

1. James Alexander Benn

2. Address

Department of Religious Studies
McMaster University
University Hall, Room 105
Hamilton, Ontario
L8S 4K1
CANADA
Phone: 905 525 9140, ext 24210 / 24734 (Chair's office)
Fax: 905 525 8161
bennjam@mcmaster.ca

3. Educational Background

University of California, Los Angeles: 1995 to 2001. PhD, East Asian Languages and Cultures (Chinese Buddhism).
Advisor: Robert Buswell.
Dissertation: *Burning for the Buddha: Self-Immolation in Chinese Buddhism.*

Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto: July to December 1999. Researcher.

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London: September 1993 to September 1994. MA, Religious Studies (with Distinction).
Advisor: T. H. Barrett.
Thesis: *Temperance Tracts and Teetotallers under the T'ang: Buddhism, Alcohol and Tea in Mediaeval China.*

Christie's Fine Arts Course London: September 1986 to June 1987.

University of Cambridge (St. John's College): 1982 to 1986. BA, MA, Oriental Studies (Chinese).
Special Subject: Tang Intellectual History, supervised by T. H. Barrett and David McMullen.

4. Current Status at McMaster

Professor of Buddhism and East Asian Religions.
Tenured.
First appointed at McMaster: Assistant Professor, July 1 2005.
Date tenure and promotion conferred: July 1 2007.
Date of promotion to Professor: July 1 2014.

5. Professional Associations

United Kingdom Association for Buddhist Studies,
International Association of Buddhist Studies,
Association for Asian Studies,
American Academy of Religion,
T'ang Studies Society,
Early Medieval China Group,
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions,
Chinese Military History Society.

6. Employment History

a. Academic

McMaster University:

Associate Professor of Buddhism and East Asian Religions, 2007–2014.
Assistant Professor of Buddhism and East Asian Religions, 2005–2007.

Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ, USA):

Assistant Professor of Chinese Religions, 2001–2005.

Lewis and Clark College (Portland, OR, USA):

Visiting Assistant Professor in Asian Religions, 1998–1999.

b. Consultations

None.

c. Other

None

7. Scholarly and Professional Activities

a. Editorial Boards:

Co-editor, Brill Studies in East Asian Religions.
Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism Series.
Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies.

b. Grant and Personnel Committees:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: Chair, Midterm Review Committee for Major Collaborative Research Grant, 2013.
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: Chair, Committee 1B, 2013 Insight Grants competition; 2012 Insight Grants competition.
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: Committee 410-01, 2011 Standard Research Grants competition.

Chair, Ontario Graduate Scholarships Panel 28, 2009–2010.

c. Executive Positions:

Member, Executive Committee for multi-investigator project, “From the Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Religions.” 2016–

Co-chair (elected), Chinese Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, 2009–2015.

d. Journal Referee:

ARC (1 review)

Asian Literature and Translation: A Journal of Religion and Culture (1 review)

Asia Major (4 reviews)

Buddhist Studies Review (2 reviews)

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies (2 reviews)

East Asian History (1 review)

Ethnohistory (1 review)

History of Religions (2 reviews)

Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies (1 review)

Journal of Chinese Religions (2 reviews)

Journal of Daoist Studies (1 review)

Journal of Religion and Popular Culture (2 reviews)

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (12 reviews)

Journal of Song-Yuan Studies (1 review)

Material Religion (2 reviews)

Religion (1 review).

Manuscript Reviews for Publishers (Monographs and Textbooks):

University of Hawai'i Press (3), Brill (2), Routledge, Wadsworth, Oxford University Press, Columbia University Press (2), Washington University Press.

e. External Grant Reviews:

External Assessor, Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation/ACLS Program in Buddhist Studies-- Collaborative Research Grants, Dissertations Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, 2014, 2015, 2016.

External Assessor, American Philosophical Society, Franklin Research Grant, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2015–16.

External Assessor, American Council of Learned Societies, Dissertation Completion Fellowships, 2011, 2012, 2013.

External Assessor, Standard Research Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2006).

External Adjudicator for the Buddha Dharma Kyōkai (BDK) Canada Graduate Scholarship Competition (2004).

Rapporteur on sociological study of self-immolation for Economic and Social Research Council, UK (2004).

f. Other:

External Assessor for Tenure and Promotion cases at Boston University (2014), Columbia University (2011), National University of Singapore (2016), St. Mary's University (2015), University of Calgary (2010 and 2014), University of Chicago (2012), University of California Los Angeles (2014), University of Michigan (2015), University of Virginia (2016).

T'ang Studies Society, Nominating Committee, 2007–2008.

University of Toronto/McMaster University Numata Buddhist Studies Program Committee, 2006–2008; 2009–2013.

University of Toronto/McMaster University Numata Buddhist Studies Supervisory Committee, 2013–2016.

Selection Committee, BDK Canada Buddhist Studies Graduate Scholarship Competition (2006).

Planning Committee, 2003 Annual Meeting of the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies.

8. Areas of Interest

Research:

Buddhism and Taoism in medieval China.

Physical and material aspects of religious practice.

Relics, self-immolation, tea, apocrypha.

Teaching:

Buddhism, Taoism, Chinese Religions.

Buddhist and Taoist texts in Chinese and in translation.

