

Erik J. Hammerstrom

Religion Department, Pacific Lutheran University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., *with departmental honors* – Religious Studies (March 2010)
Indiana University, Bloomington
Dissertation: “Buddhists Discuss Science in Modern China (1895-1949)”
Master of Arts – Asian Religion (May 2003)
University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa
Thesis: “The Mysterious Gate: Daoist Monastic Liturgy in Late Imperial China.”
Bachelor of Arts (May 1997)
Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor Pacific Lutheran University, Department of Religion (Fall 2010 – Present)
Part-time Instructor DePauw University, Department of Religious Studies (2008 - 2009)

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Associate Fellow, “Critical Concepts and Methods for the Study of Religion in Modern China,” Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture in Asia, University of Groningen (Fall 2013 – Present)
<http://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/centre-for-asian-studies/staff-fellows/modern-china>

COURSES TAUGHT

The Buddhist Tradition	The Religions of China
Capstone in Religion	The Religions of East Asia
Chinese Buddhism	The Religions of Korea and Japan
Daoism	Research in Religion (pre-Capstone)
Korean Buddhism	Star Trek and Religion
Modern East Asian Buddhism	The Myth of the Spiritual East

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

The Science of Chinese Buddhism: Early Twentieth-Century Engagements (Columbia University Press, Sheng Yen Series in Chinese Buddhist Studies, 2015).

Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters:

“A Buddhist Critique of Scientism.” *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies*, vol. 27 (July 2014): 35-57.
“Yogācāra and Science in the 1920s: The Wuchang School’s Approach to Modern Mind Science.” In *Transforming Consciousness: Yogācāra Thought in Modern China*, edited by John Makeham, 170-197. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
“The Heart-of-Mind Method: Legitimizing a New Buddhist Movement in 1930s China.” *Nova Religio*, vol. 17, no. 2 (November 2013): 5-23.
“Science and Buddhist Modernism in Early 20th Century China: the Life and Works of Wang Xiaoxu 王小徐.” *Journal of Chinese Religion*, vol. 39 (2011 (2012)): 1-32.

- “Early 20th Century Buddhist Microbiology and Shifts in Chinese Buddhism’s ‘Actual Canon’.” *Theology and Science*, vol. 10, no. 1 (2012): 3-18.
- “The Expression ‘The Myriad Dharmas are Only Consciousness’ in Early 20th Century Chinese Buddhism.” *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal*, vol. 23 (2010): 71-92.

Book reviews:

- “*Beyond Reason and Tolerance: The Purpose and Practice of Higher Education* by Robert J. Thompson, Jr.” *Reflective Teaching, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion*, February 26, 2015. <<http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/article.aspx?id=29201>>
- “*Toward a Methodology of Comparative Studies in Religious Education: A Study of England and Norway* by Oddrun M. H. Bråten.” *Reflective Teaching, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion*, February 12, 2015. <<http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/article.aspx?id=29179>>
- “Vincent Goossaert and David Palmer, *The Religious Question in Modern China*.” *History of Religions*, vol. 53, no. 2 (November 2013): 218-221.
- “*Korean Buddhist Nuns and Laywomen: Hidden Histories, Enduring Vitality*, edited by Eun-Su Cho.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, vol. 19 (2012): 641-644.
- “*Heart of Buddha, Heart of China: The Life of Tanxu, a Twentieth-Century Monk*, by James Carter.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, vol. 18 (2011): 53-58.
- “The Householder Elite: Buddhist Activism in Shanghai, 1920-1956, by James Brooks Jessup.” *Chinese History Dissertation Reviews*, February 14, 2011. <<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/313>>
- “A Review of *Buddhism & Science: A Guide for the Perplexed*, by Donald Lopez.” *Buddhist Studies Review*, vol. 27, no. 2 (2010): 249-251.

