

Abhishek Ghosh
234 Lake Ontario Hall,
1 Campus Drive Allendale, Michigan, 49401
Tel: +1.773.593.1982 (C)
Email: ghoshab@gvsu.edu

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Religious Studies Program, Department of Liberal Studies, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University, August 2015 – present

Honorary Affiliate Faculty Member, Religious Studies and Intellectual History, Global Center for Advanced Studies, Mar 2017 – present

Visiting Fellow, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, Oxford University, (One quarter, April-June 2019).

Postdoctoral Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Muhlenberg College, Religion Studies Department, Allentown, PA, August 2014 – August 2015

Teach three courses during the academic year 2014-15 on Hinduism and India
Serve the institution and department by organizing outreach activities

Instructor/Part-time Faculty, University of Chicago, Graham School, August 2008 –March 2014

Design and teach courses on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and 'Asian Classics'
Organize one-day workshops on special topics related to South Asia and Hinduism
Mentor new instructors in pedagogy and assess their classroom teaching

EDUCATION

PhD, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, August 2014

Dissertation: "Vaishnavism and the 'West': A Study of Bhaktivinod's Encounter and Response, 1869–1969"

Committee: Wendy Doniger, Chair; Dipesh Chakrabarty; Gary Tubb

Research and teaching interests: History of Religions, South Asian Religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism), Indo-Western Cultural Encounters, Postcolonial Theory, Religion and Globalization, South Asian Diasporas

Specializations: Devotional (bhakti) movements, Modern Hinduism, Vaishnavism, Colonial Bengal, Hindu gurus in the West

M.A. South Asian Languages and Civilizations, August 2014

MSt, Religious Studies, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, September 2006

Specializations: Hinduism, Buddhism, Theory and Method in the Study of Religions

BA, Bidhannagar College, University of Calcutta, 2004

English (Honors)

Minors: World History, Indian and Western Philosophy

WORKS IN PROGRESS

2020 *Worlds of Devotion: Contending Universalisms and Bhakti in the West*
[Under

contract with State University of New York Press, Hindu Studies Series, due June 30th 2020]

2019 *Christian Missionaries, Western Education, and a Hindu Guru: The Colonial Milieux of Bhaktivinoda and the Inception of a Worldwide Bhakti Movement.*
[Under review with *Societies*]

2020 *Globalizing the Eastern Savior: Creative Tensions in Bhaktivinoda's Autobiography and Pioneering a Worldwide Bhakti Movement.* [Completed. Revisions Pending before submission to *Cogent Arts and Humanities* in January 2020.]

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- 2019 "Innate Intuition: An Intellectual History of Sahaja-jñāna and Sahaja-samādhi in Brahmoism and Modern Vaiṣṇavism" *Religions* 10.6
- 2018 "The Reincarnation of Pacman," *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol 21.4 [Short article]
- 2017 "Envisioning a Spiritual Lineage: Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī's *Gauḍīya Bhāṣya*: Invocation Verses on Śrīmad Bhāgavatam's Invocation Verse," *Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies*, Vol 26.1 [Translation-Article]
- 2014 "Puranic Pasts and Colonial Presence: Bhaktivinod's Vaishnava Historiography of India," *Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies*, Vol. 23.1
- 2010 "Toward an Integrative Pluralism: The Inclusivist/Exclusivist Question in Gaudiya Vaishnavism," *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Vol. 19.1
- 2008 "Mahaprabhu-Jagannatha: Caitanya Vaishnava Perspectives on the Origin and Identity of Jagannatha," *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Vol. 17.1

Book Chapters

- 2013 "Text Migration: The Bhagavata Purana in the West," in *The Bhagavata Purana: Sacred Text and Living Tradition*, Eds. K. Valpey and R. Gupta, co-authored with F. Sardella, New York: Columbia University Press.
- 2013 "Gaudiya Vaishnavism," in *Contemporary Hinduism*, ed. P. Penumala, London: Acumen.
- 2013 "Rethinking Krishna's Eroticism," in *The Sociology of Religion in India: Past, Present, and Future*, eds. Ferdinando Sardella and Ruby Sain, New Delhi: Vikas Publishing.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles

- 2018 "ISKCON," "Bhaktivedanta Swami" [co-authored with Devahuti Shaw] and "Vande-mātaram" [co-authored with Sukla Chatterjee] *Routledge*

Encyclopedia of Hinduism and Tribal Religions, eds. Pankaj Jain, Rita Sherma, Madhu Khanna, New York: Routledge

