

Jolyon Baraka Thomas

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EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD, Religion
Princeton University Department of Religion
Thesis: “Japan’s Preoccupation with Religious Freedom.”
A study of the politics of religious freedom during the time that Japan’s first modern constitution was in effect (1890–1945) and under the Allied Occupation (1945–1952).
- 2011 MA, Religion (incidental)
Princeton University Department of Religion
Competencies: Asian religions; modern Japanese history
- 2008 MA, Asian Religion (terminal)
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Religion
Thesis: “Religious *Manga* Culture: The Conflation of Religion and Entertainment in Contemporary Japan.”
A study of relationships between manga, anime, and Japanese religions based on two years of fieldwork in Tokyo (2005–2007).
- 2001 BA, Religious Studies (with Elementary Education Certificate)
Grinnell College Department of Religious Studies
Student Teaching Portfolio (Thesis): “Multiculturalism and Motivation in Indian Education at the Sac and Fox Settlement School.”
A study of cultural expectations regarding learning outcomes and student motivation at a small elementary school serving students of the Meskwaki Tribe of central Iowa.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017– Assistant Professor, Religious Studies
University of Pennsylvania
- 2015–2017 Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
- 2014–2015 A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities
University of Wisconsin–Madison

PUBLICATIONS*Monographs*

Under contract*

Japan, the American Occupation, and the Problem of Religious Freedom. University of Chicago Press. 120,000 words.

2012*

Drawing on Tradition: Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. 199 pp.*Journal Articles*

2016 (2015 issue)†

“The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan,” *Material Religion* 11, no. 4: 485–506.

2016†

“Varieties of Religious Freedom in Japanese Buddhist Responses to the 1899 Religions Bill,” *Asian Journal of Law and Society* 3, no. 1: 49–70.

2015 (2014 issue)*†

“Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” *Japanese Religions* 39, nos. 1&2: 31–51.

2014*

“Religions Policies during the Allied Occupation of Japan, 1945–1952,” *Religion Compass* 8, no. 9: 275–286.

2012†

“Horrific ‘Cults’ and Comic Religion: Manga after Aum,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 39, no. 1: 127–151.

2008

“Manga to shūkyō no genzai: ‘Nijū seiki shōnen’ to nijūisseiki no shūkyō ishiki.” *Gendai shūkyō 2008*: 120–142.

2007†

“*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime*.” *Nova Religio* 10, no. 3: 73–95.*Book Chapters*

In preparation

“Spirit/Medium: A Critical Examination of the Putative Relationship between Anime and Animism.” In Fabio Rambelli, ed. *Invisible Empire*.

Submitted

“The Divided States of Religious Freedom in America: Domestic Debates and Foreign Policy.” In *Ima shūkyō ni mukiau* (Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten).

2009

“Religion and Japanese Film: Focus on *Anime*.” In *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film*, ed. John Lyden, 194–213. London: Routledge.

2007

“*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime* [abridged].” In *The Religion and Film Reader*, ed. Jolyon Mitchell and S. Brent Plate, 183–193. London: Routledge.*Book and Archive Reviews*

Submitted

“James Mark Shields, *Against Harmony: Progressive and Radical Buddhism in Modern Japan*,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

- Submitted “Big Questions in Shinto Studies” (comparative review of six recent publications on Shinto for H-Japan)
- Submitted “Helen Hardacre, *Shinto: A History*” *Japan Review*
- 2016 “Trent Maxey, *The Greatest Problem: Religion and State Formation in Meiji Japan*,” *Journal of Religion* 96, no. 4: 571–572.
- 2016 “Isomae Jun’ichi, *Religious Discourse in Modern Japan: Religion, State, Shinto*,” *Monumenta Nipponica* 71, no. 1: 186–191.
- 2016 “[Religious Freedom, Past and Future](#)” (review of Elizabeth Shaman Hurd, *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion*), *The Immanent Frame*, 31 March 2016.
- 2014 “Benjamin Dorman, *Celebrity Gods: New Religions, Media, and Authority in Occupied Japan*,” *Nova Religio* 17, no. 4: 104–105.
- 2014 “Review Article: The Concept of Religion in Modern Japan: Imposition, Invention, or Innovation?” *Religious Studies in Japan* 2: 3–21.
- 2013 “[Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II](#),” *Dissertation Reviews: Fresh From the Archives*, 4 March 2013.
- 2013 “[Archives on the Allied Occupation of Japan](#),” *Dissertation Reviews: Fresh From the Archives*, 4 February 2013.
- 2010 “Mark W. MacWilliams, ed. *Japanese Visual Culture: Explorations in the World of Manga and Anime*,” *Asian Ethnology* 69, no. 1: 188–190.
- Web Magazine Articles, Scholarly Blogs, Opinion Pieces, and Outreach Publications*
- 2016 “[Teaching True Believers](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “[Training the Religious Memory](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “[Corporate Profit through Buddhist Kitsch](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “[Tongue in Cheek, Just in Case](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “Welcome to Ryohoji!” *Tricycle*, Summer 2015, pp. 64–65; p. 100.
- 2015 “[Field Notes on Drinking at a Buddhist Bar](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2014 “[Treating Religious Freedom as a Human Right is a Problem, Not a Solution](#),” *PluRel Blog: The Politics of Religious Freedom*, 11 December 2014.
- 2010 “[What would Jesus and Buddha do ... on holiday?](#)” *The Guardian*, “Comment is Free: Belief,” 22 December 2010.

