

James L. Fitzgerald

Purandara Das Distinguished Professor of Sanskrit

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Education and Professional Employment

- 2010-2011 Acting Chair, Department of Classics, Brown University
- 2007- Purandara Das Distinguished Professor of Sanskrit, Department of Classics, Brown University
- 2002-2007 Associate Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee
- 2007,
2001-02, Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee
1998
- 1978-2007 Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee
- 1980 Ph.D. in South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago: Dissertation “The *Mokṣa*-Anthology of the *Great Bhārata*: An Initial Survey of Structural Issues, Themes, and Rhetorical Strategies.”
- 1976-78 Lecturer in Sanskrit, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

Research

My research and writing centers upon the translation of the gigantic, 2000 year old Indian epic, the *Mahābhārata*, and the interpretation of it as a work of religious, philosophical, and political literature in its historical context. Such an explanation of the origin and growth of the received text of the *Mahābhārata* between ca. 350 BCE and 350 CE is the general aim of a monograph I am working on devoted to *The Creation of Brahminic ‘Hinduism’ in the Epic Mahābhārata*. I am also the general editor of the University of Chicago Press’s ten volume translation of the *Mahābhārata* and the translator for a large segment of the *Mahābhārata* presenting hundreds of chapters of political, social, religious, and philosophical teachings that form the foundation of classical Hindu religions. This segment of the *Mahābhārata* comprises about twenty percent of the whole epic and my contribution forms Volumes 7 and 8 of the series. I have also developed an important research tool for literary and historical investigation of the Sanskrit text of the epic, a comprehensive database of the more than 18,500 lines of the epic that are not composed in the epic’s standard poetic meter and am working now to mount a version of this on the internet.

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Publications

Books

- In Preparation *Pursuing Tattvas—Defining ‘Philosophy’ in the Great Indian Epic*: Papers from the Brown Conference on Philosophy in the *Mahābhārata*, edited by James L. Fitzgerald. To appear as a special issue of the *Journal of Indian Philosophy* in 2017.
- Ongoing **The Mahabharata: Book 12: The Book of Peace, Part Two**. Translated, edited, and annotated by James L. Fitzgerald. Chicago: University of Chicago.
- 2004 **The Mahabharata: Book 11: The Book of the Women, Book 12: The Book of Peace, Part One**. Translated, edited, and annotated by James L. Fitzgerald. 848 p., 1 halftone, 1 map, 4 charts, 7 tables. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Other Major Projects

- Ongoing Editorial Supervision of the *Mahābhārata* Translation Project of the University of Chicago. Oversight of the Recruitment and Vetting of the Five Other Translators of this Ten-Volume Project.
- 2004, 2015 and ongoing A searchable database of all 18,536 non-*śloka* verses of the *Mahābhārata*, with metric classification of every verse and indications of stanza and passage groupings of every verse, privately distributed to Drs. John Brockington of Edinburgh, John Smith of Cambridge, Lars Martin Fosse of Oslo, and Peter Schreiner of Zürich. This database is the foundation of two of the papers listed below (“Toward a Database . . .” and “A Preliminary Study of the 681 . . .”), the first of which appeared in 2006 and the other in 2009. Currently Working with staff of Brown CIS to mount a version of this database on the Web.
- 1981 Edited the posthumous publication of J. A. B. van Buitenen’s *The Bhagavad Gītā in the Mahābhārata* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981).

Main Articles

- In Preparation “Specifying *tattvas* and Charting *gatis* Between the Empires,” Editor’s Introduction to *Pursuing Tattvas—Defining ‘Philosophy’ in the Great Indian Epic*.
- In Preparation “The Structure of Discourse in the *Mokṣadharmaparvan*: The Case of the Manu-Bṛhaspati *saṃvāda* (12.194-199),” in *Pursuing Tattvas—Defining ‘Philosophy’ in the Great Indian Epic*, edited by James L. Fitzgerald, special issue of the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*.
- In Preparation “The Early History of the Sanskrit Word *buddhi*,” in *Pursuing Tattvas—Defining ‘Philosophy’ in the Great Indian Epic*, edited by James L. Fitzgerald, special issue of the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*.

