

ELIZABETH ANN CECIL

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EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, RI

Ph.D. in Religious Studies, 2008-present (degree expected May 2016)

Dissertation: *Mapping a Contested Landscape: Religion, Politics, and Place in the Making of Pāśupata Identity*

Committee: Prof. Dr. James L. Fitzgerald; Prof. Dr. Hans T. Bakker; Prof. Dr. Nancy Khalek

Preliminary & Qualifying Exams: Vaiṣṇavism and Śaivism, Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas, Indian

Philosophical Traditions, Gender and Indian Religions; Pilgrimage and Place in Indian Religions

Leiden Institute of Area Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands

Visiting Research Fellow, South Asian & Tibetan Studies—2015-2016

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Peter C. Bisschop

Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, India

Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Archeology and Ancient History—2013-2014

Supervisor: Dr. P Ajithprasad

University of Groningen, the Netherlands

Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Indian Studies—2011-2013

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hans T. Bakker

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

M.A. in Religious Studies, May 2008

Thesis: *A New Approach to the Devī Māhātmya: The Greatness of the Goddess in its Purāṇic Context*

Hastings College, USA

B.A. with High Distinction in Philosophy and Religious Studies, May 2005

RESEARCH SPECIALTIES

- Śaivism
- Sanskrit Narrative Literature (i.e. Epic, Purāṇa, and Māhātmya)
- Indian Epigraphy
- Indian Archeology
- History of pre-colonial South Asia
- Place and Landscape Studies
- Pilgrimage in South Asia
- Indian Iconography & Temple Architecture
- Heritage Studies

PUBLICATIONS

'Seeking the 'Lord with a Club': Locating Lakuliśa in the Early History of Pāsupata Śaivism (6th- 9th century CE)' *South Asian Studies* 30, no. 2 (2014): 142-158.

Review of *Religion and Identity in South Asia and Beyond: Essays in Honor of Patrick Olivelle* ed. Steven E. Lindquist, *forthcoming* in *Journal of Religions of South Asia* 8, no. 4 (2015).

Review of *Places in Motion: The Fluid Identities of Temples, Images, and Pilgrims*, by Jacob Kinnard, *forthcoming* in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, (2016).

FIELD & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- [January – February 2016] Fieldwork in northwest India in cooperation with members of the European Research Council (ERC) Project – *Asia Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Region, Language and the State*
- [December 2015] Fieldwork at Khmer temple and archeological sites in Cambodia and Laos—*ACLS/Mellon Research Fund*
- August 2015 Fieldwork at medieval temple sites associated with the Muttaraiyar, Irukkevēl, and Paḷuvēṭṭaraiyar dynasties in Tamil Nadu, India – *École Française d'extrême Orient (EFEO)*, Pondicherry
- August 2013 – January 2015 Dissertation research in archives, manuscript libraries, museums, and early medieval temple sites in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh
- August 2014 Fieldwork and ethnographic research in Chiang Mai, Thailand with local artisans making Buddha images using traditional 'lost wax' methods – *Center for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD)*, Chiang Mai University
- January 2014 Study of early medieval Śaiva temples and epigraphy in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.
- February – March 2012 Archeological survey at Vākāṭaka imperial and cult sites in Maharashtra. Led by Dr. Michael Willis – British Museum, London; Prof. Dr. Hans T. Bakker – University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- December 2011 – January 2012 Survey and study of early medieval Śaiva temples in North India (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand) – in cooperation with the *International Skandapurāṇa Research Team*, led by Prof. Dr. Hans T. Bakker

