
Professor, Department for the Study of Religion

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(Updated Septembet 2021)

Professor, Saint Mary's University (2016-present)

Chair, Department of Religious Studies (2013-present), Saint Mary's University

Research Associate

-present)

Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, Dalhousie University (2018-present)

Coordinator, Asian Studies Program (2010-2013), Saint Mary's University

Academic Qualifications

2000 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Anthropology. Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS), The Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia.

Dissertation title: *The Buddha's Blessing: Gender and Buddhist Practice in Hanoi.*

Topic: The dissertation explores connections between religious practice, gender discourses, identity and power. It starts with an examination into how gendered positions influence perceptions of religion by participants and non-participants. It then examines how men and women tend towards different religious practices and view their participation differently. Their views relate to gender discourses and make specific power claims within the contexts of community and family.

1994 Master of Arts (MA), History and Philosophy of Religion. Concordia University, Montréal, Canada. Concentration in Hinduism and Buddhism.

Thesis title: Gender and Division of Labour in a Vietnamese-Canadian Buddhist Pagoda.

Topic: The thesis explores how, in the absence of traditional precedents for dealing with monks and nuns residing in one pagoda, existing gender structures from the family have shaped the division of labour and power within a Vietnamese Buddhist organisation in Montréal.

1991 Bachelor of Arts (BA), Honours Religion with distinction. Concordia University, Montréal, Canada. Concentration on Asian religions. Honours thesis written on religion in Taiwan.

1988 Diplôme d'études collégiales (DEC), Social Science. John Abbott College, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec.

Research Projects

- 1. Vietnamese Buddhism in Canada:** Using ethnographic research methodologies I have worked with the Vietnamese Buddhist communities in Canada.
- 2. Vietnamese Buddhism in Hanoi:** Using ethnographic research methodologies I have conducted research on Vietnamese religion in northern Vietnam (mainly Buddhism, but also on spirit mediumship, séances, communal house rituals and other cultural practices).

3.

French: working knowledge
Vietnamese: working knowledge
Mandarin Chinese: intermediate
Korean: Beginner

2021	Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada scholarship (SSHRC), Insight Thich Nhat Hanh in Context	\$61,724.
2021	Saint Mary's	

Books & Theses:

- In Progress *The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective* [working title] (co-writing with John Harding, Victor Hori)
- Forthcoming *Zen Conquest: Buddhist Transformations in Contemporary Vietnam* [working title]. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- 2020 *Buddhism in the Global Eye: Beyond East and West*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. (co-edited with John Harding, Victor Hori).
- 2014 *Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press. (co-edited with John Harding, Victor Hori).
- 2012 *The Buddha Side: Gender, Power and Buddhist Practice in Vietnam*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- 2010 *Wild Geese: Studies of Buddhism in Canada*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press. (co-edited with John Harding, Victor Hori).
- 1999 *The Buddha's Blessing: Gender and Buddhist Practice in Hanoi*. Ph.D.

- 2014 "Buddhist Globalism and the Search for Canadian Buddhism." In John Harding, Victor S gen Hori and Alexander Soucy (eds.) *Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada*, pp. 25-52. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- 2014 "Introduction." In John Harding, Victor S gen Hori and Alexander Soucy (eds.) *Flowers on the Rock: Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada*, pp. 3-24. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press. (co-authored with John Harding and Victor Hori)
- 2014 "The Buddha and the Birch Tree: The Great Pine Forest Monastery and the Localization of Vietnamese Buddhism to Canada." *Contemporary Buddhism: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 15(2): 373-393.
- 2014 "Wedding Invitations and Relationship Management in Hanoi, Vietnam." *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 15(2):141-157.
- 2013 "Outpost Buddhism: Vietnamese Buddhism in Halifax." *The Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* 9: 107-28.

- 2000 "Vietnamese Warriors, Vietnamese Mothers: State Imperatives in the Portrayal of Women." *Canadian Woman Studies/ les cahiers de la femme, special issue: Women in Conflict Zones* 19(4):121-126.
- 1999 "Masculinities and Buddhist symbolism in Vietnam." In Katherine Biber, Tom Sear and Dave Trudinger (eds) *Playing the Man: New Approaches to Masculinity*. pp. 123-134. Sydney: Pluto Press.
- 1996 "The Dynamics of Change in an Exiled Pagoda: Vietnamese Buddhism in Montréal." *Canberra Anthropology* 19(2):29-45.
- 1993 "The Role of Women at the Tam Bao Pagoda, Montréal." *Journal of Religion and Culture* Spring (8):57-72.

