

AMANDA J. LUCIA, PH.D.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
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(PRIOR TO 4/2013 AMANDA J. HUFFER)

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EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D., The University of Chicago Divinity School
 History of Religions
 Dissertation: "Darshan in a Hotel Ballroom: Amritanandamayi Ma's
 (Amma's) Communities of Devotees in the United States"
 Committee: Wendy Doniger (chair), Steven Collins, Omar McRoberts
- 2004 University of Chicago Divinity School
 M.A., History of Religions
- 1998 Indiana University
 B.A., Religious Studies, India Studies

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2011- Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside
- 2010-11 Visiting Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Austin College
- 2005-06 Visiting Lecturer, Hindi/Urdu, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 2004-05 Lecturer, Hindi, The University of Chicago

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Reflections of Amma: Devotees in a Global Embrace. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.
Emory Elliott Book Award Winner, Center for Ideas and Society, UCR, 2013-2014
Named one of "The Best Spiritual Books of 2014" (top 50), *Spirituality & Practice*

American Yogis: Play, Representation, and Authenticity (in progress)

ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

"Give Me *Sevā* Overtime:" Selfless Service and Humanitarianism in Mata Amritanandamayi's
Transnational Guru Movement" *History of Religions*, 2014, 53: 4: 188-207.

"Innovative Gurus: Tradition and Change in Contemporary Hinduism," *International Journal of
Hindu Studies*, 2014, 18, 2: 221-263.

“Backdoor Hinduism: A Recoding in the Language of Spirituality” *Nidan: International Journal for the Study of Hinduism*, December 2011, Vol. 23: 53-71.

“Hinduism without Religion: Amma’s Movement in America” *CrossCurrents: Special Issue: Religion in Asia Today*, September 2011, Vol. 61, Issue 3: 374-398.

“Female Immigration as a Catalyst for Ritual Practice: A Social History of Hinduism in the United States” *Journal of Hindu Studies* (2010) 3(2): 189-215.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

“*Mata Amritanandamayi*,” Religious Genius Project, The Elijah Interfaith Institute (in press).

“*Beyond the Critique of Consumerism: Display and Exhibit at the Kumbh Mela 2013*,” Society for Pilgrimage Studies, Cambridge Scholars Publishing (accepted, forthcoming).

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Mata Amritanandamayi Mission Trust/Embracing the World,” *BRILL Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, vol. V, edited by Knut A. Jacobsen. Leiden: BRILL (2013), 523-30.

WEB ARTICLES

“How ISKCON took Hinduism to the US Heartland,” *Scroll.In*, January 16, 2015, <http://scroll.in/article/700557/How-ISKCON-took-Hinduism-to-the-US-heartland>

“Who Needs a Hug(ging) Saint?” *Religion in American History*, September 21, 2014, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2014/09/who-needs-hugging-saint.html>

REVIEWS

Michael J. Altman, “Imagining Hindus: India and Religion in Nineteenth Century America,” *Religious Studies Dissertation Reviews*, February 23, 2015, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/11459>

Vincent Wimbush, ed. *MisReading America: Scriptures and Difference*, *Inscriptions*, Vol. 9, Spring 2014: 2-4.

Jacob Copeman and Aya Ikegame, eds. *The Guru in South Asia*, *Religious Studies Review*, (2014) Vol. 40(1): 55-56.

Jacob Copeman and Aya Ikegame, eds. *The Guru in South Asia*, *Religion and Society: Advances in Research*, 4 (2013): 212-213.

Tulasi Srinivas, *Winged Faith: Rethinking Globalization and Religious Pluralism Through the Sathya Sai Movement*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, (2011) Vol. 70 (3): 894-896.

Kavita Ramdya, *Bollywood Weddings: Dating, Engagement, and Marriage in Hindu America*, *Journal of Hindu Studies*, (2011) 4(1): 109-110.

Sumathi Ramaswamy, *The Goddess and the Nation: Mapping Mother India*, *History of Religions*, (2011) Vol. 51, No. 2: 185-188.

Orianne Aymard, When a Goddess Dies: Worshipping Ma Anandamayi after Her Death, *The Journal of Religion*, (forthcoming).

Véronique Altglas, From Yoga to Kabbalah: Religious Exoticism and the Logics of Bricolage, *Nova Religio* (forthcoming).

