

CURRICULUM VITAE

July 25, 2025

Rachel Fell McDermott
Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures

321 Milbank Hall
Barnard College
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
(212) 854-5416

375 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12D
New York, NY 10025
(212) 961-1494

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	1993	Harvard University, Study of Religion. Dissertation entitled, "Evidence for the Transformation of the Goddess Kali: Kamalakanta Bhattacharya and the Bengali Sakta Padavali Tradition"
A.M.	1986	Harvard University, Study of Religion
M.Div.	1984	Harvard Divinity School
A.B.	1981	University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies

TEACHING POSITIONS

2024-2025:	On sabbatical leave
2022-2025:	Professor, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
2019-2021:	Professor and Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
2018-2019:	On sabbatical leave
2016-2018:	Professor and Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
2011-2016:	Professor, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
2009 to 2011:	Professor and Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College

2003 to 2009:	Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
1994 to 2002:	Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
1993 - 1994:	Lecturer, Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University
1990 - 1991:	Instructor, Department of Religion, Barnard College
1985 - 1988:	Teaching Fellow, Junior Tutor, and Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University (part time)

GRANTS AND HONORS

Received American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Senior Award for research in Bangladesh in 2013-2014, November 2012
 Named Ann Whitney Olin Professor, Barnard College, May 2010; terminated May 2015
 Awarded the Emily Gregory Award for Excellence in Teaching, April 2010
 Elected to the American Society for the Study of Religion, May 2009
 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, January - August 2001
 Senior Research Grant, American Institute of Indian Studies, for research in Calcutta, fall 2000
 The Gladys Brooks Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, 1998
 Barnard College Stipend for travel to Calcutta, Fall 1998
 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1992-1993
 Harvard Whiting Fellow in the Humanities, 1992-1993 (declined)
 Fulbright: Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant, 1988-1989
 Fulbright: Institute of International Education grant, 1989-1990
 Harvard Knox Traveling Fellowship, 1989-1990
 Harvard Ph.D. General Exams passed with distinction, 1987
 University of Pennsylvania, A.B., *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 1981
 University of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin Scholar, 1977-1981

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion
 American Council on South Asian Art
 American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
 American Institute of Indian Studies
 American Society for the Study of Religion
 Association of Asian Studies
 Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts (SCRIPT)
 Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

TEACHING (1994-present)

Courses taught:	“Introduction to Indian Civilizations” “Introduction to Hinduism” “Asian Humanities: Major Texts of India and the Middle East” “Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People? Perspectives on Evil and Suffering in World Religions” “Hindu Goddesses” “Women in World Religions” “Bengal: Culture and Identity” “Judaism and Christianity in South Asia” “Tantra in South Asia, East Asia, and the West” “Senior Seminar” for majors in the South Asia and Middle East tracks Graduate Colloquium in Comparative Religion: “Topics in the Comparative Study of Miracles” Graduate Colloquium, “Issues in the Study of South Asian Religions” Graduate Colloquium, “The Penn-Columbia Seminar: Religion in Modern South Asia” Graduate Colloquium, “Theories of Transmission and Community Formation”
Senior thesis advising:	First or second reader for every major in the South Asia of the Department, as well as for a number of Barnard and Columbia Religion majors, and Columbia Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures (MEALAC) majors. Load: anywhere from zero to ten undergraduate theses per year.
2024-2025	Served on four Ph.D. defenses and one Ph.D. Qualifying Exam and Prospectus defense committee, in the Department of Religion at Columbia University; and one Ph.D. defense at Concordia University
2023-2024	Served on one orals, one Prospectus Defense, and one Ph.D. defense committee, in the Department of Religion at Columbia
2022-2023	Served on: four Ph.D. Qualifying Exam and Prospectus Committees in the Department of Religion; and five Ph.D. defenses, one in the Department of Religion at Columbia, one in MESAAS at Columbia, one in the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard University, one in the Department of History at NYU, and one at Teachers College, Columbia University.
2021-2022	Served on: three Ph.D. Defenses and one Prospectus Defense in the Department of Religion
2020-2021	Served on: two Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committees in the Department of Religion; two Ph.D. Prospectus Committees; and

- five Ph.D. defenses, four in the Department of Religion and one at Teacher's College.
- 2019-2020 Served on: two Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committees in the Department of Religion; three Ph.D. Prospectus Committees, two in the Department of Religion and one in the Department of History at NYU; and three Ph.D. defenses, one in the Department of Religion and two in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies
- 2018-2019 Served on: five MA exams, all in the Department of Religion; two Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committees in the Department of Religion; and four Prospectus Defenses, one at Harvard and three at the Department of Religion at Columbia ; and one Ph.D. defense, at Teachers' College.
- 2017-2018: Served on: five MA exams, all in the Department of Religion; two Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committees in the Department of Religion; and four Prospectus Defenses (one at Harvard).
- 2016-2017: Served on: four MA exams, all in the Department of Religion; three Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committees, one in Art History, one in Teachers College, and one at Harvard University (in Religion); and two Ph.D. defenses, one in the Department of Religion at Columbia and the other at Union Theological Seminary
- 2015-2016: Served on: three MA exams, one in the Department of Religion and one in Art History; and two Ph.D. dissertation examination committees, both in the Department of Religion
- 2014-2015: Served on: three MA exams in the Department of Religion; and one Ph.D. dissertation examination in the Department of Religion
- 2013-2014: (while on leave) Served on: ten MA exams in the Department of Religion; and one Ph.D. dissertation oral examination in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies
- 2012-2013: Served on: one MA examination, five Zones examinations, and four Ph.D. dissertation examinations, all in the Department of Religion; and one Ph.D. dissertation examination in the Department of Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies.
- 2011-2012: Served on: three MA examinations, five Zones examinations, two Ph.D. qualifying examinations, and one Ph.D. dissertation examination, all in the Department of Religion; one Ph.D. dissertation in the Department of Middle East, South Asian, and African Cultures; and one Ph.D. dissertation examination in the Department of Art History. In addition, I served on one Ph.D. dissertation committee in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
- 2010-2011: Served on: one MA examination, four Ph.D. dissertation examinations, and two Ph.D. qualifying examinations, in the

