

# Curriculum Vitae

## Eiji Suhara

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D, Religious Studies, Arizona State University (May 2010)  
Dissertation Title: “Embodying the Pure Land: A Multidimensional Analysis of Hōnen’s Nembutsu Practice”—Adviser: Dr. James H. Foard (Japanese Religion)
- M.A, Philosophy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (May 2001)  
(East-West Comparative Philosophy: Indian Abhidharma Buddhism, East Asian Buddhism, and Phenomenology)
- B.A, Philosophy, Seoul National University (August 1997)

### POSITION HELD

- Lecturer of Japanese Studies, School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University (2017-)
- Lecturer of Asian Religions and Cultures, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona (2016-2017)
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Religions and Cultures, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona (2013-2016)
- Instructor of Asian Religions and Cultures, School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University (2012-2013)
- Instructor of Japanese Culture, East Asian Languages & Literatures Department, University of Pittsburgh (2008-2012)

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Japanese Buddhism/Religion/Philosophy/Aesthetics
- Korean Buddhism/Religion/Culture
- Zen Buddhism
- Pure Land Buddhism
- Buddhism, Phenomenology, and Cognitive Science

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Chinese Buddhism/Religion/Philosophy
- Indian Buddhism/Philosophy
- Ritual Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Religion, Embodiment, and Metaphor Theory

### RESEARCH TOPICS OF INTEREST:

#### *Modern Topics*

- Theoretical arguments of disaster, conflict and religion in contemporary Asia (e.g., theodicy, terrorism, war, nuclear accident, and ecology)
- Phenomenological and psychological investigation of meditative ideas and practice (both contemplation and recitation practices)

#### *Premodern Topics*

- Philosophical and sociological analysis of the Medieval Japanese Pure Land practice and discourse (with insights from a ritual study, practice theory, and metaphor analysis)
- Phenomenological analysis of the Neo-Confucian idea of "Way" of performing and martial arts such as Tea Ceremony, Noh Play, and Swordplay (with insights from a performative theory and embodied realism)
- Korean religious Influence on the formation of Japanese religions and cultures (Medieval Pure Land and Kegon Buddhism, and Tokugawa Neo-Confucianism)
- The origin of East Asian Buddhist ideas in their Indian religious context

## LANGUAGES

- Modern Japanese (Native)
- Korean (Near-native)
- English (Near-native)
- Classical Japanese (Excellent)
- Kanbun (Excellent)
- Classical Chinese (Excellent)
- Sanskrit (Good)
- Modern Chinese (Reading-Excellent; Speaking-Fair)
- German (Reading-Fair)

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Peer-reviewed Journal Articles***

“Re-visioning Dōgen's attitude toward system in considering the concept of aspiration and just sitting meditation.” *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy* 2 (2016): 35 pages.

“Can Bodaishin be a Cause of Rebirth?: Reconsidering the Doctrinal Conflict between Hōnen and Myōe.” *Philosophy East and West* 65, no. 2 (2015): 444-465, 23 pages.

“Is Shōmyō Nembutsu Magic? Reconsidering Shinran’s Nembutsu Debate among Japanese Scholarship from a Multidimensional Perspective.” *Journal of Japanese Philosophy* 3 (2015): 27 pages.

### ***Translation***

Takemura, Makio. "Buddhism as a Novel Philosophy." In *Dao Companion to Japanese Buddhist Philosophy*. Edited by Gereon Kopf. New York: Springer, 2014: 17 pages.

### ***Encyclopedia Entry***

"Buddha (Concept)." In *The Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*. Edited by Arvind Sharma. Dordrecht: Springer, 2016.

"Suffering in Buddhism." In *The Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions*. Edited by Yudit Kornberg Greenberg. Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO, 2007, pp. 612-4.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### ***Standard Presentations/National***

The 17th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies: Subjectivity in Pure Land Buddhism, *Is Having Faith Difficult Practice?: Phenomenological and Rhetorical Understanding of Shinran’s Nembutsu Doctrine*, (August 2015). Jōdo Shinshū Center, Berkeley.

NEH Summer Institute “Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives, *Non-Abiding Mind: Zen Awareness from a Temporal Perspective*. (June 2012). College of Charleston, Charleston.

International Association of Buddhist Studies, *Re-visioning the 17th Chapter of the Platform Sūtra from a Phenomenological Perspective with Consideration of the Critical Buddhism*. (June 2008). Emory University, Atlanta.

American Philosophical Association East Division, Buddhist Hermeneutics panel. *How Can We Arise the Awakened Mind?: Bodhicitta Discourse in Hōnen, Myōe and Wōnhyo*. (December 2006). New York.

Toward a Science of Consciousness. *Inquiring into the Concept of 'Abiding' in Zen Buddhism from the Perspective of Phenomenological Psychology*. (April 2004). University of Arizona, Tucson.