- 2017 Book review of *Sacred Preface* by Swami Tripurari, *Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies*.
- 2009 Book review of *Krishna: A Sourcebook* Ed. E. Bryant, *Journal of Hindu Studies*.
- 2006 "Snanayatra," "Niti Sastra," "Hindus in Oceania," *Routledge Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, eds. Denise Cush and Catherine Robinson, New York: Routledge.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019-2020 CSCE Early Career and Catalyst Grant for a term at Oxford.
- 2018-19 Wabash Center Fellowship for Early Career Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities.
- 2017 Four CSCE Dissemination Grant for AAR Midwest Conference, MASAL, South Asia Conference, Madison, and Annual AAR Conference, Boston [See conference presentations]
- 2016 Two CSCE Dissemination Grant for AAR Midwest Conference, and Harvard Conference [See conference presentations]
- 2016 CSCE Mini Grant for development of book proposal
- 2013 Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, Humanities, Arts and Sciences, Graham School of General Studies, University of Chicago.
- 2013-14 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, University of Chicago, Committee of South Asian Studies
- 2007-12 Doctoral Fellowship, Graduate Aid Initiative, University of Chicago South Asian Languages and Civilizations
- 2008 Departmental Summer Grant, University of Chicago

- 2006-07 Grant for Mahabharata Geography Project, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, Oxford University
- 2005-06 Scholarship for M.St. at Oxford University, Mafatlal Trust, Mumbai
- 2005-06 Scholarship for M.St. at Oxford University, Birla Educational Foundation, Calcutta

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

- 2019 “Doing Religious Studies in India”, Ruia College, Mumbai University, Mumbai, 26th July [Keynote speaker]
- 2019 “Contending Universalisms in Colonial India”, Presidency University, Kolkata, July 25th
- 2019 “Hindu Devotional Universalism and Natural Sciences”, at Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, Oxford University, June 19th
- 2017 “Hindu devotional Universalism in Nineteenth Century Bengal” at Michigan State University, Lansing, March 22nd
- 2016 “Hinduism and World’s Religions” at Metro Health Hospital, Grand Rapids, November 3rd
- 2015 “Hinduism and the West: Perceptions, Myths, and Realities,” Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding, Allentown, January 9th
- 2014 “How Hinduism Became Hinduism, Or, The Conceptions, Confusions, and Consequences of Naming a ‘World Religion,’” Princeton University, Hinduism Program, April 3rd

- 2014 "Missionaries, Gurus, and Reformers: Hinduism in South Asia and Beyond", University of Arizona, Religious Studies Program, Feb 10th
- 2013 "Humans and Animals in Hinduism and Buddhism", Chicago Humanities Festival, Cultural Center, November 10th
- 2013 "British Raj, Bengal Renaissance and Bhadrakalok Vaishnavas", Forum for South Asian Studies, Uppsala University, Stockholm, October 24th
- 2013 "Modern Hindu Religious Practices", Wilbur Wright, City Colleges of Chicago, October 17th
- 2013 "Bhagavad Gita and Indian Philosophy", School of Art Institute Chicago, September 23rd
- 2013 "Being the Change: Mahatma Gandhi and Leadership", College of Du Page, April 11th
- 2012 "Bridging Humanities with Other Disciplines", Kalinga Institute of Information Technology, Bhubaneswar, India, December 9th
- 2012 "The Future of Religious Studies in India", Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai, December 21st
- 2012 "Yoga Philosophy in the *Bhagavad Gita*", Wilbur Wright, City Colleges of Chicago, October 11th

Conference Presentations

- 2019 "Locating Bhaktivinoda's Vaiṣṇava Universalism", Symposium in honor of Prof. Joseph O'Connell., Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, June 1st
- 2019 Respondent to: Avni Chag's "Exploring Eclecticism in Svāminārāyaṇa Scripture", Sanskrit Traditions in the Modern World, Trinity College, Oxford, May 24th

- 2017 "From Secrecy to Intuition: Sahaja Theology and Practice in Colonial Bengal" DANAM, American Academy of Religion, Nov 18th
- 2017 'Ārya' as a Transnational Indo-European Identity Marker', South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Oct 28th
- 2017 "Discerning the Truth: Studying a Hindu Devotional Doxography" Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Notre Dame University, Sep 15th
- 2017 "Nineteenth Century Hindu Devotional Epistemology" at Asia Forum, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, April 14th
- 2017 "Imagining Yoga: Western Constructions of a Hindu Text and Practice" at Michigan Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, Western Michigan University, March 10th [co-authored with advisee/student Waverly Sission]
- 2017 "Yoga in the West: The (mis)adventures of an idea" at the Midwest American Academy of Religion, Muncie IN.
- 2016 "Reinventing a Historical Figure" Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, April 20th
- 2016 "Kirtan in the West" [Tentative Title], Midwest AAR, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, April 1st
- 2013 "Krishna Bhakti in the West," panel: Hinduism and Globalization, American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, November 24th
- 2013 "Bhaktivinod's Legacy," panel: Modern Pioneers of Kṛṣṇa Bhakti, DANAM (Dharma Academy of North America) Baltimore, AAR November 23rd
- 2012 "Gaudiya Vaishnavism in a Global World," conference theme: Religion and Globalization, Shifting Perspectives, CSSSR, Jadavpur University,