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2015-2016	American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), <i>Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> (\$38,000)
2015-2016	Brown International Graduate Colloquium Fund (GICF), for the conference <i>Materializing Sanctity, Enacting Authority: Text, Image, and Performance in India and China</i> (\$5,000)
2015	École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) – Paris <i>Summer Fieldwork Grant</i> (1,000 €)
2015	Brown-India Initiative (BII), <i>Graduate Research Fellowship</i> (\$6,500)
2014	International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), <i>Mellon Summer Workshop Grant: 'Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge, and Power in the Global Ecumene'</i> (2,000 €)
2013 – 2014	Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), <i>Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources</i> (\$25,000)
2013 – 2014	Social Science Research Council (SSRC), <i>Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship</i> (\$20,000)
2013	American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), <i>Dissertation Research Fellowship</i> (\$15,000, <i>declined</i>)
2013	American Councils for Overseas Education, <i>Critical Language Scholarship for the study of Hindi in India</i> (\$2,500)
2012	Association of Asian Studies (AAS) – Social Science Research Council (SSRC), <i>Dissertation Proposal Development Award</i> (\$4,000)
2011	Brown University, <i>Joukowsky Summer Research Grant</i> (\$3,000)
2008 – 2014	Brown University, <i>Graduate Fellowship</i> (Tuition remission and monthly stipend)
2007	University of Wisconsin – Madison, <i>South Asia Summer Language Institute, Grant for Advanced Sanskrit</i> (\$1,500)
2005 – 2008	University of Tennessee – Knoxville, <i>M.A. Fellowship</i> (Tuition remission and monthly stipend)

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

- Religions of South Asia
- Material Culture of Indian Religions
- Sanskrit Literary History
- Sanskrit Language
- History of Premodern South Asia
- Critical Approaches to the Study of Religion
- Introduction to World Religions
- Pilgrimage in South Asia
- Gender and Religion in South Asia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Brown University, Providence, USA

Primary Instructor, Spring 2015

The Shape of the Divine: Images in the Religions of India (RELS 1395)

University of Groningen, the Netherlands

Primary Instructor, Fall 2012

Sanskrit I: Introduction to Grammar, Syntax, and Literature

Brown University, Providence, USA

Teaching Assistant, 2008-2011

Sanskrit I (SANS 0100) Prof. Dr. James L. Fitzgerald

Epics of India (CLAS 0820) Prof. Dr. James L. Fitzgerald

Religions of South Asia (RELS 0140) Prof. Dr. Donna M. Wulff

Sacrifice and Suffering: Rhetorics of Martyrdom Compared (RELS 0640) Prof. Dr. Nancy Khalek

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

Teaching Assistant, 2006-2008

World Religions in History (REST 101) Prof. Dr. Rosalind Hackett, Prof. Dr. Tina Shepardson

Introduction to Indian Religions (REST 374) Prof. Dr. James L. Fitzgerald

Guest Lectures

May 2011

'Art, Politics, and the Politics of Art: The Case of Udayagiri,'
(ARCH 1160) Dr. Claudia Moser, Brown University

February 2011

'Religious Symbolism in Images of Śiva and the Goddess,'
(HIST 1590) Dr. Vazira F-Y Zamindar, Brown University

March 2009

'Halbfass's *On Being and What There Is*,'
(CLAS 1140) Prof. Dr. James L. Fitzgerald, Brown University

November 2008

'Women and Goddesses in Vedic Literature and Religion,'
(CLAS 0800) Prof. Dr. James L. Fitzgerald, Brown University

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Brown University, Providence, USA

Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, 2010-2011

Certificate I: Practices of Reflective Teaching

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

Religion Department Teaching Seminar, 2007

Methods and Practices in the Pedagogy of Religious Studies

LANGUAGES

English – Native Speaker

Sanskrit – Highly proficient in reading and translating

Hindi – Advanced Intermediate proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing

German – Academic reading proficiency and functional speaking ability

French – Academic reading proficiency and functional speaking ability

Additional & Intensive Language Training

- Summer 2014 Leiden University, the Netherlands, *Indological Summer School*
Courses: Anonymous Śaiva Literature; Sanskrit Epigraphy
- Summer 2013 American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Jaipur, India
Intensive Intermediate Hindi
- Summer 2012 Leiden University, the Netherlands, *Indological Summer School*
Courses: Śaiva Ritual Texts; Sanskrit Belles-Lettres
- Summer 2011 Leiden University, the Netherlands, *Indological Summer School*
Courses: Śaiva Narrative Literature; Vedic Poetry & Prose; Gandharī
- Summer & Fall 2010 Goethe-Institut, Boston, USA, *German for Academic Reading; German I*
- Summer 2007 University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, *South Asia Summer Language Institute: Advanced Intensive Sanskrit*

