

**RICHARD F. NANCE**  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
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BLOOMINGTON, IN 47405  
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### **CURRENT APPOINTMENT**

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies  
Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Central Eurasian Studies  
Core Faculty, Dhar India Studies Program  
Indiana University-Bloomington

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. University of Chicago, 2004  
A.M. University of Chicago, 1997  
B.F.A. (Honors) New York University, 1991

### **PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS (\*=REFEREED)**

\* *Speaking for Buddhas: Scriptural Commentary in Indian Buddhism* (Columbia University Press, 2012).

### **PUBLICATIONS: PAPERS (\*=REFEREED)**

- \*\*"Second Thought, Best Thought?: On Error, Correction, and the Transmission of Tradition." Forthcoming in Gummer, N., ed. 2020. *The Language of the Sūtras* (Maṅgalam Research Center).
- \* "Panegyric as Philosophy: Philosophical Dimensions of Indian Buddhist Hymns." Forthcoming in Stepien, R., ed. 2020. *Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature* (State University of New York Press).
- \*\*"Reading, Yielding, Doubting: Passages of Reception in Indian Buddhist Literature." In Arnold, D, C. Ducher and P.J. Harter, eds. 2019. *Reasons and Lives in Buddhist Traditions: Essays in Honor of Matthew Kapstein* (Wisdom: Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism Series).
- \*\*"Mindsets and Commentarial Conventions among Indian Buddhists," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2015).
- "How to Address Kings: Buddhist Letters to Indian Rulers." *Revue d'Études Tibétaines* (2015). Also published in Vitali, Rabsal, and Willock, eds. *Trails of the Tibetan Tradition: Papers for Elliot Sperling*. Dharamshala (H.P.) India: Amnye Machen Institute.

- “The Voice of Another: Speech, Responsiveness, and Buddhist Philosophy.” In Emmanuel, S., ed. *A Companion to Buddhist Philosophy*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell (2013).
- \*”Buddhist Hermeneutics” Oxford Bibliographies Online, Oxford University Press  
<<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195393521/obo-9780195393521-0155.xml>> (2013).
- \*”Tall Tales, Tathāgatas, and Truth: On the ‘Privileged Lie’ in Indian Buddhist Literature,” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* (2011).
- “Pilgrimage and the influence of modern technology on ritual practice: examples from Tibet” (“Palomnichestvo i vliianie sovremennoi tekhnologii na ritual’nye praktiki: primery iz Tibeta”) In Pliusnin, A.M., ed. *Ecology, Spiritual, Social and Economic Perspectives for the Development of the Baikal Region (Ėkologičiia, dukhovnye i sotsial’noėkonomičeskie perspektivy razvitiia Baikal’skogo regiona)*. Ulan-Ude: The Publishing House of RB MPH RCME SHI (2010).
- \*”Indian Buddhist Preachers Inside and Outside the Sūtras.” *Blackwell Religion Compass* (2008).
- \*”On What Do We Rely When We Rely on Reasoning?” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* (2007).

#### WORKING PAPERS + MONOGRAPHS IN PREPARATION

- “Siddhārtha Gautama.” Submitted for *The Routledge Handbook of Indian Philosophy*, ed. P.J Harter, Sara McClintock, and William Edelglass (paper, under review)
- “Buddhist Hermeneutics.” Under contract for *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism, Vol. III: Doctrines*, ed. V. Eltschinger (encyclopedia article, 5000 words)
- “The Limits of Provenance: Reconsidering *Buddhavacana*” (paper)
- “Burdened Donkeys, Unfinished Paintings, and Thieves in the Night: Vasubandhu on the Challenges of Commentary” (paper)
- Thus Have We Heard: Buddhist Dynamics of Transmission* (monograph)
- The Logic of Explication: Vasubandhu’s Vyākhyāyukti* (annotated translation)

#### REVIEWS

- Sunn O))), *Kannon* (Southern Lord, 2015). *Religious Studies Review* (December 2015).
- Donald Lopez, *From Stone to Flesh: A Short History of the Buddha* (University of Chicago Press, 2012). *Journal of Asian Studies* (May 2014).
- Dan Arnold, *Brains, Buddhas, and Believing: The Problem of Intentionality in Classical Buddhist and Cognitive-Scientific Philosophy of Mind* (Columbia University Press, 2012). *H-BUDDHISM* (May 2013):  
<<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=39223>>.
- The Cowherds, *Moonshadows: Conventional Truth in Buddhist Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2011). *Religious Studies Review* 38:4 (December 2012).

