

LISA J. BATTAGLIA

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CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor of Religion, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, Religion (History and Critical Theories of Religion), 2007. *Magna cum laude*. Dissertation: "Women Who Have Gone Forth: Gender and Religious Identity Among Buddhist Nuns in Thailand."
- M.A. Vanderbilt University, Religion (History and Critical Theories of Religion), 2005. *Magna cum laude*.
- M.A. University of Alabama, Women's Studies, 1999. *Summa cum laude*. Thesis: "Reading the Female Body: Buddhism, Feminism, and the Cultural Construction of Gender."
- B.A. Duke University, Religion, 1995. *Cum laude*.

TEACHING AREAS

Primary: World Religions, Asian Religions, Women and Religion, Religion and the Body.

Secondary: Cultural Perspectives, Global Studies, Interfaith Dialogue.

RESEARCH AREAS

Women in Buddhism; the global movement for women's ordination across Buddhist traditions; beauty and the female body in early Indian and Theravada Buddhism; postcolonial, feminist, and ethnographic approaches to the study of women and religion; critical methods in the study of religion; religion and the body across religious traditions, interfaith dialogue.

PUBLICATIONS

"Only Skin Deep? Female Embodiment and the Paradox of Beauty in Indian Buddhism," in *Buddhist Feminism(s) and Femininities*, ed. Karma Lekshe Tsomo (SUNY Press, 2019).

"Breaking the Rule: St. Clare of Assisi and Women Living the *Vita Apostolica*," in *Bridging Divides, Crossing Borders, Community Building: The Human Voice in Core Texts and the Liberal Arts*, eds. Tuan Hoang and Daniel Nuckols (ACTC Publications, forthcoming).

"Feminist Method and *femina religiosa*: In Gratitude to Rita Gross and Her Contributions to Religious Studies, and My, Scholarship," *American Buddhist Women*, Quarterly eZine from *Sakyadhita USA*, Issue No. 9 (Winter 2016).

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

“Becoming *Bhikkhuni*? *Mae Chis* and the Global Women’s Ordination Movement,” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, Volume 22 (2015): 25-62.

“Women in Buddhism,” *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, Second Edition, Vol. 25, ed. James D. Wright, (Oxford: Elsevier, 2015): 628-634.

“Buddhaful: Beauty, Buddhism, and the Feminine/Feminist Predicament,” *American Buddhist Women*, Quarterly eZine from *Sakyadhita* USA, Issue No. 5 (Winter 2015): 1-5.

Women Who Have Gone Forth: Thai Buddhist Nuns and the Debate Over Women’s Ordination (Scholars’ Press, 2014).

“Slow Down, Lay Low, Be Present: Three Gems of Motherhood,” *American Buddhist Women*, Quarterly eZine from *Sakyadhita* USA, Issue No. 3 (Fall 2014): 5-6.

“Lipstick Buddhists and Dharma Divas: Buddhism in the Most Unlikely Packages” *Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women Newsletter*, Volume 20, Number 1 (Winter 2011): 5-7.

“Conservative Protestant Ideology and Wife Abuse: Reflections on the Discrepancy Between Theory and Data.” *Journal of Religion and Abuse*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (2001): 31-45.

“On Gendered Discourse and the Maintenance of Boundaries: A Feminist Analysis of the *Bhikkhuni* Order in Indian Buddhism.” *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* 4 (1998): 8-60.

“Toward a Buddhist Feminism: Mahayana *Sutras*, Feminist Theory, and the Transformation of Sex.” *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* 3 (1997): 8-51.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

“A Cup of Tea, Beginner’s Mind, and the Phenomenological Approach: Teaching Asian Religions in the American South,” submitted to *Teaching Theology and Religion*.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

“How Teaching Core Texts Informs (My) Research: *Therigatha* and *Rule of St. Clare*,” Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC) Annual Conference, Framingham MA, April 2018.

“A Cup of Tea, Beginner’s Mind, and the Phenomenological Approach: Teaching Asian Religions in the American South,” Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting, Atlanta GA, March 2018.

