

D. MITRA BARUA (PhD)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chao Center for Asian Studies-MS 475
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Date: 07/01/2017

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Religious Studies Wilfrid Laurier University, (Religion and Culture Department), Waterloo, Ontario	2005-2011
Master of Arts, Religious Studies Wilfrid Laurier University, (Religion and Culture Department), Waterloo, Ontario	2003–2005
Master of Arts, Buddhist Studies University of Kelaniya, (Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies), Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	1999-2000
Bachelor of Arts, University of Sri Jayawardenapura (Department of English, Pali and Buddhist studies), Gangodawila, Sri Lanka	1997-2000
Pundit Degree, Oriental Studies (Equivalent to BA degree) Oriental Studies Society, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka	1994-1997
Tripitaka Dharma Examination, Vidyodaya Pirivena, Colombo, Sri Lanka	1995
Pali and Sanskrit Language Examinations, Maharagama Dharmayatanaya Sri Lanka	1994
Oriental Languages and Canonical Training, Maharagama, Sri Lanka	1988-1994

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Annette and Hugh Gragg Postdoctoral Fellow in Transnational Asian Studies

Chao Center for Asian Studies Rice University	Since 07/2017
Associate Research Fellow Centre for Studies in Religion & Society University of Victoria, Canada.	09/2016-06/2017
The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow Asian Studies Department Cornell University, USA.	08/2014-07/2016
Fulltime Instructor Religion and Culture Department University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada	07/2011-07/2014
Sessional Instructor Religion and Culture Department Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada	09/2010-12/2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Asian Studies Department Cornell University, Ithaca NY USA ASIAN 4422/6622 Buddhism and Modernity	Spring 2016
Religion and Culture Department University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK CANADA RLST 218: Developments in Buddhist Thought SNSK 101: Introduction to Sanskrit (6 CU, year long course) RLST 110: Introduction to World Religions (Two Sections)	Fall & Winter 2013-14
RLST 217: Buddhist Religious Tradition RLST 214: Introduction to Philosophies of India RLST 280: Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion RLST 110: Introduction to World Religions (Two Sections) RLST 389: Modernity, Development and South Asian Religions	Fall & Winter 2012-13
RLST 211: Hindu Religious Tradition RLST 214: Introduction to Philosophies of India RLST 341: Bodhisattva Doctrine in Buddhism RLST 412: Seminar on Religion and Culture RLST 110: Introduction to World Religions (Eastern Traditions) RLST 217: Buddhist Religious Tradition	Fall & Winter 2011-12
Religion and Culture Department Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo ON CANADA	

RE 332: Sacred Space

Fall 2010

GRANTS

Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (Administered by the American Council of Learned Societies)	2014-2016 US\$120K
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	2007-2009 C\$40K
Ontario Graduate Scholarship Ontario Ministry of Training, College and University	2006-2007 C\$15K
Graduate Scholarship (PhD Program) Wilfrid Laurier University (Religion and Culture Department)	2005-2007 C\$10K
Graduate Scholarship (MA Program) Wilfrid Laurier University (Religion and Culture Department)	2003-2004 C7K
Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Sri Lanka Ministry of Higher Education	1997-2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Seeding Buddhism into Maple Leaves: Sri Lankan Buddhists' Transmission Practices in Toronto. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. (Under Contract)

Buddhism: A History of its Thought and Practice (in Preparation)
(A textbook co-authoring with William Londo, Bryan Levman, Nathan DeBoer, Thupten Dorjee upon invitation from Cognella Academic Publishing, San Diego, CA 92121)

Scholarly Interviews

Interview with the Religious Studies Project on "Immigrant Buddhism in the West." November 2013. Podcast available at
<<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/mitra-barua-on-immigrant-buddhism-in-the-west/>>

Book Chapters

"Arakanese Chittagong Became Mughal Islamabad: Buddhist-Muslim Relationship in Chittagong, Bangladesh." Accepted for *Buddhist-Muslim Encounter in South and Southeast Asia*, (eds. Michael Jerryson and Iselin Frydenlund). New York: Routledge.

“Community” (Co-authored with Mavis Fenn, University of Waterloo). In *The Buddhist World*, John Powers (ed.), pp. 385-398. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“*Teaching Buddhism to Children: The Evolving Sri Lankan Buddhist Tradition in Multicultural Toronto.*” In *Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms*, John Harding, Victory Hori, and Alexander Soucy (eds.), pp. 263-294, Montreal: MQUP. 2014.