- John Powers, *A Bull of a Man: Images of Masculinity, Sex, and the Body in Indian Buddhism* (Harvard University Press, 2010). *Journal of Religion* (April 2011).
- Nati Baratz, *Unmistaken Child* (Samsāra Films, 2008). Asian Educational Media Service Newsletter (November 2010):  
<<http://www.aems.illinois.edu/publications/filmreviews/unmistakenchild.html>>.
- Toni Huber, *The Holy Land Reborn: Pilgrimage and the Tibetan Reinvention of Buddhist India* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). *Journal of Asian Studies* (May 2010).
- Jan Westerhoff, *Nāgārjuna's Madhyamaka: A Philosophical Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2009). H-BUDDHISM (December 2009):  
<<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=24486>>.
- Ryusei Keira, *Mādhyamika and Epistemology: A Study of Kamalaśīla's Method for Proving the Voidness of All Dharmas. Introduction, Annotated Translations and Tibetan Texts of the Second Chapter of the Madhyamakāloka*. (Vienna: Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien, 2004). *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (July-September 2008).
- Jonathan C. Gold, *The Dharma's Gatekeepers: Sakya Paṇḍita on Buddhist Scholarship in Tibet*. (State University of New York Press 2007). *International Journal of Hindu Studies* (August 2008).
- Joseph Walser, *Nāgārjuna in Context: Mahāyāna Buddhism and Early Indian Culture* (Columbia University Press, 2005). H-BUDDHISM (January 2006):  
<<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=32871144160451>>.

## PRESENTATIONS

- “The Limits of Provenance: Reconsidering *Buddhavaçana*.” *The Idea of Text in Buddhism* workshop, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (December 2019).
- Guest Speaker, REL-D375: “Religion and Literature: Post-Apocalyptic Dystopian Fiction,” Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University (February 2019).
- Respondent to Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, *The Church-in-law: An Experiment in the Legal Phenomenology of Religion*. Indiana University Faculty Colloquium (November, 2018).
- Respondent, “Narrative Ironies: Selves, Groups, and Others.” *Irony and the Study of Religion*: Indiana University Graduate Religious Studies Conference (February 2018).
- “Burdened Donkeys, Unfinished Paintings, and Thieves in the Night: Vasubandhu on the Challenges of Commentary.” American Academy of Religion National Conference, Boston (November 2017).
- “Reading as Yielding: Passages of Reception in Indian Buddhist Literature.” International Association of Buddhist Studies XVIIIth Congress, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada (August 2017).
- “Buddhist Sūtras on the Silk Road.” *The Silk Road: Between Central Eurasia and China*. Peking University, Beijing, China (May 2017).

- Respondent to DANG Baohai, “The Early Buddhist Belief of Qubilai.” *The Silk Road: Between Central Eurasia and China*. Peking University, Beijing, China (May 2017)
- Panelist, Book Session on Janet Gyatso’s *Being Human in a Buddhist World: An Intellectual History of Medicine in Early Modern Tibet* (Columbia University Press, 2015).  
American Academy of Religion National Conference, San Antonio (November 2016).
- Respondent, “The Contemplative Context of Buddhist Philosophy,” American Academy of Religion National Conference, San Antonio (November 2016).
- Guest Lecturer, “The Institution of the Dalai Lamas.” CEUS-R290: *Introduction to Central Asia, Mongolia, and Tibet*. Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University (October 2016, September 2017).
- Respondent, “The Textures of Buddhaghosa’s Writing and the Contours of His Thought: A Workshop on Reading Practices.” Amherst College (September-October 2016).
- Discussant for workshop on Vasubandhu’s *Triṃśikā*, Vasubandhu Translation Group, Princeton University (June 2016).
- “Panegyric as Philosophy: Voice and Argument in Indian Buddhist Hymns.” American Comparative Literature Association National Conference, Cambridge (March 2016).
- “Rules, Reticence, and Repetition: Teaching the Art of Commentary in a Buddhist Text from Central Eurasia.” Faculty Colloquium, Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University (November 2015).
- “Second Thought, Best Thought?: On Error, Correction, and the Transmission of Tradition”  
The Language of the Sūtras Conference, Mangalam Research Center, Berkeley, CA (June 2015).
- Respondent to Luis Gómez’s “When Silence Speaks and Performs,” The Language of the Sūtras Conference, Mangalam Research Center, Berkeley, CA (June 2015).
- Opening Remarks, Indiana University Graduate Religious Studies Conference (April 2015).
- Respondent to Jonathan Sparks-Franklin’s “Precarious Bodies, Responsibility, and Framing: Towards a Butlerian Theory of Nonhuman Subjectivity and Ethics.” Indiana University Ethics, Politics, and Philosophy Workshop (March 2015).
- Panelist, Book Session on Jonathan C. Gold’s *Paving the Great Way* (Columbia University Press, 2015). American Academy of Religion National Conference, San Diego (November 2014).
- “Instances, Principles, Silences: Exemplification in the Vyākhyāyukti.” 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna (August 2014).
- “A Conspiracy of Clerics: Incitement and Culpability in the Pali Vinaya.” Indiana University Ethics, Politics, and Philosophy Workshop (November 2013).
- “Buddhism and Film: Brief Remarks on Bill Morrison’s *Decasia*.” Indiana University Undergraduate Religious Studies Association Film Screenings (November 2013).

