

## TCU CURRICULUM VITAE

### NAME

Antoinette E. DeNapoli  
John F. Weatherly Professor of Religion  
Professor of Religion/South Asian Religions

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Religion Department  
Beasley Hall  
Fort Worth, TX, 76107

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### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

#### Education

- 2009 Ph.D., West and South Asian Religions, Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia  
“Leave Everything and Sing to God”: The Performance of Devotional Asceticism by Female Sadhus of Rajasthan
- 2002-2003 American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), Hindi Language Program, Jaipur, Rajasthan, INDIA  
*Completed an academic year-long intensive, immersion-based language study program in advanced modern standard Hindi*
- 2001 Center for International Programs Abroad (CIPA), Emory University, Hindi Language Program, INDIA  
*Completed a ten-week, intensive, immersion-based summer language program in intermediate modern standard Hindi (program held in different locations, such as New Delhi; Mt. Abu and Udaipur, Rajasthan)*
- 2000 M.A., Religion, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- 1998 American Sanskrit Institute, Sanskrit Language Training, Warwick, New Jersey, 1998  
*Completed eight weeks of intensive language training in classical Sanskrit*
- 1996 B.A., Religious Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

#### Present Rank

John F. Weatherly Professor of Religion and Professor of South Asian Religions

#### Year of Promotion

2023, Associate Professor of Religion, Texas Christian University

Year of Appointment to the University and Rank

Fall 2017, Associate Professor

Year of Tenure to the University

Spring 2019

Previous Teaching Positions

2016-2017 Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Religious Studies, University of Wyoming

2010-2016 Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Religious Studies, University of Wyoming

2009-2010 Visiting Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Religious Studies, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa

2007-2008 Visiting Teaching Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, Religious Studies, Religious Studies, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana

2006-2007 Instructor, Religious Studies, Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

2004 Instructor, Religious Studies, Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

2001-2002 Instructor, Religious Studies, Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Other Positions

2002 Hindi Language Instruction Volunteer, Kodai Kanal International School, Kodai Kanal, South India  
*Volunteered to teach elementary Hindi for one summer at Kodai Kanal.*  
Worked under the tutelage of Mrs. Bimla Gour, Former Coordinator, Hindi Language Program, Kodai Kanal International School, South India

**TEACHING**

Courses Taught and Developed at TCU

RELI 10023 Understanding Religions: Communities RT HUM  
RELI 10023-657: Honors Cultural Visions Course: South Asian Religions RT HUM CV  
RELI 30513 Hindu Religious Perspectives CA HUM  
RELI 30793 Indian Mysticism and Yoga  
RELI 30573 Goddess Traditions of India HUM GA DEI  
RELI 30443 Women Influencers in Asian Religions HUM

Honors and Recognition

Spring 2021 Nominee for the TCU Clark Society Endowed Faculty Fund

Spring 2022 Nominee for the TCU Clark Society Endowed Faculty Fund  
Spring 2023 Provost Appointment to John F. Weatherly Professorship (March 2023)

### Committee Service

2023-2024, Religion, Chair of Hebrew Bible Search Committee  
2023-present, AddRan College, Dean's Strategic Planning Committee  
2022-present, University Committee, HUM/SSC/FA Assessment Committee  
2022-2025, Women and Gender Studies Program, Curriculum Committee  
2022-present, AddRan Curriculum Committee  
2020-present Religion, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, co-chair  
2022-present, Religion, Ad Hoc Committee on Peer Review of Teaching Post-Covid  
2022-present, Religion, Website Management Committee  
2020-present Religion, Lectures Committee  
2021-present AddRan DEI Faculty Committee  
2022, Selection Committee for the Chancellor's Award, Humanities Division, Chair  
2020-2022 Religion, Advisory Committee, Chair  
2021-2024 University Committee, Student Conduct and Grievance Committee  
2019-2021 University Committee, Research and Creative Activities Grants Committee  
2019-2020 Religion, Advisory Committee (ad hoc for Fall 2019)  
2019-2020 Religion, Lectures Committee  
2018-2019 Religion, Recruitment Committee  
2018-2019 Women and Gender Studies Program, Curriculum Committee

