

CATHERINE PRUEITT

Assistant Professor of Buddhist Philosophy
Department of Religious Studies
George Mason University

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COMPETENCES

AOS: South Asian philosophy

AOC: philosophy of perception, cross-cultural philosophy, ethics, religion and philosophy

EDUCATION

Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia)

Ph.D., Graduate Division of Religion, Fall 2007 – May 2016

- Dissertation Title: *Carving Out Conventional Worlds: The Work of Apoha in Early Dharmakīrtian Buddhism and Pratyabhijñā Śaivism*
- Advisor: John Dunne
- Committee members: Sara McClintock, Laurie Patton, and Vincent Cornell
- Outside Reader: Isabelle Ratié, Professor of Sanskrit Language and Literatures at the Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France

Austrian Academy of Sciences Inst. for the Cultural & Intellectual History of Asia (Vienna)

ACLS/Ho Foundation Dissertation Fellow and Guest Researcher, June 2014 – December 2014

Central University of Tibetan Studies (Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, India)

Fulbright-Nehru Affiliated Research Scholar, October 2011 – March 2012

University of Rochester (Rochester, New York)

Bachelor of Arts in Religion with Honors; Bachelor of Arts in Japanese, May 2007

- Summa Cum Laude (Cumulative GPA 3.99/4.0)
- Honors Thesis: *Unlimited Inc: A Comparative Analysis of Derrida and Abhinavagupta on the Possibility of Meaningful Signification*
- Advisors: Douglas Brooks and Randall Halle

Take Five Scholars Program, Spring 2006–Spring 2007

- Studied paradigm shifts in Western modern and contemporary film and literature

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Summer Institute on Self-Knowledge in Eastern and Western Philosophies at the College of Charleston (May 2018)

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Summer Institute on Perception and Presupposition at Cornell University (June – July 2016)
- American Council of Learned Societies/Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Dissertation Research Fellow (June 2014 – March 2015)
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellow at Spelman College (Fall 2013 – Spring 2014)
- Fulbright Graduate Student Research Fellowship to India (October 2011 – March 2012)

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming. “Is There an Ideal Scientific Image? Sellars and Dharmakīrti on Levels of Reality.” In Garfield, Jay, ed. *Freedom from Foundations: Sellars and Buddhist Philosophy*. Pickering & Chatto Publishers, Studies in American Philosophy Series. Anticipated release in early 2019.
- 2018a. “Karmic Imprints, Exclusion, and the Creation of the Worlds of Conventional Awareness in Dharmakīrti’s Thought.” *Sophia*. Vol. 57: 313-335.
- 2018b. Review of *Refiguring the Body: Embodiment in South Asian Religions*, by Barbara Holdrege and Karen Pechilis, eds. *Body and Religion*. Vol. 1.2: 212-217.
- 2017. “Shifting Concepts: The Realignment of Dharmakīrti on Concepts and the Error of Subject/Object Duality in Pratyabhijñā Śaiva Thought.” *The Journal of Indian Philosophy*. Vol. 45: 21-47.

COMMISSIONED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Beyond Time, Not Before Time: Abhinavagupta’s Critique of Dharmakīrti on the Beginningless of Conceptual Differentiation.” In Robert Sharf, Evan Thompson, and Catherine Prueitt, eds. *Conceptuality and Nonconceptuality in Buddhist Philosophy*. Anticipated release in 2020.
- Review of *Human Being, Bodily Being: Phenomenology from Classical India*, by Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad. Solicited by *Mind*. Anticipated release in late 2019.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND INVITED LECTURES

- “Selfhood and the Value of Pain.” Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress (upcoming in June 2019, Vancouver, BC, Canada)
- “At the Limits of Pain: Attention, Exclusion, and Self-Knowledge in Pratyabhijñā Śaivism.” Virtues of Attention Global Philosophical Perspectives III: Workshop on Mind, World, and Attention (upcoming in April 2019, New York University, New York)

- “Why Care about Freedom and Agency?” American Philosophical Association Central Annual Meeting (upcoming in February 2019, Denver, Colorado)
- “Subverting the Monological Ideal by Embracing the Nonhuman World: How Abhinavagupta’s Nondual Ontology Could Support Charles Taylor’s Dialogical Ethics.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2018, Denver, Colorado)
- “How to Bring Words to Life: *Apoha* as the Transition between Nonconceptual and Conceptual Language in Pratyabhijñā Śaivism.” The 2018 Toshihide Numata Book Award Symposium “Meaning in the World and in Texts: Thoughts on Buddhist Philosophy of Language” (November 2018, University of California, Berkeley)
- “Do Concepts Create Worlds? A Comparative Analysis of Dharmakīrti’s and Abhinavagupta’s Arguments Concerning Concepts and Subject/Object Duality,” Conceptuality and Nonconceptuality in Buddhist Philosophy Workshop, University of California, Berkeley (March 2018, Berkeley, California).
- “Beyond or Not Beyond.” YHouse Luncheon Dialogue with Piet Hut. Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University (February 2018, Princeton, New Jersey)
- “Beyond Time, Not Before Time: Affirming the Beginningless Reality of Conceptual Differentiation in Indian Philosophy,” Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University (February 2018, New York, New York)
- “Conventional Truth When There Is No Conventional Reality: Understanding Dharmakīrti on Conventional vs. Ultimate Means of Trustworthy Awareness,” XVIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (August 2017, Toronto, Canada)
- “Unsayings through Negation, Unsayings through Affirmation: Modes of Apophasis in the Works of Dharmakīrti and Abhinavagupta,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2016, San Antonio, Texas)
- “Attention and Exclusion,” NEH Summer Institute on Perception and Presupposition (July 2016, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York)
- “Traces of Identity: The Karmic Foundations of Concept Formation in Dharmakīrti’s *Apoha* (Exclusion) Theory,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2015, Atlanta)
- “The Evolution of the Buddhist *Apoha* Theory of Concept Formation through Inter-Traditional Debate in Tenth and Eleventh Century Kashmir,” Buddhist Studies Today Symposium for the ACLS/Ho Foundation Dissertation Fellows (July 2015, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada)