“Buddhism for a Multi-cultural Society: Redefining Buddhism for a New Canada-born Generation.” In *Buddhism Contemporary Studies*, edited by Sanath Nanayakkara, and Russell Bowden, 145-185. Colombo: Sri Lankan Association of Buddhist Studies, 2010.

“Inter-Buddhist Religious Education in Ontario's Public Schools: A Model for Accommodating Religious Diversity.” In *Religious Education in a World of Religious Diversity*, edited by Wilna A. J. Meijer, Siebren Miedema, and Alma Lanser-van der Velde, 85-100. New York: Waxmann, 2009.

Refereed Journal Articles

“The Politics of/on the Bangladeshi Buddhist Minority: Repeated Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Diplomatic Exchanges of Buddhist Relic in Bangladesh.” In *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* (Forthcoming).

“Temporary Ordination for Character Transformation: A Diasporic Practice with Transnational Connections.” In *Journal of Global Buddhism* Vol. 12 (2011): 51-68.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Chittagong Plain Buddhists in Two Bengals.” Database of Religious History, available online <http://religiondatabase.org/poll/?entity=364&poll=35> 2016.

Book Reviews

Moral Theory in Santideva's Siksasmuccaya: Cultivating the Fruits of Virtue by Barbra R. Clayton. In *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* Vol. 36 No. 2. (2007): 362-363.

Donald S. Lopez, Jr., 2012. *The Scientific Buddha: His Short and Happy Life*. New Haven, Yale University Press. In *Oxford Journal of Buddhist Studies* Vol. 6 (May 2014): 159-64.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

Supervised an Undergraduate Student for Honor's Colloquium (RLST 426.0 (02).
University of Saskatchewan

April 2013

Served as a Member of the Undergraduate Program Committee, Religion and Culture Department, University of Saskatchewan. 2012-2013

(The committee was responsible in redesigning the program for better student enrollment)

Served as the vice-president of the Phommaviharam, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

(I was responsible in public relation and community outreach. Under my leadership, Phommaviharam evolved from a mono-ethnic community to a multi-ethnic community) 2005-2010

Served as a member of the Religious and Spiritual Advisory Committee, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. 2005-2008

Regularly visited the Waterloo regional public schools as guest speaker on the history of Buddhism 2003-2011

Organized the Inter-Buddhist Buddha Day celebration, Kitchener City Hall (Rotunda), Kitchener, Canada May, 2007

Organized Multi-ethnic Vesak celebration, Phommaviharam, Kitchener, Canada May 2006

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Buddhism in Two Bengals and its Implications for Buddhist Studies.” At H. N. Ho Family Foundation Buddhist Studies Symposium, University of Toronto, Canada, August 19, 2017.

“Modern Buddhist Reformation in Bengal.” At the Centre for Studies in Religion & Society, University of Victoria, Canada, June 07, 2017.

“Bengali Buddhists as the Descendants of Medieval Indian Buddhists in Bengal.” At Theravada Civilizations Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Workshop, University of Toronto, March 15, 2017.

“Religion in Rakhine, Myanmar and Chittagong, Bangladesh: Buddhist-Muslim Tension.” A guest lecture at Asian Studies 3300/6600: Burma/Myanmar Country Seminar, Cornell University, Ithaca, March 24, 2016.

“The Role of Food in Building Community in Buddhism.” A guest lecture at RE 333 Food and Religion, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, March 3, 2015.

“A Religious Perspective of Humanism.” At the World Religions Conference, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, November 13, 2013.

“Human Library.” Mennonite Central Committee, Saskatchewan, 600 45th St. W. Saskatoon, July 25, 2013.

“Living Peacefully.” Pleasant Point Mennonite Church, Clavet. July 21, 2013.

“Buddhism and Bhagavad Gita.” A guest lecture at RLST 329: Studies in Bhagavad Gita, University of Saskatchewan, November 1, 2012.

“Cultural Diversity in Hospice Service.” The Prairie Hospice Society, at the Refinery, 609 Dufferin Saskatoon, November 19, 2012.

Contributed as an invited panel member to a workshop on the 2010 documentary film *Schooling the World: The White Man's Last Burden* organized by the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, University of Saskatchewan, November 24, 2011.

“Care for the Dying and the Dead in Immigrant Buddhist Communities.” SK 634k: Grief, Death, Dying and Bereavement, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, March 2011.

“Buddhism and Food.” RE 333 / GS 340Y: Food and Religion, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, March 2011.

