eds. pp. 78-113. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

“Situation du Népal.” In *Atlas Alternatif: Le Monde à l’heure de la Globalisation impériale*. pp.398-404. Paris: Le Temps de Cerises. 2006.

### **Un-refereed Publications**

“Strength, Security, Resilience and Nepal’s Great Earthquake: Disaster and Recovery.” Anthropology News. <http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2015/06/08/strength-security-resilience-and-nepals-great-earthquake/>. Published June 9, 2015.

“Lauren Leve on Buddhism in the New Nepal.” Published by McGill University Institute of Transcultural Psychiatry. 2013. (Podcast). <http://vimeo.com/76080467>

Review of *Many Tongues, One People: The Making of Tharu Identity in Nepal* (Arjun Guneratne). *American Ethnologist*. Vol. 32. No. 1 (Feb. 2005).

Review of *Sensory Biographies: Lives and Deaths Among Nepal’s Yolmo Buddhists* (Robert Desjarlais). *Journal of Asian Studies*. Vol. 64. No. 1 (Feb. 2005).

“Humility, Compassion and a Scandalous Anthropology of the Human Condition” Mid Week Magazine Special Issue, THE ISLAND (Colombo, Sri Lanka). *Tribute to Gananath Obeyesekere*. Compiled by H.L. Seneviratne and M.W.A. de Silva. February 2, 2005.

“Framing Religion, Politics and Culture in *Janajati* (Ethnic) Activism: Lessons from Theravada Buddhism.” *Himalayan Research Bulletin* Vol. 20 (2000), no. 1-2, pp. 10-12.

### **Refereed Unpublished Oral Presentations**

*Presenter, Panel Organizer and Chair*. “The Case of the Boat on the Sacred Lake: Doing Climate Science (and Anthropology) in Contested Nepal.” Paper Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Panel: Climate Contradictions: Sacred/Sentient Mountains, Science and the Anthropocene in the Andes and the Himalayas (co-organized with Ana Mariella Bacigalupa). Vancouver, CA November 20, 2019.

*Presenter*. ‘To Be Cared For’: A Roundtable Discussion of the 2018 Cohn Prize-Winning Book. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Denver, CO. March 21-24, 2019.

*Presenter*. “Pure Dhamma That Is Not Buddhism: Religion, Secularism, and Truth in S.N. Goenka’s Meditation Tradition.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Panel: Theravada Buddhist Experiences of Secularism in South and Southeast Asia. Denver, CO. November 18, 2018.

*Discussant.* “Healing, Ritual and Belonging: Explorations of Christianity in Nepal.” The Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya. Kathmandu, Nepal. July 25-27, 2018.

*Presenter.* “God Will Never Abandon Us: Women, Christianity and the Neoliberal State of Nepal.” Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. October 27, 2017

*Organizer and Presenter.* Paper title: “Disaster, Response, and Ethical Debate: Christian Aid in the Context of the Nepal Earthquake” as part of the panel “Unanticipated Distortions: Deciphering Post-Disaster Discourses Among Activists, Experts and Survivors.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 19, 2016.

*Presenter.* Roundtable titled: “The Left in South Asia: Whither Revolution?” Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. October 23, 2016

*Public Lecture.* “Violence, Culture and Ethical Complexity in Actually-Existing Buddhism” Given as part of the UNC Humanities and Human Values Program’s seminar on “Religious Beliefs and Religious Violence.” September 12, 2015.

*Chair and Moderator.* Roundtable discussion of Nepal’s Great Earthquake. Roundtable took place at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 20, 2015.

*Presenter.* “God Has Said That He’ll Never Abandon Us”: Citizenship, Sovereignty and the Contested State in the Rise of Christianity in Nepal.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Panel: Gods into Politics: Political Positionings Against/Within Religious Domains. December 3, 2014.

*Presenter.* “The End of the Peace Process? Insecurity, Democracy and Christian Women in Nepal.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Panel: Critical Perspectives on Peacebuilding After Violent Conflict. November 22, 2013.

