

Blayne K. Harcey, PhD

Doctoral Candidate, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

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EDUCATION

Arizona State University

School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

Ph.D. Religious Studies, Religion in Asia

Thesis: *“Locating Lumbini: Transnational Buddhism and the Construction of Cultural Heritage in Modern Nepal”*

Successfully
Defended 2/8/24

Iliff School of Theology

M.A. Comparative Religion

Thesis: *“Relics, Traces, and Indexes: The Politics of Territory and the Construction of Memory in Encounter at Adam’s Peak”*

2016

Colorado State University

B.A. Philosophy, Certificate in Religious Studies

Areas of Concentration: Philosophy of Religion, Buddhist Philosophy

2010

TEACHING

PROFESSOR OF RECORD

REL 100 - Religions of the World

Summer 2023

REL 202 - Religion and Popular Culture

Summer 2023

REL 351- Buddhism

Spring 2023

REL 100 - Religions of the World

Fall 2022

REL 100- Religions of the World

Summer 2022

REL 381- Religion and Moral Issues

Summer 2022

REL 351- Buddhism

Summer 2021

REL 201- Religion and the Modern World

Spring 2021

REL 100 - Religions of the World

Fall 2020

REL 351- Buddhism

Summer 2020

REL 207- Ritual, Symbol, and Myth

Spring 2020

REL 207- Ritual, Symbol, and Myth

Fall 2019

REL 351- Buddhism

Summer 2019

REL 107 - Religion and Globalization

Spring 2019

PUBLIC LECTURES

“Sacred Geography: Reclaiming the Buddha’s Birthplace in the 20th Century,”

May 23, 2021

Lumbini in Motion Series, The Lumbini Museum

“Locating Lumbini: Theravāda and Modernity on the Frontier of Nepal,”

March 5, 2021

Graduate Research Seminar, Center for Asian Research at Arizona State University

GUEST LECTURER

“The Life of the Buddha: Biography, Legend, and History” (e-lecture) Department of History, Western Kentucky University

Feb. 18, 2022

“Reclaiming the Buddhist ‘Holy Land’: The Materialization of Buddhism in Modernity” **Oct. 2, 2019**
(e-lecture) Department of Philosophy and Religion, Western Kentucky University

“*Pilgrimage, Commodification, and UNESCO: Case Studies from Across Asia*” **March 12, 2019**
(e-lecture) Department of Philosophy and Religion, Western Kentucky University

“*Encountering Pilgrimage at UNESCO World Heritage Sites in South and Southeast Asia*” (e-lecture) Department of Philosophy and Religion,
Western Kentucky University **Sept. 11, 2018**

RESEARCH FUNDING

Arizona State University Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2023-24
Arizona State University Graduate Grant	2022-23
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship	Spring 2022
FLAS Fellow, Dissertation Research Center for Asian Research, Arizona State University	2021-22
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship Friends of the Center Fellow	Fall 2021
Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, ASU	Summer 2021
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship	Spring 2021
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellow	2020-21 (Declined)
FLAS Fellow, Dissertation Research Center for Asian Research, Arizona State University	2020-21
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship	Spring 2020
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship	Spring 2019
Arizona State University Graduate Grant	Fall 2019
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship	Spring 2018
Arizona State University Graduate Research Fellowship	Fall 2017

LANGUAGE STUDY

FLAS Fellow, Advanced Nepali Center for Asian Research, Arizona State University	2019-20
FLAS Fellow, Intermediate Nepali Summer Intensive at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal	Summer 2019
FLAS Fellow, Intermediate Sanskrit Center for Asian Research, Arizona State University	2018-19
FLAS Fellow, Beginning Nepali South Asia Program, Summer Intensive, Cornell University	Summer 2018

PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

“Restoring Lumbini: Theravāda Buddhism and Heritage on the Nepal Frontier.” *Journal of Contemporary Buddhism* (2023): 1-21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14639947.2023.2208026>.

“Manufacturing Lumbini: the United Nations, Development, and Buddhism in the 20th Century.” *Journal of the Council for Research on Religion* vol. 4, no. 1 (Fall/Winter 2022): 12-35.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26443/jcreor.v4i1.79>.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

[Co-authored with Sophia Arjana] “Pilgrimage to a Shared Site: A Buddhist Scholar and Muslim Scholar Visit Borobudur” in Alec Grant and Elizabeth Lloyd-Parkes eds. *Meaningful Journeys: Autoethnographies of Quest and Identity Transformation* (forthcoming 2024).

INVITED PUBLICATIONS

“Multiple Trajectories in the Study of Buddhism, Pedagogical Reflections on John Strong’s *Buddhisms: An Introduction*” *Religious Studies Review* 47, no. 1. Special Pedagogy Section “On Pedagogy: using Buddhist Textbooks in the Classroom.” 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.15039>.