“Breaking the Rule: Women Living the *Vita Apostolica*: The Pioneering Work of St. Clare of Assisi,” Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC) Annual Conference, Dallas TX, April 2017.

“Women and Gender in Comparative Perspective: A Response,” Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting, Raleigh NC, March 2017.

“Teaching Sex & Gender in Core Texts: Ancient Women's Perspectives: The First Buddhist Nuns,” Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC) Annual Conference, Atlanta GA, April 2016.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS (continued)

“Only Skin Deep? Female Embodiment and the Paradox of Beauty in Indian Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Diego CA, Nov. 2014.

“The Challenge of Teaching World Religions in Baptist-Related Universities,” National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion-Southeast Region (NABPR-SE) Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, March 2014.

“Like Licking Honey Off a Razor Blade: The Female Body as a Site/Sight of Suffering and Aversion in Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Chicago IL, Nov. 2012.

“Lipstick Buddhists and Dharma Divas: Buddhism in the Most Unlikely Packages,” 12th *Sakyadhita* International Conference on Buddhist Women, Bangkok, Thailand, June 2011.

“Food as Sacral Transformation: Reinterpreting the Food-mediated Activities of Buddhist Nuns in Thailand,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Chicago IL, Nov. 2008.

“Becoming *Bhikkhuni*? The Perspectives of *Mae Chis* on the Women’s Ordination Movement in Buddhist Thailand,” XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS), Atlanta GA, June 2008.

“Women Who Have Gone Forth: Gender and Religious Identity Among Buddhist Nuns in Thailand,” Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences (HICSS), Honolulu HI, June 2007.

“Women Who Have Gone Forth: Gender and Religious Identity Among Buddhist Nuns in Thailand,” 9th *Sakyadhita* International Conference on Buddhist Women, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 2006.

“From Sexual Asceticism to Sexual Consumerism: Buddhism, Prostitution, and the Sexual Spectrum in Thai Society,” International Conference on Religion and Globalization, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, July-August 2003.

INVITED UNIVERSITY LECTURES

“Women Living the *Vita Apostolica*: The Unconventional Lives of Medieval Female Saints and Mystics,” Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK) Christian Faith and Critical Thought Forum, Samford University, Birmingham AL, March 28, 2018.

“Understanding World Religions,” Samford University Homecoming Lecture, Birmingham AL, November 10, 2017.

“Sex and Gender: From the Perspectives of Science and Religion,” Science and Religion Club Panel, Samford University, Birmingham AL, April 11, 2017.

“Buddhist Spirituality,” Guest Lecture in Dr. Ken Roxburgh’s “Spirituality” Class, Samford University, Birmingham AL, March 10, 2017.

“Violence and Religion: An Asian Religions Perspective,” Phi Kappa Phi and the Department of Philosophy Panel on Violence and Religion, Samford University, Birmingham AL, April 18, 2016.

INVITED UNIVERSITY LECTURES (continued)

“Uncovering Hidden Voices, Reclaiming Lost ‘Herstory’: Feminist Approaches to the Study of Women and Religion,” Lunch and Learn: Women’s History Month, sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives, Samford University , Birmingham AL, March 30, 2016.

“Why is God Not Female? Or is She? A Comparative Religions Perspective on the Gender of God(s),” Theta Kappa Alpha (TAK) Christian Faith and Critical Thought Colloquium, Samford University, Birmingham AL, March 10, 2016.

“‘The Legend of Bagger Vance’ and the *Bhagavad Gita*: A Modern Day Adaptation of an Ancient Hindu Epic,” RELG 497/FLME 356: Religion and Film class, Samford University, Birmingham AL, November 18, 2015.

“Navigating the Middle Way: A Buddhist Perspective on Consumerism, the Environment, and (Human) Nature,” Warren Wilson College, Asheville NC, January 19, 2012.

“One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?: The Global Movement for Women's Ordination and the Socio-Religious Realities of Thai Buddhist Nuns,” Five College Religion Seminar, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA, March 30, 2011.