*Presenter.* “Women’s Empowerment in the Wake of War: Agency, Creativity and Institutional Change in Nepal.” Presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Panel: Development and NGOs in South Asia: Feminist Debates on Empowerment- Sponsored by the South Asia Council. March 2, 2013.

*Presenter.* “Of Conflict and Conversion: Engaging the Post-Conflict through the Lens of Christianity in Nepal.” Presented at the American Ethnological Society Annual Meetings. Panel: “Interrogating the ‘Post-Conflict’: Temporality, Affect, and Social Transformation”. April 11-13, 2013.

*Respondent.* Panel titled “Rethinking Post-Colonialism in Non-Colonial Places.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 16-20, 2011.

*Presenter.* “Secularism Through the Lens of Religious Reform: Political Economy and Religious Citizenship in Nepal’s Neoliberal Age”. Conference title: Changing Dynamics in Nepali Society and Politics. Organized by the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, Social Science Baha and Alliance for Social Dialogue. August 17-19, 2011. Kathmandu, Nepal.

*Presenter.* “Rethinking Secularism and Religion in Nepal through Reformist Buddhist Practices of Politics and Reason.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Panel: “Secular/Religious Again?” Dec. 2-6, 2009.

*Presenter.* “Secularism and Democracy in Nepal.” Presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Special panel organized by the South Asia Council: “Explosions of Democracy: Conflict and Consensus in New Modalities of Governance in South Asia.” March 26-29, 2009.

*Panel Organizer and Presenter:* “Buddhism in the South Asian Context: What Can Newars Teach Buddhist Studies?” American Academy of Religion (Buddhism Section) Annual Meeting. Nov. 1-3, 2008.

*Presenter.* “Neoliberal Democracy and the Buddhist Paradox: Ontologies of Identity in Nepal.” Presented at the American Ethnological Society Annual Conference. Panel: “Exporting Democracy.” April 3-6, 2008.

*Respondent/Roundtable Participant.* “Poverty, Inequality and the State.” North Carolina Center for South Asian Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. January 11-13, 2008.

*Presenter.* “The Right Dharma for Today? Buddhist Practice, Ethical Reform and the Buddhist Art of Living in Neoliberal Nepal.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Panel: Globalization and Subjectivity. Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2007.

*Respondent.* Panel titled “Paths Taken and Not Taken in the Anthropology of Buddhism: Assessment of the Field and Current Directions of Research.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2007.

*Presenter.* “The Best Dharma for Today: Newar Buddhism, Globalization and the Theravada Turn.” Presented at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Panel: “Buddhist Traditions among Tibeto-Burman Peoples.” March 22-25, 2007.

*Presenter, Session Co-Organizer and Co-Chair.* “Refiguring Religion in Neoliberal Nepal.” Invited Session (Society for the Anthropology of Religion) titled: “Neoliberal Religion/Neoliberal Secularism.” (panel organized and chaired with Ilana Gershon) American Anthropological Association Meetings November 15-19, 2006.

*Presenter.* “Protestant Buddhism, Post-Protestant Buddhism and the “Art of Living” in Neoliberal Nepal.” Presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. Panel titled: “The Legacy of Gananath Obeyesekere.” October 15-19, 2006.

*Presenter.* “Secularism is a Human Right!: Double Binds of Buddhism, Democracy and Identity in Nepal.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Invited Session (Association of Political and Legal Anthropology and AAA Committee on Human Rights) titled: “Transnationalism and the Anthropology of Rights.” Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 2005.

*Presenter.* “Buddhist Citizenship, National Hinduism and the Cultural Politics of Rights in Nepal” Paper prepared for IUAES Intercongress, Kolkata 2004. Panel titled: Minorities, Nationalism and Human Rights Violations in South Asia and the World. Dec. 10-12, 2004.

*Presenter, Session Co-Organizer and Co-Chair.* “Identity.” Panel titled: “The New Keywords: Unveiling the Terms of an Emerging Orthodoxy” (panel organized and chaired with David Graeber) Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Nov. 19-23, 2003.