Conference Proceedings

- 2013 “Facing Forward, Looking Back: Religion and Film Studies in the Last Decade” (with J. Kickasola, J.C. Lyden, S.B. Plate, A. Sison, S.J. Nayar, S. Knauss, and R. Wagner), *Journal of Religion and Film* 17, no. 1: 60–69.
- 2010 “Seiyō kara mita Nihon eiga no shūkyōsei.” In *Kokusai kenkyū fōramu: Eiga no naka no shūkyō bunka: hōkokusho*, ed. Inoue Nobutaka, 35–46. Tokyo: Kagaku Kenkyūhi hojokin/kiban kenkyū (A) “Daigaku ni okeru shūkyō bunka kyōiku no jisshitsuka o hakaru shisutemu kōchiku,” dai 2 gurūpu.

Translation

- Submitted Bukkyō Seito Dōshikai (Fraternity of Puritan Buddhists), “Our Manifesto,” in Orion Klautau and Hans-Martin Krämer, eds. *Buddhism and Modernity: Sources from Nineteenth-Century Japan*.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016–2018 Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership “U.S.-Japan Network for the Future” Program, Cohort IV
- 2013–2014 Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship
- 2012–2013 Fulbright-IIE Graduate Research Fellowship (Japan)
- 2012–2013 Japan Foundation Doctoral Research Fellowship (declined)
- 2007–2008 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies John Fee Embree Scholarship
- 2005–2007 Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship

TEACHING AWARDS

- 2012 Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Teaching Award
- 2011 Princeton University Department of Religion Teaching Award

GRANTS AND RESEARCH AWARDS

- 2017 University of Pennsylvania Center for East Asian Studies Travel Grant
- 2016 University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences Conference Support Grant for the conference “What Isn’t Shinto?” held at the University of Pennsylvania in September 2016.
- 2016 University of Pennsylvania University Research Foundation Grant for the conference “What Isn’t Shinto?” held at the University of Pennsylvania in September 2016.

- 2015 Association for Asian Studies Northeast Asia Council Small Scholarly Conference Grant for the conference “What Isn’t Shinto?” held at the University of Pennsylvania in September 2016.
- 2012 University of Maryland Twentieth Century Japan Research Award
- 2011 Association for Asian Studies Northeast Asia Council Graduate Student Travel Grant
- 2011 Princeton University Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant
- 2009 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies Edward Seidensticker Prize for best paper on Japan; School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Conference
- 2009 University of Hawai‘i School of Pacific and Asian Studies Travel Grant
- 2007 Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religions
- 2007 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies Edward Seidensticker Prize for best paper on Japan; School of Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian Studies Graduate Conference
- 2005 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies Graduate Student Travel Grant
- 2005 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship
- 2005 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies Edward Seidensticker Prize for best paper on Japan; School of Hawaiian, Pacific, and Asian Studies Graduate Conference

NOMINATION

- 2015 Princeton University Department of Religion Nomination for Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Dissertation Award

WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

- 2016 (Sept) Workshop and Symposium: “What *Isn’t* Shinto?” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- 2016 (Mar) Symposium: “Picturebooks, Priests’ Wives, and Politics: Making Buddhism at Home in Contemporary Japan,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

INVITED LECTURES

- 2017 (Oct) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Johns Hopkins University, MD

