

# Erik J. Hammerstrom

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## EDUCATION

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2010 Ph.D. Religious Studies (*departmental honors*), Indiana University, Bloomington  
 2003 Master of Arts in Asian Religion, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa  
 1997 Bachelor of Arts, Sarah Lawrence College

## EMPLOYMENT

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2016-Present Associate Professor, Pacific Lutheran University, Department of Religion  
 2010-2016 Assistant Professor, Pacific Lutheran University, Department of Religion  
 2008-2009 Part-time Instructor, DePauw University, Department of Religious Studies

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS

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Fall 2017 Program Director, Tacoma Immersion Experience Semester, Pacific Lutheran University  
 2015-2016 Chair *pro tem*, Chinese Studies Program, Pacific Lutheran University  
 2015-2016 Program Director *pro tem*, Study Away Semester in Chengdu China. Pacific Lutheran University  
 2013-2015 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

## COURSES TAUGHT

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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	Tacoma Buddhism: Pure Land and Zen
The Myth of the Spiritual East	

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs

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

### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2017 with Gregory Adam Scott, "Revisiting the Revival: Holmes Welch and the Study of Buddhism in Twentieth-Century China." Introduction to a Special Issue of *Studies in Chinese Religions* (Co-organizer of special issue with Gregory Adam Scott), vol. 3, no. 4: 197-203.

2016 "Avatamsaka 華嚴 Transnationalism in Modern Sinitic Buddhism." [Journal of Global Buddhism](#), vol. 17: 65-84

2014 "A Buddhist Critique of Scientism." [Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies](#), vol. 27: 35-57

- 2013 “The Heart-of-Mind Method: Legitimizing a New Buddhist Movement in 1930s China.” *Nova Religio*, vol. 17, no. 2: 5-23
- 2012 [2011] “Science and Buddhist Modernism in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century China: the Life and Works of Wang Xiaoxu 王小徐.” *Journal of Chinese Religion*, vol. 39: 1-32
- 2012 “Early 20th Century Buddhist Microbiology and Shifts in Chinese Buddhism’s ‘Actual Canon’.” *Theology and Science*, vol. 10, no. 1: 3-18
- 2010 “The Expression ‘The Myriad Dharmas are Only Consciousness’ in Early 20th Century Chinese Buddhism.” [Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal](#), vol. 23: 71-92

### Book Chapters

- 2016 “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, 79-110. New York: Columbia University Press, Sheng Yen Series in Chinese Buddhist Studies
- 2014 “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

### Academic Reviews

- 2018 “Architects of Buddhist Leisure: Socially Disengaged Buddhism in Asia’s Museums, Monuments, and Amusement Parks, by Justin McDaniel.” *Pacific Affairs*, v. 91, n. 1 (March): 134-136.
- 2017 “Fantasy Literature: Challenging Genres, edited by Mark A. Fabrizi.” [Reflective Teaching, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion](#).
- 2017 “Thomé H. Fang, Tang Junyi and Huayan Thought: A Confucian Appropriation of Buddhist Ideas in Response to Scientism in the Twentieth Century, by King Pong Chiu.” *Journal of Chinese Religions*, v. 45, n. 2: 199-201
- 2016 “International Student Engagement: Strategies for Creating Inclusive, Connected, and Purposeful Campus Environments, by Chris R. Glass, Rachawan Wongtrirat, and Stephanie Buus.” [Reflective Teaching, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion](#)
- 2015 “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](#)
- 2015 “The Modern Spirit of Asia: The Spiritual and the Secular in China and India by Peter van der Veer.” *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*, vol. 2, no. 2: 281-284
- 2015 “Praying for the Republic: Buddhist Education, Student-Monks, and Citizenship in Modern China (1911-1949), by Lei Kuan Rongdao Lai.” [Dissertation Reviews](#)
- 2015 [2014] “Living Karma: The Religious Practices of Ouyi Zhixu by Beverley Foulks McGuire.” *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, Third Series, no. 16: 199-203
- 2015 “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](#)
- 2015 “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](#)
- 2013 “Vincent Goossaert and David Palmer, *The Religious Question in Modern China*.” *History of Religions*, vol. 53, no. 2: 218-221

- 2012 “Korean Buddhist Nuns and Laywomen: Hidden Histories, Enduring Vitality, edited by Eun-Su Cho.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 19: 641-644
- 2011 “Heart of Buddha, Heart of China: The Life of Tanxu, a Twentieth-Century Monk, by James Carter.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 18: 53-58
- 2011 “The Householder Elite: Buddhist Activism in Shanghai, 1920-1956, by James Brooks Jessup.” [Dissertation Reviews](#)
- 2010 “A Review of *Buddhism & Science: A Guide for the Perplexed*, by Donald Lopez.” *Buddhist Studies Review*, vol. 27, no. 2: 249-251

### Other Writings

- 2016 “Huayan Buddhists on Equality in Diverse Societies.” [Buddhistdoor Global](#), October 21

## PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS

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### Conference Papers

- 2018 “Huayan Meditation in Early Twentieth-Century Chinese Buddhism.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver. November 19-22
- 2018 “Did the Recovery of Lost Scriptures Matter in 20th c. Chinese Buddhism? Huayan as Case Study.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver. November 19-22
- 2018 “Did the Recovery of Lost Scriptures Have an Impact on Chinese Buddhism in the Early Twentieth Century? A Case Study.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Pacific Lutheran University. May 11-13
- 2016 “Egalitarianism in Transnational Sinitic Buddhist Discourse.” Buddhism in the Global Eye, University of British Columbia. August 10-12
- 2016 “Avatamsaka Transnationalism in Modern East Asian Buddhism.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. Seattle. March 31-April 3
- 2015 “On Assessing the Impact of Scientific Rhetoric in Modern Chinese Religion: A Prolegomenon.” [Framing the Study of Modern Religion in China and Taiwan: Concepts, Methods, and New Research Paths](#), Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture in Asia, the University of Groningen, Netherlands. December 9-12
- 2015 “Assembled in Sukhāvātī: 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
- 2013 “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 (*panel organizer*)
- 2012 “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
- 2011 “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
- 2010 “Microbiology and Buddhist Discourses on Science in Early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta. October 30 - November 1 (*panel organizer*)

- 2010 “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
- 2009 “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 (*panel organizer*)
- 2008 “Chinese Buddhist Strategies for Dealing with Science and Scientism, 1919-1949.” 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the History of Science in East Asia, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. July 14-18 (*translated into English and revised*)
- 2008 “The Cachet of Kexue: Buddhist Intellectuals and Modern Astronomy in 20<sup>th</sup> Century China.” 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. June 23-28
- 2008 “Zhōngguó Fójiàotú chǔlǐ kēxué de cèlǜ 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 (*paper given in Chinese*)
- 2007 “Chinese Buddhist and American Christian Critiques of Science: 1920-1940.” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Dominican University. March 30-31 (*panel organizer*)
- 2006 “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 (*revised*)
- 2004 “Flower People: The Cult of the Huáyán Sūtra and Popular Religion in Tang China.” Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference
- 2002 “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

### Invited Talks

- 2018 “Chinese Buddhism in the Age of Science: the 1920s.” Department of Religious Studies, University of Oklahoma. October 18
- 2018 Justice and karma in Buddhism. Tyler Travillian’s IHON course. October 16
- 2018 Religion on a generational starship, guest instructor for Scott Roger’s PLU course “SYEP 202: One Giant Leap.” March 15
- 2018 “Millennials and Religion: Some Causes and Conditions.” Buddhist Churches of America National Convention, Sacramento, California. February 23.
- 2017 “Chinese Buddhists and Science in the 1920s.” Lunchtime Speaker Series, PLU University House. October 18
- 2017 “Millennials and the Future of Our Temples.” [Center for Buddhist Education](#), Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, California. May 4.
- 2017 Guest Speaker, Hanamatsuri (Buddha’s Birthday) Service. White River Buddhist Temple, Auburn, Washington. April 9.
- 2017 “The Story of the Buddhist Swastika, the *Manji* 卍字.” 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest District Convention of the Buddhist Churches of America. Tukwila, Washington. February 17-19, 2017.

- 2017 “Millennials and the Future of Our Temples.” 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest District Convention of the Buddhist Churches of America. Tukwila, Washington. February 17-19, 2017.
- 2016 “Buddhism and ‘Manji’: The Truth about the Manji (Buddhist Swastika), its History, and How it was Stolen by the Nazis.” Tacoma Buddhist Temple. November 27
- 2016 Interviewee, [Marginalia Podcast](#). September 6
- 2016 “Two Types of Thesis-based Arguments,” and “Scaffolding the Research Project.” Purdue Writing Workshop For the Social Scientific Study of Religion in China, Seattle University, August 15-16
- 2016 Interviewee, [New Books in East Asian Studies / New Books in Buddhist Studies Podcast](#). New Books Network. March 30
- 2015 “Buddhism in China/Tibet Today.” Tacoma Buddhist Temple. March 22
- 2015 “Science and Modern Taxonomies of Knowledge in Chinese Buddhism.” Duke University. February 20
- 2014 “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
- 2013 “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
- 2012 “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
- 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
- 2011 “How China Got ‘Religion’: Ideology and Social Change in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century China.” [Religion Department Fall Lecture](#), Pacific Lutheran University. October 19
- 2011 “The Development of Buddhist Discourses About Science in Early Twentieth Century China.” The Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University. October 3
- 2008 “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 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan. May 28
- 2007 “Modern Chinese Buddhism.” Mai Wah Society, Butte, Montana. August 8

