

Robert J. Stephens

rsteph3@clemson.edu

Department of Philosophy and Religion
Clemson University

Office address

20 Hardin Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634

Home address

426 Eaton Street
Central, SC 29630

EDUCATION

- Ph. D.** **Religious Studies**
History of Asian Religions
The University of Iowa, 2004
Comprehensive examination areas: (1) Religion and Culture in Modern India; (2) Classical South Asian Religious Thought and Practice; (3) Religions of China; (4) Religions of Japan
Dissertation title: "Competing Concerns: Religious Conversion and Its Respondents in Modern India"
Advisor: Professor Emeritus Robert D. Baird
- M. A.** **Religious Studies**
Method and Theory in the Study of Religion
The University of Kansas, 1998
Comprehensive examination areas: Historical, Psychological, Sociological, and Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Religion
Thesis title: "The 'Meaning' But Not the 'End of Religion': Humanity, Transcendence and Scripture in the Thought of Wilfred Cantwell Smith"
Advisor: Professor Emeritus Robert N. Minor
- B. A.** **Religious Studies, History *cum laude***
Missouri State University, 1994
Advisor: Professor Emeritus Charles W. Hedrick

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer in Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion,
Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 2018-present

Lecturer in Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion,
Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 2010-2018

Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Affiliated
Faculty with the Center for International and Global Studies, Lindenwood
University, Saint Charles, MO, 2009-2010

Assistant Professor, School of Humanities and Affiliated
Faculty with the Center for International and Global Studies, Lindenwood
University, Saint Charles, MO, 2007-2009

Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion Program, Transylvania University,
Lexington, KY, 2006-2007

Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa,
AL, 2005-2006

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Northern Iowa,
Cedar Falls, IA, 2002-2005

Instructor, Department of Arts and Sciences, Hawkeye Community College,
Cedar Falls, IA, 2003-2004

Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA,
2001

Instructor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Kirkwood Community
College, Iowa City, IA, 2001-2002

COURSES TAUGHT

UPPER-LEVEL AND SEMINAR COURSES

Seminar: Religion in Modern India

Seminar: Religious Conflict in Contemporary South Asia

Seminar: Tibetan Buddhism

Hindu Religious Traditions/Hinduism

Buddhist Religious Traditions/Buddhism

Islamic Religious Traditions/Islam

Asian Philosophy

Asian Philosophy (Honors)

Native Religions of Africa and North America

Karma, Rebirth, and Human Destiny

Sacred Texts of Asia/Asian Religious Classics (in English translation)

Method and Theory in Religious Studies

Religions of China and Japan

Philosophy of Religion

Asian Religions in America

LOWER-LEVEL AND INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Introduction to the Study of Religion (Honors)

Introduction to Religious Studies

Life and Thought of Mahatma Gandhi

South Asian Civilizations

East Asian Civilizations

Foundations of the Liberal Arts

Introduction to the Study of Religion (traditional face-to-face and on-line formats)

What Is Religion? A Philosophical Inquiry

Living Religions of the East

Introduction to Asian Religions

Religions of the World (traditional face-to-face and on-line formats)

World Religions (Honors)

Survivor? Views of Life, Death, and Beyond in World Religions

SELECTED BOOK-LENGTH MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVISION

Competing Concerns: Religious Converts and Their Critics in Modern India

B.R. Ambedkar: A Religious Biography

World Religions Reader: A Selection of Primary Sources in English Translation

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES, BOOK REVIEWS, AND BOOK NOTES

Review of Sarbeswar Sahoo, *Pentecostalism and Politics of Conversion in India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018) in *Nidan: International Journal for Indian Studies*, forthcoming.

Review of Jonathan D. James, *McDonaldisation, Masala McGospel and Om Economics: Televangelism in Contemporary India* (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2010) in *Journal of International and Global Studies* 3 no 2 (2012): 133–137.

“Sites of Conflict in the Indian Secular State: Secularism, Caste and Religious Conversion” (Waco, TX: Baylor University, J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies), in *Journal of Church and State* 49 no 2 (Spring 2007): 251-276.

Review of Rowena Robinson and Sathianathan Clarke, eds., *Religious Conversion in India: Modes, Motivations, and Meanings* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003), in *Religious Studies Review* (Fall 2004).