- Department of Religion; one Ph.D. qualifying examination for a student in Religion at Harvard University
- 2009-2010: Served on: two MA exams in the Department of Religion, two MA exams in the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, and two Ph.D. qualifying examinations in the Department of Religion
- 2008-2009: Served on: two Ph.D. dissertation committees and three Ph.D. qualifying examinations, in the Department of Religion
- 2007-2008: Served on: three Ph.D. dissertation committees and three Ph.D. qualifying examinations, in the Department of Religion
- 2006-2007: Served on: four Ph.D. dissertation committees in the Department of Religion
- 2005-2006: Served on: three Ph.D. qualifying examinations, two in the Department of Religion and one in the Department of Art History
- 2004-2005: Served on: one Ph.D. qualifying examination and two Ph.D., dissertation committees, all in the Department of Religion, and one Ph.D. qualifying examination committee in the Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University
- 2003-2004: Served on: one Ph.D. dissertation examination committee in the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University
- 2002-2003: Served on: three Ph.D. qualifying examination committees and one Ph.D. dissertation examination committee in the Department of Religion, Columbia University; and one Ph.D. dissertation examination committee in the Department of Religion, Temple University
- 2001-2002: Served on: four Ph.D. dissertation examination committees in the Department of Religion, Columbia University
- 2000-2001: Served on: one Ph.D. dissertation examination committee in the Department of Religion, Columbia University, and one Ph.D. qualifying examination committee for a student in the Department of Religion, Temple University.
Served as the external examiner for: one Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Calcutta
- 1999-2000: Served on: one Ph.D. qualifying examination committee and one Ph.D. dissertation examination committee -- both in the Department of Religion, Columbia University
- 1998-1999: Served on: two Ph.D. dissertation examination committees in the Department of Religion, Columbia University
- 1997-1998: Served on: one Ph.D. qualifying exam committee for a doctoral candidate in the Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University; and one doctoral

- dissertation committee for a student at Teachers College, Columbia University
- 1996-1997: Served on: two Ph.D. dissertation committees, Department of Religion, Columbia University; and one M.A. thesis committee, Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University
- 1995-1996: Served on: one M.A. thesis committee, Department of Religion, Columbia University
- 1994-1995: Served on: one Ph.D. dissertation committee, Department of Religion, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Rachel Fell McDermott and Daniel F. Polish, *A Hindu-Jewish Conversation: Root Traditions in Dialogue* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2024).

Vol. 2 of *The Sources of Indian Traditions*, managing editor for the 3rd edition, 2 vols. (first two editions 1958 and 1988) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014).

Revelry, Rivalry, and Longing for the Goddesses of Bengal: The Fortunes of Hindu Festivals (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011).

Breaking Boundaries with the Goddess: New Directions in the Study of Saktism. Essays in Honor of Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya, edited with Cynthia Ann Humes (New Delhi: Manohar, 2009).

Encountering Kali: In the Margins, At the Center, In the West, edited with Jeffrey Kripal (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).

Mother of My Heart, Daughter of My Dreams: Kali and Uma in the Devotional Poetry of Bengal (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

Singing to the Goddess: Poems to Kali and Uma from Bengal (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

Journal articles

“The Dead Star, and the Poignant Literary Treasures of Nazrul’s Unpublished Poetry,” *Journal of the Kabi Nazrul Institute*, vol. 10 (September 1923): 46-68.

“Body Building in the Hindu Tantric Tradition: The Advantages and Confusions of Scriptural Entextualization in the Worship of the Goddess Kālī.” In *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds* 10, nos. 1-2 (2019): 70-87.

Co-authored with Rabbi Daniel F. Polish, “Intimate Relations: Psalms and Bhakti Poetry,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 50, no. 3 (Summer 2015).

“Joseph T. O’Connell: In Memoriam.” *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 80, no. 4 (December 2012): 839-847.

“Why Zen Buddhism and not Hinduism? The Different Asias of Thomas Merton’s Journeys East,” *The Merton Annual* 23 (2011): 29-46.

“Viewpoint: What I See: Little Indias, Caste, and the Church in the West,” *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies* 23 (2010): 49-51.

“The Pujas in Historical and Political Controversy: Colonial and Post-Colonial Goddesses,” *Religions of South Asia* 2, no. 2 (2008): 135-159.

“Meeting ‘the Mother Who Takes Across’: Christian Encounters with the Fierce Goddesses of Hinduism,” *The Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies* 16 (2003): 48-57.

“Remembering Tamal Krishna Goswami,” *The Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 11, no. 2 (Spring 2003): 27-32.

“New Age Hinduism, New Age Orientalism, and the Second-generation South Asian,” in an issue devoted to “Who Speaks for Hinduism?” *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 68, no. 4 (December 2000): 721-731.

“Unanswered Questions on the Relationship between Politics, Economics, and Religion: The Case of Durga Puja in Eighteenth Century Bengal,” in *The Bengal Studies Conference Proceedings, 1995*, ed. Clinton B. Seely and Ralph Nicholas [<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/LibInfo/SourcesBySubject/SouthAsia/Rachel.1.html>].

“The Vaisnavized Uma of Bengali Devotionalism,” *The Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies* 4, no. 1 (January 1996): 105-124.

“Kali at the Crossroads: New Directions in the 18th-19th Century *Sakta Padabali* of Bengal,” *Bulletin*, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University 16:1 (1989/90): 22-42.

Chapters in books/anthologies/encyclopedias

“What does it Mean for the Goddess to Play? And Is a Playful Divinity Comforting to Think With?” Forthcoming in *God at Play: Līlā in Hindu and Christians*, ed. Daniel J. Soars (New York: Fordham University Press, 2025): 135-152.

“The Legacy of Tantra in the Troubled Life of a National Poet,” forthcoming in *The Tantric World*, edited by Anya Golovkova, Hillary Langberg, & Hugh Urban.

“Kali in a Time of Hurt Sentiment,” forthcoming in *Sweetening and Intensification: Currents Shaping Hindu Practices*, edited by Amy L. Allocco and Xenia Zeiler (Albany: State University of New York Press).

“Marshalling Poets for the Nation: An Experiment in the Two Wings of Pakistan, 1947-1971,” forthcoming in *The Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Muslim Relations*, ed. Peter Gottschalk.

“Asking an Unusual Question of Kabir and Kazi Nazrul Islam,” in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Comparative Theology: A Festschrift in Honor of Francis X. Clooney, SJ*, ed. Axel M. Oaks Takacs and Joseph L. Kimmel (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2024), pp. 431-441.

“Muslim Devotional Singing in Two Bengals: A Bold Experiment,” in *Comparing Muslim Societies*, edited by Eric Tagliacozzo and David S. Powers (Cornell: Cornell University Press), pp. 225-237.

“Dr. Raipuri Extends a Hand: An Opening for Nazrul to the World of Urdu Translation,” in *Biśva Chārāye Uthiyācchi Ekā*, ed. Ikram Ahmed Lenin (Dhaka: Nazrul Center, 2022), pp. 86-93.

“Where We Start, Who We Are, What We Seek: The Born vs. the Convert ‘Dual-Belonger,’” in *Hindu-Christian Dual Belonging*, ed. Nadya Pohran and Daniel J. Soars (New York: Routledge, 2022), pp. 88-105.

