

Matthew W. King

Assistant Professor
Department of Religious Studies
University of California, Riverside
matthew.king@ucr.edu
951.500.0545

Education

- 2014 PhD., Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
Thesis Title: *Writing True Places: the Buddhist Historiography of Zavaa Damdin in the Early Days of Mongolian Socialism.*
- 2009 American Center for Mongolian Studies, Ulan Bator
Mongolian Language and Culture Seminar
- 2008 M.A. (With Distinction), Department for the Study of Religion
Thesis: *Finding the Buddha Hidden Below the Sand: Contested Visions in the Contemporary Mongolian Buddhist Revival.*
- 2005 Hon. B.A. (With Distinction), University of Toronto
Specialist in Socio-Cultural Anthropology

Academic History

CURRENT RESEARCH ENDEAVORS

Like Mixing Water and Milk: Buddhism and Knowledge Between Imperialism and Socialism in Inner Asia (tentative title). Book-length manuscript examining the historiography and (auto)biography of the Khalkha Mongol polymath Zawa Damdin Luwsandamdin (1867-1937), an abbot and critic of modernist movements leading up to the socialist purges of Mongolia's monastic population in 1937.

"Occidentalism in Revolutionary Inner Asia: Géluk Monasticism, Science, and State Socialism After the Collapse of the Qing and Tsarist Empires." This is a broad research project examining Mongolian, Tibetan, and Buryat scholastic negotiations of science, secularism and state socialism in revolutionary Inner Asia in the first half of the twentieth-century. Focused on knowledge aesthetics and competing practices of knowledge production.

"Mapping an Epic: Religion and Healing in Inner Asia." A research project focused on mapping the Gesar epic's 'therapeutic geographies' as a way of studying the intersections between space, religion, and medicine in Inner Asia. SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (2011-2014), under the supervision of Frances Garrett.

RESEARCH AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2013 Association for Asian Studies, Best Graduate Student Paper on China and Inner Asia. Paper Entitled: “Mongols’ in the Buddhicization of China and Tibet’, \$1000.
- 2012 Julia Ching Memorial Fellowship in Chinese Thought and Culture, \$5000.
- 2012 Khyentse Foundation Doctoral Scholarship, \$4000.
- 2010 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (2012-2012), \$40,000.
- 2011 Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation Lotus Scholarship, \$4000.
- 2011 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion Doctoral Field Research Scholarship, \$5000.
- 2009 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2009-11), \$24,000
- 2009 SSHRC 'Image, Text, Sound and Technology' Research Grant (Primary Applicant, Frances Garrett, \$50,000.
- 2009 Arts and Science Language Study Grant (University of Toronto), \$6500.
- 2008 Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Graduate, First Place in Student Essay Contest. Paper Entitled: “The Ideological Geography and Narrative Work of a Periphery Buddhist History”, \$1000.

Scholarly and Professional Work

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 “Like Giving Milk to a Snake: A Socialism of the Buryat-Mongol Buddhist Imaginary,” *Buddhist Socialisms in Asia: An Historical Perspective*, ed. Patrice Ladwig. London; New York: Routledge. (forthcoming)
- 2014 “Modernities, Sense-Making, and the Inscription of Mongolian Buddhist Place,” *Mongolian Buddhism*, ed. Vesna Wallace. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (forthcoming)
- 2014: Co-authored with Pamela Klassen. “Suppressing the Mad Elephant: Missionaries, Lamas, and the Mediation of Sacred Historiographies in the Tibetan Borderlands,” *History and Anthropology*. (forthcoming)
- 2013 With Frances Garrett et. al. "Narratives of Hospitality and Feeding in Tibetan Ritual," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 81 (2): 491-515.
- 2012 “The Buddha Hidden Below the Sand: Youth, Identity and Narrative in the Revival of Mongolian Buddhism,” in *Change in Democratic Mongolia: Social Relations, Health, Mobile Pastoralism, and Mining*, ed. Julian Dierkes. Leiden: Brill. pp. 17-30.

NON-REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2012 “Authorizing Origins and Civilizing Texts: Some Notes on Genealogy and Embodiment in late Mongolian Tibetan-language Historiography,” *The Material Culture, Language and Religion of Central and Inner Asia*, eds. Michael Gervers and Wayne Schlepp. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. pp. 163-78.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2014 Review of Katherine Swancutt. 2012. *Fortune and the Cursed: The Sliding Scale of Time in Mongolian Divination*. New York; Oxford: Berghahn Books. *Asian Ethnology*. (forthcoming).
- 2012 Review of Anne Chayet, Cristina Scherrer-Schaub, Françoise Robin, and Jean-Luc Achard, eds., *Edition, Éditions: L'Écrit au Tibet, Évolution et Devenir*. (eds.). *Collectanea Himalayica* 3. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 132 (1) (Jan-Feb. 2012): 103-5.