Review of Margaret Case, *Seeing Krishna: The Religious World of a Brahman Family in Vrindaban* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 60/4 (2001).

Response article to Raymond Williams' "So, What Are We Professing Here? Religion, the Liberal Arts, and Civic Life," in *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* (Fall 2000).

Review of Ninian Smart's *The World's Religions*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), in *Religious Studies Review* (Fall 1999).

INVITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Response to Raymond Williams' "So, What Are We Professing Here? Religion, the Liberal Arts, and Civic Life," in *Reinventing Religious Studies: Key Writings in the History of a Discipline*, ed. Scott Elliot (Durham, UK: Acumen, 2014), 193-194.

"Religious Conflict in the Courts: Caste and Conversion in the Indian Secular State" in *Religion and Law in Independent India*, 2nd enlarged edition, ed. Robert D. Baird (New Delhi: Manohar, 2005), 400-425.

"Hinduism in Independent India: Fundamentalism and Secularism" in *Contemporary Hinduism: Ritual, Culture, and Practice*, ed. Robin Rinehart (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Religion in Contemporary Society Series, 2004), 309-339.

ACADEMIC REVIEWS & EDITING (UNPUBLISHED)

Reviewed/edited for publication "City-Related Content on Media: How Induced and Autonomous Communication Present a Metropolis" for *Asian Journal of Communication*, 2019

Reviewed Lewis Vaughn, ed. *Anthology of World Religions: Sacred Texts and Contemporary Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2017), for a possible second edition, for OUP, 2019

Reviewed William E. Shepard, *Introducing Islam*, 2nd edition (Routledge, 2014), for a possible third edition, for Routledge Press, 2019

Reviewed Daniel L. Pals, *Nine Theories of Religion*, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2015), for OUP, 2017

Reviewed/edited for publication "Silence No More: The Use of Personal Narratives in Digital Gender Activism in India" for *Asian Journal of Communication*, 2017

Reviewed Lewis Vaughn, ed. *Anthology of World Religions: Sacred Texts and Contemporary Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2017), for OUP, 2016

Reviewed a newly revised edition of Donald W. Smith and Sarah H. Jacoby, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience*, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2014), 2016

Reviewed/edited for publication "Interpreting Life in a Hinduised Way: Reading Religious Discursiveness in Indian Television Soap Operas" for *Asian Journal of Communication*, 2015

Reviewed/edited for publication "The 'Bollywoodization' of the 'War on Terror'" for *Asian Journal of Communication*, 2014

Reviewed/edited for publication "Self-Presentation in Online Environments: A Study of Muslim Indian Matrimonial Profiles," for *Asian Journal of Communication*, 2013

Reviewed/edited for publication "Interpersonal Attraction and Religious Identification: A Comparative Analysis of Muslims and Hindus in India," for *Asian Journal of Communication*, 2012

Reviewed mss for SUNY Press, Timothy Murphy's "The Politics of *Geist*: A Genealogy of the Phenomenology of Religion," manuscript submitted for publication to SUNY Press, Religious Studies series, 2007

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

"Buddhist Origins in India and Beyond," public lecture for the Program in Religious Studies, University of West Virginia, Morgantown, WV, 2011

"Sites of Religious Conflict in Modern India," public lecture for the Department of Religious Studies, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 2011

"An Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion," public lecture for the Department of Religious Studies, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA, 2011

- “Contesting Independence: Ambedkar’s Critique of Gandhi and His Power” public lecture for the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL, 2007
- “Two Kinds of Independence: Ambedkar, Gandhi and Competing Images for Post-Colonial India” public lecture for the Department of Religion, Transylvania University, 2006
- “Conversion to Islam in India: Problems and Perspectives, Past and Present” for the “Religion in Culture” series, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2005
- “A History of the Reception of Daoism in the West” at the American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Meeting, Dallas, TX, April, 1998
- Televised interview: “What is Karma?” for NBC Nightly News (WVTM Birmingham, AL), first aired May 5, 2006
- “What is Hinduism?” a series of guided public lectures for students at the Hindu Temple of St. Louis
- “Understanding Samkhya as a Philosophy of Yoga” public lecture for Yoga Bliss Studio, Tuscaloosa, AL, June 26, 2006
- “Introduction to the *Bhagavad Gita*” public lecture for Yoga Bliss Studio, Tuscaloosa, AL, June 17, 2006
- “The Wisdom of Ecclesiastes” at the Truman State University Conference on Religion and Philosophy, Kirksville, MO, April, 1994

LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STUDY ABROAD

Hindi: Interagency Language Roundtable Scale: Limited Working Proficiency
Sanskrit: ILR Scale: Limited Working Proficiency (reading knowledge)
German: ILR Scale: Limited Working Proficiency (reading knowledge)
French: ILR Scale: Elementary Proficiency (passed graduate course and qualifying examination “Reading French for the Arts and Sciences”)

Assessment of Study Abroad Programs for Lindenwood University, travel and research in Kolkata, West Bengal, India and environs, and Dhaka, Bangladesh and environs, 2009

Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Hindi Language Study: Intensive Hindi Language Program, Landour Language Institute, Mussoorie, Uttaranchal, India, 2001

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATIONS, AND MEMBERSHIPS

Clemson University Subcommittee for General Education Assessment (2018-2019)

Clemson University General Education Teaching Workshop: Signature Assignment Design (2018-2019)

Clemson University Assessment Institute for General Education (2017-2019)

Best Practices for Teaching Introductory Courses in Religious Studies, faculty workshop facilitated by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion (2017)

Manuscript reviewer for Routledge University Press, *Asian Journal of Communications*

Manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press, Religious Studies

Manuscript reviewer for The State University of New York Press, Religious Studies

Member of the American Academy of Religion (1995-present)

Member of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (2015-present)

Affiliated Faculty Member, Graduate (M.A.) Student Advisor, Center for International and Global Studies, Lindenwood University, (2007-2010)

Search Committee Chair, New Testament Faculty Search Committee, Lindenwood University, 2009

Respondent in an invitation-only conference on "Religion and Personal Law in Modern India: A Colloquium," Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 1999

ACADEMIC GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Clemson University, Division of Student Affairs, "Difference Maker" Award, (2013)

Faculty Development Grant for Study Abroad, Lindenwood University (2008)

Stanley Foundation Fellowship for Study Abroad (2001)

The University of Iowa, Department of Religious Studies Travel Grant (2001)

The University of Iowa, Department of Asian Languages and Literature
Travel Grant (2001)

Hazelle-Lockhart-Rhodes Scholarship, University of Iowa (2000)

Alice Marguerite Blough Distinguished Essay Award, University of
Iowa (1999)

The University of Kansas, Department of Religious Studies, Graduate
Scholarship (1996-1998)

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges
Award (1992-1993)

CURRENT DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Professor Kelly Smith
Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion
126-D Hardin Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634
kcs@clemson.edu
Department of Philosophy and Religion Office: 864/656-2001

PREVIOUS DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, HEADS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Professor Richard Amesbury
Director, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Arizona State University
PO Box 870802
Tempe, AZ 85287
Richard.Amesbury@asu.edu

Professor Charles Starkey
Interim Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion
236 Hardin Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634
cstarke@clemson.edu

Professor Raymond Scupin
Director, Center for International and Global Studies
Chair, Anthropology and Sociology Department
Lindenwood University
209 S. Kingshighway
St. Charles, MO 63301
Rscupin@lindenwood.edu

Professor Benjamin White
Director, B.A. in Religion Program
Clemson University
222 Hardin Hall
Clemson, SC 29634
benjaminlwhite1@gmail.com

Professor Betty DeBerg
Department of Philosophy and Religion
The University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0501
betty.deberg@uni.edu

REFERENCES

Professor Emeritus Robert N. Minor
Department of Religious Studies
The University of Kansas
Home address: 4501 Terrace Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
rminor@ku.edu

Professor J.E. Llewellyn
Department of Religious Studies
Missouri State University
269 Strong Hall
Springfield, MO 65897
jllewellyn@missouristate.edu

Professor Raymond Scupin
Director, Center for International and Global Studies
Chair, Anthropology and Sociology Department
Lindenwood University
209 S. Kingshighway
St. Charles, MO 63301
Rscupin@lindenwood.edu

Professor Richard Amesbury
Director, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Arizona State University
PO Box 870802
Tempe, AZ 85287
Richard.Amesbury@asu.edu

Professor Steven Grosby
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Clemson University
218 Hardin Hall
Clemson, SC 29634
sgrosby@clemson.edu