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Department of Religion  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
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## **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D.** South Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago, 2010
- M.A.** South Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago, 2004
- M.A.** Divinity, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2002
- B.A.** Religion, Classics, Vassar College, 1998

## **DISSERTATION**

The *Svasthānī Vrata Kathā* Tradition: Translating Self, Place, and Identity in Hindu Nepal. Advisor: Wendy Doniger. Readers: Matthew Kapstein and Yigal Bronner

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- Postdoctoral (ACLS New Faculty) Fellow, Department of Religion, Rutgers University, 2011-2013.
- Lecturer, Department of Geography, Rutgers University, Fall 2010.
- Lecturer, Writing Program, Rutgers University, Fall 2010.
- Faculty Assistant, South Asian Language Summer Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, June-August 2007.
- Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago, Autumn/Winter/Spring 2006-07.
- Faculty Assistant, South Asia Language Summer Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, June-August 2006.
- Macalester College, Admissions Officer, 1999- 2000.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

- ACLS New Faculty Fellowship, Dept of Religion, Rutgers University, 2011-2013
- Global Scholar, Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University, 2009-2010
- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2007-2008
- AAUW Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2007-2008 (Declined)
- Committee on South Asian Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Summer 2007
- Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship, 2006-07
- Committee on South Asian Studies Dissertation Fellowship, 2006-07
- Doolittle-Harrison Fellowship, 2006
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2004-2005
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (Academic Year) Fellowship, 2001-2004  
for Hindi at the University of Chicago
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (Summer) Fellowship, 2001-2003  
for Nepali at the Campus of International Languages, Tribhuvan University,  
Nepal, Nepali Language Program, Summer 2003

for Nepali at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, South Asian Summer  
Language Institute, Summer 2002  
for Nepali at Cornell University, Nepali Language Program, Summer 2001  
Foreign Language Enhancement Program Fellowship, 2002  
Center for Institutional Cooperation Traveling Scholar, 2002  
Elizabeth Skinner Hubbard Fellowship, 2000-2002  
Vassar College Maguire Fellowship (for research in Nepal), 1998-1999

## BOOKS

*The Vow to the Goddess Svasthani and the Making of a Hindu Religious Tradition*  
(book manuscript under review at Oxford University Press).  
*The Svasthānī Vrata Kathā* (a translation in progress), for TBD.

## EDITED BOOKS

*Religion and Modernity in the Himalayas*, edited with Megan Adamson Sijapati for  
Routledge, for October 2012 submission.

## PUBLICATIONS IN JOURNALS

“Seeking Svasthānī: The Politics of Gender, Location, Iconography and Identity in Hindu  
Nepal,” *Journal of Hindu Studies* (forthcoming).  
Review of *Women in the Hindu Tradition Rules Roles and Exceptions* by Mandakranta  
Bose. Routledge, 2010. Published in the *Journal of Hindu Studies*, March 2012 (5  
(1): 114-116).  
“Translating Tradition, Creating Culture: A Reconstruction of the History and  
Development of the *Svasthānī Vrata Kathā* of Nepal.” Published in *Himalaya*,  
Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, Vol 25: 1-2, 2005.  
Review of *A History of Nepal* by John Whelpton. Cambridge University Press, 2005.  
Published in *Himalaya*, Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan  
Studies, Vol 25: 1-2, 2005.  
Review of *A History of Nepal* by John Whelpton. Cambridge University Press, 2005.  
Published in the University of Chicago South Asia Newsletter. Spring/Summer  
2006.

## PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

“From Text to Internet, From Aniconic to Statuesque: The Modernization of a Medieval  
Hindu Tradition” (partial draft completed) for *Religion and Modernity in the  
Himalayas*, edited by Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz and Megan Adamson Sijapati.  
“The Purāṇization of a Nepali Textual Tradition: Redefining the Local in the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Century  
Nepal” (partial draft completed) for the *International Journal of Hindu Studies*.  
“Gendered Space in Text and Ritual: Rethinking a Popular Nepali Women’s Tradition”  
(partial draft completed) for the *Journal of the Association of Asian Studies*.

## CONFERENCES PAPERS

“From Text to Temple: Recent Textual and Performative Innovations in a Medieval  
Nepali Hindu Tradition.” A paper accepted to the Annual Conference on South  
Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2012.

