

Eric Huntington

Education

- 2013 Ph.D. University of Chicago
Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations
- 2009 M.A. University of Chicago
Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations
- 2007 M.T.S. Harvard Divinity School
Focus on Buddhism
- 2005 M.F.A. Ohio State University
Painting and Drawing
- 2003 B.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design
Illustration
- 2000 B.A. with General Honors, University of Chicago
Philosophy and Allied Fields

Appointments

- 2019–Present Rice University
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Chao Center for Asian Studies
- 2017–2019 Stanford University
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies
with an appointment as Lecturer in Religious Studies
- 2014–2017 Princeton University
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts
with an appointment as Lecturer in Religion
- 2013–2014 Washington University (Saint Louis)
Korff Postdoctoral Fellow in Art History & Archaeology
[Shared with Saint Louis Art Museum]
- 2013–2014 Saint Louis Art Museum
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in South Asian Art
[Shared with Washington University]
(curated an exhibition of Tibetan art, catalogued the collection,
donor outreach, conservation consultation)
- 2012 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Adjunct Faculty
- 2009–2011 University of Chicago
2011 Lecturer for First Year Sanskrit
2009–10 Teaching Assistant for Sanskrit
2010–12 Graduate Curatorial Intern, Smart Museum of Art
(designed exhibition layouts and didactic signage, assisted in
research, handled art objects for education and registration)
2010–12 Research Assistant for Professor Dan Arnold

- 2003–2005 The Ohio State University
Graduate Associate, independently teaching Beginning Drawing
- 2002–2003 Rhode Island School of Design
2003 Teaching Assistant for Master Painting Techniques
2002–03 Teaching Assistant for Introductory Painting I & II

Publications

Monographs

- 2018 *Creating the Universe: Depictions of the Cosmos in Himalayan Buddhism*
(Seattle: University of Washington Press) [\[link\]](#)
[296 pp., 153 illus., 118 in color, 1 map, 7 x 10 in.]

Awards

- Edward C. Dimock Jr. Prize for Best First Book in the Indian Humanities, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2018 [\[link\]](#)
- Millard Meiss Grant, College Art Association, 2017 [\[link\]](#)
- Barr Ferree Subvention, Princeton University, 2017

Reviews

- (Forthcoming)

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

- Forthcoming “Ritual Structure and Material Culture in the *Guide to Bodhisattva Practice*” in *Readings of Śāntideva’s Guide to Bodhisattva Practice*, ed. by Jonathan Gold and Douglas Duckworth (Columbia University Press) [~6,000 words] [\[link\]](#)
- 2019 “Seeing the Unseen: Vision, Space, and Time in a Tantric Mandala” in *Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey Toward Enlightenment*, ed. by John Henry Rice and Jeff Durham (VMFA), 180–193 [\[link\]](#)
- 2018 “Himalayan Cosmologies of Offering: A Comparison of Newar and Tibetan Treasure-maṇḍalas in Practice and Art,” in *South Asian Studies* 34:2, 154–68 [\[link\]](#)
- 2017 “Image and Text in Newar Buddhist Ritual Manuals,” in *Material Religion: the Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* 13.2, 175–205 [\[link\]](#)

Book Reviews

- 2018 “Buddhist Spaces: Beyond Secularity,” a review of Justin Thomas McDaniel’s *Architects of Buddhist Leisure* for *Marginalia* [~2,000 words] [\[link\]](#)
- 2009 Booknote for Gudrun Bühnemann’s “Buddhist Iconography and Ritual in Paintings and Line Drawings from Nepal” in *Religious Studies Review* [~200 words]

Other Publications

- 2012 Photographer and editor (uncredited) for Yumi Park, *Mirrors of Clay: Reflections on Ancient Andean Life in Ceramics From the Sam Olden Collection* (Jackson: Jackson State University and the University of Mississippi) [96 pp., 79 color photographs, 6 x 9 in.] [\[link\]](#)

Books in Progress

- Monograph *Difficult Images: Vision and Materiality in Buddhism*
- Study of representation in artistic images in relation to Buddhist doctrines, rituals, and artistic practices
- Co-edited *Overlapping Cosmologies in Asia*, co-edited with Bill Mak
- Co-writing the Introduction
 - Contributing one article