“A Śākta Theological Foundation for Hindu Chaplaincy: How Does the Goddess Help Us Handle Pain and Suffering?” In *Hindu Approaches to Spiritual Care*, edited by Vineet Chander and Lucinda Mosher (London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2019), pp. 115-122.

“Do you know what thing this man of clay is?” Omar Khayyam’s Persian Rubāiyāt in Nazrul Islam’s Bengali World,” in *Kazi Nazrul Islam: Poetry, Politics, Passion*, edited by Niaz Zaman (Dhaka: Writers.ink, 2019), pp. 275-299.

“Where We Start, Who We Are, What We Seek: The Born vs. the Convert ‘Dual-Belonger.’” Submitted to a volume on *Dual Religious Belonging*, edited by Nadya Pohran and D. J. Soars (London: Routledge).

“A ‘Muslim’ Poet in the Lap of the ‘Hindu’ Mother: The Freedoms and Burdens of Kazi Nazrul Islam and the Hindu Goddess Kali in Modern Bengal,” in *Goddesses: The Oxford History of Hinduism*, ed. Mandakranta Bose (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), pp. 281-303.

With Daniel Polish, “Image Worship and Sacrifice: Legitimacy, Illegitimacy, and Theological Debate,” in *Dharma and Halacha: Comparative Studies in Hindu-Jewish Philosophy and Religion*, edited by Ithamar Theodor and Yudit K. Greenberg (New York: Lexington Books, 2018), pp. 17-34.

“Singing Pain,” Preface to Patrick Colm Hogan, “The Death of the Goddess: A Poem in Twelve Cantos” (New York: 2Leaf Press, 2014).

With Daniel Polish, “Image Worship and Sacrifice: Legitimacy, Illegitimacy, and Theological Debate.” Chapter submitted in March 2014 for a book called *Dharma and Halacha: Comparative Studies in Hindu-Jewish Philosophy, Culture and Religion*, edited by Ithamar Theodor and Yudit Greenberg (Lexington Books).

“Playing with Durga: Ritual Levity in Bengali Goddess Religion,” in *Sacred Play: Ritual Levity and Humor in South Asian Religions*, edited by Selva J. Raj and Corinne Dempsey (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2010), pp. 143-159.

“Bangladesh,” chapter 10 of *The Sources of Indian Tradition*, edited by Rachel Fell McDermott et al, 2 vols., 3rd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press), forthcoming (June 2013).

“Introduction” and “A Festival for Jagaddhatri and the Power of Localized Religion in Bengal,” in *Breaking Boundaries with the Goddess: New Directions in the Study of Saktism. Essays in Honor of Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya*, edited by Cynthia Ann Humes and Rachel Fell McDermott (New Delhi: Manohar, 2009), pp. xvii-xxxiv and 201-222.

“From Hinduism to Christianity, from India to New York: Bondage and Exodus Experiences in the Lives of Indian Dalit Christians in the American Diaspora,” in *South Asian Christian Diaspora: Invisible Diaspora in Europe and North America*, edited by Knut Axel Jacobsen and Selva J. Raj (Hampshire, UK: Ashgate Press, 2009), pp. 223-248.

“Evil, Motherhood, and the Hindu Goddess Kali,” in *Deliver Us from Evil*, ed. M. David Eckel and Bradley L. Herling, Boston University Studies in Philosophy and Religion (New York: Continuum, 2008), pp. 44-56.

“Gifts to an Anglican from Krishna’s Council,” in *Song Divine: Christian Commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita*, edited by Catherine Cornille (Leuven: Peeters Press, and Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 2006), pp. 131-144.

“Bengali Religion” and “Goddess Worship: The Hindu Goddess,” in *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. Lindsay Jones, 2nd ed., 15 vols. (Detroit: Thomson/Gale, 2005), 2:824-283 and 6: 3607-3611.

“Kamalakanta Bhattacharya,” “Krsnanda Agamavagisa,” and “Ramprasad Sen,” in *Holy People of the World*, 3 vols. (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2004), 2: 462, 2: 485, and 3: 725.

"The Vedanta Society," in *Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions*, ed. Gary Laderman & Luis Leon, editors, 3 vols. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2003), 1: 120-122.

“Kali's New Frontiers: A Hindu Goddess on the Internet,” in *Encountering Kali: At the Margins, At the Center, In the West*, ed. Jeffrey Kripal and Rachel Fell McDermott (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), pp. 273-295.

“Raising Snakes in Bengal: The Use of Tantric Imagery in Sakta Poetry Contexts,” in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. David G. White (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 167-183.

“Durga and Kali,” in *The Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion*, ed. Serenity Young, 2 vols. (New York: Macmillan, 1998), 1: 274-275.

“Teaching Bengal Across Disciplines,” in *Contributions to Bengal Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, ed. Enayetur Rahim and Henry Schwarz (Dhaka: Pustaka, 1998), pp. 552-592.

“Popular Attitudes towards Kali and Her Poetry Tradition: Interviewing Saktas in Bengal,” in *Wild Goddesses in India and Nepal, Studia Religiosa Helvetica*, ed. Axel Michaels, Cornelia Vogelsanger, and Annette Wilke, vol. 2 (1996): 383-415.

“The Western Kali,” in *Devi: The Goddess in India*, ed. John Stratton Hawley and Donna M. Wulff (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), pp. 281-313.

“Kamalakanta Bhattacharya: Bengali Poet and Devotee of the Goddess Kali,” in *Religions of India in Practice*, ed. Donald Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), pp. 55-76.

“Goddess Worship: Old and New,” in *The Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (New York: Elsevier Science Ltd.), in press.

“Saktism,” in *Encyclopaedia Asiatica* (Calcutta: Asiatic Society), forthcoming.

“Ramprasad Sen” and “Camunda,” in *The Encyclopedia of Hinduism and Indic Religions* (India Heritage Research Foundation), forthcoming.

Book and Conference Reviews

Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz, *Reciting the Goddess: Narratives of Place and the Making of Hinduism in Nepal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018). In *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88, no. 4 (Dec. 2020): 1196-1198.

Jürgen Schaflechner, *Hinglaj Devi: Identity, Change, and Solidification at a Hindu Temple in Pakistan* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017). In H-Net Reviews, *H-Asia* on-line (July 2019).

Willem van Schendel, *A History of Bangladesh* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009). In *Journal of Asian Studies* 71, no. 1 (February 2012): 294-296.

New Darshans: Seeing Southern Asian Religiosity and Visuality Across Disciplines. Review of conference proceedings of the American Council for Southern Asian Art, October 16, 2009. In caa.reviews.org (March 10, 2011).