Consulting:

None

9. Honours

- 2013. McMaster University, President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision.
- 2001. UCLA Charles E. and Sue K. Young Graduate Student Award for Excellence. Given by the UCLA College of Letters and Science for exemplary academic achievement, research, and university citizenship. (\$5,000 US)
- 2000–2001. UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship. (\$12,000 US)
- 2000. Fellowship from Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA. (\$12,000 US)
- 1999. Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai Fellowship for research in Kyoto. (\$10,000 US)
- 1997–98. Fellowships from Center for Chinese Studies, and Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA.
- 1996–97. Full fellowship from Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA.
- 1996. Summer language fellowship from Center for Chinese Studies.
- 1995–96. Fellowships from Center for Chinese Studies, and Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA.

1994. Awarded the Taught Master's Prize at SOAS.
1986–87. Fellowship from Christie's the Auctioneers.

10. Courses Taught (last five years)

a. undergraduate:

- Religious Studies 2K03. *Introduction to Buddhism*. Term I 2007–2008.
Arts & Science/Japanese Studies/Religious Studies 3S03. *East Asian Religious Traditions*.
Term II 2007–2008; Term II 2010–2011.
Religious Studies/Japanese Studies 3UU3. *Buddhism in East Asia*. Term II 2009–2010.
Religious Studies 4H03. *Topics in Asian Religions: Life Writings in Asian Religions*. Term I
2015–16.

b. graduate:

- RS 701. *Issues in the Study of Religion*. Term I 2007–2008 (co-taught with Dr. Anders Runesson).
RS 712. *Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts I: Translated Texts*. Term II 2012–2013, Term II 2013–2014; Term II 2015–2016.
RS 713. *Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts II: Indigenous Chinese Writings*.
Term II 2007–2008; Term I 2010–2011; term I 2014–2015.
RS 718. *Topics in Buddhist Studies: Recent Scholarship*. Term I 2009–2010.
RS 724. *Topics in Taoism*. Term I 2007–2008; Term II 2009–2010; Term II 2015–2016.
RS 726. *Topics in Chinese Religions*. Term II 2010–2011; Term I 2012–2013; Term I 2013–2014; Term II 2014–2015.
Religious Studies 6Y06. *Introduction to Literary Chinese*. 2007–2008, 2009–2010, 2010–2011, 2011–2012, 2012–2013, 2013–2014, 2014–2015, 2015–2016.

c. postgraduate (medical):

None

d. other

None

11. Contributions to Teaching Practice

a. Pedagogic Innovation

Project Grant, 2012. Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, "Preparing graduate students to teach religion in Canadian post-secondary institutions" (\$20,000 US).

Panelist, "Social Sciences Forum 2012: Understanding our Difference, Building our Future," March 15, 2012.

Graduate Program Training Initiative Workshop, sponsored by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion (\$15,000 funding), McMaster University April 29th–30th 2011.

b. leadership in delivery of educational programs

Department Chair, 2011–2016.

Chair, Graduate Affairs Committee, 2009–2011.

c. course/curriculum development

Led department-wide undergraduate curriculum development in response to IQAP undergraduate program review in 2011–2012.

Redesigned Asian field graduate program 2005–2007

d. development/evaluation of educational materials and programs

External reviewer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Lethbridge, October 2014. Evaluation of textbooks on East Asian Religions, Chinese Religions, etc. for Wadsworth, Pearson.

e. other

Teaching Awards (Nominated)

McMaster University, McMaster Student Union Teaching Award, Top Nominee for Faculty of Social Sciences, 2007–2008.

Arizona State University Last Lecture series nominee: 2002, 2003, 2004.

Arizona State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award, nominee 2005.

12. Supervisorships

a. Master

McMaster University

Chair:

MA, Religious Studies:

Stephanie Balkwill, ““My Mother Watched Over an Empty House and was Separated from the Heavenly Female””: Nüshu and the Writing of Religious Culture in China.” 2006.

Michael Harack, “The Role of the Sage in Cheng Xuanying’s Commentary on the *Zhuangzi*.” 2007.

He Yongshan, “Buddhism in the Economic History of China: Land, Taxes and Monasteries.” 2011.

Keenan Cox, “The Axiom of the One-Mind: Li 理 (“Principle”) and Yongming Yanshou's Ontological Paradigm.” 2014.

Nate Lovdahl, “Expressing Transcendents: Gender in Chinese Religious Biographies.” 2014.

Crystal Beaudoin, 2015–

Arizona State University

Chair:

MA, Religious Studies: Brandon Cleworth, “Pain as Provocateur: The Unmaking of Angela da Foligno’s Body.” 2004.

McMaster University

Committee:

MA, Religious Studies:

Abigail MacBain, “Temples and Sūtras: Nara Japan’s National Defense System.” 2008.

Aurelius Rego, “A Study of the Role and Function of the Monks and Nuns of the Groups-of-six in Vinaya Literature.” 2009.

Brigitte Robert, “The Association Zen de Montréal: A Case Study of Sōtō Zen Buddhist Nonviolence.” 2009

Chris Emms, “Evidence for Two Mūlasarvāstivādin Vinaya Traditions in the Gilgit Prātimokṣa Sūtras.” 2012.

Gerjan Altenburg, “Abortion in Indian Buddhist Monastic Literature.” 2014.

Jessica Fish, “Health Care in Indian Buddhism: Representations of Monks and Medicine in Indian Monastic Law Codes.” 2014.

Arizona State University

Committee:

MA, Religious Studies: Kent Patten, “Zoroastrianism and Judaism: Exploring the Concept of Influence.” 2004.