“A Buddhist Perspective of Government.” The Multifaith Forum on “Faith Communities and Advocacy with Government” Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, October 2009.

“Buddhist Monks and Buddhist Laity.” RE 250: Asian Religion, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, October 2009.

“Living Buddhists and Social Responses.” RE 250: Buddhism in India, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, October 2008.

“Cultural Challenges in Immigrant Lives.” Pastoral Counseling and the Marriage and Family Studies, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, September 2008.

“The Sangha and Society.” RE 250: Asian Religion: Origins and Development of Buddhism, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, March 2008.

“Buddhism and Philosophy.” The Arboretum Centre, Third Age Learning-Guelph, University of Guelph, Guelph, October 2007.

“The Main Tenets of Buddhism.” Forest Heights Collegiate Institute (the Grade 11 World Religions Class), Kitchener, October 2007.

“Buddhism and Counseling.” at Pastoral Counseling and the Marriage and Family Studies, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, June 2007.

“Buddhism in the Making.” RE 101: Religion of the Americas: Asian and Middle Eastern, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, March 2007.

“Buddhism and Children.” RE 331: Religious Diversity in Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, March 2007.

“Historical Development of Three Buddhist Traditions.” RS 100: Religions of the East, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, November 2006.

“Three Buddhist Traditions.” Eastwood Collegiate Institute (Grade 11 World Religions Class), Kitchener, October 2006.

“Perspectives on Death and Dying” The Cedars, (Organized by the Spirituality in Health Care Network), Waterloo, March 2006.

“Historical Development of Buddhism” RS 100: Religions of the East, University of Waterloo, November 2005.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Religious Minorities and Pluralism in Bangladesh.” Presented at the Workshop on Religious Minorities and Pluralism in Asia, Northern Illinois University, April 9, 2016.

“The Category of ‘Bengali Buddhists’ and their Co-existence with Bengali Muslims in Bangladesh.” Presented at the annual conference of the Association of Asian Studies, Seattle, Washington, USA, March 31-April 3, 2016.

“Bangladeshi Buddhists’ Transnational Networks: The Politics of Buddhist Relics’ Repeated Journeys from Chittagong to Colombo.” Presented at the conference on Buddhism and Politics, University of British Columbia, June 6-8, 2014.

“Formation of Young Buddhists in Contemporary Sri Lankan Buddhism.” Presented at the annual conference of the Association of Asian Studies, Philadelphia, USA, March 27-30, 2014.

“Pressure to be Friends: An Emerging Trend in the Hierarchical Relationships in an Immigrant Community in Toronto.” Presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, University of Victoria, Victoria, June 1-4, 2013.

“Bangladeshi Buddhists’ Tantra-Theravada Conversion and Their Transnational Connections with South and Southeast Asia.” Presented at the IACSS Biennial Conference on *Cultural Transformations: Development Initiatives and Social Movements* at BRAC University, Dhaka, December 17-18, 2011.

“Sri Lankan Buddhism in the Context of Ethno-religious Minority.” Presented at the XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Dharma Drum Buddhist College, New Taipei City, Taiwan, June 20-25, 2011.

“The Untold Story of Exodus: Sri Lankan Immigrants to other Countries.” Presented at the conference on *Assessing the Complexities of South Asian Migration* at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, May 19-21, 2011.

“Sri Lankan Buddhists’ Transmission Strategies and the Culturally Negotiated Buddhist Tradition in Toronto.” Presented at *Buddhism in Canada: Global Causes, Local Conditions* organized by Buddhism and Contemporary Society Program (funded by the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, October 15-17, 2010.

“Selected Transmission and Reception of a Buddhist Tradition: The Cultural Negotiation between First- and Second-Generation Sri Lankan Buddhists in Toronto.” Presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Concordia University, Montreal, May 29 – June 1, 2010.

“Temporary Ordination for the Benefit of Oneself.” Presented at *Buddhism and Diaspora Conference* (funded by the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation) organized by the Department of Humanities, University of Toronto, Scarborough, May 2010.

“Dhamma Education and the Construction of Buddhist Moral Agents.” The 2009 Religion in the Public Sphere Graduate Fellows’ workshop on *Religion, Education and Civic Identities*. The Centre for the Study of Religion of the University of Toronto selected only seven PhD candidates representing multiple disciplines from various universities in Canada and abroad. Each candidate presented a chapter from their dissertation, and each chapter was submitted to the organizers prior to the workshop and was responded to by an expert in the respective field. The workshop was held on 1-3 of April 2009.