Kolkata, December 1st

- 2010 "Integrative and Inclusive Vaiṣṇavism," theme: Religious Coexistence, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, December 1st
- 2008 "Globalizing Jagannatha," panel: Hinduism in India and the USA, American Academy of Religion, November 3rd

Campus/Departmental Talks

- 2014 "Hindu Missionaries in the America," Religion Studies Consortium, Muhlenberg College, October 17th
- 2013 "Bhaktivinod's Doxography of World Philosophies," Theory and Practice in South Asia, University of Chicago, November 7th
- 2013 "Vaiṣṇava Historiography and the West," Theory and Practice in South Asia, University of Chicago, May 2nd
- 2011 "Krishna Bhakti and the West", South Asian Languages and Civilizations Brown Bag Talks, University of Chicago, March 13th
- 2011 "Rethinking Krishna's Eroticism," theme: Limits of South Asia, South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, March 4th

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Grand Valley State University (new courses only):

- 2020 Yoga: Histories, Worldviews, Practices (REL 300 Winter)
- 2020 LIB 100: Reflect, Connect, Engage (Winter)
- 2017-19 Beginner and Intermediate Sanskrit (Independent Reading), Summer

- 2017–18 Religion, Violence, and Terrorism, (REL 300 Winter)
- 2016–18 Religions of India: Cows, Caste, and the Kamasutra?, Winter (REL 306)
- 2015–20 Religions of the World, Fall, Winter (REL 100 Multiple Sections)

Muhlenberg College

- 2015 Religion and the Meanings of Life, Spring
- 2015 Jesus Meets Kṛṣṇa: Missionaries in India, Gurus in the West, Spring
- 2014 Religions of India, Fall

University of Chicago

[designed and sole-taught]

- 2013-14 Religions of the World: An Introduction, two-quarter series, Fall-Winter
- 2013 Yoga Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, Spring
- 2013 Two Indian Epics: Ramayana and Mahabharata, Winter
- 2012 Six Schools of Indian Philosophy, Fall
- 2012 Reality 101: Hindu and Quantum Perspectives (co-taught with Ved Singh, Department of Physical Sciences, University of Chicago, Summer
- 2008, 09 The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, Winter, Summer
- 2012 Modern India: Cricket, Corruption, and Call Centers? Spring
- 2012 Hinduism 101: Cows, Caste, and the Kamasutra? Winter
- 2011 Religions of Asia: Comparative Perspectives, Fall
- 2010,11 Hinduism in India and Beyond, Summers
- 2009 Black Tantra/White Tantra: An Introduction, Summer

- 2008-09 Modern Indian History and Literature, Springs
- 2008-09 Introduction to Buddhist Thought, Winters
- 2008-09 Classics from Ancient India: Vedas and Upanishads, Falls

Language Assistant, South Asian Languages and Civilizations

- 2010-13 Beginners' Hindi, 1st Year, Five quarters
- 2010-13 Intermediate Hindi, 2nd Year, Five quarters
- 2010-13 Advanced Hindi, 3rd & 4th Years, Five quarters

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago Writing Program

- 2012 Writing Intern (Large Class), "Human Being and Citizen," Winter
- 2010 Writing Intern ("), "Readings in World Literatures," Fall 2010
- 2008-10 Writing Lector (Small Class), Writing Seminars, Four Quarters

Tutor, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies

- 2006 Continuing Education Program, "The *Bhagavad Gita*", Fall

LANGUAGES

Bengali and Hindi: Advanced reading, writing, speaking, and translation skills

Oriya and Sanskrit: Proficient reading, writing, and translation skills

Maithili and Brajabhasa: Research competency

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2013-19 Academic Council Member (Educational Consultant), Somaiya University, Mumbai
- 2010 Coeditor (with Jonathan Edelmann), *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, special issue on "Vaishnavism and Nature", Vol. 18.2, Summer
- 2006 Coordinator, Graduate Seminars on Hindu Studies, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, Fall
- 2005-06 Cofounder and Treasurer, Religious Studies Society, Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, 2006–present

Association of Asian Studies, 2009–present

American Historical Association, 2012–present

Theta Alpha Kappa, 2015 – present

REFERENCES

Wendy Doniger, Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions
Divinity School, University of Chicago
1025 E 58th Street, Swift Hall 207, Chicago IL 60637
Telephone: 773.702.8239; Fax: 773.702.8223
Email: don8@uchicago.edu

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor
Dept. of History & South Asian Languages and Civilizations
1130 E 59th Street, Foster 208, Chicago IL 60637
Telephone: 773.702.8642; Fax: 773.834.3254

Email: dchakrab@uchicago.edu

Graham M. Schweig, Co-Editor, Journal of Vaishnava Studies
Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies
Christopher Newport University
1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News, Virginia 23606
Telephone: 757.594.7959; Fax: 757.594.7349
Email: gschweig@cnu.edu