MA, Religious Studies: Jeffry Halverson, “Sacred Bodies and Suicide Bombers: The Body and Self-Martyrdom in Islamic Legal Discourse.” 2004.

b. Doctoral

Chair

PhD, Religious Studies:

Kevin Bond (Associate Professor, tenured, University of Regina), “Forcing the Immovable One to the Ground: Revisioning a Major Deity in Early Modern Japan.” 2008.

[Supervisor from 2007–08 only; Dr. Bond was previously supervised by Dr. Koichi Shinohara]

Chih-mien Adrian Tseng (Assistant Professor, tenure-track, Foguang University), “A Comparison of the Concepts of Buddha-Nature and Dao-Nature of Medieval China.” 2014.

Stephanie Balkwill (Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California, 2015–2017), “Empresses, Bhikṣuṇīs, and Women of Pure Faith: Buddhism and the Politics of Patronage in the Northern Wei.” 2015.

Chris Jensen 2010–; Ruifeng Chen, 2014–

Inactive: Randy Celie

Committee

PhD, Religious Studies:

Benjamin Fleming, “The Cult of the *Jyotirlingas* and the History of Śaivite Worship.” 2007.

Hisako Omori, “Transforming Selves: Identity, History, and Autonomy among Roman Catholics in Tokyo.” 2011.

Émilie Roy, “Educating Pious Citizens: Local Politics, International Funding, and Democracy in Bamako’s Islamic Schools.” 2012.

Chris Handy, “Indian Buddhist Etiquette and the Emergence of Ascetic Civility.” 2016.

PhD, Religious Studies: Daniel Friedrich, 2009–; Chris Emms 2012–; Gerjan Altenurg, 2014–.

PhD, Anthropology: Ani Chénier, 2010–2014.

PhD, Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles: Diego Loukota, 2016–

PhD, Buddhist Studies, Leiden University: Jeffrey Kotyk, 2016–

PhD, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara: Peter M. Romaskiewicz, 2016–

PhD, Asian Studies, University of British Columbia: Van Pham, 2010–2014.

PhD, Buddhist Studies, University of the West, Jue Qian, 2012–2014.

Internal Examiner

McMaster University

PhD, History: Harish Mehta, ““People’s Diplomacy:” The Diplomatic Front of North Vietnam during the War against the United States, 1965–1972.” 2009.

External Examiner

Princeton University

PhD, Religion: Stuart H. Young, “Conceiving the Indian Buddhist Patriarchs in China.” 2008.

c. post-doctoral

Dr. Dewei Zhang (PhD Beijing, PhD University British Columbia), SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, project on the making and spread of the printed Chinese Buddhist canon in pre-modern East Asia, 2011–2013.

13. Lifetime Research Funding

2016–2023 Co-investigator, SSHRC Partnership Grant “From the Ground Up.” (\$2.5 m. CAN).

2016. McMaster Incentive Grant (\$5,000 CAN).

2012. Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, “Preparing graduate students to teach religion in Canadian post-secondary institutions” (\$20,000 US).

2010. Conference Grant, McMaster University Arts Research Board, funding for travel to Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (\$1680 CAN).
2010. Research Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Standard Research Grant, “The Scripture of the Heroic March, a Chinese Buddhist Apocryphon” (\$73,368 CAN).
2008. Conference Grant, McMaster University Arts Research Board, funding for travel to XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (\$1,000 CAN).
2006. Research Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Standard Research Grant, “Tea in China: A Religious and Cultural History” (\$72,106 CAN).
2005. Research Grant, McMaster University Arts Research Board, “Religion and the Military in Medieval China” (\$3,419 CAN).
2005. Conference Grant, McMaster University Arts Research Board, funding for travel to American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (\$1,256 CAN).
2004. ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty Grant In Aid (\$7,500 US). Support for *Tea in China, a Religious and Cultural History* book proposal.
2003. Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for US-based Researchers at the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge (\$10,000 US). Support for research on religious and cultural history of tea in China.
2002. A. T. Steele Travel Grant (\$1,000 US). Travel to China for research at Buddhist cave-sites around Dazu, Chongqing.
2001. UCLA Center for Buddhist Studies funding for “Absence made Tangible: The Relics of the Buddha in India, China and Japan.”

14. Lifetime Publications

a. *Peer Reviewed*

i) Books

Tea in China: A Religious and Cultural History. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2015.

Reviews: *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 78, no. 3 (October 2015), 659-660 [T. H. Barrett]; *Hanxue yanjiu tongxun (Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies)* 34, no. 2, (May 2015), 20–21 [Liao Zhen 廖箴]; *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* 17, no. 2 (December 2015),

126–27 [Maria Galikowski]; *Religious Studies Review* 42, no. 3 (September 2016), 225 [Barbara Hendrischke]; *Journal of Asian Affairs* 47, no. 2 (2016), 341–43 [Susan Pares]; *Journal of Chinese Studies*, no. 63 (July 2016), 308–316 [Victor Mair]; *CHINOPEARL* 35, no. 1 (July 2016), 58–61 [Peter Micic].

Burning for the Buddha: Self-immolation in Chinese Buddhism, Kuroda Institute Studies in East Asian Buddhism 19. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2007, paperback 2016.

