

David B. Gray

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Current and Past Positions:

2005-present Assistant Professor in Religious Studies, Santa Clara University
2003-2005 Lecturer in Religious Studies, Rice University
2001-2003 Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Rice University

Education:

February 2001 **Columbia University**, New York, NY
Distinction **Ph.D.** in the History of Religion, with
May 1998 **M.Phil.** in the History of Religion
May 1995 **M.A.** in the History of Religion
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
May 1993 **B.A.** in Religious Studies

Awards:

2007 National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Research Stipend
2001-2003 Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Rice University
1993-1999 President's Fellowship, Columbia University
1997-1998 Traveling Fellowship, Columbia University
1995 Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship, Columbia University

Publications

Books:

The Cakrasamvara Tantra: A Study and Annotated Translation. American Institute of Buddhist Studies/Columbia University Press, 2007.

The Cakrasamvara Tantra: An Edition of the Sanskrit and Tibetan Texts. Currently under review with an academic press.

Refereed Articles:

"Eating the Heart of the Brahmin: Representations of Alterity and the Formation of Identity in Tantric Buddhist Discourse." *History of Religions* 45.1 (2005): 45-69.

"Disclosing the Empty Secret: Textuality and Embodiment in the *Cakrasamvara Tantra*." *Numen* 52.4 (2005): 417-444.

"Mandala of the Self: Embodiment, Practice and Identity Construction in the *Cakrasamvara Tradition*" *Journal of Religious History* 30.3 (2006): 294-310.

"Skull Imagery and Skull Magic in the *Yoginītantras*." *Pacific World*, forthcoming.

"Compassionate Violence? On the Ethical Implications of Tantric Buddhist Ritual." Currently under review with a peer-reviewed journal.

"The *Cakrasamvara Tantra*: Its History, Interpretation, and Practice in India and Tibet." Currently under review with a peer-reviewed journal.

Book Chapters: "Tsongkhapa on the Stages of Insight Meditation" (co-authored with Robert A. F. Thurman), in Jonathan Shear, ed. *The Experience of Meditation*. St. Paul, MN: Paragon House, 2006, pp. 145-169.

"*Ākinīs* and *Yoginīs*: On the Origin and Development of an Early Medieval Indian Buddhist Goddess Tradition" in Deepak Shimkhada and Phyllis Herman, ed. *Constant and Changing Faces of the Goddess: The Goddess Traditions of Asia*. Forthcoming, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007.

"The Influence of the *Kālacakra*: *Vajrapāñi* on Consort Meditation." Currently under consideration for inclusion in an edited volume.

Minor Publications: I have also published numerous book reviews, encyclopedia entries, and other minor publications. A complete list is available on request.

Recent Presentations

May 2007

The Fourth International Vedic Workshop

Presented the paper "The Vedas in the Tantras: Late Buddhist Reflections on the Vedic Tradition" at the University of Texas in Austin, TX

March 2007

2007 American Oriental Society Annual Meeting

Presented the paper "Resistance to Sanskrit? Reflections on the Development of Buddhist Sanskrit Literature" in San Antonio, TX

- October 2006 **Harvard University, Sanskrit and Indian Studies Lecture Series**
Presented the lecture "Facing Mahābhairava: On the Appropriation of Śaiva Material in a Buddhist Tantra" in Cambridge, MA
- October 2006 **Columbia University, Buddhist Studies Seminar**
Presented the lecture "The Illumination of the Hidden Meaning: Tsong Khapa and the Art of Interpretation" in New York, NY
- October 2006 **2006 United States Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Annual Meeting**
Presented the paper "Religious Fault Lines: Buddhism, Peacemaking, and Violence in Contemporary South Asia" in Santa Clara, CA
- September 2006 **2006 International Conference on Esoteric Buddhist Studies**
Presented a paper entitled "Burning with Anger? The *abhicārahoma* rite in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist literature" at Kōyasan University in Kōyasan, Japan
- July 2006 **Chinese University of Hong Kong, Keynote Address**
Invited to give the keynote address, entitled "Tracing Texts and Reading Boundaries: Recent Trends in Buddhist Studies," at the 2006 Young Scholars' Conference on Buddhist Studies in Hong Kong, China.
- March 2006 **Cornell University, South Asian Program Seminar**
Invited to present the lecture "The Politics of Secrecy: On the Translation and Dissemination of the Buddhist Tantras" in Ithaca, NY
- March 2006 **2006 American Oriental Society Annual Meeting**
Presented the paper "Revelation, Loss and Recovery: The Myth of Textual Loss and the Development of Tantric Buddhist Traditions" in Seattle, WA
- February 2006 **Stanford University, Tibetan Lecture Series**
Invited to present the lecture "The Illumination of the Hidden Meaning: Tsong Khapa and the Art of Interpretation" in Stanford, CA

I have also given numerous conference presentations and lectures over the course of 2000–2005. A complete list of these is available upon request.

Teaching Experience: I have taught numerous courses on South and East Asian Religions, with a focus on Buddhism, but also including other major traditions such as Hinduism and

Daoism. I have also taught a range of survey courses, such as Introductions to World Religions, Asian Religions, South and East Asian Religions. I have also taught the Sanskrit and Tibetan languages at the introductory and advanced levels, as well as seminars on topics such as Indian Philosophy, Tantra, and Meditation. I have taught at Santa Clara University, Rice University, Princeton University, Columbia University, and the New School University. A complete list of courses taught is available upon request.

Languages:

Speaking and reading proficiency in modern and classical **Tibetan** and **Chinese**. Reading proficiency in classical, Buddhist Hybrid, and medieval Newari Buddhist **Sanskrit, Pali**, and modern **German**.