- “Now You See Her, Now You Don’t: The Politics of Gender, Location, and Identity in Nepal’s Svasthānī Tradition.” A paper accepted to the Feminist South Asia Pre-Conference at the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2012.
- “Crossing Boundaries, Changing Forms: Constructing Gender, Place, and Identity in Hindu Nepal.” A paper accepted to the New York Conference on Asian Studies, September 2012.
- “The Modernization of a Medieval Nepali Hindu Tradition: Preliminary Observations of Recent Changes.” Presented at the first Himalayan Studies Conference, held at Macalester College, September 2011.
- “Gendered Agency/Authority in Text and Ritual: Deconstructing a Popular Women’s Tradition in Nepal.” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2010.
- “Gendered Space in Text and Ritual: Rethinking a Popular Nepali Women’s Tradition.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies at Penn State, October 2010.
- “The Becoming of a Ritual: The Disjunction between Narrative and Performance in Nepal’s *Svasthānī* Tradition.” Paper accepted for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago, 2009.
- “Purāṇ ization and Parbatīyāzation: Redefining the Local in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Nepal.” Presented at the Theory and Practice in South Asia Workshop at the University of Chicago, April 2008.
- “Locating the Translocal, Relocating the Local: A Discussion of a Nepali Purāṇ ic Textual Tradition.” Presented at the South Asian Summer Language Institute Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 2007.
- “Situating the *Svasthānī*: Investigating the Local/Translocal Dynamic of a Popular Nepali Textual Tradition.” Presented at the Theory and Practice in South Asia Workshop at the University of Chicago, January 2007.
- “Not Just Another Local Purāṇ a: The Unparalleled Success of the *Svasthānī Vrata Kathā* in Nepal’s Religio-Cultural Literary Traditions.” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2006.
- “*Svasthānīparameśvarīvratakathā*: A Translation of the Oldest Extant Nepalbhāsa Manuscript, 1603 CE / NS 723.” Presented at the University of Iowa Translation Colloquium, April 2006.
- “Recent Findings on the *Svasthānī Vrata Kathā* Tradition.” Rotary Club of Yala (Lalitpur, Nepal), 17 February 2006.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZING AND PARTICIPATION

- Panel organizer, “Performing Modernity in Kathmandu: Constructing and Corrupting Hindu, Muslim, and Royal Identities.” A panel accepted to the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2012.
- Respondent, “Religion and Modernity in the Himalayas II: Language and Discourse.” A panel presented at the first Himalayan Studies Conference, held at Macalester College, September 2011.

Panel co-organizer, “Religion and Modernity in the Himalayas, I and II.” A joint panel presented at the first Himalayan Studies Conference, held at Macalester College, September 2011.

Panel organizer and co-chair, “Textuality and Performativity in South Asia.” A panel presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago, 2009.

### **INVITED INTERVIEWS**

Metro FM Cultural Program, Radio Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal, 7 February 2006.

*Sandhya Times* (Newar Language Daily Newspaper), Kathmandu, Nepal, 17 February 2006.

### **TEACHING COMPETENCY**

Hinduism; South Asian Religions; World Religions; South Asian Goddess Traditions; Women and Religion; South Asian History; Nepali History and Culture; Sanskrit; Nepali

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

#### ***Rutgers University***

Hindu Goddesses  
Gender and Hinduism  
Religions of the Eastern World  
South Asia  
Expository Writing

#### ***University of Chicago***

Elementary Sanskrit

#### ***University of Wisconsin-Madison***

Intermediate Sanskrit  
Intermediate and Advanced Nepali

### **LANGUAGES**

Sanskrit, Nepali, Newar (Classical, Modern), Hindi, French

### **SERVICE**

#### ***Service to Profession***

Executive Council, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, member since September 2012.

Editorial Board, *Himalaya*, peer-reviewed journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, member since September 2012.

Book Review Editor, *Himalaya*, peer-reviewed journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, since September 2011.

#### ***Service to Rutgers University***

South Asian Studies Program Working Group, member since Sept 2011.

“Hindu Goddesses.” A presentation given at the Rutgers University Hindu Students’ Council meeting on Women in Hinduism and South Asian Studies, October 2011.

### **ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

Association of Asian Studies  
Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies

**TRAVEL and RESEARCH in SOUTH ASIA**

Research trip planned for Nepal as ACLS New Faculty Fellow, May/June 2013.  
Ph.D. follow-up research in Kathmandu and Sankhu, Nepal as Mellon/ACLS Fellow,  
January-February 2008.  
Ph.D. research in Kathmandu and Sankhu, Nepal as a Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellow,  
December 2004-March 2006.  
Preliminary research visit, Darjeeling, West Bengal and Sikkim, India, September 2005.  
Campus of International Languages, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, Nepali Language  
Program, June-August 2003.  
Preliminary research visit, Rajasthan, India, September 2003.  
Independent research in Kathmandu, Sankhu, and Janakpur, Nepal as a Maguire Fellow,  
September 1998-June 1999.  
School for International Training Study Abroad in Nepal Program, Sept – Dec 1996.