

Jolyon Baraka Thomas

jolyon@sas.upenn.edu

jolyon.thomasresearch.org

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; forthcoming 2019.

2012*

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

Journal Articles

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.

2016 (2015 issue)†

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

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

Submitted

“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

“Helen Hardacre, *Shinto: A History*” *Japan Review*

- 2017 “James Mark Shields, *Against Harmony: Progressive and Radical Buddhism in Modern Japan*,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Published online 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfx075>
- 2017 “Big Questions in the Study of Shinto.” Review of Breen, John; Teeuwen, Mark, *A New History of Shinto* and Hardacre, Helen, *Shinto: A History* and Scheid, Bernhard, ed., with Kate Wildman Nakai, *Kami Ways in Nationalist Territory: Shinto Studies in Prewar Japan and the West* and Takenaka, Akiko, *Yasukuni Shrine: History, Memory, and Japan's Unending Postwar* and Teeuwen, Mark; Breen, John, *A Social History of the Ise Shrines: Divine Capital* and Zhong, Yijiang, *The Origin of Modern Shinto in Japan: The Vanquished Gods of Izumo*. [H-Japan, H-Net Reviews, November, 2017](#).
- 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 jissuitsuka o hakaru shisutemu kōchiku,” dai 2 gurūpu.

Translation

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018–2020 Abe Fellowship (SSRC/Japan Foundation)
- 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/ALTERNATE

- 2018 Luce Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs Award
- 2015 Princeton University Department of Religion Nomination for Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Dissertation Award

INVITED LECTURES

- 2018 (Feb) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Young Harris College, GA
- 2018 (Jan) “Japan, the American Occupation, and the Problem of Religious Freedom,” Dartmouth College, NH
- 2018 (Jan) “Japan, the American Occupation, and the Problem of Religious Freedom,” The Pennsylvania State University, PA
- 2017 (Nov) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Lewis & Clark College, OR
- 2017 (Nov) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Grinnell College, IA
- 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

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

RESPONSES

- 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

- 2018 (Feb) “Buddhism and the Politics of Public School Education in Postwar Japan,” Columbia University Buddhist Studies Workshop, NY
- 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

- 2018– Editorial Consultant, *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*
- 2018–2021 Religion and the Arts Award Jury, American Academy of Religion
- 2015–2021 Steering Committee, Japanese Religions Unit, 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, Bloomsbury Press, Routledge, *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
- 2016–2017 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).

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES SUPERVISED

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

In progress Erin Gallagher (EALC), honors thesis on female fan communities in Japan. Title TBD.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE WORK

July 2016 Frank Clements, “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, “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

Spring 2018 Violence, Tolerance, and Freedom (seminar, 10 students)

Spring 2018 The Politics of Shinto (seminar,* 6 students)

Fall 2017 Japanese Popular Culture (lecture, 82 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)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

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 (*chōsain, kenkyū hojoin*), 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