*Presenter, Session Co-Organizer and Co-Chair.* ““A Garden of Every Kind of People’: Hinduism, Historiography, and the Making of Postcolonial Pluralism in Nepal, 1854-2002.” Panel titled:

“Dislocating/Re-situating South Asian Anthropology: Critical Perspectives on Knowledge Formation from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka” (panel organized and chaired with Lamia Karim). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 20-24, 2002.

*Presenter.* “Bringing Women In? The Ironic Politics of Development and the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal.” Presented at the Nepal Studies Association sub-conference “War on Terrorism/War as Terror: Cases from Nepal, Afghanistan, and Kashmir” (organized in conjunction with the annual conference on South Asia., Madison, WI.) October 10-13, 2002.

*Presenter.* “Economies of Empowerment: Gender, Culture and Development in Nepal.” Presented at the AES/CSA/CASCA joint conference on Culture, Difference, Inequality. Panel titled: “Unanticipated Bedfellows and Unintended Consequences.” Montreal, Canada. May 3-6, 2001.

*Presenter.* “‘Dedicated to Creativity and Conservation’: Culture, Commodification, and Development in Nepal.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings. Panel titled: “Global Discourses and Local Institutions: Ethnography of Interpretation and Action.” November 15-19, 2000

*Presenter.* “Gender and Culture in Women’s Empowerment Programming in Nepal.” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI. Panel titled: “Globalization and Discourses of the Feminine in South Asia.” October 12-15, 2000.

*Presenter, Session Co-organizer and Co-chair.* “Between Jesse Helms and Ram Bahadur: States, Stakes and Agencies of Women’s Literacy in Nepal.” Panel titled: “Privatizing the State: Ethnography of Development, Transnational Capital, and NGOs.” (panel organized and chaired with Lamia Karim). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 17-21, 1999.

*Presenter.* “Education, Empowerment and Essentialization: the (Mis)Representation of ‘Woman’ in USAID’s Nonformal Education Programming in Nepal.” Paper presented at the International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Meeting. June 20-22, 1997.

*Presenter.* “Situating and Historicizing Human Rights in Democratic Nepal.” Co-written paper (with Vincanne Adams) presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. Panel titled: Human Rights in Nepal. October 15-17, 1999.

### **Invited Talks and Workshops**

*Public Lecture.* “God Will Never Abandon Us: Christian Women, Moral Agency and the Nepal State.” University of Washington. December 5, 2019.

*Presidential Panelist.* Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Conference: Politics of Religious Knowledge and Ignorance. Toronto, CA. May 21-23, 2019.

*Public Lecture.* “Globalizing Vipassana: Buddhism and the Secular in the Goenka Meditation Movement.” University of Toronto. March 7, 2019.

*Paper Presenter.* “Habit, Spirit and Technologies of the Self: What Can Newar Buddhists Teach?” Presented at the invitational workshop/conference “Habits and Spirits: Sound, Place, Technology.” King’s College London. May 3, 2016.

*Public Lecture.* “Violence, Culture and Ethical Complexity in Actually-Existing Buddhism” Given as part of the UNC Humanities and Human Values Program’s seminar on “Religious Beliefs and Religious Violence.” September 12, 2015

*Discussant and Panel Chair.* *Bordering the Borderless: Faces of Modern Buddhism in East Asia.* Duke University. October 5, 2013.

*Discussant.* *Buddhist Modernity in the Himalayas.* Duke University. January 31, 2013.

*Public Lecture.* “The Best Dharma for Today”: Mindfulness Meditation in Contemporary Nepal” Presented at 2013 Advanced Studies Institute, McGill University Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry. Institute topic: “Mindfulness in Cultural Context.” June 2-5, 2013.

*Public Lecture.* “What Else Could She Do With That Amount of Suffering? Rebuilding Gendered Lives in the Wake of Civil War in Nepal.” Conference Title: Feminist Perspectives on Women’s Global Health and Human Rights. Organized by the UNC Department of Women’s Studies. March 16, 2012.

*Commentator.* Sawyer Seminar, “Sensing the Unseen”. MIT, Department of Anthropology. March 4, 2011.

