

Amod Lele

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Education

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Ph.D. 2007: Study of Religion (field: South Asia)

Exam Fields: South Asian Religions; South Asian Buddhism; Classical Indian Ethics and Soteriology.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, M.S. 2001: Development Sociology major, Government minor

McGILL UNIVERSITY, B.A. (Hons) 1997: Geography/Sociology joint honours

Publications

“The Compassionate Gift of Vice.” In “revise and resubmit” status at *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Love of All Wisdom. Frequently updated blog at <http://loveofallwisdom.com> (begun 2009).

“Śāntideva.” *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://www.iep.utm.edu/santideva> (2009).

“The Rejection of Comparative Religion in North America.” In *Perspectives on Comparative Religion*, ed. Gauri Chattopadhyaya, Hari Dutt Sharma and Anamika Roy. Sagar, India: Vishwavidyalay Prakashan, 2007.

“The Various Forms of Constructive Buddhist Studies.” In *Epistemology and Hermeneutics*, ed. Rita DasGupta Sherma and Adarsh Deepak, Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma, vol. 2, 131-40. Hampton, VA: Deepak Heritage Books, 2005.

“State Hindutva and Singapore Confucianism as Responses to the Decline of the Welfare State.” *Asian Studies Review* 28 (September 2004): 267-82.

“Make Yourself Fall from Happiness: Moral Masochism in the Thought of Shantideva.” In *Religion and the Senses*, ed. Michael Ostling, CSR Symposium Papers, vol. 2, 57-66. Toronto: Centre for the Study of Religion, 2002.

Dissertation

“Ethical Revaluation in the Thought of Śāntideva.” (advisor: Prof. Parimal Patil)

Conference Presentations

“The Role of External Goods in Benevolence and Compassion: Applying Śāntideva’s Thought to the Work of Martha Nussbaum,” Comparative Religious Ethics Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA (November 2006).

“An Ethical Approach to the Bodhicaryāvatāra’s Literary Form,” Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference, Princeton University, USA (April 2005).

“The Rejection of Comparative Religion in North America,” National Seminar on Comparative Religion, University of Allahabad, India (February 2005).

“The Various Forms of Constructive Buddhist Studies,” Dharma Association of North America, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, USA (November 2004).

“Constructive Buddhist Studies: What It Is and Why It Matters” (chair of roundtable discussion), Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University, USA (April 2004).

“Make Yourself Fall from Happiness: Moral Masochism in the Thought of Shantideva,” Study of Religion Conference, University of Toronto, Canada (June 2001).

“Legitimation through Tradition: A Comparative Study of Hindutva and Singapore Confucianism,” Confucian Traditions Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, USA (November 2000).

“Global Commodification of Spirituality,” Sociology at the Turn of the Century, University of Toronto, Canada (April 1999).

Teaching Experience

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Stonehill College, Easton, MA

Fall 2008 through Spring 2010: *Encounters in the History of Religions*

Spring 2009: *Hindu Tradition*

Fall 2008 and Spring 2009: *The Good Life in Cross-Cultural Perspective*

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

Spring 2008: *Sexuality in South Asian Traditions; Introduction to Hindu Tradition; Hindu-Muslim Relations*

Fall 2007: *Introduction to Hindu Tradition; The Good Life in Cross-Cultural Perspective; Islam*

TUTORIAL INSTRUCTOR, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The Good Life: Classical Views in Cross-Cultural Perspective (fall 2002)

Sexuality in Indian Religions (fall 2001)

TEACHING FELLOW, Harvard University (including Harvard Divinity School and Harvard Extension School), Cambridge, MA

"If There Is No God, All Is Permitted": Theism and Moral Reasoning (Prof. Jay Harris, spring 2006)

Justice (Prof. Michael Sandel, fall 2003 and fall 2005)

Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies (Prof. Ali Asani, spring 2004)

Sources of Indian Civilization (Prof. Diana Eck, spring 2003)

Indian Religions Through Their Narrative Literatures (Prof. Anne Monius, spring 2003)

World Religions: Diversity and Dialogue (Prof. Diana Eck, fall 2002)

Issues in Buddhist Philosophy (Prof. Janet Gyatso, spring 2002)

TEACHING ASSISTANT, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Introduction to Sociology (Prof. Michael Macy, fall 1999; Prof. Szonja Szelenyi, spring 2000)

GRADUATE WRITING FELLOW, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (spring 2003)

Took workshop in Writing Across the Curriculum, to improve skills in evaluating student writing.

Fellowships and Awards (selected)

Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University (2006-7)

Language Training Fellowship, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (2005)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, Harvard University (2000-2)

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Fellowship, Cornell University (1998-9)

Service Experience

Wisdom Publications, Somerville, MA (2009)

Reviewed books on Buddhism in French for potential publication.

Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University (2004)

Secured funding for conference; participated in review and selection of abstracts submitted; introduced presentations.

Workshop in Cross-Cultural Philosophy, Harvard University (2001-4)

Founded doctoral workshop for the discussion of philosophical questions in cross-cultural perspective; as coordinator, administered all its activities, including budgeting, securing funding, arranging presentations, and making arrangements for guest speakers.

ReligDoc Discussion List, Harvard University (2001-4)

Founded and administered email discussion forum for doctoral students in religion.

Past Research Affiliations

University of Texas-Austin, Visiting Researcher in Philosophy Department, 2004-5

Memberships

American Academy of Religion, Association for Asian Studies, American Philosophical Association, Canadian Society for Studies in Religion

Languages

English (native), Sanskrit (including Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit), Pali, French, German