- 2017 (Apr) “Spirits as Mediums in Animated Media,” Illinois Wesleyan University, IL
- 2017 (Mar) “The Politics of Religion in Postwar Japanese Public School Education,” Columbia University Weatherhead East Asia Institute, NY
- 2016 (Nov) “Japanese Religion and Anime: Framing Religious Subjects in an Irreligious Place,” Community College of Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 (Sept) “The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan,” University of Alabama Day Lecture, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2015 (May) “Religious Frames of Mind: Viewing Contemporary Japanese Religion through Anime,” Carleton College, Northfield, MN
- 2015 (Mar) “Hurry and Take Refuge in Me Right Now: Sexy Cartoons and Video Games at the Tokyo Temple Ryōhōji,” University of Cincinnati, OH
- 2014 (Oct) “Japan’s Preoccupation with Religious Freedom: Buddhist Activism during the Meiji Constitutional Period, 1890–1947,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 (Feb) “Hurry and Take Refuge in Me: Media Outreach and Material Religion at a Tokyo Temple,” Bates College, Lewiston, ME
- 2014 (Feb) “Japan’s Preoccupation with Religious Freedom,” Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
- 2013 (Nov) “Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan,” North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2010 (Apr) “Recreating Religion in Contemporary Japanese Visual Culture: A Focus on the Animated Films of Miyazaki Hayao,” Southwestern University International Studies Lecture Series, Georgetown, TX
- 2007 (Mar) “Recreating Religion: Religious *Manga* Culture in Contemporary Japan,” Alumni Scholar Presentation, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

RESPONSES AT CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SYMPOSIA

- 2017 (Oct) Respondent to Anna Su, “Varieties of Burden in Religious Accommodation,” University of Pennsylvania Andrea Mitchell Center for Democracy, Constitutionalism, and Citizenship “States of Religious Freedom” Faculty Workshop

- 2012 (Nov) Respondent, “Facing Forward, Looking Back: Religion and Film Studies in the Last Decade,” Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group Panel, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2012 (Apr) Respondent to Professor Inoue Nobutaka, “Religion in Film and Religious Culture Education in Contemporary Japan,” University of Southern California Center for Japanese Religions and Culture Inaugural Symposium, “Religion in the Public Sphere: Japan and the World,” Los Angeles

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 (Aug) “Public Good and Private Morality: Buddhist Contributions to the 2006 Revision of the Japanese Fundamental Law on Education,” International Association of Buddhist Studies Meeting, Toronto
- 2016 (Sept) “Nichibei kankei ni okeru shinkyō no jiyū: tokushusei to fuhensei no mondai,” Japanese Association of Religious Studies Annual Meeting, Tokyo
- 2016 (Apr) “The Sacred Spaces and Secular Subjects of the Postwar Japanese Public School,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle. Served as panel organizer and chair for the session “What *Isn't* Shinto?”
- 2015 (Mar) “The Concept of Religious Freedom in Japanese Buddhist Responses to Mixed Residence,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2014 (Nov) “The Japanese Birth of Religious Freedom as a Human Right,” Religion, Law, and Culture Group Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2014 (Nov) “Hurry and Take Refuge in Me: Material Religion and Media Outreach at the Tokyo Temple Ryōhōji,” Buddhism Section Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2013 (Nov) “Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” Japanese Religions Group and Buddhism Section Panel, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- 2013 (Nov) “State Shinto as a Heretical Secularism,” Global Secularisms Conference, New York University, New York
- 2011 (Nov) “Horrific and Comic: Manga Depictions of Religion after Aum,” Japanese Religions Group Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco

- 2011 (Oct) “The Customary and the Civil in Meiji Constitutional Religious Freedom,” Mid-Atlantic Region for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Human Rights and Social Justice in Asia), Princeton
- 2011 (Mar) “Japan’s Pre-Occupation with ‘State Shinto’ and Religious Freedom,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Honolulu
- 2010 (Jun) “On the Category of ‘New Religions’ (*Shinshūkyō*) in Twentieth Century Japan,” Asian Studies Conference Japan, Tokyo
- 2009 (Dec) “Historiography, Modernity, and Secularism: Reconsidering the Disestablishment of State Shinto during the Allied Occupation of Japan,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
- 2009 (Mar) “Historiography, Modernity, and Secularism: Issues in the Historical Study of the Allied Occupation of Japan,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Conference, Honolulu
- 2007 (Mar) “Twenty-first Century Spirituality in *20th Century Boys*: New Religious Movements in *Manga*,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies Graduate Conference, Honolulu
- 2007 (Mar) “Twenty-first Century Spirituality in *20th Century Boys*: New Religious Movements in *Manga*,” Harvard East Asia Society Graduate Student Conference, Cambridge, MA
- 2005 (Nov) “*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime*,” Japanese Religions Group Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
- 2005 (Mar) “*Asobi Shūkyō*: The Religious Elements of Entertainment in Contemporary Japan,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies Graduate Conference, Honolulu
- 2001 (Apr) “In ‘Trane-ing’: John Coltrane’s Spiritual Discipline in Music,” Grinnell College Africana Studies Conference, Grinnell, IA

WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, AND COLLOQUIA

- 2017 (May) “The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and the U.S.-Japan Alliance,” The Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad Workshop, Geneva, IL

- 2017 (Feb) “Spirits as Mediums in Animated Media,” Invisible Empire: Spirits and Animism in Contemporary Japan, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 (Nov) “Framing Religious Subjects in an Irreligious Place: Procedural and Ethical Hurdles in Studying the Religion of Japanese Manga and Anime,” Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline Workshop on Aesthetics and Religion, San Antonio
- 2015 (Sept) “The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan,” University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies Colloquium.
- 2015 (Mar) “The Postwar World that Religious Studies Made,” University of Western Michigan Workshop “Against Insularity: Moving Beyond ‘Japanese Religions’”
- 2014 (Dec) The Op-Ed Project Workshop
- 2014 (Nov) “Made in Japan: The Manufacture and Export of Religious Freedom during the Allied Occupation,” University of Chicago Human Rights Workshop
- 2014 (Mar) “Expedient Memes: Ryōhōji’s Media Mix Outreach,” National University of Singapore Workshop on Material Religion, Film, and Video in Asia
- 2013 (Nov) “Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Religion Brown Bag Colloquium
- 2013 (Jun) “Senryō ka senkyō ka? GHQ no shūkyō seisaku,” Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture Graduate Student Workshop, Nagoya
- 2013 (Apr) “Resisting Resistance: Buddhists and Religious Freedom, 1926–1945,” Waseda University Modern Japan History Workshop, Tokyo
- 2011 (Aug) “Horrific and Comic: Manga after Aum,” at “Aftermath: Japanese Religions after the Aum Shinrikyō Affair,” Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo
- 2009 (Nov) “Historiography, Modernity, and Secularism: Reconsidering the Disestablishment of State Shinto during the Allied Occupation of Japan,” Princeton University East Asian Studies Lunch Colloquium, Princeton, NJ
- 2009 (Sept) “*Seiyō kara mita Nihon eiga no shūkyōsei*,” International Research Forum on “Religious Culture in Film,” Kokugakuin University, Tokyo

PUBLIC-FACING INTERVIEWS

- 2017 (Jan) *Shinto Forum* (International Shinto Studies Association)
- 2016 (Jun) [Interview for Pause and Select YouTube channel](#), 16 June 2016
- 2015 (Sept) [Interview at University of Alabama](#), 23 September 2015
- 2014 (Sept) [Interview for New Books in Religion podcast](#), 6 September 2014
- 2011 (Apr) [Interview for Beneath the Tangles website](#), 26 April 2011

OUTREACH LECTURES

- 2017 (Mar) “The ‘Shared Values’ of the U.S.-Japan Alliance and Possibilities for Japanese Leadership on Climate Change in light of the New American Administration,” U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Meeting-in-Conjunction, Association for Asian Studies, Toronto
- 2017 (Feb) “The History of U.S.-Japan Relations and the State of the Alliance under the New American Administration,” University of Pennsylvania NROTC Program
- 2007 (Oct) “Young People and Religion in Contemporary Japan,” Haleiwa Shingon Mission, HI
- 2007 (Jun) “*Gaikokujin kenkyūsha to shite Nihon o miru*,” Tamagawa Gakuen University

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2015–2021 Steering Committee, Japanese Religions Group, American Academy of Religion
- 2014–2017 Editor, Asian Traditions, *The Marginalia Review of Books*
- 2012–2014 H-Shukyo Book Review Editor
- Ongoing Peer review (performed or declined) for University of Hawaii Press, *American Ethnologist*, *Asian Ethnology*, *Japanese Studies*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Nova Religio*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2017–2018 Executive Committee Member, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017–2018 University of Pennsylvania Center for East Asian Studies Humanities Colloquium Chair
- 2017–2018 University of Pennsylvania Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism, “States of Religious Freedom” Faculty Planning Committee Member
- 2016–2017 Faculty Planning Group Member, Initiative on Global Inquiries, University of Pennsylvania