IN PROGRESS

- 2014 “Surveys of Monastic Colleges as Polemic in Zawa Damdin’s Golden Book (T. *gser gyi deb ther*; M. *altan dewter*),” *Mongolian Studies* 35 (forthcoming).
- 2014 “The Search for an ‘Historical’ King Gesar Between Monastery and Academy in Modernizing Inner Asia,” *Himalaya* (forthcoming).
- 2015 “Emancipation or Decay?: The Time of Social Imagination in Revolutionary Mongolia” (Article-length manuscript to be submitted to the *Journal of Asian Studies*, 2014)
- 2015 “Why Don’t We Write About Shugden? The Dorje Shugden Schism, the Mongolia Question, and Formative Allegiances in the Academic Study of Buddhism.” (Article-length manuscript to be submitted to volume on Buddhism and Politics, winter 2015)

PAPERS PRESENTED (INVITED)

- 2014 “Religion, Law and Economy in Revolutionary Inner Asia,” *Religion, Law and Economy Seminar*, Tübingen University, Germany.
- 2013 “Kalimpong, Orientalism, and Occidentalism in the Memoirs of Cecil Polhill and Māyang Paṇḍita,” *Lamas, Spies, Gentleman Scholars, and Trans-Himalayan Traders: The Meeting of Religion, Colonialism, Politics and Economics in Twentieth Century Kalimpong*, University of Toronto, Scarborough.
- 2013 “Mediating Conversion in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands: Cecil Polhill and Mayang Pandita,” *International Symposium: Mediating Religion- Emotional, Material, and Ideological Practices*, Tübingen University, Germany.
- 2012 “Law as a Force of History in Tibet and Mongolia,” *Force of Laws Workshop*, Jackman Humanities Centre, Toronto.
- 2012 “On Canadian Buddhist Engagement with Religious Rights Discourse and the Law,” *Ontario Human Rights Court Policy Dialogue: Creed, Freedom of Religion and Human Rights*, Toronto, Canada.
- 2011 “Creating Difference Through the Language of Sameness in Early-Modern Mongolian Historiography,” *After Pluralism Seminar, Religious and Ethnic Diversity Research Group*, Max-

Planck Institute, Göttingen, Germany.

- 2011 “Inter-textuality and the Negotiation of Difference in the Buddhist Historiography of bLo bzang rta dbyangs,” *Religion and the Arts in Mongolia Symposium*, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2011 “A Small Taste of Ambrosial Nectar: The Life of Zawa Damdin Lam at the End of Empire, on the Eve of Revolution,” *Mongolian Buddhism Seminar*, Stanford University.
- 2009 “The Life and Work of a Mongolian Buddhist Hermit-Scholar: Zawa Damdin bLo bzang rTa dbyangs 1867-1937,” *Buddhism in Mongolia: Rebirth and Transformation Conference*, Smith College, MA.

PAPERS PRESENTED (REFEREED)

- 2013 “Critique, Complicity, and Reform: The Invention of Buddhism and Mongolia in Ikh Khüree, 1900-1937,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 “They Use their Machines to Search All Over the World: Buddhist Monasticism and the Threat of Positivism in Revolutionary Mongolia,” *Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference on Religion*, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA.
- 2013 “Empiricism, Valid Cognition, and the Problem of Knowing in Post-Qing Mongolian Buddhist Historiography,” *Thirteenth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, Ulan bator, Mongolia.
- 2013 “The Materiality of Buddhist Revivalism in Mongolia,” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.
- 2012 “Dorje Shugden and the Revival of Mongolian Buddhism: Debates and Contexts,” *Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference*, University of Indiana Bloomington.
- 2012 “‘Mongols’ in the Buddhization of Tibet and China: Late Mongol Readings of Tibetan Language Sources,” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Toronto, ON.
- 2012 “Debate Which Destroys the Crazy Elephant’: Mongolian Scholastic Encounters with Inner Asian Modernities at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” *Ninth Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference*, University of Indiana Bloomington.
- 2010 “What’s New is Old in the Gobi: Conceptualizing Co-option, Appropriation and Re-deployment in the Mongolian Buddhist Revivalist Movement,” *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2010 “‘Tibet’ as an Ideological Category in Early-Modern Mongolian Buddhism,” *Twentieth Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions*, Toronto, ON.
- 2010 “Tibet in the Story of Khalkha, Khalkha in the story of Tibet: Agency and Locality

in the Histories of Zawa Damdin Lam (1867-1937),” *Twelfth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, University of British Columbia.

- 2009 “Making Mongols Buddhist: Healing and Conversion at the Interface of Tibet, Mongolia and China,” *North American Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference*, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2008 “Finding the Buddha Hidden Below the Sand: Dynamics and Complexity in the Revivalism of Mongolian Buddhism,” *Contemporary Mongolia: Transitions, Development and Social Transformations Conference*, University of British Columbia.
- 2008 “Rebirth, Recovery and Creation: Dynamics of Buddhist Revivalism in Contemporary Mongolia,” *Annual Meeting of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*. Emory University.
- 2008 “Unburying the Buddha: Strategies for Recovering and Recreating a Mongolian Buddhist Tradition,” *Central and Inner Asian Seminar Series*, University of Toronto.