“Patching Together Buddha’s Robe: The Evolution of Buddhist Religious Garb from Spiritual Quest to Political Protest,” Siena College, Loudonville NY, November 12, 2010.

“Gender and Religion: A Case Study: Re-Interpreting the Food-Mediated Rituals of Buddhist Nuns in Thailand,” University of Notre Dame, South Bend IN, April 15, 2010.

“Monks, Morning Alms, and ‘McDonaldization’: Tradition and Modernity in Contemporary Thailand,” Classics and World Religions Colloquium, Ohio University, Athens OH, September 11, 2009.

“No Beginning & No End: Buddhist Apocalypticism(?),” Eckerd College, St. Petersburg FL, February 5, 2009.

“Women, Food, and Merit in Buddhist Thailand: Reinterpreting the Bounds of ‘the Domestic’ and ‘the Religious’,” Women’s Studies Colloquium, Ohio University, Athens OH, October 24, 2008.

“Women in the Sangha,” Guest Lecture, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN, December 4, 2007.

“Women, Feminism, and Spirituality,” Panel, Ohio University, Athens OH, November 2007.

“Becoming a Buddhist Nun: The Perspectives of Thai *Mae Chis* on the *Bhikkhuni* Ordination Movement in Thailand,” Classics and World Religions Colloquium, Ohio University, Athens OH, October 2007.

“*Mae Chi* or *Bhikkhuni*? Perspectives on Women’s Ordination in Buddhist Thailand,” Robert Penn Warren Graduate Student Fellows Lecture Series, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN, April 2007.

“Reading the Female Body: *Yakshi* Iconography in Indian Buddhism,” The Fourth Annual Graduate Student Symposium, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL, January 1999.

FIELDWORK AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Thailand

- Fieldwork on the movement for women's full ordination in Buddhism, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2011.
- Intensive Thai Language Program, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, 2008, 2009.
- Participation in the *Sakyadhita*: International Association of Buddhist Women Conference, Bangkok, 2011.

Vietnam

- Research on transnational feminism and women's religious roles in Buddhism, 2009-10.
- Participation in the *Sakyadhita*: International Association of Buddhist Women Conference, Ho Chi Minh, 2009-2010.

Malaysia

- Ethnographic data collection for doctoral research, Kuala Lumpur, 2006.
- Participation in the *Sakyadhita*: International Association of Buddhist Women Conference, Kuala Lumpur, 2006.

Japan

- Research on Shinto, Zen Buddhism, and Zen art and aesthetics, Tokyo, 2002.

India

- Buddhist Studies Program, Antioch Education Abroad, Bodh Gaya, Varanasi, Delhi, 1994.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Religion, Samford University, 2016 to present.

Assistant Professor of Religion, Samford University, 2012 to 2016.

Courses Taught:

RELG 201: Introduction to World Religions
RELG 201.WB: Introduction to World Religions ONLINE
RELG 371: The Craft of Religious Studies
RELG 373/SOCI 373: Women and Religion
RELG 375: Religion and the Body
RELG 381: Religions of Asia
UCCP 101: Cultural Perspectives I
UCCP 102: Cultural Perspectives II

Courses Created:

RELG 373/SOCI 373: Women and Religion
RELG 375: Religion and the Body
RELG 381: Religions of Asia
RELG 201.WB: Introduction to World Religions ONLINE

Online Experience:

RELG 201.WB: Introduction to World Religions ONLINE
Quality Matters Online Course Design Training

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS (continued)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Mount Holyoke College, 2010-2012.

Courses Taught:

- REL 100: Introduction to Religion
- REL 263: Buddhism
- REL 241: Women and Buddhism
- REL 327: Robes, Amulets, and Over-Turned Rice Bowls: Contemporary Buddhist Movements in Southeast Asia
- REL 352: Written on the Body: Body Images and Practices in Religious Traditions

Visiting Assistant Professor of World Religions, Ohio University, 2007-2010.