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- Forthcoming, March, 2016 “The Blood of Vṛtra May Be Closer to Hand Than We Realize,” for a felicitation volume for Stephanie Jamison, edited by Dieter Gunkel, Joshua Katz, and Brent Vine. Ann Arbor: Beech Stave Press.
- 2015 “The Saving *buddhi*: An uncharted theme of ‘knowledge’ in the *Mokṣadharmaparvan* of the *Mahābhārata*,” in a special double issue of the *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 18.1-2: Felicitation volume for Edwin Gerow, edited by Deepak Sarma and Herman Tull.
- 2014 “Old, Older, and Oldest *Dharmaśāstra*: The Manuscript Tradition of the Manu Śāstra, the Original Text of the Manu Śāstra, and the First Dharmasūtras,” review article of Patrick Olivelle’s *Dharmasūtras* and his *Manu’s Code of Law*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 134.3 (2014): 481-503.
- 2013 “History and Primordium in Ancient Indian Historical Writing: *Itihāsa* and *Purāṇa* in the *Mahābhārata* and Beyond,” in *Thinking, Recording, and Writing History in the Ancient World*, edited by Kurt Raflaub (Malden [Mass.] and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013): 41-60.
- 2012 “Philosophy’s ‘Wheel of Fire’ (*alātacakra*) and Its Epic Background,” in *Devadattīyam*, Professor Johannes Bronkhorst Felicitation Volume, edited by François Voegeli, et al. (Bern: Peter Lang, 2012): 773-807.
- 2012 “The Sāmkhya-Yoga ‘Manifesto’ at *MBh* 12.289-290,” in *Battle, Bards, and Brāhmins*, John Brockington, ed. (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2012): 259-300.
- 2011 “A Prescription for *yoga* and Power in the *Mahābhārata*,” in *Yoga in Practice*, David White, ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011): 43-57.
- 2010 “*Mahābhārata*,” in the *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, vol. 2, Knut Jacobsen et al. eds. (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2010): 72-94.
- 2010 “The Rhetoric of Gleaning (*uñchavṛtti*) in the *Mahābhārata*,” in *Release from Life - Release in Life: Indian Perspectives on Individual Liberation*. Festschrift Peter Schreiner, Annemarie Mertens, et al., eds. (Bern: Peter Lang): 89-110.
- 2010 “‘Slowpoke’ as Deep Thinker: In Defense of ‘Straying’ Wives against Father’s Uxoridical Rage,” in *Epic and Argument in Sanskrit Literary History*, Sheldon I. Pollock, ed. (Delhi: Manohar, 2010): 31-59.
- 2010 “No Contest between Memory and Invention: The Invention of the Pāṇḍava Heroes of the *Mahābhārata*,” *Epic and History*, David Konstan and Kurt Raflaub, editors (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010): 103-121.
- 2009 “A Preliminary Study of the 681 Triṣṭubh Passages of the *Mahābhārata*,” in *Epic Undertakings*, proceedings of the 12th World Sanskrit Conference, Robert Goldman and Muneo Tokunaga, editors (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2009): 95-117.
- 2007 “Bhīṣma beyond Freud: The Fall of the Sky, Bhīṣma in the *Mahābhārata*, 1,” in *Epic Constructions: Gender, Myth, and Society in the Mahābhārata*, edited by Brian Black and Simon Brodbeck (London: Routledge, 2007): 189-207.
- 2006 “Negotiating the Shape of ‘Scripture’: New Perspectives on the Development and Growth of the Epic Between the Empires,” in *Between the Empires*, edited by Patrick Olivelle (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006): 257-87.

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- 2006 “Toward a Database of the Non-*Anuṣṭubh* Verses of the *Mahābhārata*,” in *Epics, Khilas, and Purāṇas: Continuities and Ruptures*, Petteri Koskikallio, ed., *Proceedings of the Third Dubrovnik International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas* (Zagreb: Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 2006): 137-148.
- 2004 “Dharma and Its Translation in the *Mahābhārata*,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 32.5 (Dec. 2004): 671-685.
- 2004 “The Many Voices of the *Mahābhārata*,” A Review Article of *Rethinking the Mahābhārata: A Reader's Guide to the Education of the Dharma King* by Alf Hiltebeitel (Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 2001), *Journal of The American Oriental Society* 123.4 (2003): 803-18.
- 2004 “*Mahābhārata*,” in *The Hindu World*, Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby, eds. (New York and London: Routledge, 2004): 52-74.
- 2002 “Nun Befuddles King, Shows *karmayoga* Does Not Work: Sulabhā’s Refutation of King Janaka at MBh 12.308,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 30.6 (December, 2002): 641-77.
- 2002 “The Rāma Jāmadagnya Thread of the *Mahābhārata*: A New Survey of Rāma Jāmadagnya in the Pune Text,” in Mary Brockington, ed., *Stages and Transitions: Temporal and Historical Frameworks in Epic and Purāṇic Literature*, Proceedings of the Second Dubrovnik International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas, August, 1999 (Zagreb, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 2002): 89-132.
- 2000 “*pīta* and *śaikya/saikya*: Two Terms of Iron and Steel Technology in the *Mahābhārata*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 120.1 (January-March 2000): 44-61.
- 1998 “Some Storks and Eagles Eat Carrion; Herons and Ospreys Do Not: *Kaṅkas* and *Kuraras* (and *Baḍas*) in the *Mahābhārata*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 118.2 (April-June 1998): 257-61.

Major Grants, Awards, Honors

- December 2011 Humanities Research Funding, Dean of the Faculty, Brown University.
- December, 2010 Humanities Research Funding, Dean of the Faculty, Brown University.
- December, 2009 Humanities Research Funding, Dean of the Faculty, Brown University.
- May 2008 Awarded \$4,500 Lectureship Fund support for planned conference on Early Indian Philosophy in the *Mahābhārata*.
- December 2006 Awarded NEH Research Fellowship for the study and translation of nine cosmological texts of the *Mokṣadharmaparvan* of the *Mahābhārata*.
- May 2006 Named Lindsay Young Professor of the Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee.
- July 2005 Presented keynote address at conference on “Epic Constructions: Gender, Myth, and Society in the *Mahābhārata*,” London, School of Oriental and African Studies.

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- June 2004 Research and Creative Achievement Award in the Arts and Humanities from the College of Arts and Sciences of UTK (\$30,000 research support over 3 years).
- February 2004 Awarded NEH Summer Stipend for work on volume 8 of *Mahābhārata* translation.
- May 2003 Invited to deliver the Andrew Markus Memorial Lecture, Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.
- April 2003 Awarded the Jefferson Prize for Distinction In Research, Office of the Provost, UTK: 3 year award, \$18,000 in research support.
- 1987-8 Fulbright Senior Research Scholar, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, Karnataka, India, continuing work on the translation of the *Śānti Parvan* of the *Mahābhārata*.
- 1987 Senior Research grant, American Institute of Indian Studies for 1 year of work translating the *Mahābhārata* in Mysore, India (declined).
- 1974-75 Foreign Area Fellowship for dissertation research abroad from the Social Science Research Council/American Council of Learned Societies
- 1974 Dissertation Research grant, American Institute of Indian Studies for 1 year of study of the *Mokṣadharmaparvan* in Pune, Maharashtra, India (declined)
- 1971-74 NDEA Title IV Fellowship for Graduate Study in the Humanities