TRANSLATIONS

Translation of selections from the Sadhvi Shakti Parishad's (a subsidiary of the VHP) *Matramahashakti*, (Hindi original) available at the Regenstein Library, *The University of Chicago*. (2007)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Spring 2015 "The Public Practice of Immigrant and Minority Religions in Southern California," Advancing Intercultural Studies: A Quarterly Seminar Series, funded by the Mellon Foundation, through the Center for Ideas and Society, UCR (one course release, \$6,200)
- Winter 2015 Innovative Learning Technology Initiatives (ILTI), UCR, to develop RLST 012 into an online course (\$2,500)
- 2014-15 Academic Senate Omnibus Travel Award, Committee on Research, UCR (\$1,300)
- 2013-15 Co-PI: Religion in Diaspora and Global Affairs (RIDAGA) Humanities Studio Award, University of California Humanities Research Initiative (\$75,000)
- 2013-14 Hellman Fellowship, University of California, Riverside (\$30,000)
- 2013-14 Academic Senate Omnibus Travel Award, Committee on Research, UCR (\$1,125)
- 2013-14 Regents Faculty Fellowship, Committee on Research, UCR (\$4,400)
- 2013-14 Mellon Workshop, Center for Ideas and Society, UCR, Co-PI/Director: ISIR (Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion) (\$2,500)
- 2012-13 Mellon Workshop, Center for Ideas and Society, UCR, Co-PI/Director: ISIR (\$3,500)
- 2011-12 Stimulus Money, Office of the Chancellor, UCR, Co-PI/Director: ISIR (\$13,500)
- 2011-12 Faculty Research Grant, UCR (\$15,000)
- 2011-2013 ACLS Mellon New Faculty Fellowship (*declined*)

2009-10	Dissertation Fellowship, Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS)
2009	Dissertation Research Stipend, COSAS/Divinity School, The University of Chicago
2008-09	Dissertation Fellowship, COSAS
2005-06	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant, Malayalam
2004-05	FLAS Grant, Hindi
2003-04	FLAS Grant, Hindi
2003	American Institute of India Studies (AIIS)/FLAS grant for summer advanced Hindi study in India
1996-97	College Year in India Program (Varanasi), University of Wisconsin, Madison

INVITED TALKS

“An Intimate Connection: Devotional Desires and Guru Physicality,” Gurus: Mapping Spirituality in Contemporary India, South Asian Council Annual Conference, Yale University, April 2015

“Modern Postural Yoga through Multiple Lenses,” Dueling Disciplines: Critical Dance Studies, Religious Studies, and Political Theory,” Center for Ideas and Society, UCR, February 2015.

“Reflections on *Reflections of Amma*,” Reception and Book Talk for 2014 Emory Elliott Book Award, Center for Ideas and Society, UCR, January 2015.

“The Yoga of Antiquity: American Yoga and Authenticity,” Dance Department Colloquium, UCR, November 2014

“Reflecting on *Reflections of Amma*,” a conversation with Dr. Edward Blum, Religious Studies Colloquium, UCR, April 2014.

“Seeking the Sacred: Transformational Festivals and the Search for Spiritual Experience,” Indiana University, Bloomington, February 2014.

“Ethics of Ethnography,” Honors Symposium, University of California, Riverside, February 2014, January 2013, and October 2011.

Respondent to *MisReading America: Scriptures and Difference*, edited by Vincent Wimbush with Lalruatkima and Melissa Renee Reid. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Claremont Graduate University, October 2013.

“Ascetic Discipline and the Kumbh Mela 2013,” Center for Ideas and Society Speaker Series, University of California, Riverside – Palm Desert Campus, February 2013.

“The One and the Many: Religious Pluralism in India,” California Agricultural Leaders Association, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, November, 2012.

“Do We Still Need Gurus?” Colloquium Panel with Ivan Strenski, Toby Johnson, and Erich Schwitzgebel, University of California, Riverside, October 2011.

“Swami Vivekananda and the 1893 World’s Parliament of Religions,” Asia Week, Austin College, Sherman, Texas, March 2011.

“Swami Vivekananda and the World’s Parliament of Religions,” Teacher Workshop, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 2011.

“Hinduism Without Religion: Amma’s Movement in America,” University of California, Riverside, February 2011.

“Performing Authority: Amritanandamayi Ma’s Theater of the Goddess,” Albion College, Albion, MI, February 2011.

“Hindu Religiosity in America,” Rotary Club of Delphi, Delphi, Indiana, January 2011.

“Ordinary Women, Goddesses, and Gurus: Post-1965 Diversification of Vivekananda’s Hinduism.” Hindus in India and America: Hinduizing America; Globalizing India Conference, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May, 2010.