Courses Taught:

- CLWR 181: Introduction to Religion
- CLWR 331/531: Buddhism
- CLWR 432/532: Women in Buddhism
- CLWR 484: Women and Religion
- CLWR 221: Difficult Dialogues: Religious Beliefs

Teaching Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University, 2000-2006.

Courses Assisted:

- RLST 120: Religion, Sexuality and Power
- RLST 130: Introduction to Asian Traditions
- RLST 223: Ethics and Feminism
- RLST 230: Women and Religion

Master Teaching Fellow, Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University, 2005-2006.

- Designed and facilitated bi-weekly seminars to prepare graduate students for teaching courses in religious or theological studies through discussion of case studies and issues
- Organized and facilitated the Teaching of Religion Retreat, a teaching and professional development event for GDR graduate students

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Vanderbilt University, 2005-2006.

- Designed and maintained CSRC website utilizing Dreamweaver
- Assisted in research and program development projects, including the Templeton Research Lectures

Senior Graduate Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, 2003-2005.

- Planned and facilitated workshops for the Future Faculty Preparation Program (F2P2), Teaching Assistant Orientation (TAO) and the Graduate Student Teaching for Professional Development (GradSTEP) program
- Conducted small-group analyses, videotape consultations and classroom observations in sections and labs of Teaching Assistants (TAs) across academic departments
- Consulted individually with TAs to strategize and implement innovative and effective pedagogical practices in their respective disciplines

Instructor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Alabama, 1998-1999.

Courses Taught:

- WS 200: Introduction to Women's Studies

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Samford University

Mann Center Fellowship in Community-Based Learning, Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership, Samford University, 2018-2019.
William E. and Wylodine F. Hull Fund for Christian Scholarship Award (for Interfaith Dialogue Course Development and Programming), Samford University, 2018.
Online Course Development Grant, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, 2016.
Provost Supplemental Travel Funds for National Conferences, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019.
Honoree in the Class of 2014, Class of 2016, and Class of 2017 Senior Giving Campaigns.

Mount Holyoke College

Faculty Grant Award, 2011.

Ohio University

Southeast Asian Studies Grant, 2008, 2009-2010.
Department of Classics and World Religions Travel Fund, 2009.
College of Arts and Sciences Travel Fund, 2008.

Vanderbilt University

Robert Penn Warren Graduate Student Fellow, 2006-2007.
University Graduate Fellow and University Tuition Scholarship, 1999-2003.
Departmental Fellowship, Graduate Department of Religion, 1999-2003.
Summer Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, 2003.
Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2003.
Summer Research Award, 2002.

University of Alabama

Stephen Karatheodoris Memorial Award, 1999.
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Women's Studies, 1998-1999.
Women's Studies Award for Research on Women, 1998.
Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Fund, 1998.
Graduate Council Fellow and Presidential Supplement Fund, 1997-1998.

Duke University

Dean's List, 1992, (with Distinction) 1994, 1995.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS FOR PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“Association of Interreligious/Interfaith Studies Workshop,” Association for Interreligious/Interfaith Studies (AIIS) in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Denver CO, November 16, 2018.

“The Alabama Colloquium,” Alabama Humanities Foundation, Birmingham AL, October 1, 2018.

“IDEALS (Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey) Symposium: Bridging Research and Practice,” sponsored by the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), Atlanta GA, September 13-14, 2018.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS FOR PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

“Teaching Interfaith Understanding,” offered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, Depaul University, Chicago IL, June 17-21, 2018.

“Quality Matters: Applying the QM Rubric Workshop, A National Benchmark for Online Course Design,” Samford University, May 19, 2017.

“Get Momentum! Associate Professor Leadership Development Program,” sponsored by The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship (partnered with Jason and Jodi Womack), Samford University, August 2016-April 2017.

Core Texts Faculty Summer Read (Arthur Herman, *The Cave and the Light: Plato Versus Aristotle, and the Struggle for the Soul of Western Civilization*), Core Texts Program, Samford University, Summer/Fall 2017.

“Teaching Online in Arts and Sciences,” sponsored by the Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, December 12, 2016.

“Teaching the Reformations”, The Second Biennial Conference on Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition, Samford University, October 6-8, 2016.