Notices: *Chronicle of Higher Education* 53, no. 28, p. A21. *Choice* 45, no. 1 (September 2007).
Reviews: *Hanxue yanjiu tongxun (Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies)* 26, no. 3, August 2007, 55–56 [Stefania Travagnin]; *Middle Way* 82, no. 2, August 2007, 119 [Simon Hui-Chiao]; *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76, March 2008, 198–202 [Natasha Heller]; *Tang yanjiu* 13, December 2007 [Chen Huaiyu]; *The Journal of Religion* 88, no. 2, April 2008, 269–270 [Marcus Bingenheimer]; *Journal of Asian Studies* 67, no. 2, May 2008, 678–681 [Wendi Adamek]; *Études Chinoises* XXVII, 2008, 322–24 [Françoise Wang-Toutain]; *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 69, no. 1, June 2009, 221–225 [Vincent Goossaert]; *Journal of Chinese Religions* 36, 2008, 124–127 [Linda Penkower]; H-Buddhism, H-Net Reviews, November 2009 [Ryan Overbey]; *Religious Studies Review* 36, no. 3, September 2010, 193–198 [Liz Wilson].

Buddhist Monasticism in East Asia: Places of Practice, edited by James A. Benn, Lori Meeks, James Robson (Routledge, 2009).

Reviews: *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 18, 2011, <http://www.buddhistethics.org/> [Pei-Yin Lin]; *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 74, no. 2 (2011) 339–40 [Malcolm McNeill]; *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 38 (2010 [appeared 2012]), 75–78 [Yifa]; *Religious Studies Review* 38, no. 1 (March 2012), 37, [Brian J. Nichols]. *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 41 (September 2012), 484–486 [Chipamong Chowdhury].

ii) Contributions to Books

“Biographies of Eight Auto-Cremators and Huijiao’s *Critical Evaluation*” in *Early Medieval China: A Sourcebook*, edited by Robert F. Campany, Wendy Swartz, and Lu Yang, 543–60. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.

“The *Lotus Sūtra* and Self-immolation,” in *Readings of the Lotus Sūtra*, edited by Jacqueline I. Stone and Stephen F. Teiser, 107–131. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

“Spontaneous Human Combustion: Some Remarks on a Phenomenon in Chinese Buddhism,” in *Heroes and Saints: The Moment of Death in Cross-cultural Perspectives*, edited by Phyllis Granoff and Koichi Shinohara, 101–133. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007.

“Fire and the Sword: Some Connections between Self-immolation and Religious Persecution in the History of Chinese Buddhism” in *The Buddhist Dead: Practices, Discourses and Representations*, edited by Bryan Cuevas and Jacqueline Stone, 234–65. Kuroda Institute Studies in East Asian Buddhism 20. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2007.

iii) Journal Articles

- “Self-immolation, Resistance and Millenarianism in Medieval Chinese Buddhism,” *Medieval History Journal*, 17.2 (2014), 229–254.
- “Multiple Meanings of Buddhist Self-Immolation in China—A Historical Perspective,” *Revue des Études Tibétaines* 25 (December 2012), 203–212.
- “The Silent Saṃgha: Some Observations on Mute Sheep Monks,” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 32, no. 1–2 (2009 [appeared 2010]), 11–38.
- “Another Look at the Pseudo-*Śūraṃgama Sūtra*,” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 68, no. 1 (June 2008), 57–89.
- “Written in Flames: Self-immolation in Sixth-century Sichuan,” *T’oung Pao* 92, no. 4-5 (2006), 410–465.
- “Where Text Meets Flesh: Burning the Body as an ‘Apocryphal Practice’ in Chinese Buddhism,” *History of Religions*, 37 no. 4 (May 1998), 295–322.

iv) Journal Abstracts

None

v) Other

None

b) Not Peer Reviewed

i) Books

Images, Relics and Legends: the Formation and Transformation of Buddhist Sacred Sites. Essays in Honour of Professor Koichi Shinohara. Edited by James A. Benn, Jinhua Chen, and James Robson. Oakville, Ont.: Mosaic Press, 2012.

Reviews: *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 41.2 (2014), 100–103 by Michael Walsh.

Buddhism and Peace: Issues of Violence, Wars and Self-sacrifice, edited by James A. Benn, and Jinhua Chen. Hualien: Tzu Chi University Press, 2007.

ii) Contributions to Books

“One Mountain, Two Traditions: Buddhist and Taoist Claims on Zhongnan shan in Medieval Times,” in *Images, Relics and Legends: the Formation and Transformation of Buddhist Sacred Sites. Essays in Honour of Professor Koichi Shinohara*. Edited by James Benn, Jinhua Chen, and James Robson, 69–90. Oakville, Ont.: Mosaic Press, 2012.

“Introduction,” in *Buddhism and Peace, Issues of Violence, Wars and Self-sacrifice*, edited by James Benn and Jinhua Chen, 1–11. Hualien: Tzu Chi University Press, 2007.

“Self-immolation in the Context of War and Other Natural Disasters,” in *Buddhism and Peace, Issues of Violence, Wars and Self-sacrifice*, edited by James Benn and Jinhua Chen, 51–83. Hualien: Tzu Chi University Press, 2007.

“Buddhism, Alcohol, and Tea in Medieval China” in *Of Tripod and Palate: Food and Religion in Traditional China*, edited by Roel Sterckx, 213–36. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

iii) Journal Articles

“Burning for the Buddha,” *Tricycle Magazine* Winter 2013.

iv) Journal Abstracts

None

v) Other

Encyclopedia Entries

“Diet” (228–29) and “Self-immolation” (758–59) in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*. New York: Macmillan 2004.

Book Reviews

Mark Meulenbeld, *Demonic Warfare: Daoism, Territorial Networks, and the History of a Ming Novel*, *Daoism: Religion, History and Society*, No. 8 (2016), 285–293.