“Like Bees to Honey: Amma and her American devotees through the lens of *Devi Bhava*.” Theory and Practice in South Asia (TAPSA) Seminar, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May 2010.

“Like Bees to Honey: Amma and her American devotees through the lens of *Devī Bhāva*,” Elon University, Elon, North Carolina, February 2010.

“From the Serampore Mission to the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (HTGC): A History of “American Hinduism,” Theory and Practice in South Asia (TAPSA) Seminar, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, October 2009.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“From Healing to Sex Scandal: Understanding the Haptic Logics of Guru Intimacy,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Semi-Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2015

“Saving Yogis: Missionizing Discourses of American Yoga,” Yoga (R)evolution? Interrogating Possibilities and Practices, The Race and Yoga Research Working Group Annual Conference, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, April 2015

“Mormons Playing Holi at the Hare Krishna Temple: Cultural Representation, Proselytization, and the Productive Spaces of Festival,” American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., December 2014.

Gods Just Want to Have Fun: Ecstasy, Celebration and Community in Los Angeles Religions. Panel Respondent. American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.

“Innovative Yoga Gurus: Charisma, Devotees, and the creation of NRMs,” When New Religious Movements Get Old, Conference in honor of Eileen Barker, UCR, February 2014.

“Textuality, Sexuality, and Embodiment: performing the *Vijnana Bhairava Tantra*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, 2013.

“Is Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma) a ‘Religious Genius?’” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, 2013.

“Vectors of Religious Labor at the Kumbh Mela 2013,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 2013.

“Ascetic Discipline and the Kumbh Mela,” Society for Pilgrimage Studies, University of Allahabad, Allahabad, India, February 2012.

“Reviving the ‘Golden Age of the Vedas’: Gendered Innovations of Hindu Ritual,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago 2012.

“Exhibit(ing) India: Authenticity and the Politics of Representation in American Yoga,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago 2012.

“Hunting Exotic India: Freak Show and Festival in America 1894-2012,” South Asian Studies Association (SASA) Annual Conference, Claremont, California, April 2012.

“Hinduism without Religion: the Rhetoric of ‘Spirituality’ in Amma’s Global Guru Movement,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2011.

“Spiritual, But Not Hindu: Universalism in a Global Transnational Guru Movement,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial meeting, Santa Fe, 2011.

“A ‘Feminine’ and Feminist Form of Hindu Religiosity: The Goddess in Amritanandamayi Ma’s Movement,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, 2010.

“Bounded Communities: Ammachi’s Communities of Devotees in the United States.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2009.

“From the Serampore Mission to the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (HTGC): A History of ‘American Hinduism,’” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, 2009.

“Surprising Parallels: Rhetoric of Divine Motherhood in the Discourses of the Sadhvi Shakti Parishad and Amritanandamayi Ma,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, 2007.

“An Analysis of Female Agency in Nancy Falk’s ‘Shakti Ascending: Hindu Women, Politics, and Religious Leadership During the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.’” Midwest American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, River Forest, Illinois, 2007.

COURSES

UCR:

Lower Division: Introduction to Asian Religions; Religious Myth and Ritual

Upper Division: Modern Hinduism; Gurus and Saints; Method and Theory in the Study of Religion; New Religious Movements, Women and Religion, Senior Seminar

Graduate Seminars: Advanced Topics in the Study of North American Religion; Ethnographic Methodology

Independent Studies:

2014-2015: American Communal Utopias (Christina Rosetti); Muslim Postcolonial Feminisms in South Asia (Affaf Waseem)

2013-2014: Hinduism in America (Cyril Wohrer); Sociology of Religion (Anna Beck); Shirdi Sai Baba (Narayan Annamalai); First Year Hindi/Urdu: I, II, III (Jessica Rehman)

2012-2013: Hinduism in America (Sonia Crasnow); Transmission of Buddhism from Asia to the United States (Shou Kuo).

Austin College:

Religion, Culture, and Society in Asia; Asian Religions in America; Gurus and Globalization; Hinduism; Buddhism

University of Illinois, Chicago

Second year Hindi/Urdu; Advanced Readings Hindi/Urdu

The University of Chicago:

Second year Hindi

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 2009-10 | Research Assistant for Dr. Wendy Doniger, History of Religions
The University of Chicago |
| 2007-08 | Program Assistant, South Asia Language Resource Center (SALRC)
The University of Chicago. |
| 2006 | Summer Research Assistant for Dr. Martin Riesebrodt, Sociology of Religion, The University of Chicago |
| 2004-05 | Research Assistant for Dr. Christian Wedemeyer, History of Religions
The University of Chicago |
| 2004-05 | Coordinator, Theory and Practice in South Asia (TAPSA) Lecture Series
The University of Chicago |
| 2002-04
6-9/2005 | Coordinator, South Asia Outreach
The University of Chicago |
| 2004 | Summer Research Assistant for Dr. Martin Riesebrodt, Sociology of Religion
The University of Chicago |