### ***Invited Presentations/International***

Korean Kanhwa Sŏn Meditation Conference, Respondent to Iwamoto Akemi, *Kōan Zen and the Bodhisattva Path of Yogācāra in India: D.T. Suzuki's Interpretation of Kōan Zen*. (June 2012). Tongguk University, Seoul, Korea.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCES**

#### **Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ: School of International Letters and Cultures**

SLC421: Japanese Literature in Translation: Religious Interpretation (Fall 2017)

JPN414: Introduction to Classical Japanese (Fall 2017)

JPN394: Zen and Japanese Culture (Fall 2017)

REL344: Religion/Values—Japanese Life (Online) (Fall 2017)

SLC394: Memory and Identity in Japanese Religion (Online) (Summer 2017)

SLC194: Introduction to Zen Buddhism (Online) (Summer 2017)

#### **University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Department of East Asian Studies**

EAS/RELI 333: Buddhist Meditation Traditions (Online) (Spring 2017)

EAS160A: World of Buddhism (Online) (Fall 2016)

EAS251: Korean Culture through Film (Online) (Spring 2016)

EAS245: Korean Popular Culture (Online) (Fall 2015; Spring 2016)

EAS160: The World of Buddhism (Spring 2015; Spring 2014)

RELI/JPN489: History of Japanese Religion: Modern (Spring 2015; Fall 2013)

RELI/JPN220: Japanese Religion (Online) (Spring 2015; Spring 2014)

EAS498: Senior Capstone (Spring 2015; Spring 2014)

EAS222: Introduction to Zen Buddhism (Fall 2014)

RELI/JPN486: History of Japanese Religion: Medieval (Fall 2014; Spring 2014)

RELI/EAS130: Asian Religions (Online) (Fall 2014; Fall 2013)

HIST/JPN272: Japanese Civilization (Online) (Fall 2013)

#### **Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ: School of International Letters and Cultures**

JPN/SLC494: Disaster, Society, and Thought in Japan (Spring 2013)

JPN/SLC292: Zen Buddhism and Japanese Culture (Spring 2013)

#### **University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA: Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures**

RELGST1552: Zen/Chan Buddhism (Spring 2012)

EAS2005: Sources and Methods in East Asia (Graduate seminar) (Fall 2011; Fall 2010)

JPNSE1071: World of Japan: Zen and Japanese Culture (Spring 2011; Spring 2008)

JPNSE1071: World of Japan: A History and Philosophy of Japanese Religious Traditions (Fall 2009; Spring 2012)

#### **Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ: Department of Religious Studies (Teaching Assistant)**

REL351: Buddhism (Online) (Summer 2007)

REL201: War, Culture, and Memory (Fall 2006)

REL355: Japanese Culture until 1870 (Spring 2006)

REL371: New Testament (Fall 2004–Fall 2005)

REL100: Religions of the World (Fall 2004-Fall 2005)

## GRANT AND FELLOWSHIPS

### ***External***

- National Endowment for the Humanity funded Summer Research Institute: “Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives” in Charleston, South Carolina (2012)
- Northeast Asia Council Korean Studies Grants, Association of Asian Studies (2007)
- Research Grant, Reigan-Temple Scholarship (2004-6)
- Research Grant, Dai Ho Chun Scholarship (2003)
- Research Grant, Chun Ku and Soo Yong Huang Foundation Graduate Scholarship (2003)
- Research Grant, Mildred Towle Scholarship (2002)

### ***Internal***

- Graduate Division Travel Grant, Arizona State University (2005-6)
- Asian Pacific Tuition Differential Exemption, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (2000-4)

## SERVICES

### **Service to University/College/Department/Community**

#### *Program Development*

- Creating four courses in Korean Studies (Korean Pop Culture; Korean Culture through Film; Religions and Philosophies of Korea; and Religion and Conflict in East Asia. All four courses were approved), University of Arizona (Fall 2014)

#### *Public Lecture*

- Guest speaker on Korean religious traditions for K12 Teachers, Asian Studies, University of Pittsburgh (March 2010; March 2009)

#### *Student Advising*

##### *Graduate*

- Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committee, Nan Ouyang, University of Arizona (Spring 2015 -)
- Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committee, Glaze Shyling, University of Arizona (Fall 2013 -)
- Masters Thesis Committee, Eduardo Cuellar, University of Arizona (Spring 2015 -)

##### *Undergraduate*

- Caitlin Shurtz on her Senior Capstone project. Why Do We Call Them Shin-Shinshūkyō? University of Arizona (Spring 2014)
- Student adviser, East Asian Language and Literature, University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2010)

#### *Service to Profession*

Ad hoc Reviewer: Book

- Paul B. Watt. *Demythologizing Pure Land Buddhism: Yasuda Rijin (1900-1982) and the Modern Restatement of the Shin Buddhist Tradition*. The Pure Land Buddhist Studies series, University of Hawai‘i Press.