- “Pratyabhijñā Śaiva Contributions to the Buddhist *Apoha* (Exclusion) Theory of Concept Formation,” The 17th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (August 2014, Vienna, Austria)
- “Is What’s Wrong with Two Also Wrong with One? Abhinavagupta on the Nonduality of Limited Subjectivity and Ultimate Consciousness,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2013, Baltimore, Maryland)
- “The Joint Emergence of Subject and Object as Concepts According to Utpaladeva and Abhinavagupta,” Workshop on Mind and Attention in Indian Philosophy (September 2013, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
- “Abhinavagupta’s Critique of Dharmakīrti’s Description of Reflexive Awareness: On the Essential Structures of Language and Consciousness,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2012, Chicago, Illinois)
- “How Deep Does Language Go? Dharmakīrti and Abhinavagupta on Concepts and the Nature of Consciousness,” South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference (March 2012, Kochi, India)
- “*In Medias Res*: Tracing the Play of Divine Consciousness in *Revolutionary Girl Utena*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (October – November 2010, Atlanta, Georgia)
- “Maxed Metaphors: Rhetorical and Ontological Metaphors in the 10th Discourse of the *Bhagavad Gītā*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2009, Montreal, Canada)
- “Creation as Dialogue: Nondual Metaphysics in Abhinavagupta’s Ritual Philosophy,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting Sammukham Seminar (November 2009, Montreal, Canada)

TEACHING AWARDS AND EXPERIENCE

- Nominee for the 2019 George Mason University Stearns Center Teaching Award
- Recipient of a 2013-2014 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellowship

George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)

- “Buddhism” (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
- “Honors Research Methods” (Fall 2018)
- “Religion and Literature: The *Rāmāyaṇa*” (Summer 2018)

- “Human Religious Experience” (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)
- “Hinduism” (Spring 2018)

Emory University (Atlanta, GA)

- “Asian Religious Traditions” (Fall 2015)
- “Introduction to Sacred Texts” (Fall 2012)

Spelman College (Atlanta, GA)

- “Introduction to Sacred Texts” (Spring 2014)
- “Hinduism: From the Vedas to Today” (Spring 2014)

SERVICE

- Co-editor of *Conceptuality and Nonconceptuality in Buddhist Philosophy*. With Evan Thompson and Robert Sharf. Anticipated release 2020.
- Member of the American Academy of Religion Buddhist Philosophy Group Steering Committee (December 2018 – present)
- Head of web marketing and development for George Mason University’s Department of Religious Studies. (October 2018 – present)
- Coordinator of the Emory University Graduate Writing Support Service. Provided one-on-one comprehensive writing consultations for graduate students in all fields and offered various workshops on research, writing, and disciplinary becoming. (November 2015 – June 2017)
- Repeat faculty for Emory University’s Laney Graduate School’s Grant Writing Program. Provided guidance to graduate students in all fields on grant applications in intensive multi-day workshops. (May 2015; September 2015; February 2016; February 2017)
- Organized the panel “What’s Wrong with Duality? Classical Pan-Indian Perspectives on Nonduality” at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2013, Baltimore)
- Organized the “Seminar on Reflexive Awareness and the Luminosity of Consciousness,” pre-conference American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (October – November 2010, Atlanta)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- Sanskrit; decent Classical Tibetan; basic Japanese; basic French and German for reading

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Philosophical Association (2018 – present)
- International Association of Buddhist Studies (2014 – present)
- American Academy of Religion (2007 – present)
- Phi Beta Kappa (elected as an Undergraduate Junior in 2005 – present)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- John Dunne, jddunne@wisc.edu, (678) 379-7987
Distinguished Chair in Contemplative Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Susanna Siegel, ssiegel@fas.harvard.edu, (617) 495-1884
Edgar Pierce Professor of Philosophy at Harvard University
- Jay L. Garfield, jgarfield@smith.edu, (413) 585-3649
Doris Hilbert Professor of Philosophy, Logic and Buddhist Studies at Smith College
- Evan Thompson, evan.thompson@ubc.ca, (604) 827-2071
Professor of Philosophy at the University of British Columbia
- Sara McClintock, slmcli@emory.edu, (404) 558-8357
Associate Professor of Religion at Emory University
- Laurie Patton, president@middlebury.edu, (802) 443-5401
President of Middlebury College