Articles in Progress

- Submitted “Buddhist Cosmology in Bhutanese Murals: An Iconographic Negotiation Between Kālacakra and Abhidharma Systems,” for *Overlapping Cosmologies in Asia*, co-edited with Bill Mak [~7,000 words]
- Forthcoming “Introduction to *Overlapping Cosmologies in Asia*,” co-authored with Bill Mak
- Forthcoming “Places of Art: Buddhist Imagery, Spatiality, and Landscape”

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- 2019–Present Gragg Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University
- 2017–2019 Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University
- 2017 Dunhuang Buddhist Studies Workshop, Woodenfish Foundation and Dunhuang Academy (June)
- 2015 University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, Princeton University
- 2014–2017 Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts Postdoctoral Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2013–2014 Korff Postdoctoral Fellowship in Art History & Archaeology, Washington University
- 2013–2014 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in South Asian Art, Saint Louis Art Museum
- 2012–2013 Provost’s Dissertation-Year Fellowship, Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago
- 2012 Committee on Southern Asian Studies Dissertation Write-up Fellowship (Summer), University of Chicago
- 2007–2012 Graduate Aid Initiative Fellowship, Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago
- 2009 National Endowment for the Humanities Institute for College and University Faculty, “Buddhist Traditions of Tibet and the Himalayas”
- 2000–2003 Honors at Rhode Island School of Design
- 1996–2000 Dean’s List at University of Chicago
- 1996–2000 National Merit Scholar

Invited Lectures

- 2019 “Aesthetics of Place: Buddhist Art and its Contexts,” Center for South Asia, Stanford University (May)
- 2019 “Images in Space and Place: Buddhist Art at Personal, Architectural, and Geographic Scales,” *Buddhist Geoaesthetics* conference, Brown University (May)
- 2018 “Visions of Buddhist Mandalas: Meaning, Form, and Function in Tantric Art,” *Focus Series*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (December)
- 2018 “On Buddhist Images: Materiality and Constructedness in Religious Representations,” Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford (November)
- 2017 “Recentering Buddhist Cosmology: Concepts of Geographic Space in Text, Ritual, and Art,” Numata lecture at the University of Calgary (November)
- 2017 “Frames of Scale and Geo-Spatial Transformations in the Buddhist Maṇḍala,” *Asian Representations and Constructions of Space Series*, Stanford University (October)
- 2017 “Expressive Cosmologies: Depictions of the Buddhist Universe in Text, Art, and Ritual,” East Asian Studies Colloquium, Princeton University (March)
- 2016 “From Unity to Infinity: The Scalable Cosmos in Buddhist Offering Objects,” at *Scale: A Colloquium*, Princeton University (April)
- 2015 “Buddhist Cosmology in the Art of Bhutan,” Wonkwang University, Iksan, South Korea (June)
- 2010 “Spatial Representation in Buddhist Art and Image Consecration,” Faculty Seminar Research Lecture, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

Conference Papers

- 2018 “Ritual and Representation: Performance to Vision in Himalayan Buddhist Offerings,” *Religion and Ritual: The Poetics and Performance of the Ineffable*, Symposium at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (April)
- 2017 “Disembodied Images: The Materiality of Objects in the Buddhist Landscape,” American Academy of Religion, Boston (November)
- 2017 “Cosmology as a Framework for Expression in Text and Image: Indic Sources and Buddhist Functions,” International Association of Buddhist Studies, Toronto (August)
- 2017 “Translocation and Transformation: A Geo-Spatial Cosmology of Tantric Mandalas,” Association for Asian Studies, Toronto (March)
- 2017 “Entering the Monastery, Exiting the World: Cosmological Murals in Buddhist Architecture,” College Art Association, New York (February)
- 2016 “Cosmological Murals at the Entrance to Sacred Spaces: The Bhavacakra and Cakravāla in Tibetan Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio (November)

- 2016 “‘Himalayan’ Cosmologies: Ritual and Representation in Nepal and Tibet,”
College Art Association, Washington DC (February)
- 2015 “Creating Universes: Divergent Ritual Cosmologies in Nepalese and
Tibetan Contexts,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia
(November)
- 2015 “Buddhist Cosmology in Bhutanese Murals: An Iconographic
Understanding of the Negotiation Between Kālacakra and Abhidharmakośa
Cosmologies,” Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ), Tokyo, Japan, June
20–21, and the International Workshop on Traditional Sciences in Asia,
Kyoto, Japan, June 17–19
- 2014 “Offering the Universe: Divergent Representations of the Cosmos in
Nepalese and Tibetan Rituals,” Midwest Art History Society Conference,
Saint Louis, Missouri (April)
- 2011 “Reading the Mysteries: Visual and Textual Encoding in a Newar Buddhist
Ritual Manual,” South Asian Studies Association Conference, Richmond,
Virginia (April)
- 2010 “Image Construction as Divinity Construction in a Buddhist Sculpture
Manual,” North American Graduate Student Conference in Buddhist
Studies, University of Toronto (April)