*Participant.* *Everyday Religion and Sustainable Environments in the Himalayas Initiative Consultation.* Organized by the New School, India-China Institute. Kathmandu, Nepal. July 30, 2011.

*Public Lecture.* “‘The Best Dharma for Today’: Political-Economy and Post-Protestant Reform in Nepal’s Theravada (Buddhist) Turn.” Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan. April 4, 2010.

*Presentation* on Bhutanese refugees and the Nepal context to the Bhutanese Resettlement Program Refugee Working Group, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University. October 9, 2009.

*Public Lecture.* “The Right Dharma for Today”: Buddhist Revival and Neoliberal Reform in Post 1990 Nepal.” Asia Policy Institute, University of British Columbia. May 1, 2008.

*Public Lecture.* “Reworking Religion in Post-1990 Nepal: Rights, Regulation and Buddhist Self-Representation.” Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University. October 10, 2007.

*Participant and Presenter.* “Ethical Practice, Religious Reform and the Buddhist ‘Art of Living’ in Neoliberal Nepal.” Workshop titled: Genealogies of Virtue: Ethical Practice in South Asia. Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia. September 6-8, 2007.

*Public Lecture.* “Not-selves in the Identity Machine: Neoliberal Democracy, Globalization and the Theravada Buddhist Paradox in Nepal.” Department of Anthropology, Cornell University. April 30, 2007.

*Participant and Presenter.* “Children in Armed Conflict,” Invitation-only conference convened by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. Ascona, Switzerland. August 20-25, 2006.

*Participant and Presenter.* “Sisters and Daughters of Baburam Bhattarai: Gendered Development and Self-Actualization in Nepal.” Paper prepared for the COE (Center of Excellence) International Symposium organized by the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University (conference planned in conjunction with the conclusion of a five-year COE project (2002-2006) of Integrated Area Studies.) October, 2006.



*Public Presentation.* “Secularism is a Human Right!: Double Binds of Buddhism, Democracy and Identity in Nepal.” South Asia Colloquium Series, Triangle South Asia Consortium. Feb 28, 2006.

*Public Lecture.* “‘Failed Development’ and Rural Revolution in Nepal: Rethinking Subaltern Consciousness and Women’s Empowerment.” Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto. October 21, 2005.

*Member,* Nepal Studies Group. Project title: “Minority Conflicts and State-Building Challenges in Asia.” East-West Center, Washington DC. (This was a multiyear project focusing on violent ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, India’s Northeast, Southern Thailand, Burma and Nepal. It was intended to facilitate the production of scholarship that can inform and impact policy.) Workshop dates: Oct. 30-Nov. 3, 2005.

*Discussant.* Media, Religion and Culture Seminar (Lilly-Endowment Funded Program at University of Colorado/AAR). November 18, 2005.

*Public Lecture.* (with David Graeber). “Development, Self-Actualization and Human Liberation in Old and New Social Movements.” (Paper co-written and co-presented with David Graeber.) Queen Elizabeth House 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Oxford University. July 4-5, 2005.

*Public Lecture.* “‘Failed Development’ and Rural Revolution in Nepal: Rethinking Subaltern Consciousness and Women’s Empowerment.” Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University. April 8, 2005.

*Participant and Presenter.* “Nepal’s Missing Middle and the U.S. Search for Global Security.” Invitation-only workshop titled: “South Asian ‘Security’ Challenges for the New Millennium.” South Asia Institute, University of Texas Austin. April 29-30, 2004.

*Public Lecture.* “Between Jesse Helms and Ram Bahadur: NGOs, Women, ‘Participation,’ and ‘Empowerment’ in Nepal”. Dept. of Anthropology/South Asian Studies Council, Yale University. Spring 2003.

*Public Lecture.* “Development, Violence and the Globalization of Liberal Values in Nepal.” Center for Peace and Global Citizenship. Haverford College. 2003.

*Public Lecture.* “Not-Selves in the Identity Machine: Neoliberalism, Multicultural Democracy and the Buddhist Paradox.” Department of Anthropology, Princeton University. 2003.