- Respondent to Cheryl Cottine's "Friendships and Teacher-Student Relationships: Linking Family and Society." Indiana University Ethics, Politics, and Philosophy Workshop (November 2013).
- "Representation and Identity in Buddhism" Indiana University Philosophy Club (April 2013).
- "On a Buddhist Creation Story" Guest Lecture, *Introduction to Religion* (REL-R 133), Indiana University (April 2013).
- "How to Address Kings." Association for Asian Studies National Conference (March 2013).
- Roundtable Participant, "Religion and Desire: Afterward, Ahead, and Beyond." Indiana University Graduate Religious Studies Conference (February 2013).
- "Buddhist Ideas on the Self (or Lack Thereof)." Guest Lecture, *Survey of the Self* (CLLC-L 210), Indiana University (February 2013).
- "Buddhism and the Body" Guest Lecture, *Religion and the Body* (REL-R 300), Indiana University (January 2013).
- "Mindsets and Commentarial Conventions among Indian Buddhists." Indiana University Religious Studies Faculty-Graduate Student Colloquium (November 2012).
- Panel Respondent, "'Theoretical' approaches to the study of religion." Indiana University Graduate Religious Studies Symposium (February 2012).
- Respondent to Bharat Ranganathan's "'Religious Ethics' and Obligations to Others." Indiana University Ethics, Politics, and Philosophy Workshop (November 2011).
- "Tibetan Buddhism: an Overview." Guest lecture, *Religions of Asia* (REL-B 153), Indiana University (October 2011).
- "Tibetan Buddhism: a Brief Introduction." National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Program, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University (February 2011).
- "Tall Tales, Tathāgatas, and Truth: On the 'Privileged Lie' in Indian Buddhist Literature." Indiana University Ethics, Politics, and Philosophy Workshop (January 2011).
- "Mindsets and Commentarial Conventions among Indian Buddhists." Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University (November 2010).
- "Buddhism and Violence." International Summer Institute, University of Illinois (June 2010).
- "Buddhism: Basic Themes." International Summer Institute, University of Illinois (June 2010).
- Roundtable Participant, "The 'Why' of Ritual." International Summer Institute, University of Illinois (June 2010).
- Roundtable Participant, "Religion and Belief in the Former Soviet Union and China." International Summer Institute, University of Illinois (June 2010).
- Panel Respondent, "Rethinking Creation and Death." Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Symposium (February 2010).
- "Reappraising the Reliances." Buddhist Studies Group, University of Chicago (January 2010).
- "Reappraising the Reliances." Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University (December 2009).