SERVICE, PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, AND ASSOCIATIONS

Service to Academic Institutions:

CHASS Executive Committee Member (2014-present, UCR); Faculty Liaison for Undergraduate RLST Club (2012-present, UCR); Religious Studies Graduate Program Committee (2011-present, UCR); Undergraduate Advisor for Religious Studies (Fall 2011, UCR); Asian Studies Committee (2010-2011, Austin College); coordinated Asia Week (2010-2011, Austin College)

Student Advising

Dissertation Committee: (Co-Chair) Shou Kuo, RLST, UCR (2014-); Jen Aubrecht, Dance, UCR (2014-); Sean Sagan, RLST, UCR (2013-); Jeremy Guida, RLST, UCR (2013-); Sonia Crasnow, RLST, UCR (2013-); Allison Solso, RLST, UCR (2012-15); Charles Townsend, RLST, UCR, (2012-)

Doctoral Exam Committee: (Chair) Shou Kuo, RLST, UCR (2014); Jen Aubrecht, Dance, UCR (2014); Jeremy Guida, RLST, UCR (2013); Sean Sagan, RLST, UCR, (2013); Sonia Crasnow, RLST, UCR, (2013); Daniel Pschaida, RLST, UCR, (2012); Daniel Suh, Sociology, UCR, (2012), proxy for Ivan Strenski

Master's Exam Committee: Anna Beck, RLST, UCR, (2014); Erin Routon, RLST, UCR, (2013); James Edmonds, RLST, UCR, (2012)

Advisor, Senior Honor's Thesis: Aubrey Francis, Psychology, UCR, (2013)

Urdu Placement Exam: Mohammad Sameer Saddiqi (2014); Saad Sidiqqi (2013); Affaf Waseem (2013); Aleena Khan (2012)

Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion (ISIR) Research Supervisor (2012-)

Service to Academic Fields:

Co-Director: Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion (2012-)

Contributor: Working Group, Center for Religion and Civic Life, University of Southern California (2012-)

Reviewer: *Journal of Asian and African Studies* (2015); *American Jewish History* (2015); *History of Religions* (2014); University of California Press (2014); Columbia University Press (2013); *International Journal of Hindu Studies* (2012); *Asian Women* (2011); *International Social Sciences Journal* (2010); *The Journal of Religion* (2009)

Public Outreach:

Interviewed by high school students from Rancho Verde High School on Swami Vivekananda, November 12, 2014.

Alumni Pedagogy Workshop: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Chicago, April 2013

Interviewed by Kirsten Anne Schmitt on Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma), for Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism publication, July 19, 2013

Interviewed by Ela Dutt on the Pew Forum report, “Asian Americans: A Mosaic of Faiths,” for *News India Times*, August 28, 2012
Interviewed by David Olson of the *Press Enterprise* on the launching of the Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion at UCR, May 31, 2012
Interviewed by Adriana Janovich on Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and global guru movements for USC’s student newspaper, *Neon Tommy*, April 18, 2012
Panelist: Hinduism and Buddhism for Student Forum, Austin College, 2011
Interviewed by Josh Jarman of *The Columbus Dispatch* on Karunamayi Ma’s visit to the Midwest, June 2007.

Languages:

Hindi: advanced. Urdu: good. Sanskrit: reading. French: reading. German: limited reading. Malayalam: elementary.

Technical:

Web-based teaching tools (iLearn/Blackboard/Moodle), Word, Excel, Publisher, Databases, Adobe, basic HTML/XHTML

Professional Memberships:

American Academy of Religion (AAR), AAR Hinduism Group Co-Chair (2014-), AAR Hinduism Group Steering Committee (2011-); American Anthropological Association (AAA); Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR); Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA); American Studies Association (ASA)

REFERENCES

Dr. Pashaura Singh, Professor, University of California, Riverside, pashaura.singh@ucr.edu

Dr. Michael Alexander, Associate Professor, University of California, Riverside, mikealex@ucr.edu

Dr. Wendy Doniger, Professor, The University of Chicago, don8@uchicago.edu

Dr. Steven Collins, Professor, The University of Chicago, s-collins@uchicago.edu