

# **David B. Gray**

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Department of Religious Studies  
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## **I. ACADEMIC HISTORY**

### **A. Education**

- Ph.D. Columbia University, February 2001, with distinction  
History of Religion/Buddhist Studies
- M.Phil. Columbia University, May 1998
- M.A. Columbia University, May 1995
- B.A. Wesleyan University, May 1993, *magna cum laude*  
Religious Studies

### **B. Academic Positions**

- 2015-present Department Chair, Religious Studies Department, Santa Clara, California
- 2010-present Santa Clara University, Department of Religious Studies, Santa Clara, California  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
- 2005-2010 Santa Clara University, Department of Religious Studies, Santa Clara, California  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
- 2003-2005 Rice University, Religious Studies Department, Houston, Texas  
Lecturer in Religious Studies
- 2001-2003 Rice University, Center for the Study of Cultures, Houston, Texas  
Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities
- Spring 2001 Princeton University, Department of Religion, Princeton, New Jersey  
Adjunct Lecturer
- Fall 2000 Columbia University, School of General Studies, New York, New York  
Adjunct Lecturer
- Spring 2000 New School University, Eugene Lang College, New York, New York  
Adjunct Lecturer
- New York University, Department of East Asian Studies, New York, New York  
Preceptor
- Summer 1997 Columbia University, Department of Religion, New York, New York  
Adjunct Lecturer
- 1994-1997 Columbia University, Department of Religion, New York, New York  
Teaching Assistant
- Spring 1993 Wesleyan University, Department of Religion, Middletown, Connecticut  
Teaching Assistant

### **C. Honors and Grants**

- 2015 Dean's Grant
- 2012 Faculty-Student Research Grant
- 2011 Grant from the 84000 Foundation to collaboratively translate the *Abhidhānottara Tantra*
- 2009 Junior Faculty Development grant
- 2009 Undergraduate Research Initiative Grant, "Religious Studies Research Seminars and Student Research Colloquium: Creating Opportunities For Faculty-Student Research."
- 2009 Core Curriculum Honorarium, Santa Clara University
- 2008 Graves Award in the Humanities, "Tibetan Buddhism on the Move: The Global Translocation of the Gyuto Tantric Monastery."

2008 Bruce Mansfield Prize  
2008 Collaborative Core Curriculum Honorarium, Santa Clara University  
2007 National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Research Stipend, “Enacting Hierarchy: A Socio-historical Analysis of Tibetan Buddhist Ritual Literature.”  
Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Rice University, 2001-2003.  
President’s Fellowship, Columbia University, 1993-1999.  
Traveling Fellowship, Columbia University, 1997-1998.  
Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship, Columbia University, 1995.  
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, Columbia University, 1993-1994.  
Giffen Prize for Excellence in the Department of Religion, Wesleyan University, 1993.

## II. SCHOLARSHIP

### A. Books

*The Cakrasamvara Tantra: A Study and Annotated Translation.* New York: AIBS/CBS/THUS [Columbia University Press], 2007.

*The Cakrasamvara Tantra: Editions of the Sanskrit and Tibetan Texts.* New York: AIBS/CBS/THUS [Columbia University Press], 2012.

*Tsong Khapa’s Illumination of the Hidden Meaning: Maṇḍala, Mantra, and the Cult of the Yoginīs (An Annotated Translation of Chapters 1-24).* New York: AIBS/CBS/THUS [Columbia University Press], forthcoming.

*Tsong Khapa’s Illumination of the Hidden Meaning: Yogic Vows, Conduct, and Ritual Praxis (An Annotated Translation of Chapters 25-51).* New York: AIBS/CBS/THUS [Columbia University Press], forthcoming.

David B. Gray and Ryan Richard Overbey, eds. *Tantric Traditions on the Move: Their Development through Time, and Transmission through Cultural Space.* New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

### B. Refereed Articles

“Imprints of the “Great Seal” – On the expanding semantic range of the term of mudrā in eighth through eleventh century Indian Buddhist literature.” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 34.1-2 (2011; published in 2013): 421-481.

“The Purification of Heruka: Reflections on Identity Formation in late Indian Buddhism.” *Pacific World* 3.13 (Fall 2011, published in October 2012), 81-93.

“Tsongkhapa on Tantric Exegetical Authority and Methodology.” *Pacific World* 3.11 (2009; published in March 2011): 95-117.

“On the Very Idea of a Tantric Canon: Myth, Politics, and the Formation of the Bka’ ’gyur.” *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, no. 5 (December 2009; published in October 2010): 1-37.

“Images of Alterity: Buddhist Portrayals of Religious Others.” *South Asian Review* 30.1 (2009): 319-335.

“Skull Imagery and Skull Magic in the Yoginītantras.” *Pacific World* 3.8 (2006; published in March 2009): 21-39.

“Compassionate Violence? On the Ethical Implications of Tantric Buddhist Ritual.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 17 (2007): 239-271.

“The Cakrasamvara Tantra: Its History, Interpretation, and Practice in India and Tibet.” *Religion Compass* 1.6 (2007): 695–710.

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

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

“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.

### C. Book Chapters

“The Three Types of Fire Sacrifice According to Kāṇha’s *Śrīcakrasamvara-homavidhi*.” In *Homa Variations: The Study of Ritual Change across the Longue Durée*, edited by Richard K. Payne and Michael Witzel. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Buddhism and Tantra.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism*, edited by Michael Jerryson. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Buddhist Sectarianism.” In *The Buddhist World*, edited by John Powers. Taylor and Francis, forthcoming.