Exhibitions

- 2014 Curator and Designer for “Facets of the Three Jewels: Tibetan Buddhist Art
from the Collections of George E. Hibbard and the Saint Louis Art
Museum,” an exhibition of Tibetan paintings and sculptures at the Saint
Louis Art Museum
- 2012 Co-Curator, Designer, and Photographer for “Mirrors of Clay: Reflections
of Ancient Andean Life in Ceramics from the Sam Olden Collection,” an
exhibition of ceramics at Jackson State University
- 2012 Museum layout & graphic design for “Awash in Color,” an exhibition of
Japanese and Western color prints at the Smart Museum of Art, University
of Chicago
- 2010–2011 Curated “Tibetan Art & Culture,” an exhibit of original drawings and
photographs at the University of Chicago, the University of Alabama at
Birmingham, and The Ohio State University
- 2010–2011 Museum layout & graphic design for “Tragic Muse,” an exhibition of
eighteenth and nineteenth century European art at the Smart Museum of
Art, University of Chicago

Languages

- Sanskrit (reading)
- Tibetan (reading)
- French (reading)
- Pali (reading)
- Hindi (reading)

Professional Memberships

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- American Council for Southern Asian Art (ACSAA)
- College Art Association (CAA)

Research Interests

I bring visual and material approaches to topics that have typically been considered textually, such as religious cosmology, meditation, ontology, and experience. This reflects a more general interest in relationships between art and text that leads me also to address issues of narrative, identity, ritual performance, and material culture. More broadly, I also consider how these topics touch on concepts of sacred space, traditional science, artistic practice, and transnational connectivity.

Teaching Interests

Buddhism, Asian religions, Tantra, visual and material culture, literature and biography, gender and identity, philosophy, ritual theory and practice, cosmology, sacred space, pilgrimage and sacred geography

Courses Taught

Tantric Buddhism (Graduate Seminar)
Stanford, 2019 (Win)

Creating the Universe: Buddhist Science, Ritual, and Art (Seminar)
Stanford, 2018 (Win)
Princeton, 2017 (Spr)
Princeton, 2015 (Spr)
Washington University, 2014 (Spr)

Buddhist Art and Material Culture: The Virtues of Objects (Seminar)
Princeton, 2016 (Spr)

The Buddhist Individual: Society, History, and Gender (Seminar)
Princeton, 2015 (Aut)

Visualizing Buddhism: Art, Religion, Philosophy (Lecture)
Princeton, 2014 (Aut)
Washington University, 2014 (Spr)

Buddhist Heroes: Buddhism through the Literature of its Exemplars (Lecture)
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2012 (Spr)

First Year Sanskrit (Language)
University of Chicago, 2011 (Win)

Field Work

2015 Mongolia
Independent documentation of monuments, art, and rituals

2015	Korea and Japan Independent documentation of monuments, art, and rituals
2013	Korea Independent documentation of monuments, art, and rituals
2011	Kolkata and Ladakh, India Independent documentation of monuments, art, and rituals
2009	Darjeeling and Sikkim, India, and Bhutan Independent documentation of monuments, art, and rituals
2007	Northern India Independent documentation of monuments, art, and rituals
2006	Central Tibet One of two principal photographers for a documentation project of Buddhist monuments and art, The Ohio State University
2002	Japan Study abroad program on the history and techniques of traditional arts, Rhode Island School of Design
1994	Nepal Photographer and architectural draftsman for a documentation project of Buddhist monuments and art, The Ohio State University

Other Professional Activities

Anonymous Manuscript Reviews For

- Cambridge University Press
- *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- *History of Religions*
- *Material Religion*

Miscellaneous

2018–Present	Steering Committee, AAR Comparative Religions Unit
2019	Interviewed for <i>New Books in Buddhist Studies</i> podcast [link]
2015	Interviewed for <i>Cross-Cultural Art and Philosophy</i> series at CICA Museum, South Korea (June)
2010	Initiated and organized a week-long series of lectures and Sanskrit readings with Newar Buddhist priest Naresh Man Bajracharya at the University of Chicago (May)