- “Pilgrimage and the influence of modern technology on ritual practice: examples from Tibet.” (*Palomnichestvo i vliianie sovremennoi tekhnologii na ritual'nye praktiki: primery iz Tibeta*) The legacy of Lama Danzan-Khaibzun Samaev: experience, practice, and prospects of adoption in the spiritual and socioeconomic development of the Baikal region (July 2009).
- “On the study of Buddhism in an American University.” East Siberian State Technological University (June 2009).
- “Tall Tales, Tathāgatas, and Truth: On the ‘Privileged Lie’ in Indian Buddhist Literature.” American Academy of Religion Conference (November 2008).
- “Tall Tales, Tathāgatas, and Truth: On the ‘Privileged Lie’ in Indian Buddhist Literature.” Indiana University Religious Studies Faculty Colloquium (October 2008).
- “Tantra.” Guest lecture, *Introduction to India* (INST I-310), Indiana University (November 2008).
- “Remarks on the Dalai Lama.” History, Ethics, Religion, and Philosophy Community of Dewey, Wright Quad, Indiana University (October 2007).
- “Questions and Answers on the Dalai Lama.” Hutton Honors College, Indiana University (October 2007).
- “On What Do We Rely When We Rely on Reasoning?” American Academy of Religion National Conference (November 2006).
- Respondent, “Author Meets Critics: Douglas Berger’s *The Veil of Māyā: Schopenhauer’s System and Early Indian Thought*.” American Philosophical Association Conference (April 2006).
- The Buddhist Preacher in History and Literature*. Panel organized for the American Academy of Religion National Conference (November 2005).
- “The Dharmabhāṅga Inside and Outside the Sūtras.” American Academy of Religion National Conference (November 2005).
- “Epistemology, Interpretation, and Interpreting Epistemology.” Harvard University Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference (April 2004).
- “Reading Śāntarakṣita Reading Bhartṛhari: Polemical Exegesis in the Fifth Chapter of the *Tattvasaṃgraha*(*pañjikā*).” University of Chicago (June 1999).

#### **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIVE WORK**

- Expedition member, Russian Academy of Sciences, Buryatia, Russian Federation (June 2009).
- Assisted in editing the English language introduction to Samten, J. and N. Tsyrempilov, *From Tibet Confidentially: Secret Correspondence of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama to Agvan Dorzhiev, 1911-1925*. Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives.
- Assisted in editing the English language introduction to Bazarov, A., *Catalogue of the collection of Tibetan manuscripts and xylographs “Chos Grwa” (parts: Tshad Ma, Grub Mtha’)* of the Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies of Russian Academy of Sciences (Siberian Branch) (Varanasi: CIHTS, 2008).

## TEACHING COMPETENCE

Buddhism (Philosophy, History, Ritual, Rhetoric), Indian Philosophy, Asian Religions, Introduction to Religion, Critical Approaches to the Study of Religion; Sanskrit Language, Classical Tibetan Language

## COURSES TAUGHT

As Assistant/Associate Professor: “Seeing the Buddha: Buddhist Art of India and Tibet”; “Buddhist Philosophy in India”; “Buddhist Ritual”; “Introduction to Buddhism”; “Introduction to Religion” (with Nancy Levene); “Embodying Nirvana”; “Tantric Buddhism”; “Thinking through Ritual”; “Boundaries”; “Placing Sacred Space”; “Mindfulness.” Indiana University (2007–2018).

As Faculty Assistant, “SASLI: Sanskrit I.” University of Wisconsin-Madison (Summer 2005, Summer 2006).

As Instructor, “Introduction to Asian Philosophies”; “Buddhist Philosophy.” School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2001–2004).

As Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Constructive Studies.” University of Chicago Divinity School (2002).

As Instructor, “Introduction to Philosophical Analysis.” St. Xavier University (2001).

As Lector, Little Red Schoolhouse Writing Program. University of Chicago (1999–2000).

## GRADUATE SUPERVISION: DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Clements, Richa. *Social Lives of Religious Symbols: An Evolutionary Approach to Explaining Religious Change*. 2010.

Francoeur, Kristin. *Toward a Re-Evaluation of Gender and Empowerment in ‘Development’: The Impact of Religion on North Indian NGOs* (working title). In process.

Goble, Geoffrey. *Chinese Esoteric Buddhism: Amoghavajra and the Ruling Elite*. 2012.

Hirschtick, Amy. *The Krishnas of Jaipur*. 2017.

Hsu, Naiyi. Title TBD. In process.

Karapanagiotis, Nicole. *Does Cyber-Smoke Reach the Gods? The Shift from Materiality to Virtuality in Hindu Divine Embodiment and Ritual Performance*. 2011.