“Buddhism for a Multi-cultural Society: Redefining Buddhism for a New Canada-born Generation.” Presented at *the 3rd International Conference on Buddhist studies* organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, December 2008.

“Buddhism in the Making: Sinhalese Buddhist Immigrants and their Descendents in Toronto, Canada.” Presented at the conference on *Asian on the Move* organized by the Canadian Asian Studies Association, Waterloo, November 2008.

“Navigating the Duties and Negotiating the Roles.” Presented at the Religious Studies Field Research Group, McMaster University, Hamilton, May 2008.

“Dhamma Education and Sinhalese Buddhists in Toronto: The Challenges in Acculturating Immigrant Children into Theravada Buddhism.” Presented at the conference on *Sacred and Secular in a Global Canada*, Huron University College of the University of Western Ontario, London, May 2008.

“North American Buddhism: Reformulating the Tradition for the Next Generations.”
Presented at the American Academy of Religion (Eastern International Region),
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, May 2007.

“Religious Education: A Buddhist Perspective.” Presented at the conference on *Religious Education in a world of religious diversity* organized by the International Seminars on Religious Education and Values, Driebergen, the Netherlands, August 2006.

“Protestant Buddhism: Protestant Christian Hegemony in the Study of Buddhism.”
Presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Society for Study of Religion, York University, Toronto, May 2006.

“Spiritual Capital – Resettlement and Transnational Networks: the case of Laos Buddhists in Canada.” Presented at the conference on *Re-visioning Southeast Asia: Conflicts, Connections and Vulnerabilities* organized by the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies, York University, Toronto, October 2005.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Area (Buddhism in the West) Reviewer, <i>Journal of Buddhist Ethics</i>	Since 2013
Manuscript Reviewer, <i>Religion Compass</i>	2011
Member of the Canadian Society for Study of Religion	Since 2006
Member of the American Academy of Religion	Since 2009
Member of the International Association of Buddhist Studies	Since 2011
Member of the Association for Asian Studies	Since 2013

SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION

Area (Buddhism in the West) Reviewer, <i>The Journal of Buddhist Ethics</i>	2013-2015
Manuscript Reviewer, <i>Religion Compass</i>	2011

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND TRAINING

Completed “Transforming Teaching” offered by The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, University of Saskatchewan	09/2012-11/2012
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Completed the International Summer Academy on “Research Strategies in Faith Development and Biographical Study of Contemporary Religion.” University of Bielefeld, Germany.	06/2005
Completed Instructional Development for PhD Candidates,	04/2004
Tripitaka Dharma Examination	1995
Pali and Sanskrit Language Examinations	1994
Oriental Languages and Canonical Training in Sri Lanka	1988 -1994

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Languages	Speaking	Reading	Writing
English	X	X	X
Bangla	X	X	X
Sinhala	X	X	X
Pali		X	X
Sanskrit		X	X
Chatgaia*	X		

*It is a Bangla dialect in Chittagong and Myanmar’s North Rakhine State

INTERESTS

Research Interests

- Inter/cross-cultural Interactions and Intergenerational Dynamics
- Globalization of Theravada Buddhism
- Buddhism in Bengal
- Transnational Buddhist Connections/Networks
- Religious Minority-Majority Interactions
- Buddhism in Diaspora, specifically in North America
- Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia
- Religions, Politics, and Culture in South Asia

Teaching Interests

- Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia
- Buddhism in North America
- Inter/cross-cultural Adaptation of Religion
- Buddhism, Ethnicity and Nationalism in Modern South Asia

- Religion and Colonialism
- Religion, Migration and Globalization
- Intergenerational Transmission of Religion and Culture

REFERENCES

Dr. Anne M. Blackburn
Department of Asian Studies
Cornell University
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Mail: 350 Rockefeller Hall
Ithaca NY 14853
USA
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Fax: 1 607 255 1345

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Department of Religion and Culture
University of Saskatchewan
918 Arts Building
9 Campus Dr.
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Dr. George Keyworth
Department of Religion and Culture
University of Saskatchewan
918 Arts Building
9 Campus Dr.
Saskatoon
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SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES

Dr. Mavis Fenn
St. Paul University College – University of Waterloo.
190 Westmount Road North, Waterloo ON N2L 3G5 CANADA
Email: mfenn@uwaterloo.ca
Tel. 1 519 885-1460 ext. 211

Dr. Michel Desjardins
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CANADA
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Dr. Darrol Bryant
Renison University College – University of Waterloo.
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