### University Service/Lead-On Goals

2022-2023, AddRan New Faculty Mentoring Program, Faculty Mentor

## **RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

### A. *Books* (Refereed):

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2014, *Real Sadhus Sing to God: Gender, Asceticism, and Vernacular Religion in Rajasthan*, Oxford University Press.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Female Gurus and Grassroots Feminism: The Modern Struggle for Gender Equality in South Asian Hinduism," manuscript in progress. Completion date January 15, 2024

### A.II. *Journals*: (Refereed):

- Editor of Special Peer-Reviewed Journal Issue for *Religions—Gurus, Priestesses, Saints, Mediums and Yoginis: Holy Women as Influencers in Hindu Culture*, with Professor June McDaniel (College of Charleston). Commissioned on 5/16/2022 by RELIGIONS Editorial Office.  
[tps://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/Hindu\\_Culture](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/Hindu_Culture).  
Publication date: May 30, 2023, Online Journal Issue and Hardcopy Monograph.
- Original Research Article for Issue: "'Everyone drinks from the same well': Charismatic Female Gurus as 'Religious Feminist Influencers' in South Asian Hinduism."

- Concluding Analysis to the Issue: “Holy Women in Hindu Cultures: Developing Strategies, Overcoming Challenges, and Transforming Societies.”

B. *Refereed publications, invitational or juried shows, critically evaluated performances*

Forthcoming Publications

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, “God Enters Women’s Bodies to Change the World: A Female Hindu Guru’s Vision of Freedom in North India,” in *Voices of Freedom: Asia*, edited by Mark Dennis and Rima Abunasser (Academica Press). In press.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, “‘Nobody can be like Mira!’: How Alternative is Mira Bai’s Model of Alternative Femininity? The Challenge of Contemporary Female Hindu Ascetics in Rajasthan,” in *Mira Bai*, edited by Nancy M. Martin, Oxford University (Fall 2023).

2023

- DeNapoli, Antoinette. “Can a Woman be a True Guru?: Female Gurus’ Grassroots Religious Gender Activism, and the Performativity of Saintliness at the Kumbh Mela,” in *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics*, Special Issue on *Gender Activism in South Asia*, edited by Munira Cheema, Volume 7, no. 1 (Spring 2023): <https://doi.org/10.20897/femenc/12884>.

2022

- “‘I will be the Shankaracharya for women’: Gender, Agency, and a Guru’s Quest for Equality in Hinduism,” in *Laughter, Creativity, and Perseverance: Female Agency in Hinduism and Buddhism*, 75-102, edited by Ute Hüsken. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette. “How does someone become a Guru?” In *Hinduism in Five Minutes*, edited by Steven Ramey, Equinox Publishers.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette. “Is the Hindu Goddess a Feminist?” In *Hinduism in Five Minutes*, edited by Steven Ramey, Equinox Publishers.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette. “Do men and women have equality in Hinduism?” In *Hinduism in Five Minutes*, edited by Steven Ramey, Equinox.

2021

- DeNapoli, Antoinette. “I am the one who will change the direction of the world”: A Female Guru’s Response to Gender-Motivated Sexual Abuse and Inequality in Hinduism.” Chapter 12 in *The Rowman and Littlefield Handbook on Women’s Studies in Religion*, edited by Helen Boursier, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 169-182.

2020

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, “‘Dharma is not a Dinosaur’: Religion and Modern Identity in the Storytelling of an Indian Guru,” in *Storytelling, Self, Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Storytelling Studies*. Volume 15, Issue 2 (Fall 2020).
- DeNapoli, Antoinette. *Indian Sadhus, Female*. Encyclopedic Entry in *Anthropological Hindi Encyclopedia*, 10 Vol., in Part 2, *Anthropology in India (1995-2020)*, edited by Dr. A.R.N. Ratish Srivastava (Fall/Winter 2020). Rishikul Prakashan Publishers, Allahabad.

## 2019

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, “A Female Shankaracharya? The Alternative Authority of a Feminist Hindu Guru in North India,” *Religion and Gender* 9(1): 27-49.