PANELS ORGANIZED (REFEREED)

- 2014 Panel Co-Organizer: “Buddhism and Capitalism: Religious Economies in Modernizing Asia,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Diego, CA.
- 2012 Panel Organizer of “Representing Intercultural Transposition in Buddhist Mongolia” Panel, *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, Toronto, ON.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2013 Co-organized with Maria Dasios, “Media Fever! Religion as Mediation,” *International Graduate Symposium in Religious Studies*, University of Toronto.
- 2012 Co-organizer, “2010 North American Graduate Student Conference in Buddhist Studies,” University of Toronto.

PRESENTATIONS (NON-REFEREED)

- 2013 Discussant, “Media and Mediation in the Study of Religion,” *International Graduate Symposium in Religious Studies*, University of Toronto.
- 2012 Discussant, “Is the Study of Religion ‘Central’ or ‘Peripheral’ in the Academy?” *International Graduate Symposium in Religious Studies*, University of Toronto.
- 2011 “Debate Which Destroys the Crazy Elephant: Mongolian Scholastic Encounters with Inner Asian Modernities at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” Asian Institute PhD. Seminar Series, Munk School of Global Affairs, Toronto.
- 2010 “Temporalities in the Creation and Maintenance of Mongolian Buddhism,” Asian Institute PhD. Seminar Series. Munk School of Global Affairs, Toronto.

Research Positions

- 2011-4 Research Associate, SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (2011-2014), “Mapping an Epic: Religion and Healing in Inner Asia,” University of Toronto, Qinghai Nationalities University (China), University of Virginia (USA), University of Cardiff (UK).
- 2011-2 Project Manager, SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (2011-2014), “Mapping an Epic: Religion and Healing in Inner Asia,” University of Toronto, Qinghai Nationalities University (China), University of Virginia (USA), University of Cardiff (UK).
- 2010 Research Assistant, SSHRC Image, Text, Sound and Technology Research Grant, “Visualizing Tibetan Ritual in Contemporary Amdo,” Xining, China.
- 2007-8 Digital Archive Assistant, Tibetan & Himalayan Library’s “Tibetan Medicine and Ritual” media archives.
- 2007 Research Assistant, Asia Institute’s Ethics and Qualitative Study in Asia Seminar Series, Munk Centre for Global Affairs, Toronto.

Teaching

COURSES TAUGHT

- 2013 “The Study of Religion,” Second-year undergraduate course, University of Toronto, 115 students, 2 Teaching Assistants.
- 2013 “Buddhist Ritual,” Third-year undergraduate course, University of Toronto, 25 students.
- 2013 “Buddhism and Violence,” Third-year undergraduate course, King’s University College, (Western University), 18 students.
- 2012-3 “Introduction to Classical Tibetan” Second-year undergraduate course, University of Toronto, 17 students.
- 2012 “The Study of Religion,” Second-year undergraduate course, University of Toronto, 60 students, 1 Teaching Assistant.
- 2011 “Buddhist Meditation: Historical, Doctrinal, and Ethnographic Perspectives,” Third-year undergraduate course, University of Toronto, 35 students.
- 2011 “Introduction to the Anthropology of Religion,” Second-year undergraduate course, University of Toronto, 30 students.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2013-4 “The Internet: Saving Civilization or Killing the Planet?” Arts and Science, University of Toronto.

- 2012 “Tibetan Buddhism,” Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- 2012 “Introduction to Buddhism,” Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto.
- 2010-1 “The Buddhist Tradition,” Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- 2010-1 “Method and Theory in the History of Religion,” Department of Historical Studies.
- 2009 “The Study of East Asian Religions,” East Asian Studies and the Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- 2008-9 “The Phenomenon of Religion,” Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- 2008-9 “The Religions of the Silk Road,” Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- 2006-7 “The Buddhist Tradition,” Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.

Other Academic and Professional Service

- 2012-3 Secretary, University of Toronto Religious Studies Student Association.
- 2012 Invited Participant, Ontario Human Rights Court Policy Dialogue: Creed, Freedom of Religion and Human Rights, Toronto.
- 2012 Participant, Roots and Routes: Scholarly Networks and Knowledge Production in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean and in the Digital Age, University of Toronto.
- 2009 Peer reviewer, *Symposia: The Graduate Student Journal of the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto*.
- 2008-9 Member, Scholarly Output in a Digital Age (SODA), Jackman Humanities Working Group, University of Toronto.

Research Languages

Classical Tibetan; Modern Khalkha Mongolian (reading and spoken); Classical Mongolian (intermediate proficiency); French; German (reading).

Professional Memberships

- American Academy of Religion
- Association for Asian Studies
- International Association of Buddhist Studies
- International Association of Tibetan Studies
- Central Eurasian Studies Society
- Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

References

Dr. Frances Garrett (Doctoral Supervisor)

Associate Professor & Associate Chair, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
416.978.1020, frances.garrett@utoronto.ca

Dr. Natalie Rothman (Doctoral Committee Member)

Associate Professor, Department for Historical Studies, University of Toronto
416.208-2922, rothman@utsc.utoronto.ca

Dr. Amanda Goodman (Doctoral Committee Member)

Assistant Professor, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
416.946.3350, amanda.goodman@utoronto.ca