Dyron B. Doughrity, *Bishop Stephen Neill: From Edinburgh to South India* (New York: Peter Lang, 2008). In *Journal of Asian Studies* 68, no. 2 (May 2009): 648-649.

Tony K. Stewart. *Fabulous Females and Peerless Pirs: Tales of Mad Adventure in Old Bengal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004). In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127, no. 1 (2007): 105-106.

Francis X. Clooney, SJ, *Divine Mother, Blessed Mother: Hindu Goddesses and the Virgin Mary* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005). In *The Journal for Hindu-Christian Studies* 18 (2005): 60-62.

The Graceful Guru: Hindu Female Gurus in India and the United States, ed. Karen Pechilis (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004). In *The Journal for Hindu-Christian Studies* 18 (2005): 62-64.

The Roots of Tantra, ed. Katherine Anne Harper and Robert L. Brown (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002). In *The International Journal of Hindu Studies*, forthcoming.

Kathleen Taylor, *Sir John Woodroffe, Tantra, and Bengal: 'An Indian Soul in a European Body'?* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 2001). In *History of Religions* 44, no. 4 (May 2005): 351-353.

Hugh B. Urban, *The Economics of Ecstasy: Tantra, Secrecy, and Power in Colonial Bengal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), and *Songs of Ecstasy: Tantric and Devotional Songs from Colonial Bengal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001). In *The Journal of the American Oriental Society* 123, no. 4 (Oct.-Dec. 2003): 904-906.

Julius Lipner, *Brahmabandhab Upadhyay: The Life and Thought of a Revolutionary* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999). In *The Journal of the American Oriental Society* 123, no. 1 (2003): 29-31.

Brian A. Hatcher, *Ecclecticism and Modern Hindu Discourse* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999). In *History of Religions* 42, no. 3 (February 2003): 262-265.

Tracy Pintchman, ed., *Seeking Mahadevi: Constructing the Identities of the Hindu Great Goddess* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001). In *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62, no. 1 (February 2003): 319-319.

Kathleen Taylor, *Sir John Woodroffe, Tantra, and Bengal: 'An Indian Soul in a European Body'?* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 2001). In *Religious Studies Review* 29, no. 1 (January 2003): 114.

Daughters of the Goddess: Studies of Healing, Identity, and Empowerment, ed. Wendy Griffin (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999). In *Religious Studies Review* 27, no. 3 (July 2001): 256.

Georg Feuerstein, *Tantra: The Path of Ecstasy* (Boston and London: Shambala, 1998). In *The International Journal of Hindu Studies* 5, no. 2 (2001): 205-206.

Lisa Lassell Hallstrom, *Mother of Bliss: Anandamayi Ma (1896-1982)* (Oxford / New York: Oxford University Press, 1999). In *The Journal of Asian Studies* 59, no. 2 (May 2000): 466-468.

Diana L. Eck, *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*, 3rd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999). In *Religious Studies Review* 26, no. 1 (January 2000): 115.

David R. Kinsley, *Tantric Visions of the Divine Feminine: The Ten Mahavidyas* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997). In *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 67, no. 1 (March 1999): 219-221.

Malcolm McLean, *Devoted to the Goddess: The Life and Work of Ramprasad*, SUNY Series in Hindu Studies (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998). In *The Journal of Asian Studies* 57, no. 4 (November 1998): 1207-1208.

Elisabeth Anne Benard, *Chinnamasta: The Aweful Buddhist and Hindu Tantric Goddess* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1994). In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 116, no. 2 (April 1996): 357-358.

Patrick Olivelle, *The Asrama System: The History and Hermeneutics of a Religious Institution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993). In *The Journal of the American Oriental Society* 115, no. 2 (April 1995): 355-57.

“New Contributions to the Study of Hindu Goddesses,” *Religious Studies Review* 18, no. 2 (July 1992): 196-201.

June McDaniel, *The Madness of the Saints: Ecstatic Religion in Bengal* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989). In *Bulletin*, The Harvard Divinity School, 20, no. 4 (1990-1991): 20-21, 23.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS / INVITED LECTURES

Online panel on the subject of my new book, co-authored with Daniel Polish, *A Hindu-Jewish Conversation; Root Traditions in Dialogue*. Chaired by Ithamar Theodor, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. May 7, 2025.

“Kali in a Time of Hurt Sentiments.” Talk presented at the Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, The University of Toronto, May 3, 2024.

“Marshalling Poets for the Nation: An Experiment in the Two Wings of Pakistan, 1947-1971.” Talk presented at Aliya University, Kolkata, March 20, 2025.

“Marshalling Poets for the Nation: An Experiment in the Two Wings of Pakistan, 1947-1971.” Talk presented at the University Seminar on South Asia, Columbia University. March 27, 2023.

“The Face of Misfortune: Exploring the Pictorial Tradition of a Diseased Hero.” Talk delivered at Premier University, Chittagong, Bangladesh. January 9, 2023.

“Creating a Composite Culture for the Two Wings of Pakistan: Two Poets for the Nation, 1947-1971.” Presented at the NYCAS Conference, Syracuse University, October 8, 2022.

“The Face of Misfortune: Exploring the Pictorial Tradition of a Diseased Hero.” Talk given at the Symposium on Honor of Vidya Dehejia. Columbia University, September 23, 2022.

“The Double Lives of Kazi Nazrul Islam in Bengali and Urdu.” Talk presented at a Conference in honor of John E. Cort. The University of California, Davis. August 11, 2022.

“What Does it Mean to Belong? The Case of Kazi Nazrul Islam.” Talk given at the World Nazrul Congress 202, organized under the auspices of the Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Asansol, West Bengal, December 27-29, 2020.

“The Digitization and Youtube Promulgation of a Cultural Icon and his Work: What Disadvantages Could There Be?” Paper to have been presented at a workshop called Digital Sacred Texts: Materiality, Performance, Theory. Dublin City University (26–27 May 2020). Cancelled.

“Goddesses and Tantric Practice.” Guest lecture at Women in South Asia graduate seminar. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. February 25, 2020.

The Birks Lectures at McGill University,: “Creating and Translating a Giant: The Curious Journeys of Omar Khayyam” and “Translating and Creating a Genre: The Legacy of Muslim Devotional Singing in Two Bengals.” October 8-9, 2019.

“What does it Mean for the Goddess to Play? And Is a Playful Divinity Comforting to Think With?” Invited paper presented at a workshop on “Deus Ludens.” The University of Cambridge, January 12, 2019.

“Translating the ‘Epicurean’ Omar Khayyam: The Surprising Bengali Lives of the Iconic English Rendition by Edward FitzGerald.” Paper presented at a conference hosted by the Nazrul Institute. Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 2, 2019.