*Public Lecture.* “Social Structure and the Indian Family.” Presentation at the Asian Studies Development Program Workshop: Political and Cultural Contexts in South Asia. Co-organized by Middlesex Community College, the East-West Center, and the University of Hawaii’s Asian Studies Development Program. 2001.

*Presentation.* “Gender and Culture in Women’s Development in Nepal.” Asian Studies Faculty Interest Group, Wellesley College. October 11, 2001.

*Participant and Presenter.* “National Subjects/Religious Selves: Buddhism and Secularism in Modern Nepal.” After Secularism/Religion: History, Interpretation and Politics. University of Minnesota. May 12-14, 2000.

*Public Lecture.* “Practicing Modern Morality: Becoming a ‘Pure’ Buddhist in Newar Nepal.” Buddhist Studies Workshop. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. November 1999.

*Public Lecture.* “Subjects, States and the Politics of Personhood in Theravada Buddhism in Nepal.”  
Center for South Asian Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. March 1999.

## **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

### **Courses taught at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005-2019**

- RELI 67: Nature, Culture, Self-Identity: Religion in the Construction of Social Life (First Year Seminar)
- RELI 76: Money and Morality: Diving Value in Social Life (First Year Seminar)
- RELI 89/SOC 89: Researching Religion in Women’s Lives (Integrated First Year Seminar, co-taught with Dr. Lisa Pearce)
- RELI 121: Introduction to Religion and Culture
- RELI 183: Introduction to Asian Religions
- RELI 199: Buddhism and Culture (Topics in the Study of Religion)
- ASIA 243: Religion and Globalization in Singapore and Malaysia (developed for the Southeast Asia Summer study abroad program)
- RELI 283: The Buddhist Tradition: India, Nepal, Tibet (crosslisted with Asian
- RELI 285: Buddhist Tradition: Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka
- HNRS 354: Buddhism and Culture in the Himalayas and Beyond
- RELI 524: Ethnographic Approaches to Contemporary Religion
- RELI 688: Observation and Interpretation of Religious Action
- RELI 697: Departmental Capstone Course (Topic: Genealogies of Religion and its Academic Study)
- RELI 700. Theory and Method in Religious Studies (graduate seminar)
- Reli 724: Ethnographic Methods in Religious Studies (graduate seminar)
- RELI 729. Religion and Modernity (graduate seminar)
- RELI 823: Post-Colonial Studies of Religion (graduate seminar)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

### ***Departmental Service***

- Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Chair, 2013-present
- Strategic Planning Committee Member, Religious Studies, 2016-17
- Member, Graduate Studies Committee, 2005-2006, 2008-2009, Spring 2010, 2010-2011, 2011-12
- Mentor to Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity Post-Doc (B. Thornton), 2011-13
- Member, Undergraduate Study Committee, 2006-2007, Fall 2009
- Member, Faculty Search Committee, Hinduism Position, 2015-16
- Member, Faculty Search Committee, Islamic Studies Position, 2009-2010
- Member, Faculty Search Committee, Latin American Studies Position, 2006-2007
- Member, Faculty Search Committee, Islamic Studies Position, 2005-2006
- Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Religious Studies Department, 2005-2006, 2008-2009