Forthcoming or under contract:

- “Buddhism and the Modern Epistemic Space: Buddhist Intellectuals in the Science and Philosophy of Life Debates.” In *Recovering Buddhist China in the Twentieth-Century*, edited by Jan Kiely and J. Brooks Jessup (Columbia University Press, Sheng Yen Series in Chinese Buddhist Studies, expected publication spring 2016)
- Book Review, “*The Modern Spirit of Asia: The Spiritual and the Secular in China and India* by Peter and der Veer.” *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*
- Book Review, “*Buddhist-Based Universities in the United State: Searching for a New Model in Higher Education*, by Tanya Storch.” *Reflective Teaching, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion*

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- “Huayan Buddhism as a Resource for Teaching Students About Perspective-Taking.” Wabash Center Summer Fellowship. June-July 2015
- Stanley Weinstein Dissertation Prize for Best Dissertation on East Asian Buddhism from North America, Council on East Asia Studies, Yale University. 2009 and 2010 biennial competition period
- Grant for expansion of the “Database of Modern Chinese Buddhism 近代中國佛教檢索” website, China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies. Summer 2010
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. September - December 2009
- Travel Grant, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University. Grant to present a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago. March 26-29, 2009
- Dissertation Fellowship, Sheng Yen Education Foundation. 2008-2009
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University. 2008-2009
- Visiting Scholar, Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan. Spring 2008
- Fulbright Fellow, Taiwan. 2007-2008

Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award to study Chinese at National Taiwan Normal University's Mandarin Training Center. September - December 2007
 Graduate Essay Award, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University. Paper Title: "Chinese Buddhist and Língbǎo Daoist Metaphors of Roots in the 5th and 6th Centuries." April 2007
 Best Master's Thesis, Religion Department, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. May 2003
 International Buddhist Studies Fellowship, Woodenfish Program (first annual), Fo-kuang Shan, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Summer 2002
 Pacific Asia Scholarship, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. 2001 - 2002, 2002 – 2003

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS

Conference Papers:

- "Assembled in Sukhāvati: Orientalism as Cultural Memory in the Teaching of Pure Land Buddhism in the Undergraduate Classroom." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Marylhurst University. March 27-29, 2015
- "Notes on an Undergraduate Course: The Myth of the Spiritual East," for a panel on Asian religious studies pedagogy. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle Pacific University. May 3-5, 2013 (*panel organizer*)
- "Republican Buddhism and the Taxonomy of Knowledge: Buddhist Intellectuals and the Science and Philosophy of Life Debates." Buddhism and Buddhists in the History of Twentieth Century China Workshop, Chinese University of Hong Kong. May 30-31, 2012
- "The Heart-of-Mind Method: Legitimizing a Buddhist New Religious Movement in 1930s China." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco. November 19-22, 2011
- "Einstein's Buddhist Fans in 1930s China." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Gonzaga University. May 13-15, 2011
- "Microbiology and Buddhist Discourses on Science in Early 20th Century China." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta. October 30 - November 1, 2010
- "Invocation of Darwinism by Chinese Buddhists in the 1920s and 30s," for the panel "The Impact of Biological Theories of Evolution on East Asian Buddhists Around the Early 20th Century." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta. October 30 - November 1, 2010 (*panel organizer*)
- "Are All Worldly Things Evolving or Regressing?: Use of Evolution Among Chinese Buddhists in the 1920s." Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference, "Religion, Nature, and Innovation." February 25-26, 2010
- "Buddhist Promotion of Revolutionary Science in post-May Fourth China." Genealogies of Science in Asia: Cross-Cultural Appropriation, Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge. December 3-4, 2009
- "Secularization and Science Among Lay Buddhists: The Works of WANG Xiaoxu 王小徐 (1875-1948)," for the panel "Chinese Lay Buddhists in the Early Twentieth Century and the Question of Secularization: Four Case Studies." Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago. March 26-29, 2009 (*panel organizer*)
- "Chinese Buddhist Strategies for Dealing with Science and Scientism, 1919-1949." 12th International Conference of the History of Science in East Asia, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. July 14-18, 2008 (*translated into English and revised*)
- "The Cachet of Kexue: Buddhist Intellectuals and Modern Astronomy in 20th Century China." 15th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. June 23-28, 2008
- "Zhōngguó Fójiaotú chǔlǐ kēxué de cèlùè 中國佛教徒處理科學的策略: 1919-1936 (Chinese Buddhist Strategies for Dealing With Science: 1919-1936)." Meeting of the Buddhist Studies Group, National Taiwan University. March 17, 2008 (*paper given in Chinese*)