“A Revolutionary Experiment in 1932 Calcutta, and the Dangerous Delights of Lyricized Songs.” Paper presented at the Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts, Montreal, April 14, 2019.

“The Legacy of Tantra in the Troubled Life of a National Poet.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion, November 18, 2018.

Invited keynote address for the South Asia Conference at the University of Madison: “The Unexpected Journeys of Omar Khayyam, and What Some of Them Mean.” October 12, 2018.

“The Competing Graves of Kazi Nazrul Islam.” Paper presented at the American Society for the Study of Religion, New York, April 29, 2017.

Response to a Panel on “Forgotten Hindu Goddesses” at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, November 19, 2016.

“What Do We Know About Nazrul and Sufism?” Keynote address at the North American Nazrul Conference, New York, May 28, 2016.

“‘Who is this Nazrul?’ Cross-border Perplexities in the Study of a Bengali Literary-Cultural Hero.” Invited talk at the Comparative Muslim Societies Program, Cornell University, March 16, 2016.

“‘Who is this Nazrul?’ Cross-border Perplexities in the Study of a Bengali Literary-Cultural Hero.” Paper presented at the Columbia University Seminar on South Asia, December 14, 2015.

“Image Worship and Sacrifice: Legitimacy, Illegitimacy, and Theological Debate.” Paper presented, with Rabbi Daniel Polish, at a panel on Hindu-Jewish Dialogue at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 23, 2015.

“Can an Iconic Poet have Literary Heirs? The Interesting Case of Kazi Nazrul Islam.” Invited paper presented at the Nazrul Institute Conference, Dhaka, June 7, 2015.

“Translation and the Euphonic: The Afterlives of New Musical Genres in Contemporary Bengal.” Paper presented at the Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts, Montreal, May 2, 2015.

“Goddesses of Clay: Materialism and Iconic Forms in Bengal Durga Puja Ceremonies.” Talk presented at Princeton University, April 23, 2015.

“Christian Ecumenism and Inter-faith Dialogue: Thoughts on the Complex Case of India” Paper presented at the Tantur Institute, Jerusalem, January 10, 2015.

Responses to panels on Comparative Motherhood and Durga Puja Festivals, the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion, November 23-24, 2014.

“On the Idea of the Bhakti Movement: Responding to Jack Hawley’s *Storm of Songs*.” Paper presented at the annual South Asia Conference, Madison, October 16, 2014.

“When a National Poet is a Heretic: The Collision of Literary and Religious Canons.” Talk presented at the annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, Antwerp, Belgium, September 19, 2014.

“Pascimbange o Bangladeshe Najrul: Tulanamulak Alocana.” Talk presented in Bengali at the Bangla Academy, Dhaka, May 13, 2014.

“Najruler Anusandhane.” Talk presented in Bengali at the Antarjatic Najrul Carca Kendra, Kolkata, February 12, 2014.

“The Detective and the Poet: Why was Kazi Nazrul Islam Willing to Court Controversy?” Invited keynote speaker at California State University, Northridge, September 12, 2013.

“What Motivates a Poet? Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976) on Religious Tolerance and Human Dignity.” Invited keynote speaker at the University of Connecticut, April 11, 2013.

“Understanding Blood Sacrifice in Hindu Goddess Worship.” Invited lecture at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, February 21, 2013.

Seminar discussion of my new book, *Revelry, Rivalry and Longing for the Goddesses of Bengal*, MESAAS Colloquium, Columbia University, November 10, 2011.

Invited speaker at the retirement symposium for Donna Marie Wulff, Brown University, September 24, 2012.

“Ninety Years of Rebellion and Revolt? The Present Legacies of *Bidrohi* in Bangladesh and India.” Invited talk delivered at the Nazrul Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh, June 25, 2011.

“The Iconicity of a National Poet: Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976), his Oeuvre, and the Making of a Canon.” Talk delivered at the Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Syracuse University, May 6, 2011.

“The Economics of Blood Sacrifice in Bengali Goddess Religion.” Talk delivered at the American Society for the Study of Religion,” Columbus, April 24, 2010.

“Khandita Najrul? The Legacy of a Master Poet in West Bengal and Bangladesh.” Talk delivered at the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, March 27, 2010.

“Khandita Najrul? The Legacy of a Master Poet in West Bengal and Bangladesh.” Talk delivered at the South Asia Seminar at Harvard University, Boston, April 8, 2010.

Concluding Conference Respondent for the annual conference of the American Council of South Asian Art, Sunday, October 18, 2009.

“Why Zen Buddhism and not Hinduism? The Different Asias of Thomas Merton’s Journeys East.” Keynote lecture delivered at the International Thomas Merton Society, Nazareth College, June 13, 2009.

“From Hinduism to Christianity, from India to New York: Bondage and Exodus Experiences in the Lives of Indian Dalit Christians in the Diaspora.” Talk delivered at the American Academy of Religion, for a panel entitled, “Caste, Dalits, and Christianity.” Chicago, November 3, 2008.

“Which side will you roll, local or global?’ The Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in the Bengali Durga Puja Festivities.” Talk delivered at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, for a panel entitled “Globalization and South Asian Religions: Redefining the Discourse beyond Diaspora.” Chicago, November 1, 2008.

“Khandita Najrul? The Legacy of a Master Poet in West Bengal and Bangladesh.” The Second Annual Kazi Nazrul Islam Lecture, University of Connecticut, October 16, 2008.

“Bondage and Exodus Experiences in the Lives of Indian Dalit Christians in the American Diaspora.” Paper presented at the University Seminar on Religion, Columbia University, April 7, 2008.

“‘We Have Not Yet Beaten Durga!’: Politics and Public Religion in Colonial Bengal.” Paper presented at Northwestern University, February 7, 2008.

“‘We Have Not Yet Beaten Durga!’: Politics and Public Religion in Colonial Bengal.” Paper presented at the Spalding Symposium, Oxford University, March 30, 2007.

“Response” to Eliza Kent, *Converting Women: Gender and Protestant Christianity in Colonial South India* (2004). Paper presented at a panel honoring the book’s reception of the Best Book in Hindu-Christian Studies, at the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 17, 2006.

“Approaches to Kali Puja in Bengal.” Paper presented at the South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago, May 25, 2006.

“The *Sources of Indian Tradition*: The 3rd Edition, the Challenges of Textual Representation, and the Field of South Asian Studies.” Paper presented at a conference on the Field of South Asian Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara, December 2, 2005.

“Evil, Motherhood, and the Hindu Goddess Kali.” Paper presented at an invited workshop on Theodicy in Inter-religious Perspective, Boston University, April 23, 2005.

“Durga Puja in Political and Historical Controversy.” Paper delivered at the Bengal Studies Conference, Stamford University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, January 5, 2005.