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- [March 2016] 'Kāmān, Kāmyaka & Kāmyakeśvara: Piety and Polity in Early Medieval Rajasthan,'
Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society – Boston, USA
- October 2015 'Power and Piety in 'Emplaced Polities': Patronage and Donative Practices in the
Early Medieval North Konkan (9th-12th century),' *International Indological
Graduate Research Symposium* – Leiden University, the Netherlands
- August 2015 'Local Powers, Local Patrons: Patronage and Donative Practice under the
Cāhamānas of Śākambharī and the North Konkan Śilāhāras (9th -12th century)'
Archeology of Bhakti: The Bhakti of Minor Dynasties – École Française d'extrême
Orient (EFEO) Pondicherry, India

- June 2015 (Together with Prof. Dr. Hans T. Bakker), ‘Trade of All Sorts: The Spread of Early Śaivism along an Ancient Caravan Route,’ *ERC Synergy Seminar: Asia Beyond Boundaries* – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) London, UK
- March 2015 ‘Hinduism in a Global Context’ *Brown Religious Literacy Project* – Brown University, Providence, USA
- March 2015 ‘Śiva and Salt: Religious Life around the Salt Lakes of Northern Rajasthan (7th-10th century),’ *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – New Orleans, USA
- August 2014 ‘Temple and Museum: Conservation, Memory, and the Value of the Past in Rajasthan,’ *Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge, and Power in the Global Ecumene*, Chiang Mai University and International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) – Chiang Mai, Thailand
- July 2014 ‘Acts of Devotion, Acts of Destruction: Revaluing Local Models of Historical Preservation in Northwest India,’ *International Conference: Meaningful Destruction, Contingent Preservation* – Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
- March 2014 ‘Sacred Topographies: Narrative, Politics, and Aesthetics in the Creation of Śaiva Space,’ *AAS-SSRC Fellows Workshop* – Philadelphia, USA
- January 2014 ‘Śiva in the City: The Politics of Preservation in Mumbai’s Urban Landscape,’ *Conference on Cultural Heritage: Environment, Ecology and Inter-Asian Interactions*, Nalanda University and International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) – Rajgir, India
- October 2013 ‘Merchants and Pāśupatas: Rethinking the History of the North Konkan Śaiva Caves,’ *Annual Conference on South Asia* – Madison, USA
- April 2013 ‘Lakuliśa in the Early History of Pāśupata Śaivism,’ *Empires of Faith: Seminar on Politics, Ritual, and State Formation in Early India* – Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- March 2013 ‘Merchants, Women, and Pāśupatas: Investigating the Śaiva Landscape of Mandasor,’ *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – Portland, USA
- September 2012 ‘Religious Competition and Political Rivalry in the Pāśupata Landscape,’ *International Indological Graduate Research Symposium* – University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- August 2012 ‘Mapping the Expansion of Early Śaivism: Pilgrims and Patrons,’ *Annual Skandapurāṇa Research Meeting* – University of Groningen, the Netherlands

- March 2012 'Seeking the 'Lord with a Club': Locating Lakulīśa in the History of Pāśupata Śaivism,' *AAS-SSRC Fellows Workshop* – Toronto, Canada
- March 2011 'Childless Mothers and Rejected Wives: A New Perspective on the Mātṛs' *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – Chicago, USA

CONFERENCES & PANELS ORGANIZED

- October 2013 Panel Organizer: 'Exploring the Place of Merchants, Traders, and Economic Institutions in Indian Religions,' *Annual Conference on South Asia* – Madison, USA
- [March 2016] International Colloquium: *Materializing Sanctity, Enacting Authority: Text, Image, and Performance in India and China* – Brown University, Providence, USA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Summer 2015 Summer GIS Institute – *Brown Institute for Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4)*, Brown University, Providence, USA
- March 2015 Workshop Leader – *Brown Religious Literacy Project*, Brown University, Providence, USA
- Spring 2015 Mellon Graduate Workshop – *Sex and Gender in Past Societies: New Theories and Approaches*, Brown University, Providence, USA
- August 2014 Mellon Summer School & Workshop – *Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge, and Power in the Global Ecumene*
- Fall 2011 Mellon Graduate Workshop – *Reuniting Fractured Disciplines: Method in the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond*, Brown University, Providence, USA

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
 American Council for Southern Asian Art
 American Historical Association
 Association of Asian Studies
 American Oriental Society
 European Association for South Asian Archeology and Art
 European Association of South Asian Studies