- “Chinese Buddhist and American Christian Critiques of Science: 1920-1940.” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Dominican University. March 30-31, 2007 (*panel organizer*)
- “Buddhism in Republican China: Superstition, Religion, or Science?” IBC Buddhist Studies Conference, University of the West, Los Angeles, California. October 13-15, 2006
- “Flower People: The Cult of the Huáyán Sūtra and Popular Religion in Tang China.” East Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University. February 10-11, 2006 (*revised*)
- “Flower People: The Cult of the Huáyán Sūtra and Popular Religion in Tang China.” Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference. Spring 2004
- “Journey of the Soul: Autochthonous Views of the Soul and Afterlife and Their Effect on Early Chinese Buddhism.” School of Hawai‘ian, Asian, and Pacific Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa. March 18-21, 2002

Invited Talks:

- “Buddhism in China/Tibet Today.” Tacoma Buddhist Temple. March 22, 2015
- “Science and Modern Taxonomies of Knowledge in Chinese Buddhism.” Duke University. February 20, 2015
- “The Western Concept of Religion Arrives in China.” Guest lecture for Professor Zhou Yi’s class: Traditional Chinese Culture, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China. October 24, 2014
- “Buddhism and Science.” Part of the lecture series “Buddhism in Dialogue: Lessons from the Past, Directions for the Future.” Tacoma Buddhist Temple. June 7, 2014
- “What is the Deal with the Fat Laughing Buddha?” Lunchtime Speaker Series, PLU University House. April 18, 2013
- “Buddhism: The Basics.” St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Lakewood, WA. January 31, 2013
- “Religious Studies: Why do we do it? What is it?” For June Microterm course “Sects in the City: Exploring Tacoma’s Religious Communities.” Tacoma School of the Arts. June 11, 2012
- “Hindu Beliefs and Practices.” St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Lakewood, WA. May 9, 2012
- “Religion in the Constitution of China.” Lunchtime Speaker Series, PLU University House. April 18, 2012
- “Basics of Hindu Cosmology,” with Aimee Hamilton. Talk for docents, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Washington. April 5, 2012
- “How China Got ‘Religion’: Ideology and Social Change in Early 20th Century China.” Religion Department Fall Lecture, Pacific Lutheran University. October 19, 2011
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3J9CheoCPUE&feature=channel_video_title>
- “The Development of Buddhist Discourses About Science in Early Twentieth Century China.” The Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University. October 3, 2011
- “An Example of Using the *Mínguó Fójiào qíkān wénxiàn jíchéng* 民國佛教期刊文獻集成: Chinese Buddhists Talk About Science in the Early 20th Century.” Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan. May 28, 2008
- “Modern Chinese Buddhism.” Mai Wah Society, Butte, Montana. August 8, 2007

Panels, Roundtables, and Seminars:

- “Introduction to *The Science of Chinese Buddhism*.” PLU Religion Department Colloquium. April 30, 2014
- Roundtable Organizer and Co-president, “Revisiting the Revival: Holmes Welch and the Study of Buddhism in Twentieth-Century China.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore. November 23 - 26, 2013
- Participant, Consultation on Teaching and Pedagogy. Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington. October 11-12, 2013
- Speaker on Process theology and Buddhist thought. Kathryn Breazeale Memorial Lecture, PLU. May 8, 2013

Participant, Roundtable Discussion of *Theological Reflections at the Boundaries* by Paul Ingram. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Concordia University, Portland. May 11-13, 2012

“Yogācāra and Science in the 1920s: The Wuchang School Approach to Modern Mind Science.”