“Devis in the Diaspora: The Transformations of Durga Puja and Kali Puja in American Bengali Contexts.” Paper delivered at the Religious Studies Seminar, The University of Pennsylvania, February 4, 2004.

“The Vedanta Society in Contemporary America: The Challenges of New Growth and Old Wisdom.” Paper delivered at the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 23, 2003.

“Devis in the Diaspora: The Transformations of Durga Puja and Kali Puja in American Bengali Contexts.” Paper delivered at the annual Bengal Studies Conference, Dallas, April 5, 2003.

“Meeting ‘the Mother Who Takes Across’: Christian and Jewish Encounters with the Fierce Goddesses of Hinduism.” Paper delivered at Denison University, April 4, 2003.

“Playing with Durga: Ritual Levity in Bengali Goddess Religion.” Paper delivered at the University Seminar on Religion, Columbia University, February 2003.

“Playing with Durga: Ritual Levity in Bengali Goddess Religion.” Paper delivered at the national American Academy of Religion conference, Toronto, November 2002.

“Meeting ‘the Mother Who Takes Across’: Christian Encounters with the Fierce Goddesses of Hinduism.” Lecture delivered at Boston College, October 3, 2002.

“Such a Pretty Face: The Sexualization of Durga in 19th-20th Century Bengal.” Paper delivered at the Spalding Symposium, Oxford University, March 23, 2002.

“Kali's New Frontiers: A Hindu Goddess on the Internet.” Lecture delivered at St. Lawrence University, February 22, 2002.

“The Battle over *Bali*, or ‘Why Must We Feed Her Blood?’: The Controversial Status of Animal Sacrifice in Bengali Goddess Religion.” Paper delivered at the Conference on Religion in South India, Mount Holyoke College, June 14-17, 2001.

“Durga on the Titanic: Politics and Society in Bengali Goddess Festivals.” Paper delivered at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, May 15, 2001.

“Durga on the Titanic, and Other Puja Visions.” Paper delivered at a conference entitled, “Experiencing Devi: Hindu Goddesses in Indian Popular Art,” The University of Iowa, February 23-24, 2001.

“Response to: Julius Lipner, *Brahmabandhab Upadhyay: The Life and Thought of a Revolutionary*.” Paper delivered at the national American Academy of Religion conference, Boston, November 1999.

“Kali's New Frontiers: A Hindu Goddess on the Internet.” Paper delivered at the Symposium, “Reflections of the Goddess,” at the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C., June 1999.

“New Age Hinduism, New Age Orientalism, and the Second-generation South Asian.” Paper presented at the national American Academy of Religion conference, Orlando, November 1998.

“A Tantric Icon Comes Alive: The Evolution of Kali's Image in Bengali Saktism.” Paper delivered at a conference on Tantra in Bengal, The University of Pennsylvania, September 1997.

“Kali's New Frontiers: A Hindu Goddess on the Internet.” Paper delivered at Kali Conference, Barnard College, September 1996.

“Teaching Bengal Across Disciplines.” Panel presentation made at the annual Bengal Studies Conference, Washington, D.C., May 1996.

“Goddesses and Healing in the Princely States of India.” Invited talk presented at the National Institute of Medicine in conjunction with the exhibit, “Medical Pluralism in the Princely States of India,” Washington, D.C., December 1995.

“Environmental Challenges: The Problem of Evil in Comparative Perspective.” Panel presentation at the national American Academy of Religion conference, Philadelphia, November 1995.

“Evil and Hope: Reflections Drawn from the Context of Bengali Goddess Worship.” Paper presented at The Catholic Theological Society of America, New York, June 1995.

“Unanswered Questions on the Relationship between Politics, Economics, and Religion: The Case of Durga Puja in Eighteenth Century Bengal.” Paper presented at the Bengal Studies Conference, Chicago, April 1995.

“The Changing Features of Durga Puja in Colonial Calcutta.” Paper presented at the national American Academy of Religion conference, Chicago 1994.

“The Sweetening of the Goddess Kali in Bengal.” Invited paper presented at a conference entitled, “The Wild Goddess in South Asia,” and sponsored by the Museum of Anthropology, The University of Zurich, November 1994.

“Historical Conundrums, the Use of Irony, and the Challenge of Translation in 18th-19th Century Bengali Devotional Poetry.” Paper presented at the national Association of Asian Studies conference, Boston, March 1994.

“Whose Family Are You From? *Bhakti* and Tantra in the Bengali Worship of Daksina Kali.” Paper presented at the national American Academy of Religion conference, San Francisco, November 1993.

“Satire and the Goddess Kali: Women Poets of Nineteenth Century Bengal.” Paper presented at the New York regional conference of the Association of Asian Studies, New Paltz, May 1993.

“An Introduction to *Durga Puja*.” Public lecture delivered at the American Museum of Natural History, October 1992.

“The Return of Kamalakanta: Interpretations and Appropriations of a 19th Century *Sadhaka*.” Paper presented at the national American Academy of Religion conference, Kansas City, November 1991.

“Kali's Tongue: Historical Re-interpretations of the Blood-lusting Goddess.” Paper presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, New York, March 1991.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Research ongoing for two projects on the National Poet of Bangladesh, Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976): one, an anthology of translated poetry; and two, a monograph based on fieldwork in Bangladesh and West Bengal, on the poet's legacy. The anthology is near completion.

Vol. 1 of *The Sources of Indian Traditions*, managing editor for the 3rd edition, 2 vols. (first two editions 1958 and 1988). (New York: Columbia University Press). Under contract and in progress.

SERVICE TO BARNARD/COLUMBIA

[2024-2025	On sabbatical]
2023-2024	Member, Advisory Committee on Appointments, Tenure, and Promotions Member of the Executive Committee of the South Asia Institute, Columbia University
2022-2023	Member, Advisory Committee on Appointments, Tenure, and Promotions Member (fall 2022 only; in spring 2023 teaching clashed with the meeting time) Committee on Free Expression Member, Search Committee, position in the Chinese Humanities, AMEC, Barnard College Member, Search Committee, Senior position in Sanskrit, MESAAS, Columbia University Member, Search Committee, senior position in Tibetan Buddhism, Religion, Columbia University Barnard Faculty Mentor for Angelo Caglioti, History Member of the Executive Committee of the South Asia Institute, Columbia University
2021-2022	Member, Advisory Committee on Appointments, Tenure, and Promotions Member, Search Committee, position in South Asian Art History, Columbia University