“Teaching Tantric Buddhism in an Undergraduate Classroom Context.” In *Teaching Buddhism*, edited by Gary DeAngelis and Todd Lewis. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Tantra/Tantric Traditions.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, forthcoming.

“Ritual Texts: Tibet: New Tantras (Gsar ma).” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Jonathan Silk, Oskar Von Hinüber, and Vincent Eltschinger, 662-673. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2015.

“Translation at the Limits of Buddhist Discourse: The Politics of the Translation of Esoteric Buddhist Scriptures.” In *In Vimalakirti’s House: A Festschrift in Honor of Robert A. F. Thurman on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday*, edited by Christian Wedemeyer, John Dunne, and Thomas Yarnall, 73-104. New York: American Institute of Buddhist Studies, 2015.

“Tibetan Formulations of the Tantric Path.” In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to East and Inner Asian Buddhism*, edited by Mario Poceski, 185-198. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

“The Tantric Family Romance: Sex and the Construction of Social Identity in Tantric Buddhism.” In *The Family in Buddhism*, edited by Liz Wilson, 43-65. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2013.

“The Mystical Dimensions of Buddhism.” In *Teaching Mysticism*, edited by William B. Parsons, 67-87. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

“Experiencing the Single Savor: Divinizing the Body and the Senses in Tantric Buddhist Meditation.” In *Perceiving the Divine through the Human Body, Mystical Sensuality*, edited by Thomas Cattoi and June McDaniels, 45-65. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

“Tibet and the Continent from the 10th–13th Centuries.” In *Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia*, edited by Charles D. Orzech, Richard K. Payne, Henrik H. Sørensen, 451-55. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2011.

“Tibetan Lamas in Ethnic Chinese Communities and the Rise of New Tibetan Inspired Chinese Religions.” In *Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia*, edited by Charles D. Orzech, Richard K. Payne, Henrik H. Sørensen, 568-571. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2011.

“The Influence of the *Kālacakra*: Vajrapāṇi on Consort Meditation.” In *As Long As Space Endures: Essays on the Kalacakra Tantra in Honor of His Holiness the Dalai Lama*, edited by Edward A. Arnold, 193-202. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications, 2009.

“Dākinīs and Yoginīs: On the Origin and Development of an Early Medieval Indian Buddhist Goddess Tradition.” In *The Constant and Changing Faces of the Goddess: The Goddess Traditions of Asia*, edited by Deepak Shimkhada and Phyllis Herman, 34-53. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.

“Tsongkhapa on the Stages of Insight Meditation” (co-authored with Robert A. F. Thurman). In *The Experience of Meditation*, edited by Jonathan Shear, 145-169. St. Paul, MN: Paragon House, 2006.

#### D. Minor Publications

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

#### E. Recent Presentations

“Garland of Essence or Garland of Light? On the need for critical editions when translating canonical texts.” Invited lecture at the 2014 Translation and Transmission Conference, Keystone, CO, October 2014.

“Body Mandala Practices in the Yoginītantras.” Presented at the “The Evolution of Tantric Ritual” Conference, University of California, Berkeley, March 2014.

“Divine Identities: Visualization and Iconography in Tantric Buddhist Sādhana Practice.” Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar, Emory University, Atlanta, January 2014.

“Re-envisioning the Self: Iconography and Awakening in Tantric Buddhist *Sādhana*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Baltimore, November 2013.

“From Seal to Consort and Back Again: The Shifting Significance of the Term *mudrā* in Esoteric Buddhist Literature.” Invited lecture in the Buddhist Studies Lecture Series, University of California, Berkeley, April 2013.

“How Tibetan is Tibetan Buddhism? On the Applicability of a National Designation for a Transnational Tradition.” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, March 2013.

“Contested Origins: The Hindu Hymn of the Person, The Origin of the Caste System, and the Buddhist Responses.” Invited lecture in the Bannan Institute’s “Sacred Texts in the Public Sphere” lecture series. Santa Clara University, February 2013.

“[Un]covering the Secret in Tantric Buddhist Art.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago, November 2012.

Participant in two panel discussions, “Global religions in local contexts: Religious diversity in California” and “Defining the public in publicly engaged teaching and scholarship: Who needs what we can offer?” at the conference “California Local Religion Projects: When the Community is the Classroom,” at California State University, Chico, September 2012.

“Bodies of Knowledge, Knowledge of the Body: The Shifting Discourse about the Body and Gnosis in Perfection Stage Buddhist Practice.” Invited presentation at the Crafting Knowledge: Ritual, Art, Thought conference at Rice University, Houston, TX, April 2012.

“Artistic and Religious Freedom in Tibet: Threatened Traditions, Alive in Exile.” JAI Brown Bag Lunch Lecture, Santa Clara University, October 2011.

“Practical Hermeneutics: On the Transmission and Interpretation of the *Cakrasaṃvarābhisamaya*.” XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies at Dharma Drum Mountain, Taiwan, June 2011.

“Translation at the Limits of Buddhist Discourse: The Politics of the Translation of Esoteric Buddhist Scriptures.” XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies at Dharma Drum Mountain, Taiwan, June 2011.

“The Three Types of Fire Sacrifice According to Kāṇha’s *Śrīcakrasaṃvara-homavidhi*.” Invited presentation at the conference “Variations of Homa: From Vedic to Hindu and Buddhist.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 2010.

#### F. Editorial Work

2011-present Executive Editor, *Religious Studies Review*

2007-present Review Essay Editor, *Religious Studies Review*

2006-2007 Buddhism subeditor, *Religious Studies Review*

2008-present Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Religious History*

2005-present Editorial Board Member, *Treasury of Buddhist Sciences* book series, American Institute of Buddhist Studies

G. Languages

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