Yogācāra and Indian Thought in China Group Meeting, Kona, Hawai‘i. December 17-19, 2011

“Buddhist Promotion of Science-as-Revolution in Post May Fourth China.” Workshop: Golden Ages: Universal Histories and the Origins of Science, Columbia University. December 9-10, 2011
(paper revised)

“Annual Pedagogical Round-table: Introducing Islam.” Participant. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Gonzaga University. May 13-15, 2011

“Wáng Xiǎoxú’s 王小徐 (1875-1948) *Kēxué zhī gēnběn wèntí* 科學之根本問題 (Basic Problematics of Science): Science and the Development of a Modern Buddhist Worldview.” Text-Reading Seminar, Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge. October 30, 2009

EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND SERVICE

Buddhist Education Committee, Tacoma Buddhist Temple. 2015 – Present

Outreach Committee and Temple Board, Tacoma Buddhist Temple. 2015 – Present

Organizer and Co-Chair, “Holmes Welch and the Study of Buddhism in Twentieth-Century China.” Five-year Seminar, the American Academy of Religion. 2014 – Present

Area Book Review Editor for Chinese Buddhism, *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*. 2010 – Present

Co-Founder and Co-Editor, “Database of Modern Chinese Buddhism 近代中國佛教檢索”

<http://buddhisticinformatics.ddbc.edu.tw/dmcb/Main_Page> Launch: July 27, 2009

Site Owner, “Contemporary Chinese Buddhism Scholars’ Group.”

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/contemp_chinese_budd/> 2006 – 2015

Guest lecturer and seminar leader for the January Term course, “Sects in the City: Exploring Tacoma’s Religious Communities.” Tacoma School of the Arts. January 6 and 22, 2015

Co-Organized Film Screening and Discussion Panel for the documentary “Buddhism after the Tsunami.” Buddhist Studies in Tacoma Inaugural Event. University of Washington –Tacoma. April 15, 2104

Chinese language consultant on set design, “Around the World in 80 Days.” Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. March 1 – April 13, 2014

Adult Education Series, “The Place of Religion in China.” Hope Lutheran Church, Enumclaw, Washington. Three Sundays in May 2013

Adult Education Series, “The Place of Religion in China.” Mt. View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, Washington. Four Sundays in April 2013

Chinese language consultant on set design, “Uncle Ho to Uncle Sam.” ACT Theatre, Seattle, Washington. September 7 – October 7, 2012

Member, Public Programs Committee, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Washington. 2012

Voiceover: writer and performer for “Scapes” DVD. Museum of Glass. April, 2012

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd0uCrZBU1Y>>

Consultant and Copywriter. Exhibit: “Scapes.” Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Washington. September 2011-April 2012

Volunteer Researcher, Mai Wah Society, Butte, Montana. August 2005; July 2009

Co-organizer, “Religion: Practicing Theory/Theorizing Practice,” Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference. March 8-9, 2007

WORKSHOPS AND OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION

Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference: Vocation and the Common Good, Augsburg College. July 20-22, 2015

Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Crawfordsville, Indiana. 2014-2015

Placed-Based Learning Workshop, PLU. Spring 2015

2015 NW Symposium on International Faculty-Led Programs, Portland State University. April 10, 2015
Vice Provost's Pedagogy Reading Group, Ken Bain's *What the Best College Teachers Do*. PLU. Fall 2011
“Interpreting Technology and Race in East Asia,” Illinois/Indiana Summer Seminar, East Asian Studies Center, Bloomington. May 14-15, 2009
Korean Language Institute, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. (Through Level 3 of 6). September 1999 - February 2000

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Conversant: Mandarin and basic Korean

Reading: Modern and Classical Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and French