	Barnard Faculty Mentor for Angelo Caglioti, History
	Member of the Executive Committee of the South Asia Institute, Columbia University
2020-2021	Chair, AMEC
	Co-Chair, Faculty Governance and Procedures Committee
	Member, Middle States Working Committee 2
	Member, Faculty Task Force on Responses to Covid-19
	Elected Committees Representative
	Faculty Mentor for Angelo Caglioti, History
	Member, Selection Committee for FLAS awardees to GSAS
	Member of the Executive Committee of the South Asia Institute, Columbia University
2019-2020	Chair, AMEC
	Co-Chair, Faculty Governance and Procedures Committee
	Member, Middle States Working Committee 2
	Member, Faculty Task Force on Responses to Covid-19
	Member, Selection Committee for Sanskrit and Tamil Lecturer position at MESAAS, Columbia University
	Chair, Tenure Review Committee for Guo Juo
	Member, Promotion Committee for Hisham Matar
2018-2019	[On sabbatical]
	On Theater Department Nomination Committee for Shayoni Mitra
	On reading committee to try to help Guo Jue be prepared for the tenure nomination

2017-2018	Member, ATP
	Chair, AMEC
	Chair, Search Committee for the Moinian Chair in the Pre-Modern Middle East
2016-2017	Member, ATP
	Chair, AMEC
	Chair, Search Committee for the Moinian Chair in the Pre-Modern Middle East
	Chair, Third-Year Review Committee for Assistant Professor Guo Jue, AMEC
2015-2016	Member, ATP
	Member, Honor Board, Barnard
	Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter
	Member, Search Committee for a new colleague in the pre-modern Middle East, Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard
2014-2015	Member, Honor Board, Barnard
	President, Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter
	Member, Search Committee for a new colleague in the Chinese social sciences, Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard
	Member, Search Committee for the Witten Chair in Jewish Studies, Religion Department, Columbia University
2013-2014	On leave; research trip in Kolkata, India, and Dhaka, Bangladesh, January-August 2014
2012-2013	Member, Committee on Programs and Academic Standing
	Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter

	Member, Executive Committee, South Asia Institute
	Member, Search Committee for new head South Asia Librarian, Columbia University
	Member of the Review Committee for Rakesh Ranjan, head Hindi teacher at Columbia, in MESAAS.
2011-2012	Faculty participant in Barnard's Global Symposium on Women's Leadership, Mumbai, India, March 2012
	Member, Committee on Programs and Academic Standing
	Member, Committee on Faculty, Governance, and Procedures
	Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter
	Member, Search Committee for a hire in Chinese Humanities, Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures
	Member, Executive Committee, South Asia Institute
	Member, Search Committee for new head South Asia Librarian, Columbia University
	Mentor to one Centennial Scholars student and one Mellon-Mays student.
2010-2011	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
	Member, Committee on Programs and Academic Standing
	Member, Committee on Faculty, Governance, and Procedures
	Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter
	Member, Search Committee for a hire in Chinese Humanities, Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures
	Conducted Academic Program Review for Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures
	Organized memorial service at St. Paul's Chapel for former AMEC Chair, Prof. Irene Bloom, in October 2010

	Member of one ad hoc committee, Columbia University
	Member, Executive Committee, South Asia Institute
	Member, Fifth Year Review Committee for Allison Busch, MESAAS
	Member, Search Committee for a hire in Swahili Studies, MESAAS, Columbia University
	Member, Search Committee for new head South Asia Librarian, Columbia University
2009-2010	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
	Member, Grants Committee
	Member, Committee on Programs and Academic Standing
	Member, Executive Committee, South Asian Institute, Columbia University
	Successfully concluded the process of putting Guobin Yang through tenure
	Member of one ad hoc committee, Columbia University
2008-2009	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
	Member, Grants Committee, Barnard College.
	Member, Committee to Evaluate the General Education Requirements (Cultures in Comparison rubric), Barnard College.
	Member, Executive Committee, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University.
	Began the process of putting Guobin Yang up for tenure.
	Conducted the Third Year Review for Wiebke Denecke.
	Member of one ad hoc committee, Columbia University.
2007-2008	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College

	Member, Executive Committee, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University.
	Member of one ad hoc committee, Columbia University.
	Organized a panel, "Update on Pakistan," with Professor Askari Rizvi, Visiting Professor (from Lahore, Pakistan) at Johns Hopkins University, at Barnard College, February 2008
2006-2007	On leave.
	Successfully concluded the tenure case of David "Max" Moerman.
	Member: Selection Committee for the Barnard Medal of Distinction.
2005-2006	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College Co-Director, Program in Human Rights.
	Member: FGPC; Selection Committee for the Barnard Medal of Distinction.
	Began the process of putting up David "Max" Moerman for tenure.
	Member, Executive Committee, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University.
	Member of one ad hoc committee, Columbia University.
2004-2005	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
	Began the process of putting up David "Max" Moerman for tenure (aborted, due to granted post-facto child-care leave).
	With Jack Hawley and Janet Jakobsen, became Co-Director of the Program in Human Rights at Barnard College.
	Helped organize the October 2004 Weiss International Fellowship events, centered around the visit to campus of Pepita Seth, internationally renowned photographer and Indian temple specialist.
	Member, Executive Committee, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University.

2003-2004	Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College Participated in a successful search to replace Irene Bloom in the Chinese Humanities, Asian and Middle Eastern Culture, Barnard College. Member of one Ad Hoc Committee, Columbia University. Helped organize the April 2004 Barbara Stoler Miller Conference on Indian Dance.
2002-2003	Acting Chair (fall 2002) and Chair (spring 2003), Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College. Chaired a successful search for a new faculty position in the Chinese social sciences for the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
October 2002	Co-sponsored and -organized the visit to Barnard of Pepita Seth, who gave two public lectures and loaned a series of photographs to the College for a three-day exhibit: "In God's Mirror: Theater as Prayer in Southern India"
2000-2004	Member of the Committee on Honors, Barnard College
2001 to present	Member of a Barnard video production team on the students of Muslim heritage at Barnard
2001-2003	President of Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter
2001-2002	Acting Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
2000-2001	On leave, funded by the American Institute of Indian Studies (fall) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (spring and summer)
Spring 2000	Acting Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
1999-2000	Member of two search committees: one, for the Religion Department, in Chinese Religion; and the other, for a two-year post-doctoral Mellon Fellowship
1999-2000	Member of the Committee on Honors, Barnard College

1995-1998, 1999-2000	Secretary of Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard Chapter
1998-99	On leave: Special Assistant Professor Leave
1997-98	Member of two search committees: one, at Barnard in Japanese Studies; and the other, at Columbia in the Religion Department, in the Philosophy of Religion
1997 to 1998	Faculty Advisor to the Hindu Students Organization
September 1996	Co-organizer, "Encountering Kali: Cultural Understanding at the Extremes," a conference held at Barnard College and drawing select scholars from around the world
1996-1997	Acting Chair, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
1996 to 1998	Member of the Committee on Programs and Academic Standing, Barnard College
1996 to 1998	Member of the Committee on Awards, Barnard College
1995 to 1998	Co-coordinator of the Barbara Stoler Miller Memorial Seminar Series, Barnard College/Columbia University