“Core Texts Summer Faculty Workshop,” Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, June 13-17, 2016.

“Online Course Development,” Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, September 28, 2015.

Core Texts Faculty Summer Read (R. G. Collingwood, *The Idea of Nature*), Core Texts Program, Samford University, Summer/Fall 2015.

“Online Course Demonstration,” Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, May 14, 2015.

“Augustine Across the Curriculum,” Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition Conference, Samford University, October 2-4, 2014.

Core Texts Faculty Summer Read (Darrin McMahon, *Happiness: A History*), Core Texts Program, Samford University, Summer/Fall 2014.

“Online Course Demonstration,” Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University, September 12, 2013.

New Faculty Retreat, Samford University, January 24, 2013.

"Introduction to Moodle," Technology Services, Samford University, July 17, 2012.

Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Seminar, “Teaching with Thangkas: Materials, Methods, and Meanings,” Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, August 30-31, 2011.

CHAired SESSIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

“Asian Religions in Practice: Case Studies in Localized and Global Contexts,” presider, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, March 4, 2017.

“Women and Gender in Comparative Perspective,” presider and respondent, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, March 4, 2017.

“Divine Creation in Tibetan Tantric Traditions,” presider, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee, March 7, 2015.

“Buddhist Women as Scholars and Educators,” panel moderator and respondent, 12th *Sakyadhita* International Conference on Buddhist Women, Bangkok, Thailand, June 15, 2011.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Guest Editor, *Religions* journal, special issue on Women in Buddhism, 2017-2018.

Reviewer, Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC) Proceedings, 2017.

Co-Chair, Religions of Asia section for the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR), 2014-2017.

Board of Directors, *Sakyadhita*: International Association of Buddhism Women USA National Branch, 2010-present.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, Samford University, 2013-present.

Faculty Advisor, Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK) Religion Honor Society, 2017-present.

Search Committee, Department of English, Samford University, 2017-2018.

Asian Texts Committee, Core Texts Program (Cultural Perspectives), Samford University, 2012-present.

New Student Orientation, Samford University, June 2017, June 2016.

Preview Day (Religion), Samford University, October 28, 2017, April 23, 2016, October 31, 2015.

Member, Legacy League, Samford University, 2016-2017.

Chair, Student Recruitment Committee (Religion), Samford University, 2015-2016.

Search Committee, Department of Religion, Samford University, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016.

Religion and Society Grants Team, Samford University, 2013-2015.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY (continued)

Cadre: Religion and Gender-Based Violence, Samford University, Spring 2014.

January Term Brainstorming Focus Group (with Nancy Biggio), Samford University, April 2, 2013.

New Faculty Mentoring Program (with Emily Hynds), Samford University, 2012-2013.

Interfaith Impact Group, Guest Speaker, Ohio University, 2009.

Southeast Asian Studies Association, Faculty Advisor, Ohio University, 2008-2010.

OU Zen Group, Faculty Advisor, Ohio University, 2008-2010.

Women's Center, Program Participant, Ohio University, 2007-2010.

Women in Academe Series, Co-creator, Vanderbilt University, 2004-2005.

The Second Degree, Contributing Writer, Graduate Student Council, Vanderbilt University, 2003.

Breaking the Silence: Violence Against Women, Trained Educator, Women's Center, University of Alabama, 1998.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Board of Directors, Hoover YMCA, 2013-present.

"Buddhist Spirituality," Guest Speaker, Wednesday Night Program at Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham AL, June 7, 2017.

Speed Networking Event, cosponsored by the Birmingham Education Foundation and the Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives (Samford University), Birmingham AL, November 4, 2016.

Shades Creek Cleanup, sponsored by the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences (Samford University), The Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership (Samford University), and the Friends of Shades Creek, Birmingham AL, September 24, 2016.

Sunday School class on "Religion and Sexuality: A Comparative Perspective," Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL, July 28, 2013.

OU Green Jackets, Volunteer (campus and community safety), Ohio University, Athens OH, 2009.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK), National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC)

Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women