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Assistant Professor, Japanese Religion and Society  
Department of Religious Studies  
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#### EDUCATION

- 2004–2009 Ph.D., Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal QC  
Dissertation title: “‘Know that we are not good persons’: Pure Land Buddhism and the ethics of exile.” Supervisor: Victor Sōgen Hori.
- Autumn 2006 Research Fellow, Ōtani University, Kyoto Japan
- 2000–2003 M.A., Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal QC  
Thesis title: “Surface tension: Kuki Shūzō’s *iki* as a posture of resignation and resistance.”
- 1993–1997 B.A. (hons.), Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal QC

#### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2008–2009 Dean’s Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- 2007 McGill Internal SSHRC Research Fellowship
- 2007 AAR (Eastern International Region) Graduate Student Essay Award
- 2005–2007 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship
- 2004–2005 J.W. McConnell Foundation, McGill Major Fellowship
- 2002–2003 Dean’s Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University

#### LANGUAGES

- Modern Japanese  
Classical Japanese  
Classical Chinese  
French

## PUBLICATIONS

(author) “Shinshū studies and the legacy of liberal thought.” In *The Social Dimension of Shin Buddhism*, ed. Ugo Dessì. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2009/2010.

(author) “Dead men don’t lie: sacred texts in Jim Jarmusch’s *Dead Man* and *Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai*.” *Journal of Religion and Film* (October 2008).

(author and co-editor) “The subject of history in Miki Kiyoshi’s ‘Shinran’.” In *The Kyoto School: Neglected Themes and Hidden Variations*, eds. Victor Sōgen Hori and Melissa Anne-Marie Curley. Nagoya: Nanzan, 2008.

(review) William R. Lindsey. *Fertility and Pleasure: Ritual and Sexual Values in Tokugawa Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2006. *ARC* 34, 2007.

(review) Michael F. Marra, ed. *Japanese Hermeneutics: Current Debates on Aesthetics and Interpretation*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2002. *ARC* 32, 2004.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

- May 2008 “Real life freaks: grotesquerie in Alejandro Jodorowsky’s *Holy Mountain*.” American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting. Montreal QC.
- March 2008 “Host body: teaching Japanese religions by teaching American performance art.” 2008 McGill-CREOR Graduate Students’ Conference. Montreal QC.
- May 2007 “Binding commitments: women’s hair donation in Japanese Pure Land Buddhism.” Congress of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. Saskatoon SK, and American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting. Waterloo ON.
- March 2007 “The subject of history in Miki Kiyoshi’s ‘Shinran.’” Numata Conference 2007 (The Kyoto School: Neglected Themes and Hidden Variations.) Montreal QC.
- May 2006 “X marks the spot: Japanese tantra and feminist romance.” American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting. Québec QC.
- May 2005 “‘Read man’: the circulation of sacred texts in two films by Jim Jarmusch.” American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting. Montreal QC.
- March 2005 “Buddha eye, camera eye: the nuclear in Nishitani Keiji.” 2005 Numata Buddhism Conference. Montreal QC.
- March 2005 “This very body: managing the bodies of Hiroshima survivors.” Concordia GSRS Annual Conference: Embodying the Sacred. Montreal QC.
- April 2004 “Becoming sorry: Shin Buddhist repentance in the postwar context.” American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting. Ithaca NY.

## TEACHING

(as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa)

Fall 2009 Japanese Religion and Thought  
Living Religions of the East

(as an instructor in the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University)

June 2009 Buddhism, Gender, and Sexuality

May 2009 Interfaith Seminar: Religion and the Body

Winter 2009 Japanese Esoteric Buddhism  
Japanese Religions

Fall 2008 Mahāyāna Buddhism

June 2008 Buddhism, Gender, and Sexuality

Winter 2008 Pure Land Buddhism

June 2007 Topics in Religion and the Arts: Images of Death and the Afterlife on Film  
Buddhism, Gender, and Sexuality

May 2006 Hindu and Buddhist Images of the Feminine

Winter 2006 Religions of East Asia

Fall 2005 Pure Land Buddhism

July 2005 Topics in the Philosophy of Religion: Asian Ascetic Traditions  
(team-taught with Meera Kachroo)

June 2005 Hindu and Buddhist Images of the Feminine

Fall 2004 Hindu and Buddhist Images of the Feminine  
(team-taught with Davesh Soneji)  
Hinduism and Buddhism  
(team-taught with Davesh Soneji)

## GUEST LECTURES (selected)

June 2007 “Practical magic in Japanese religions.”  
McGill University, Montreal QC.

May 2007 “The Hiroshima Peace Memorial and the notion of pilgrimage.”  
McGill University, Montreal QC.

March 2006 “Dragons and good daughters: women in three new Japanese religions.”  
Queen’s University, Kingston ON.

May 2005 “Introduction to Hinduism and the notion of sainthood.”  
McGill University, Montreal QC.

#### PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2008–2009 Organizing committee, 2009 Numata Conference (Buddhism and Islam: Encounters, Histories, Dialogue and Representation).
- May 2008 Invited presenter, Ethnoculture 2008 (roundtable on ‘Our Spiritualities’: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism in the lives of GLBTQ persons of colour).
- April 2008 Chair, Religious Studies Graduate Students’ Society Professional Development Conference, McGill University.
- Winter 2008 Organizing committee, 2008 McGill-CREOR Graduate Students’ Conference (Breaking out of Subjectivity: Contemporary Challenges in the Study of Religion).
- Spring 2005 Co-chair, American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting, Pre-Conference Workshop (Home/field: Studying Local Religious Communities).
- 2004–2006 Graduate student advisor, *Canons* (Journal of the Religious Studies Undergraduate Society, McGill University).
- 2004–2005 Organizing committee, American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Region.
- 2004–2005 Organizing committee, 2005 Numata Conference (Re-visioning Buddhism: New Methods of Inquiry in the Study of Buddhist Modernity).
- 2003–2005 Book Reviews Editor (Asian Traditions), *ARC*.
- 2003–2004 Graduate Student Representative, Religious Studies Graduate Students’ Society.
- 2003–2004 Graduate Student Representative, Doktorklub Committee.
- 2003–2004 Departmental Delegate, Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill.
- 2002–2003 Chair, Religious Studies Graduate Students’ Society.
- 2002–2003 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Council.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2008–2009 Member, Classical Chinese Buddhist Text Translation Society of McGill.
- March 2008 McGill Teaching and Learning Services Workshop, “Learning to Teach: A Professional Development Workshop for Graduate Students at McGill.”
- Fall 2007 Six weeks in residence at the Nihon Bunka Kenkyū Center, Kyoto.
- Summer 2007 Japanese language intensive, Kokusai Kirisutokyō Daigaku, Tokyo.
- 2001–2003 Research Assistant for Dr. Katherine K. Young (assisted in grant application process and served as teaching assistant for seminar in Methods of Studying Religion).