Stuart Young, *Conceiving the Indian Buddhist Patriarchs in China*, *Journal of Chinese Studies*, no. 63 (July 2016), 316–322.

Jonathan Silk, *Buddhism in China: Collected Papers of Erik Zürcher*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 136, no. 1 (2016), 155–156.

Barend ter Haar, *Practicing Scripture: A Lay Buddhist Movement in Late Imperial China*, *Studies in Chinese Religions* 1/2 (July 2015), 198–200.

Wendi Adamek, *The Teachings of Master Wuzhu: Zen and Religion of No-Religion*, *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*, 42/4 (December 2013), 524–525.

- Lillian Lan-ying Tseng, *Picturing Heaven in Early China*, *Canadian Journal of History* XLVIII (Autumn 2013), 382–83.
- Richard D. McBride, *Domesticating the Dharma: Buddhist Cults and the Huaôm Synthesis in Silla Korea*, *History of Religions*, 51/4 (May 2012), 382–84.
- The Śūraṅgama Sūtra: A New Translation, with Excerpts from the Commentary* – By Ven. Master Hsüan Hua, *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 38/4 (December 2011), 673–75.
- Morten Schlütter, *How Zen Became Zen: The Dispute over Enlightenment and the Formation of Chan Buddhism in Song-Dynasty China*, *Journal of Asian Studies* 68/4 (November 2009), 1267–68.
- Stephen F. Teiser, *Reinventing the Wheel: Paintings of Rebirth in Medieval Buddhist Temples*, *History of Religions* 49/1 (August 2009), 104–106.
- Martha P. Y. Cheung, ed. *An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation. Volume 1: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 19/1 (January 2009), 132–34.
- Stephen Eskildsen, *The Teachings and Practices of the Early Quanzhen Taoist Masters*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 18/4 (October 2008), 541–43.
- Benjamin Penny, ed., *Daoism in History: Essays in Honour of Liu Ts'un-yan*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 18/4 (October 2008), 543–45.
- Jinhua Jia, *The Hongzhou School of Chan Buddhism in Eighth- through Tenth-Century China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 18/4 (October 2008), 545–47.
- Eugene Wang, *Shaping the Lotus Sutra: Buddhist Visual Culture in Medieval China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 17/3 (July 2007), 351–52.
- Vincent Goossaert, ed. *Sanjiao wenxian: Matériaux pour l'étude de la religion chinoise*, (*Revue Annuelle*, no. 4), *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 17/3 (July 2007), 352–53.
- Robert E. Florida, *The Buddhist Tradition: Volume Five of Human Rights and the World's Major Religions*, *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 36/1 (2007), 169–70.
- Alan Cole, *Text as Father: Paternal Seductions in Early Mahāyāna Buddhist Literature*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 17/1 (January 2007), 95–97.
- S. A. M. Adshead, *T'ang China: The Rise of the East in World History*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 16/3 (November 2006), 332–33.
- H. W. Bodewitz and Minoru Hara, eds. *Gedenkschrift J.W. De Jong*, *Studia Philologica Buddhica Monograph Series XVI*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 15/3 (November 2005), 382–83.
- John Kieschnick, *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 65/1 (June 2005), 207–215.
- Charles Le Blanc, Rémi Mathieu et. al, *Philosophes Taoïstes II, Huainan zi*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 15/1 (April 2005), 123–25.
- Tansen Sen, *Buddhism, Diplomacy and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 68/1 (February 2005), 154–56.
- Michel Strickmann (edited by Bernard Faure), *Chinese Magical Medicine*, *Journal of Asian Studies* 63/4 (November 2004), 1113–14.
- Catherine Despeux, ed., *Bouddhisme et Lettrés dans la Chine Médiévale*, *Journal of Chinese Religions* 31 (2003), 229–31.
- Hamar Imre, *A Religious Leader in the Tang: Chengguan's Biography*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 13/3 (November 2003), 421–22.

- Antonino Forte and Frederico Masini, eds., *A Life Journey to the East: Sinological Studies in Memory of Giuliano Bertuccioli (1923-2001)*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 13/3 (November 2003), 430–32.
- David Schaberg *A Patterned Past: Form and Thought in Early Chinese Historiography*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 13/3 (November 2003), 419–21.
- Robert Ford Campany, *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth: A Translation and Study of Ge Hong's Traditions of Divine Transcendents*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 13/1 (April 2003), 138–40.
- Brook Ziporyn, *Evil and/or/as the Good: Omniscience, Intersubjectivity, and Value Paradox in Tiantai Buddhist Thought*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 12/1 (April 2002), 120–22.
- Shiyi Yu, *Reading the Chuang-tzu in the T'ang Dynasty: the Commentary of Ch'eng Hsüan-ying (fl. 631-652)*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 12/1 (April 2002), 130–32.
- Joseph P. McDermott, ed., *State and Court Ritual in China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 10/3 (November 2000), 422–24.
- Bernard Faure, *The Will to Orthodoxy: a Critical Genealogy of Northern Chan Buddhism*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 10/1 (April 2000), 137–39.
- Donald Holzman, *Immortals, Festivals and Poetry in Medieval China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 9/3 (November 1999), 458–60.
- Dominik Declercq, *Writing Against The State: Political Rhetorics in Third and Fourth Century China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 9/3 (November 1999), 460–61.
- Charles Orzech, *Politics and Transcendent Wisdom: The Scripture for Humane Kings in the Creation of Chinese Buddhism*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 58/4 (November 1999), 1115–16.
- Jérôme Ducor, *Le Sûtra d'Amida prêché par le Buddha*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 9/2 (July 1999), 337–39.
- Christian Daniels and Nicholas K. Menzies, *Joseph Needham Science and Civilisation in China, volume 6, Biology and Biological Technology; Part III: Agro-Industries: Sugarcane Technology and Forestry*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 9/2 (July 1999), 341–43.
- Stephen Bokenkamp, *Early Daoist Scriptures*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 9/1 (April 1999), 198–200.
- Livia Kohn and Michael LaFargue, eds., *Lao-tzu and the Tao-te-ching*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 62/2 (1999), 388–89.
- John Kieschnick, *The Eminent Monk*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 8/3 (November 1998), 496–98.
- Francois Jullien, *The Propensity of Things: Toward a History of Efficacy in China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 8/3 (November 1998), 498–500.
- Livia Kohn, *Laughing at the Tao: Debates among Buddhists and Taoists in Medieval China*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 8/3 (November 1998), 500–502.
- Isabelle Robinet, *Taoism: Growth of a Religion*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 8/2 (July 1998), 307–309.
- Tadeusz Skorupski, ed., *The Buddhist Forum*, vol. IV, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 8/2 (July 1998), 305–307.