2016–	Fulbright Faculty Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania
2016–2017	East Asian Languages and Civilizations Japanese Studies Major Advisor, University of Pennsylvania
2016–2017	Pre-major Advisor for School of Arts and Sciences Undergraduates, University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2016	Chair, PhD Qualifying Examination Committee, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania
2015–2017	Executive Committee Member, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania
2009–2010	Class Year Representative, Princeton University Religion Department Graduate Student Committee
2008–2009	Departmental Representative, Princeton University Graduate Student Government

PH.D. STUDENTS SUPERVISED

In progress	Mark Bookman (EALC), “100 Years of Disability in Japan: Politics, Prosthetics, and the Popular Imagination” (tentative dissertation title).
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UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES SUPERVISED

In progress	Ji Yang (EALC), honors thesis on media and sexuality in Japan and China. Title TBD.
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DISSERTATION COMMITTEE WORK

July 2016	Frank Clements (EALC), “Worldly Ascetics: Managing Family, Status, and Territory in Early Modern Shugendō,” University of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
In progress	Gina Elia (EALC), “Rewriting the Republican Era: The Impact of Religious Vocabulary on the Formation of Modern Literature in Early Twentieth Century China,” University of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Pennsylvania

Fall 2017	Japanese Popular Culture (lecture, 87 students)
Fall 2017	Japan Studies Majors’ Seminar: Japan’s Others (5 students)
Spring 2017	Japanese History & Civilization (graduate seminar, 10 students)
Spring 2017	Sects & Violence in East Asia (seminar,* 8 students)

Fall 2016	Japanese Popular Culture (lecture, 82 students)
Fall 2016	Asian Religions in the Global Imagination (seminar,* 11 students)
Spring 2016	Japanese Religions (graduate seminar, 3 students)
Spring 2016	The Politics of Shinto (seminar,* 13 students)
Fall 2015	Japanese Popular Culture (lecture, 26 students)
<i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	
Spring 2015	The Religion of Anime (lecture, 38 students)
Fall 2014	Love and Sex in Buddhism (seminar, 14 students)

CERTIFICATION

2003	K–6 Classroom Teacher Certification, State of Iowa
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OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

2011–2012	Princeton University Buddhist Studies Workshop Coordinator
Spring 2012	Assistant in Instruction, “Tibetan Buddhism,” Princeton University Department of Religion
Fall 2011	Assistant in Instruction, “The Buddhist World of Thought and Practice,” Princeton University Department of Religion
Spring 2011	Assistant in Instruction, “Religions of China,” Princeton University Department of Religion
Spring 2012	Coordinator, Princeton University “Workshopping Asian Religions Papers” (WARP) Workshop
2010–2011	Co-organizer, Princeton University Religion Department “What is...?” Workshop
2007–2008	Graduate Assistant, “Introduction to World Religions,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Religion
Spring 2007	Part-time Instructor, Kokugakuin University K-STEP student exchange program, Tokyo
2006–2007	Translator/Editor (<i>chōsain, kenkyū hojoin</i>), Institute for the Study of Japanese Culture and Classics, Encyclopedia of Shinto Project, Kokugakuin University, Tokyo
2004–2005	Graduate Assistant, “Introduction to World Religions,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Religion
2002–2004	Classroom Teacher, Japan International Education Center, Tokyo
Fall 2001	Student Teacher, Fourth Grade, Sac and Fox Settlement School, Meskwaki (American Indian) Nation, Tama County, IA
1996–1997	Teacher’s Associate, Smouse School Behavioral Disorders Department, Des Moines, IA

Non-degree Programs

2012–2013	Research Student, University of Tokyo Department of Religious Studies, Tokyo, Japan
2006–2007	Research Student, University of Tokyo Department of Religious Studies, Tokyo, Japan
2005–2006	Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies 10-month program, Yokohama, Japan
2005	Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies Summer Program, Yokohama, Japan

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Association of Geographers

Association for Asian Studies

International Association for Buddhist Studies

Japanese Association for Religious Studies (日本宗教学会)

Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Advanced Japanese (2006 Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 1)

Reading proficiency in:

Classical Japanese

Sino-Japanese (*kanbun*)

German

Spanish