## 2018

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2018, “Earning God through the One-Hundred Rupee Note: *Nirguna Bhakti* and Religious Experience among Hindu Renouncers in North India,” *Religions* 9(2).
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2018, “A Mandal of Their Own: Gender and the Reimagining of Community by Hindu Renouncers in Northern India,” in *Modern Hinduism in Text and Context*, edited by Lavanya Vemsani, Bloomsbury, London, New York, Oxford, Chapter 12, pp. 163-192.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2018, “Rhetoric of Technoscience in North Indian Vernacular Asceticism,” in *The Changing World Languages Map*, edited by Stanley Brunn and Roland Kehrein, Springer, pp. 1-23. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73400-2\\_26-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73400-2_26-1).
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2018, Review of *Shakti’s New Voice: Guru Devotion in a Woman-centered Spiritual Movement*, by Angela Rudert, Reading Religion (AAR), <http://readingreligion.org/books/shaktis-new-voice>.

## 2017

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2017, “Speaking Shadows to Light: Vernacular Narrative as Vehicle for Rajasthani Female Sadhus’ Voicing Vulnerability and Violence,” in *Women and Asian Religions*, edited by Zayn Kassam, Praeger, pp. 87-100.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2017, Guest Editor. Special Issue, *Experimental Dharmas in Asia and the Diaspora*, *International Journal of Dharma Studies*, vol. 5, no. 11.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2017, “Experimental religiosities and *dharma* traditions: new directions in the study of vernacular religions in Asia and the Diaspora.” *International Journal of Dharma Studies*, vol. 5, no. 11.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2017, “*Dharm* is technology: Theologizing the modern in the experimental Hinduism of renouncers in contemporary North India,” *International Journal of Dharma Studies*, vol. 5, no. 11.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2017, “‘God depends on the Lowest Devotees’: Gender, Performance, and Transformation in the Tale of a Female Hindu Renouncer,” *History of Religions*, vol. 56, no. 4: 388-442.

## 2016

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2016, Guest Editor. With Tulasi Srinivas. Special Issue, *The Moralizing of Dharma in Everyday Hinduisms*, *Nidan: The International Journal for Indian Studies*, vol. 28, no. 2: (December).
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2016. With Tulasi Srinivas. “Introduction—The Moralizing of *Dharma* in Everyday Hinduisms,” *Nidan: International Journal for Indian Studies*, vol. 28, no.2: (December): 1-14.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2016, “‘Nature is our True Friend’: The Environmental Empathy of a Modern Female Guru,” *The Moralizing of Dharma in Everyday Hinduisms* in *Nidan: International Journal for Indian Studies*, vol. 28, no. 2: (December): 32-68.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2016, “In Search of the *Sadhu*’s Stone: Metals and Gems as Therapeutic Technologies of Transformation in Vernacular Asceticism in North India,” in *Souless Matter, Seats of Energy: Metals, Minerals, and Gems in South Asian*

*Religions*, edited by Thomas W.P. Dahnhardt and Fabrizio Ferrari, pp. 143-174. Bristol, CT: Equinox Publishing Ltd.

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2016, “‘The Time has come to save our women’: A Female Religious Leader’s Feminist Politics as Experimental Hinduism in North India,” *International Journal of Dharma and Hindu Studies* vol. 2, no. 1 (Jan.): 1-37.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2016, Review of *Fertile Disorder: Spirit Possession and Its Provocation of the Modern*, *WAGADU: A Journal of Transnational Women’s and Gender Studies*, vol. 15, Special Issue: *Women, Gender, and Government Outsourcing in Comparative Perspectives*.

#### 2015

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2015, “The Freedom of Wandering, the Protection of Settling in Place: Gendered Symbolizations of Space in the Practices of Hindu Renouncers in Rajasthan,” Volume V, chapter 13.4, pp. 3189-3213, in *The Changing World Religion Map: Sacred Places, Identities, Practices and Politics*, edited by Stan Brunn, Springer.

#### 2014

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2014, “Our Own Two Hands Create our Destiny: Narrative Patterns and Strategies in Male *Sadhus*’ Personal Stories,” *Contributions to Indian Sociology* vol. 48, no. 3: 333-356.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2014, “Singing *Ramayan* and Performing Literacy: Male Hindu Renouncers’ Idea and Performance of Vernacular Texts in Rajasthan,” *Asian Literature and Translation Journal* vol. 2, no.1: 1-23.

#### 2013

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2013, “‘Real *Sadhus* Sing to God’: The Religious Capital of Devotion and Domesticity in the Leadership of Female Renouncers in Rajasthan,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* vol. 29, no. 1: 117-131.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2013, “Vernacular Hinduism in Rajasthan,” in *Contemporary Hinduism*, edited by P. Pratap Kumar, pp. 97-113. New York: Routledge.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2013, Review Article of *Unearthing Gender: Folksongs of North India*, by Smita Tewari Jassal, *Anthropos* A.108/2: 604-608.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2013, Review of *Interpreting Devotion*, by Karen Pechilis, *Asian Ethnology*, vol. 72, no.1: 154-158.