c. Accepted for Publication

None.

d. Submitted for Publication

15. Presentations at Meetings

a. *Invited*

Invited respondent, 2017 Sherman Emerging Scholar Spring Panel, Dr. John Soboslai, "Martyrdom Now," University of North Carolina, Wilmington, February 22–23, 2017.

"Warfare in the Context of Buddhist Statecraft in Medieval China," Buddhist Statecraft in East Asia: A Conference of Storytellers, University of Southern California, February 10–12, 2017.

Invited participant, workshop on Chinese Religious Poetry, Princeton University, December 2–3, 2016.

Invited respondent, 2016 Sherman Lecture, Dr. John Soboslai, "Dying for God, Martyrdom Across the Ages," University of North Carolina, Wilmington, October 19–20, 2016.

"Dreams of the Monastic Life: Buddhist Aesthetics in Seventeenth-Century Chinese Tea Culture," Symposium on Seventeenth-century Chinese Painting, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, October 15, 2016.

"Spellbound: the Tale of a Buddhist monk and an Outcaste Girl in a Chinese Apocryphal Scripture," University of Southern California, October 13, 2016.

"Buddhism and the Invention of Tea Culture in Medieval China," Seattle Asian Art Museum, October 8, 2016.

"Creating a Tea Aesthetic in Tang Verse," University of Washington, October 7, 2016.

"Creating an Aesthetics of Tea in Tang Dynasty Poetry," International symposium on the History of Tea in China, University of Venice, Ca' Foscari, September 30, 2016.

"Tea, Wellness, and Beverage Culture in Song dynasty China — Perspectives from the City and the Monastery," Australian National University, Canberra, May 17, 2016.

"Buddhism and the Arts of Tea in Tang times," symposium on Tang Cosmopolitanism, Art Gallery of New South Wales, May 14, 2016.

"Creating a Tea Aesthetic in Tang Dynasty Poetry," Art Gallery of New South Wales, May 11, 2016.

"Buddhism, Tea, and Material Culture in Premodern China," University of California, Santa Barbara, April 14, 2016.

- “The Buddhist Arts of Tea in Medieval China,” Lewis and Clark College, March 29, 2016.
- “Tea and other Health Drinks in Song Dynasty China—Some Clues from the Buddhist Monastery,” Yale University, March 3, 2016.
- “Seduction and Spellcraft in an Apocryphal Buddhist Scripture,” University of British Columbia, February 26, 2016.
- Invited Discussant, “Plants and Food in East Asian Buddhism,” 17th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna, August 19, 2014.
- Invited Discussant, “Commemoration by Commission: Buying and Selling Memory in Late Medieval China,” China Humanities Seminar, Rutgers University, February 21, 2014.
- “Sex and Seduction in a Chinese Apocryphal Sutra,” China Lecture Series, Rutgers University, February 20, 2014.
- “Tea and Other Decoctions for ‘Nourishing Life’ in Medieval China,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, October 23rd, 2012.
- “Self-immolation, Charisma, and Spectacle in Medieval Chinese Buddhism,” Collège de France, May 16th 2012.
- “Multiple Meanings of Buddhist Self-immolation, a Historical Perspective,” at symposium on *Tibet is Burning. Self-Immolations in Tibet: Ritual or Political Protest?* Collège de France, May 14–15th 2012
- “Current Issues in Buddhist Studies,” Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California Los Angeles, April 13th 2012.
- “Problems in the Study of Later Chinese Buddhist Apocrypha,” Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California Los Angeles, April 13th 2012.
- “The Religious Affiliations of Tea in Medieval China.” The Ebbutt Lecture in Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, February 7th 2012.
- “Yin, Buddhism, and Medicine: Multiple Aspects of Tea in Eisai’s *Kissa Yōjōki*,” at conference on *Imagining the Feminine in East Asian Religions and Medicine*, University of Heidelberg, November 5th–7th 2010.
- “Buddhist Episodes from the Prehistory of Tea in China,” UBC Kameyama Lecture Series on Buddhist Studies, University of British Columbia, Thursday October 7th 2010.
- “A Chinese apocryphal sutra in its eighth-century context.” United Kingdom Association of Buddhist Studies Conference: Historiography, Adaptation and Contemporary Practice, University of Leeds, July 6th and 7th 2010.
- “Tea as Beverage and Ritual Offering in Medieval Chinese Buddhist Monasteries.” Department of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto, January 29th 2010.