SERVICE TO ACADEMIC SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

April 25-27, 2025:	Organizer and Convener of the annual conference of the American Society for the Study of Religion, held at Barnard College. Thirty-four scholars attended.
2023-2026:	President, The American Society for the Study of Religion
2020-2023	Vice-President, The American Society for the Study of Religion
2020 to the present	Treasurer, The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
Fall 2022	Member, Faculty Advisor, Dissertation-to-Book Workshop, American Institute of Indian Studies

2021-2022	Member, Selection Committee, Prize for the Best Book in Hindu-Christian Studies, Society for the Study of Hindu-Christian Studies
Fall 2021	Member, Faculty Advisor, Dissertation-to-Book Workshop, American Institute of Indian Studies
2017-2020	Elected to a three-year term as a Board Member of the South Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies
2016	Member of the Evaluation Committee for the South Asian Languages and Cultures Department at the University of Chicago (November 2016)
2013-2016	Member of the Executive Committee, American Society for the Study of Religion
2011-2016	Member of the Nominating Committee, American Institute of Indian Studies
2006 to 2009	Member of the Selection Committee for American Institute of Indian Studies grants; 2007-2008 elected the Chair of that Committee
2006	Chaired the Selection Committee of the A. K. Ramanujan Prize for Excellence in Translation from a South Asian Language
2005-2008	Member of the Executive Committee, American Institute of Indian Studies
2005 to 2011	Secretary, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
2008 to present	Vice-President of the Taraknath Das Foundation, Columbia University
2003 to 2008	Board Member, Taraknath Das Foundation, Columbia University
2002 to present	Board Member, American Institute of Indian Studies
2001 to present	Board Member, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
2002 to 2004	President, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, American Academy of Religion
2000 to 2002	Vice-President, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, American Academy of Religion

1995 to 1999	Board Member, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, American Academy of Religion
1995 to 1998	Steering Committee Member, Religion in South Asia Section, American Academy of Religion

PROFESSIONALLY-RELATED COMMUNITY SERVICE

April 2016 to the present	Appointed member of Dean's Council, Harvard Divinity School
July 2022	Invited talk on "Introduction to the Study of Hinduism" for the NEH-funded Religious Worlds of New York Summer Institute for Teachers.
March 2017	Invited Talk on "Kundalini Yoga in the West: The Travel of a Tantric Tradition." The Nalanda Institute, New York.
December 2016	Invited Talk on "Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam: Bridge Builders in the Two Bengals." The Bangladeshi Consulate, New York.
February 2015- 22	Annual lecture on "Hinduism and Human Rights" at Columbia for a course on Religion and Human Rights.
October 2014	Discussant at the Rubin Museum, for a public showing of Louis Malle's film, "Phantom India: A Look at Castes."
July 2014	External Examiner for a Ph.D. dissertation at Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
May 2012	Leader of a workshop on introducing Hinduism in comparative religion and comparative theology classes, Fordham University
February 2012	Guest lecturer in a series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Water in World Religions.
October 2008	Guest Lecturer on "Religions of India" for a course at the New School.
November 2007	Guest Lecturer for the New York High School Teachers Program on South Asia, organized through the Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University

March 2007	Four-lecture series on “Introduction to Hinduism” at the Center for Religious Inquiry, St. Bartholomew's Church, New York
December 2006	Guest Lecturer for the New York High School Teachers Program on South Asia, organized through the Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University
March-May 2004	Co-teacher, with Rabbi Daniel Polish, of an 8-week course on Jewish-Hindu Dialogue, held at Temple Emanu-EL and co-sponsored by the Center for Religious Inquiry, St. Bartholomew's Church, New York
October 2003	Guest Lecture for the New York High School Teachers program on South Asia, organized through the Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University
April 2003	Guest lecture on “The Goddess Kali in Indian Fieldwork” at Union Theological Seminary
April 2003	Four-lecture series on “Introduction to Hinduism” at the Center for Religious Inquiry, St. Bartholomew's Church, New York
October 2002	Guest lecture on "Women and Hinduism" at the Center for Religious Inquiry, St. Bartholomew's Church, New York
September 2002	Keynote speaker at the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Vedanta Society, Atlanta
April 1998	Guest lecture on “Hindu Goddesses and AIDS” at Union Theological Seminary
March 1997	Advertised, public talk at Grace Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, New York: “The Influence of Hinduism on American Religious Life”
April 1997	Talk at the New York Open Center, “Goddesses of Power”

TRAVEL EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH ASIA

February-March 2025 (Kolkata): 8-week research
 July 2024 (Kolkata): 3-week research trip
 June 2023 (Kolkata): 3-week research trip
 January 2023: Dhaka/Chittagong research trip
 June-July 2020, Kolkata and Dhaka research trip: cancelled
 June-July, 2019 (Kolkata): 3-week research trip
 February-March, 2019 (Dhaka): 2-week research trip

June-July, 2018 (Dhaka and Kolkata): 3-week research trip
 June-July, 2017 (Kolkata): 3-week research trip
 June-July, 2016 (Kolkata): 2-week research trip
 July, 2015 (Kolkata): 2- week research trip
 June, 2015 (Dhaka): 1-week trip in connection with a conference
 January-July, 2014 (Kolkata and Dhaka): 7-month research trip
 June-July, 2013 (Dhaka and Kolkata): 2-week research trip
 June-July, 2012 (Dhaka and Kolkata): 2-week research trip
 March, 2012 (Mumbai): 1-week trip to participate in Barnard's Global Symposium
 June-July, 2011 (Dhaka and Kolkata): 3-week research trip, including participation in a conference on Kazi Nazrul Islam in Dhaka
 January, 2005 (Dhaka): 10-day trip to participate in a conference and an American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) delegation to the Government of Bangladesh
 January, 2003 (Calcutta and environs): two-week research trip
 November, 2001 (Calcutta and environs): ten-day research trip
 September - December, 2000 (Calcutta and environs): four-month research trip
 November, 1999 (Calcutta and environs): ten-day research trip
 September - October, 1998 (Calcutta): six-week research trip
 January, 1998 (Dhaka and environs): one-week research trip
 November, 1996 (Calcutta and environs): ten-day research trip
 October, 1995 (Calcutta): ten-day research trip
 October - November, 1991 (Calcutta): four-week research trip
 October, 1988 - July, 1990 (Calcutta and West Bengal): twenty-one month research trip
 August - September, 1986: three-week all-India whirlwind tour
 February, 1977: one-month all-India whirlwind tour