REVIEWS

Review of William M. Gorvine. *Envisioning a Tibetan Luminary: The Life of a Modern Bönpo Saint*. *Religious Studies Review* 45, no. 3 (2019): 408-9. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.14264>.

Review of Thomas N. Patton. *The Buddha’s Wizards: Magic, Protection, and Healing in Burmese Buddhism*. *Religious Studies Review* 45, no. 2 (2019): 250. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.14072>.

Review of Daniel Veidlinger. From Indra’s Net to Internet: Communication, Technology, and the Evolution of Buddhist Ideas. *Religious Studies Review* 45, no. 2 (2019): 249. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.13933>.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Locating Lumbini: The United Nations, Development, and Buddhism in the 20th Century" [Presented to the “Buddhism: Histories and Reinventions” section at the Association for Asian Studies general conference Boston, MA] **March 2023**

"Locating Lumbini: The United Nations, Development, and Buddhism in the 20th Century" [Presented to the “Religion and International Development” section at the American Academy of Religion general conference Denver, CO] **Nov. 2022**

"The Rise of Lumbini: Theravāda and Modernity on the Frontier of Nepal" [Selected for presentation to the Association for Asian Studies general conference, Boston, MA] **March 2020**

"A Coalition for World Peace: Buddhist Ecumenicism, Landscape, and Ideology" [Presented to the “Space, Place, and Religion” section at the American Academy of Religion general conference, San Diego, CA] **Nov. 2019**

"Manufacturing the Birthplace of the Buddha: U Thant and the Dream of a Pan-Buddhist Pilgrimage Centre" [Presented at the Association for Asian Studies general conference, Denver, CO] **March 2019**

"The Search for Buddhist Origins: Constructing Lineage at Lumbini, Nepal" [Presented to the “New Work in Buddhist Studies” section at the American Academy of Religion general conference, Boston, MA] **Nov. 2017**

"The Search for Buddhist Origins: Constructing Lineage at Lumbini, Nepal" [Presented at the American Academy of Religion Rocky Mountain-Great

Plains regional conference, Boulder, CO]

“Relics, Traces, and Indexes: The Politics of Territory and the Construction of Memory in Encounter at Adam’s Peak” [Presented to the “Space, Place and Religion: Mountaineering Religion in Asia & Beyond” section at the American Academy of Religion general conference, San Antonio, TX] **Nov. 2016**

“Moments of Mercy: A Buddhist Commitment to Compassion and Social Justice” [Presented at Forum “East to West-A Catholic/Buddhist Dialogue in the Year of Mercy” Regis University, Denver, CO] **April 2016**

“Relics, Traces, and Indexes: The Politics of Territory and the Construction of Memory in Encounter at Adam’s Peak” [Presented at the American Academy of Religion Rocky Mountain-Great Plains regional conference, Denver, CO] **March 2016**

“Mapping Interpretive Borders: The Indian Commentarial Tradition and the Rise of Mahāyāna” [Presented to the “Buddhism Beyond Borders” section of the American Academy of Religion general conference, San Diego, CA] **Nov. 2014**

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Graduate Excellence Award, Arizona State University	2021-22
Distinguished Student Leader, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ASU	2020-21
Distinguished Student Leader, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ASU	2018-19
Outstanding Achievement in the M.A. Program, Iliff School of Theology	2015-16
Outstanding Achievement in the M.A. Program, Iliff School of Theology	2014-15
Outstanding Achievement in the M.A. Program, Iliff School of Theology	2013-14

SERVICE

Graduate Student Association Religious Studies, President	2019-20
ASU Graduate Professional Student Association, Travel Grant Reviewer	2019-20
Graduate Student Association Religious Studies, Vice President	2018-19
ASU Graduate Professional Student Association, Travel Grant Reviewer	2018-19
Religious Studies Review, Sub-editor, Reviewer	2018-19
Oxford University Press Pakistan, Manuscript Reviewer	
<i>Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture</i> , Manuscript Reviewer	
<i>American Ethnologist</i> , Manuscript Reviewer	

LANGUAGES

Sanskrit: reading proficiency
Nepali: speaking and reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian Studies
Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies
Theravada Buddhist Civilizations
American Academy of Religion

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Juliane Schober
Professor of Religious Studies
Director, The Asia Center
Arizona State University
J.Schober@asu.edu

Christoph Emmrich
Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian Buddhism
University of Toronto
Christoph.Emmrich@utoronto.ca

Anne Feldhaus
Distinguished Foundation Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies
Arizona State University
Anne.Feldhaus@asu.edu