“The Buddhist Arts of Tea in Medieval China.” The 22nd Sammy Yukuan Lee Lecture on Chinese Archaeology and Art, University of California, Los Angeles, November 7th 2009.

Invited discussant for two panels, “Preparation for Death: Practice at the End of Life” and “Thinking about the Dead,” at multidisciplinary symposium on *Buddhists at the End of Life*, University of California, Santa Cruz, May 1st–3rd 2009.

Invited participant, Numata Chair in Buddhist Studies inaugural symposium, University of Calgary, April 4th 2009.

Invited discussant for panel “Enlivenment of Religious Images” at symposium on *The Chinese Art of Enlivenment*, Harvard University, October 24th–25th 2008.

“The Chinese Sources of an Apocryphal Sutra: Another Look at the Pseudo-*Śūraṅgama Sūtra*,” invited lecture, sponsored by the Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, May 5th 2008.

“Do not point to any shape and call it the Dao:’ Heterodoxy and Images in Medieval China,” presented at conference on *Images in Motion: New Perspectives on Buddhist Arts*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, February 9th–10th 2008.

“Hybrid Cosmologies in the *Śūraṅgama Sūtra*,” presented at conference on *Text, Translation, and Transmission*, University of California, Berkeley, October 18th–20th 2007.

“Buddhist Laymen and Tea during the Tang Dynasty,” invited lecture, sponsored by the Buddhist Studies Seminar, Columbia University, April 12th 2007.

“Buddhist Laymen and Tea during the Tang Dynasty,” invited lecture, sponsored by East Asian Studies and the Buddhist Studies Workshop, Princeton University, April 11th 2007.

“The Sense of Smell in Medieval China: Some Preliminary Remarks,” presented at conference on *The Senses of Religion: Knowledge, Miracles, Worship and Sensory Experience in the World’s Religions*, Yale University, October 27th–29th 2006.

“Mr. Tea versus Mr. Alcohol: Battling Commodities in Medieval China,” *Second Annual Alumni Lecture*, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California Los Angeles, May 3rd 2005.

Invited discussant for two papers at annual *Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference*, Princeton University, April 22nd–24th 2005.

“Magic and the Military in Medieval China,” presented at Yale University Council on East Asian Studies Workshop on *Manipulating Magic: Sages, Sorcerers and Scholars*, Yale University, April 15th–17th 2005.

- “One Mountain, Two Traditions: Zhongnan shan in Sui and Tang Times,” presented at *International Symposium on Images, Relics and Legends: Formation and Transformation of Buddhist Sacred Sites in China*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 15-16th October 2004.
- “Chinese Buddhist Martyrs? Some Reflections on Typologies of Self-immolation,” presented at conference on *Imagined Worlds of Martyrdom*, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, April 29th 2004.
- “Buddhism, Alcohol and Tea in Medieval China,” presented at conference on *Food and Religion in Traditional China*, University of Cambridge, April 2nd 2004.
- “Burning Buddhist Monks: Some Reflections on Self-immolation and Conflict,” invited lecture, University of Washington, December 17th 2003.
- “‘On Drinking Tea and Nourishing Life,’ *Kissa Yōjōki* by the Japanese monk Eisai (1141-1215),” *Text Reading Seminar* presented at the Needham Research Institute Cambridge, June 13th 2003.
- “The Silent Saṃgha: Some Observations on Mute Sheep Monks,” presented at conference on *Monasticism in Asian Perspectives*, University of British Columbia, February 21st-22nd 2003.
- “Self-immolation and Peace? Some Examples from the History of Chinese Buddhism,” presented at conference on *Buddhism and Peace*, University of British Columbia, May 25th-26th 2002.
- “Fire and the Sword: Some Connections between Self-immolation and Religious Persecution in the History of Chinese Buddhism,” presented at conference on *Death and Dying in Buddhist Cultures*, Princeton University, May 17th-19th 2002.
- “Spontaneous Human Combustion: Some Remarks on a Phenomenon in Chinese Religion,” presented at conference on *The Moment of Death: Cross Cultural Perspectives*, McMaster University and University of Toronto, October 12th 2001.
- “Self-immolation, Religious Persecution and the Founding of the Tang Dynasty,” invited lecture, Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto, November 12th 1999.
- “Deliverance by Fire? Some Observations on Taoist Auto-cremation,” invited lecture, Stanford University, May 10th 1999, and Stanford Japan Center, Kyoto, September 27th 1999.
- “Written in Flames: Self-immolation in Sixth-century Sichuan,” presented at conference on *Body, Form and Practice in East Asian Buddhism*, Lewis and Clark College, Portland Oregon, April 24th 1999.
- “Written in Flames: Self-immolation in Sixth-century Sichuan,” presented at UCLA China Studies Workshop, May 27th 1998.

“The Biography of a Sixth-century Self-immolator,” *Text Reading Seminar*, presented at the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge, May 15th 1998.

“Where Text Meets Flesh: Burning the Body as an ‘Apocryphal Practice’ in Chinese Buddhism,” versions presented at UCLA China Studies Workshop, May 1997, and at the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge, September 1997.

b. contributed

i) peer reviewed

Discussant, Panel A19-121, “Envisioning Salvation: Eschatology and Utopias in Medieval China,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio TX, November 18th–22nd 2016.