### **Panels, Roundtables, and Seminars**

- 2018 Presider, “Chinese and Chinese Diasporic Christianities” panel, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver. November 19-22
- 2018 Workshop facilitator, “Millennials, GenZ, and the Future of Our Temples.” Buddhist Churches of America National Convention, Sacramento, California. February 23
- 2017 “The Peril and Promise of Huayan Buddhism as a Discourse of Social Equality.” Dimensions of Huayan Buddhism Symposium, San Jose State University. May 6
- 2016 Speaker, Roundtable Discussion “Teaching *Religions of China in Practice*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio. November 19 - 22
- 2016 “Avatamsaka Transnationalism in Modern Sinitic Buddhism.” PLU Religion Department Colloquium. March 16
- 2015 Lay Buddhist panelist, “Food and Faith: Nourishment for the Soul” interfaith conversation. Associated Ministries (of Tacoma), November 12
- 2014 “Introduction to *The Science of Chinese Buddhism*.” PLU Religion Department Colloquium. April 30

- 2013 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. Kathlyn Breazeale Memorial Lecture, PLU. May 8
- 2012 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
- 2011 “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 (*paper revised*)
- 2011 “Annual Pedagogical Round-table: Introducing Islam.” Participant. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Gonzaga University. May 13-15
- 2009 “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

### **MAJOR FUNDING AT PLU**

- 2018-19 with Peter Bomann, Kelmer Roe Research Fellowship in the Humanities, “Pedagogical Uses of Role-playing and Simulation Games in College-Level Religion Courses.”
- 2016-17 Karen Hille Phillips Regency Advancement Award, “A Biography of Modern Huayan Buddhism in the Sinophone World.”

### **EXTERNAL AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2018 (with Michael Zbaraschuk) Curriculum Development Grant, Interfaith Youth Core. Summer
- 2015 “Huayan Buddhism as a Resource for Teaching Students About Perspective-Taking.” Wabash Center Summer Fellowship.
- 2011 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)
- 2010 China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies Small Grant for expansion of the “Database of Modern Chinese Buddhism 近代中國佛教檢索” website
- 2009 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge. Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 Dissertation Fellowship, Sheng Yen Education Foundation
- 2008-2009 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
- 2008 Visiting Scholar, Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan. Spring
- 2007-2008 Fulbright Fellow, Taiwan
- 2007 Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award, Mandarin Training Center, National Taiwan Normal University. Fall Semester

- 2002 International Buddhist Studies Fellowship, Woodenfish Program (first annual),  
Fo-kuang Shan, Kao-hsiung, Taiwan. Summer
- 2001-2003 Pacific Asia Scholarship, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

### **EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND SERVICE**

- 2017-Present Organizer, "Buddhism Today Book Group," Monthly Community Reading Group at King's Book in Tacoma
- 2016-Present Dharma School Teacher, Lotus (High School) Class, Tacoma Buddhist Temple
- 2015-Present Buddhist Education Committee, Tacoma Buddhist Temple
- 2010-Present Area Book Review Editor for Chinese Buddhism, *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*
- 2009-Present Co-Founder and Co-Editor, "[Database of Modern Chinese Buddhism](#) 近代中國佛教檢索"
- 2014-2018 Organizer and Co-Chair, "Holmes Welch and the Study of Buddhism in Twentieth-Century China." Five-year Seminar, the American Academy of Religion
- 2018 Adult Education Series, "Buddhist Nationalism." Mt. View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, Washington. November
- 2018 Hosting Institution Liaison, Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion / Society for Biblical Literature, May 11-13, 2018
- 2015-2017 Temple Board, Tacoma Buddhist Temple
- 2017 Adult Education Series, "Christianity as an East Asian Religion." Hope Lutheran Church, Enumclaw, Washington. Three Sundays in April and May
- 2016 Organizer, Interfaith Panel on Peace-Building, Tacoma Buddhist Temple. June 11
- 2016 Assistant organizer, Japan-American Daoist Studies Conference. Pacific Lutheran University, March 29-30
- 2015 Adult Education Series, "Monotheisms in China." Hope Lutheran Church, Enumclaw, Washington. Three Sundays in September and October
- 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, 22
- 2014 Co-Organizer, Film Screening and Discussion Panel for the documentary "Buddhism after the Tsunami." Buddhist Studies in Tacoma Inaugural Event. University of Washington –Tacoma. April 15
- 2014 Chinese language consultant on set design, "Around the World in 80 Days." Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. March 1 – April 13
- 2013 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
- 2012 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
- 2011-2012 Consultant and Copywriter. Exhibit: "Scapes." Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Washington
- 2009 Volunteer Researcher, Mai Wah Society, Butte, Montana. August 2005; July
- 2007 Co-organizer, "Religion: Practicing Theory/Theorizing Practice," Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference. March 8-9

**WORKSHOPS & OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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- 2016-2018 Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, Buddhist Churches of America  
2018 PLUTO Institute, PLU. Summer  
2016 Teaching Interfaith Understanding. Interfaith Youth Corps and the Council of Independent Colleges, DePaul University, July 3-August 4  
2015 Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference: Vocation and the Common Good, Augsburg College. July 20-22  
2014-2015 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  
Spring 2015 Placed-Based Learning Workshop, PLU  
2009 "Interpreting Technology and Race in East Asia," Illinois/Indiana Summer Seminar, East Asian Studies Center, Bloomington. May 14-15  
1999-2000 Korean Language Institute, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. (Through Level 3 of 6)