Review Articles:

- 2000 "Women's Bodies Women's Worries / Health and Wealth in Vietnam/ The Vietnamese Family in Change." A review article of *Women's Bodies, Women's Worries: Health and Family Planning in a Vietnamese Rural Community*. By Tine Gammeltoft; *Health and Wealth in Vietnam: An Analysis of Household Living Standards*. By Dominique Haughton et.al., and;

- 2009 Possessed by the Spirits: Mediumship in Contemporary Vietnamese Communities. Karen Fjelstad and Nguyen Thi Hien. *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses*. 38(1): 169
- 2008 Wandering Souls. (film) By Boris Lojkine. *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses*. 37(3-4): 561-562.
- 2008 Glenafooka: The Glen of the Ghosts. (film) Black Witch Film Productions. *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses*. 37(2):379-380.
- 2007 The Lotus Unleashed: The Buddhist Peace Movement in South Vietnam, 1964-1966. Robert J. Topmiller. *Religious Studies and Theology*.
- 2007 Arukihenro: Walking Pilgrims. (film) Tiger Toda Films. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*. 8(4): 363-365
- 2006 Buddhism and Science: Breaking New Ground. B. Alan Wallace (ed.) *Ecotheology*. 11(3): 379-380.
- 2006 Searching for Vietnam: Selected Writings on Vietnamese Culture and Society. A. Terry Rambo. *Anthropological Forum*. 16(2):205-207.
- 2006 Establishing a Pure Land on Earth: The Foguang Buddhist Perspective on Modernization and Globalization. Stuart Chandler. *H-Buddhism On-Line Book Review*. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.cgi?path=152591136821850>.
- 2005 Images in Asian Religions: Texts and Contexts. Phyllis Granoff and Koichi Shinohara (eds.) *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses*. 34 (3-4): 583-584.
- 2005 Action Dharma: New Studies in Engaged Buddhism. Christopher Queen, Charles Prebish and Damien Keown (eds.) *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 12. <http://jbe.gold.ac.uk/12/soucy-review.pdf>.
- 2005 Print and Power: Confucianism, Communism and Buddhism in the making of modern Vietnam. Shawn Frederick McHale. *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses* 34(2): 286-287.
- 2005 Culture, Ritual and Revolution in Vietnam. Shaun Kingsley Malarney. *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses* 34(2): 283-284.
- 2005 Window on a War: An Anthropologist in the Vietnam Conflict. Gerald C. Hickey. *H-War On-Line Book Review*, <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=80991121185878>.
- 2004 The Sociology of early Buddhism, Greg Bailey and Ian Mabbett (eds.) *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses* 33(3-4):440-442.
- 2004 Sweet and Sour: Life-Worlds of Taipei Women Entrepreneurs. Scott Simon. *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology On-Line Book Reviews*, <http://www.csaa.ca/BookReview/ReviewsList.htm>.
- 2001 Masculinities: Football, Polo and the Tango in Argentina. Eduardo P. Archetti. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 2(1).
- 2001 Other Modernities: Gendered Yearnings in China After Socialism. Lisa Rofel. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 2(1).
- 2001 Margaret Mead, Gregory Bateson, and Highland Bali: Fieldwork Photographs of Bayung Gede, 1936- 1939. Gerald Sullivan. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 2(1).
- 2001 Reimagining Culture: Histories, Identities and the Gaelic Renaissance. Sharon Macdonald. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 2(1).
- 2000 Between Tradition and Modernity: India's Search for Identity. Fred Dallmayr and G. N. Devy (eds). *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 1(2).
- 2000 Religion, Dress and the Body. Linda B Arthur (ed.) *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 1(1):130-131.
- 2000 The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-structure (1st Aldine paperback edition). Victor Turner. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 1(1):152.
- 2000 The Politics of Ritual and Remembrance: Laos Since 1975. Grant Evans. *Canberra Anthropology* 22(2):107-109.

1999 Malinowski's Kiriwana: Fieldwork Photography 1915-1918. Michael W. Young. *Canberra Anthropology* 22(1).

1999

- 2019 *Understanding Vietnamese Buddhism Today Through Function Systems* . 10th EuroSEAS Conference Humboldt University, Berlin. 10-13 September. *Field*
- 2019 [invited] *Re-enchanted Modernities: The Reassertion of the Supernatural in Vietnamese Buddhism*. The Multiplicity of Asian Buddhist Modernities, University of California, Berkeley 15-17 February.
- 2018 *Globalisation and Re-enchantment in Vietnamese Buddhism*. Association of Southeast Asian Studies-UK, University of Leeds, 5-7 September.
- 2017 *The Modern Dead: Funerals and Orthodoxy in Truc Lam Zen*. 9th EuroSEAS Conference Oxford University, UK. 16-18 August.
- 2017

- 2013 *Pushing the Boundaries of the Buddhist Field: Political Activism in Vietnam*. Religious Studies Departmental Seminar. Saint Mary's University, 11 October.
- 2013 *Political Monks for the State: New Buddhist Nationalism in Vietnam*. 7th EuroSEAS Conference 2013 School of Social and Political Sciences ISCS University of Lisbon - Lisbon, 2-5 July.
- 2013 *Collaborative Research on Buddhism in Canada: The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective Project*. Religious Diversity in Atlantic Canada: Building Collaborative Research Capacity for the Present and the Future. Saint Mary's University, 28-29 May.
- 2012 [invited] *Altered Space for a New Zen in Vietnam*. Religion, Place and Modernity in East and Southeast Asia: Comparative Perspectives on the Placing of Religion in the Context of Modernity (DORISEA-Workshop). University of Göttingen, Germany, 19-22 September.
- 2012 *Global Zen/National Zen: Transformations in Buddhist Practice in Northern Vietnam*. Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, 26-29 May.
- 2012 [invited] *Religion and Transnational Connections: Reflections on How to Approach the Study of Religions and Ethnicity in Canada*. Keynote address. The Study of Religion in Atlantic Canada: Diverse Disciplines, Theories, Methods, and Contexts. Saint Mary's University, 23 May.
- 2011 [invited] *Zenning Vietnamese Buddhism: Discourses and Orthodox Texts*