Discussant, Panel A25-211, “Self-Immolations in the Tibetan Buddhist World,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Baltimore MD, November 23rd–27th 2013.

Discussant, Session 465 “Approaches to Legitimacy in Early Medieval China,” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, Honolulu HI, April 2nd 2011.

Discussant for panel on “The Lotus in the Sea of Fire: The Burning Monk Thich Quang Duc,” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, Chicago IL, March 26th 2009.

“The Influence of Buddhist Literature on Medieval Chinese Concepts of Wit and Humour,” presented at the *XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, Atlanta GA, June 27th 2008.

“*Continued Biographies of Eminent Monks: Hagiographic Collection or Monastic Manifesto?*” presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Philadelphia PA, November 21st 2005.

“Buddhist and Taoist Attitudes to Food in Medieval China,” presented at *11th Annual Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference*, “Feast, Famine, and Fasting: Food and Material Consumption in Medieval and Renaissance Culture,” Tempe AZ, February 19th 2005.

“The Silent Saṃgha: Some Observations on Mute Sheep Monks,” presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies*, Tempe AZ, October 11th 2003.

“Self-cultivation and Self-immolation: Preparing the Body for Auto-cremation in Chinese Buddhism,” presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, San Diego CA, March 9th 2000.

“Is Self-Immolation a ‘Good Practice’? Yongming Yanshou’s Endorsement of Relinquishing the Body in his *Wanshan Tonggui ji*,” presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco CA, November 25th 1997.

Chair, Panel A18-264 “Hell, Nature, and Rhetoric in Chinese Buddhism” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, IL, November 23rd–26th 2012.

Chair, Panel 19-210 “Bodies Present and Absent in Premodern Chinese Religious Practice,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco CA, November 19th–22nd 2011.

Chair, Panel 30-314 “Crossing Boundaries in Chinese Religions,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta GA, October 29th–November 1st 2010.

Chair, Panel 5 “Diaspora and Reconfiguration: New forms of Religiosity emerging from Contact and Exchange,” Tung Lin Kok Yuen Conference on Buddhism and Diaspora, University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, May 14th–16th 2010.

Chair, Session 282 “Functioning of Baojuan texts in Chinese Popular Religion,” *Annual Meeting of Association of Asian Studies*, Philadelphia PA, March 25th–28th 2010.

Chair and discussant, “Spirituality and the Evolution of Rituals in Asia,” *Annual Meeting of Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies*, Tempe, AZ, October 9th 2003.

ii) Not peer reviewed
None

iii) Conferences and Workshops Organized

Buddhism’s Occult Technologies [sponsored by the University of Toronto/McMaster University Yehan Numata Buddhist Studies Program], McMaster University, April 11th–13th 2008.

[In collaboration with University of Toronto] *Whither Buddhist Studies? A Workshop on Buddhist Studies Doctoral Education in North America*, Toronto Ontario, April 6th–7th 2007.

Panel on “New Directions in the Study of East Asian Buddhism,” *Annual Meeting of Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies*, Tempe Arizona, October 11th 2003.

One-day symposium on *Absence made Tangible: The Relics of the Buddha in India, China and Japan*, held at UCLA, January 27th 2001. Sponsored by UCLA Center for Buddhist Studies.

One-day conference on *Body, Form and Practice in East Asian Buddhism*, held at Lewis and Clark College, Portland Oregon, April 24th 1999.

16. Patents, Inventions and Copyrights

None.

17. Administrative Responsibilities

Departmental Service

McMaster:

Chair, 2011–

Graduate Affairs, 2006–2008; Chair, 2009–2011.

Library Liaison, 2009–2010.

Chair, Search Committee for tenure-track position in Early Judaism, 2007–2008.

Undergraduate Affairs, 2005–2006.

Search Committee for two tenure-track positions in Asian Religions, Fall 2005.

ASU:

Search Committee for Lecturer, Spring 2004.

Committee on Undergraduate Education, 2001–2003.

Search Committee for position in Korean Religions, Spring 2002.

Recording secretary for faculty meetings, 2001–2002.

Faculty Service

McMaster:

Faculty of Social Sciences, Search Committee for Communication Assistant, May 2012.

Faculty of Social Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2009–2010.

College Service

ASU:

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Grievance Committee, Spring 2003.

Center for Asian Studies: Library Committee 2002–2005, (Chair, 2004–2005); Committee for New Initiatives, 2002–2005; Advisory Committee, 2003–2005.

University Service

McMaster:

University Representative to the Board of McMaster Divinity College, 2011–
University Senate, 2011–2013
Committee on University Ceremonials and Insignia, 2011–2013
Chair, Tenure and Promotion Appeal Tribunal, 2011.
Graduate Scholarships Committees (OGS, SSHRC, Prestige), 2006–2008; 2010–2011.
University Library Advisory Council, 2009–

ASU:

Search Committee for joint position in Chinese Literature, School of Global Studies,
Department of Languages and Literatures, Fall 2004.
Steering Committee, East Asian Civilisations and Cultures Track, School of Global Studies,
2004–2005.
Curriculum Committee, East Asian Civilisations and Cultures Track, School of Global
Studies, 2004–2005.
Curriculum Committee, Asian Studies Track, School of Global Studies, 2004–2005.

18. Other Responsibilities

None