Mai, Cuong. *Visualization Apocrypha and the Making of Buddhist Deity Cults in Early Medieval China: With Special Reference to the Cults of Amitābha, Maitreya, and Samantabhadra*. 2009.

Ranganathan, Bharat. *Religious Ethics and Obligations to Others*. 2013.

Venturi, Federica. *Creating Sacred Space: The Religious Geography of Sa skya, Tibet’s Medieval Capital*. Department of Central Eurasian Studies 2013.

Willock, Nicole. *A Tibetan Buddhist Polymath in Modern China*. Religious Studies and Department of Central Eurasian Studies 2011.

Zhang, Meng. *Ethics in Mengzi and Hume* (working title). In process.

### **SERVICE—INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

Member, Academic Fairness Committee, IU College of Arts and Sciences (2019–2021).  
 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Religious Studies (2018–19).  
 Member, Promotion Committee for Kashika Singh, Dhar India Studies Program (2018).  
 Member, Academic Program Committee, Dhar India Studies Program (2017–18).  
 Member, Salary and Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies (2017–18).  
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies (2012–15).  
 Member, Committee for Undergraduate Education, IU College of Arts and Sciences (2013–15).  
 Member, Executive Committee, Dhar India Studies Program (2013–15).  
 Chair, Academic Program Committee, Dhar India Studies Program (2012-13).  
 Member, Academic Program Committee, Dhar India Studies Program (2010–11).  
 Member, Salary and Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies (2010–12).  
 Departmental Liaison, UD-RPS “Explore Your Options” program (2013).  
 Panel Chair, “50 Years After Schempp: History, Institutions, Theory,” Indiana University (2013).  
 Departmental Representative, Phi Beta Kappa Induction, Indiana University (2011–12).  
 Panel Chair, “Tibetan Studies.” 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference, Indiana University (2011).  
 Co-Advisor (with Elliot Sperling, Central Eurasian Studies), IMP (Tibetan Studies) (2011).  
 Panel Chair, “Aspects of Central Eurasian Religion.” 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference, Indiana University (2010).  
 Departmental Liaison, UD-RPS “Explore Your Options” program, Indiana University (2008–09).  
 Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University (2008–09).  
 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University (2007–08).

### **SERVICE—PROFESSION**

Co-Chair (with Sara McClintock, Emory University), Buddhist Philosophy Unit/Group, American Academy of Religion (2013–18).  
 Panel Chair, “Philosophical Tantras and Tantric Philosophies: The Intersection of Tantra and Doxography in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism.” American Academy of Religion (2018).  
 Panel Chair, “Tibetan Madhyamaka.” American Academy of Religion (2017).  
 Member, Steering Committee, Buddhist Philosophy Group, American Academy of Religion (2008–12).  
 Member, Martin Marty Center Advisory Board, University of Chicago Divinity School (2002–04).



Referee (Presses): Columbia University Press; Oxford University Press; Routledge.

Referee (Journals): *Anthropologica*; *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies*; *History of Religions*; *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*; *Journal of Indian Philosophy*; *Journal for the Study of Religion (S. Africa)*; *Journal of Religion*; *Journal of Religious History*; *Philosophy East and West*; *Religion*; *Religion Compass*; *Religions (Open Access Journal)*.

Referee (Organizations): Austrian Science Fund (FWF); University of Missouri Research Board; Indiana University OVPIA (International Enhancement Grants), Indiana University Dhar India Studies Program (Dhar India Studies Program Research Fellowship).

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion; American Oriental Society; Association of Asian Studies; International Association of Buddhist Studies.

## HONORS

Shortlisted for two awards from the American Academy of Religion for *Speaking for Buddhas: Scriptural Commentary in Indian Buddhism*: “Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion: Textual Studies”; “Best First Book in the History of Religions” (2013).

Student Choice Awards for Outstanding Faculty Members, Indiana University (Nominee, 2012).

College of Arts and Sciences Trustees’ Teaching Award, Indiana University (2011).

Research Grant, Committee on South Asian Studies, University of Chicago (1999–2000 and 2002–03).

Henry Luce Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago Divinity School (2001–02).

FLAS Summer Fellowship, University of Virginia, Tibetan (1997).

B.F.A. (Honors), New York University (1991).

## LANGUAGES

Sanskrit; Classical Tibetan; Pāli; French; German

## REFERENCES

Available upon request