### ***University Service***

- Steering Committee/Board Member. Certificate for Participatory Research Methods, 2013-present (Founding Member)
- Facilitator, Faculty Learning Community for developing III (“Ideas, Information and Inquiry”) courses. Part of the continuing College General Education Curriculum Redesign. 2018-19 academic year.
- Advisory Board Member. Interdisciplinary Studies Major. College of Arts and Sciences. 2018-present.
- Member. Administrative Boards of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences, 2017-2021
- Member. Feasibility and Design Committee for Student Learning Outcomes for General Education Courses (“Capacities” Committee), 2017-18 academic year
- Panelist, “Interdisciplinary Work, Engagement, and Widening the Reach of Teaching and Research.” UNC College of Arts and Science’s New Faculty Orientation (2018)
- Member. Curriculum & Dissertation Committee of the IAH-administered NEH grant to UNC for “Re-envisioning the Humanities PhD.” (2016-17)
- Educational Policy Committee Member, 2013-16
- Member. Keynote Speaker Selection Committee. (UNC’s Graduate School) 2017
- Group Leader, UNC College of Arts and Science’s New Faculty Orientation. Topic: “Leading Small Classes” (2017)
- Faculty Advisor to the Carolina Meditation Club, continuing
- Faculty Advisor to the Nepali Student Association, continuing
- Chair. UNC South Asia Faculty Working Group (2012-17)
- UNC Representative to the American Institute of Bangladeshi Studies 2016-present
- Grant Reviewer for the Carolina Asia Center (FLAS fellowships), 2016
- UNC Representative and Curriculum Committee Member, Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad), 2012-2015
- Member. Faculty Grievance Committee, 2010-13
- Faculty Director. Carolina Southeast Asia Summer Program, Summer 2010
- Interviewer. Fulbright grant applicants: 2006-2007, 2008-09, 2009-2010, 2012
- UNC Representative to the North Carolina Consortium for South Asian Studies, 2011-12.
- Search Committee Member, Department of Anthropology. South Asia/China position (2009-10; 2010-11)
- Member. Carolina Southeast Asia Summer Program Selection Committee (2005-2006, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011)
- Advisor. India Study Abroad Program Evaluation Committee (2005-2006; 2008-9)
- Convener (with Chris Nelson, Department of Anthropology), 2007 Triangle East Asia Colloquium (TEAC). This is an annual conference jointly sponsored by the Carolina Asia Center and the Asian Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University Conference Title: “Religious Innovation, Globalization and State Power in East Asia.”
- Participant. 2006 Tar Heels Bus Tour

### ***Professional Service***

- Treasurer. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, 2013-16; 2016-present
- Executive Council Member, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, 2018-2022
- Trustee. American Institute of Indian Studies, 2012-2019
- Jury Member. Geertz Prize Committee, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, 2014
- Chair. Geertz Prize Committee, Society for the Anthropology of Religion 2012, 2013

- Board member. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, 2012-2013
- Grant Reviewer for National Science Foundation (2012), Social Science Research Council/IDRP (2013-14), German Foundation for Peace Research (2017)
- Book and Manuscript Reviewer for *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Anthropology and Humanism Quarterly*, *Anthropos*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Ethnos*, *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, *Himalaya*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Law and Society*, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, *Women's Studies International*.

### **Service to the Community**

- *Public Lecture*. "Gender-based Violence and Awareness in the Cultural Interface." International Women's Day Celebration Event organized by the North Carolina Non-Resident Nepali Association and the Nepal Center of North Carolina. March 2018.
- *Public Lecture*. "Violence, Culture and Ethical Complexity in Actually-Existing Buddhism" Given as part of the UNC Humanities and Human Values Program's seminar on "Religious Beliefs and Religious Violence." September 12, 2015
- Discussant and Panel Chair. *Bordering the Borderless: Faces of Modern Buddhism in East Asia*. (Panel #4). Duke University. October 5, 2013.
- Panelist for Duke in Depth Conference ("A World Together: Duke and Global Development"). Panel Titled "Religion, Politics, and Global Development." February 26, 2011.
- *Public Lecture*. "Debates About Dharma on the South Asian Subcontinent." Lecture to the World Religions Seminar, Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC, Chapel Hill. Dec. 3-4, 2010
- *Presentation*. "Buddhism and History." UNC-Chapel Hill Buddhist Student Association. April 13, 2010.
- *Community Dialogue Panelist*, Playmakers Repertory Company, UNC. "The Last Cargo Cult." September 16, 2009
- Helped facilitate a public lecture on the UNC campus by the Tibetan Buddhist teacher Bardor Tulku Rinpoche when he visited Chapel Hill, March, 2009.
- *Public Lecture*. "Caste in Texts and on the Ground," (Part of a South Asia outreach series for North Carolina community college faculty.) Fayetteville State University. March, 2006

Updated 1/20