- 2006 *American Buddhists in Canada: An Exploration of Buddhism as Cultural Baggage*. Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, York University, Toronto, May 28-31.
- 2005 [invited] *Nationalism, Globalism and the Re-establishment of the Truc Lam Thien Buddhist Sect in Northern Vietnam*. Vietnam Update 2005, Not by Rice Alone: Making Sense of Spirituality in Reform Era Vietnam, Australian National University, August 11-12.
- 2005 *The Re-invention of Vietnamese Zen*. Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, May 28-31.
- 2005 *Buddhism in Canada*. Discussant in the Roundtable on Religion and Ethnicity in Canada, Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, May 28-31.
- 2004 *Consuming Loc Creating On*. Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, University of Manitoba, May 28-June 1.
- 2004 [invited] *Making a Media Impact*. Stop TB Canada World TB Day Conference: Two diseases, one person: Advocacy and collaboration for TB and HIV Ottawa, March 24-25.
- 2003 [invited] *The Importance of Advocacy*. Presented at the Stop TB Canada World TB Day Conference Reducing the global impact of TB: Canada's fair share, Ottawa, March 23-24.
- 2001 [invited] *The Language of Authority: Gender and Religious Practice in Hanoi*. Inaugural lecture of the series: New Research on Gender, Society and Religion, Concordia University, Department of Religion and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Montréal, November 29.
- 2000 [invited] *18 by invitation*. Presented at the Donour Group Meeting on Gender, Hanoi, June 30.
- 1999 *Romantic Love and Gender Hegemony in Vietnam: A Preliminary Exploration*. Workshop on Southeast Asian Women, Monash University, Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Melbourne, September 30.
- 1999 *The Problem with Key Informants*. The Australian Anthropological Society annual conference, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, July 10-13.
- 1999 *The Ritual Experts: Language, Orthodoxy and the Assertion of Authority in Vietnamese Buddhism*. Joint Anthropology Seminar Series, The Australian National University, March 31.
- 1998 *Di Choi and the Religious Practice of Hanoian Youths*. Vietnam Update 1998 Urban Tiger! Everyday Life and Cultural Change in Urban Vietnam, The Australian National University, December 3-4.
- 1998 *Masculinities and Buddhist Symbolism in Vietnam*. Playing the Man: A Postgraduate Conference on Approaches to Masculinity, University of Sydney, November 13.
- 1998 *Where Have All the Young Men Gone? Men, Women and Religious Practice in Hanoi*. Joint Anthropology Seminar Series, The Australian National University, October 28.
- 1998 *Women's Culture Written: State Imperatives and Vietnamese Feminism*. The Australian Anthropological Society conference, The Australian National University, October 1-3.
- 1998 *Gendered Practice and Interpretation in Vietnamese Buddhism*. The Asian Studies Association of Australia conference: Asia in Global Context, University of New South Wales, September 28-October 1.
- 1996 *Loose-Tongued Women and Men Who Side with Their Wives Against Their Parents: Representations of Gender in Chinese Hell*. The Australian Anthropological Society Annual Conference, Charles Sturt University, Albury, Australia October 2-4.
- 1996 *Baths of Blood: Men and Women in Taiwanese Depictions of Hell*, Graduate Program in Anthropology Seminar Series, The Australian National University, September 13.
- 1996 *Gender, Identity and Buddhist Practice in Vietnam*, Graduate Program in Anthropology Seminar Series, The Australian National University, August 16.
- 1996 *Shifting Gender Ideologies: A Case Study of a Vietnamese Buddhist Temple in Montréal*, The Thai-Yunnan Project Conference, Disenchantment and Re-enactment: Southeast Asian Religion Today, The Australian National University, 14 and March 15.

- 1994 *Gender Structure and Temple Tasks in a Vietnamese Buddhist Pagoda*. The American Academy of Religion, Eastern Region Annual Conference, l'Université de Québec a Montréal, April.
- 2020- Member of the Editorial Board for *The Journal of Global Buddhism*.
2015- Member of the Executive Editorial Committee for the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies*.
2011- Member of the editorial board for *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*.
2004- Online review editor for the *H-Buddhism* academic discussion forum.
2007-09 Film review editor for *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses*.
1999-00 Review editor for *Canberra Anthropology: an Australian Journal of Anthropology*.
1993-94 Editor of *The Journal of Religion and Culture*

European Association for Southeast Asian Studies
International Association of Buddhist Studies
International Association for the History of Religions
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Vietnam Studies Association of Australia