#### 2012

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2012, “Performing a Rhetoric of Renunciation: An Exploration of Hindu Female Renouncers’ Vernacular Practices in Rajasthan,” *Memphis Theological Seminary*, vol. 50, Special Issue on Rhetoric and Religion, guest editor, Andre E. Johnson. <http://mtsjournal.memphisseminary.edu/vol-50-1/performing-a-rhetoric-of-renunciation-an-exploration-of-hindu-female-renouncers-vernacular-practices-in-north-india>.

#### 2011

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2011, Review of *Contradictory Lives: Baul Women in India and Bangladesh*, by Lisa I. Knight, *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 71, no. 2: 569-571.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2011, “Performing Materiality through Song: Hindu Female Renouncers’ Embodying Practices in Rajasthan,” *Nidan: International Journal for the Study of Hinduism*, Special issue on Religion and Materiality, vol. 23: 5-36.

## 2010

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2010, “‘Crossing over the Ocean of Existence’: Performing ‘Mysticism’ and Exerting Agency by Female *Sadhus* of Rajasthan,” *The Journal of Hindu Studies*, vol. 3, no. 3: 298-336.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2010, “Write the Text Letter-by-Letter in the Heart: Non-literacy, Religious Authority, and Female *Sadhus*’ Performance of Asceticism through Sacred Texts,” *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*, vol. 4, no. 3: 3-40.

## 2009

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2009, “By the Sweetness of the Tongue: Duty, Destiny, and Devotion in the Oral Life Narratives of Female Ascetics in Rajasthan,” *Asian Ethnology*, vol. 68, no. 1: 81-108.
- DeNapoli, Antoinette, 2009, “Beyond Brahmanical Asceticism: Recent and Emerging Models of Female Hindu Asceticisms in South Asia,” *Religion Compass* vol. 3: 1-19.

## Forthcoming (n.d.)

- DeNapoli, Antoinette, “God, We are your Beggars: The Songs of Hindu *Sadhus* in Rajasthan,” in *Poetry for Peace*, edited by Michael Lidgley and Devanshe Chauhan, Amnesty International Press, n.d. (non-refereed).

## In-Progress Scholarship

- DeNapoli, Antoinette. “Adya Svayambhu Shankaracharya Jagadguru Trikal Bhavanta Saraswati.” Biographical Profile for the *Women in World Religions and Spirituality Project*, edited by Catherine K. Wessinger and David Bromley. Invited Article.

## Bibliographies

- “Gender/Renunciation in Hinduism.” *Oxford Annotated Bibliographies Online*.

## Paper Presentations (Completed and Upcoming)

- “Gender Equality as a Human Birthright: A Hindu Female Guru’s Grassroots Religious Feminism in India.” Cosponsored Practical Theology Unit and Religion and Human Rights Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 18-21, 2023, San Antonio, Texas.
- “When Feminine Religious Symbolism becomes an Embodied Reality: A Female Hindu Guru's Use of the Durga Myth to Mobilize a Women's Monastic Order in India.” *Religion and Symbolism* panel, organized by Professor Upala Barua, Professor of Sociology, Assam Down Town University, World Anthropology Conference 2023, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, August 9-14.
- “Gender and Women’s Monastic Authority in Hindu Society: The Role of Charismatic Female Gurus in South Asia.” Invited Public Lecture, Flame University, Pune, India, April 28, 2023, Organized by Pankaj Jain, Director of Humanities, Flame University, India.
- “The Importance of Research and Creative Activities for the Humanities and Social Sciences: Opening Remarks,” *AddRan Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium Award Ceremony*, AddRan College Debate Chamber, April 13, 2023.

- *Women Influencers in Hindu Religions Asian Studies International Zoom Symposium*, Organizer, Panelist, Moderator. A Research Symposium with the editors (DeNapoli & McDaniel) and contributors to the *Religions* (MDPI) Special Issue Volume, *Gurus, Priestesses, Saints, Mediums, and Yoginis: Holy Women as Influencers in Hindu Culture*. Asian Studies Research Symposium, Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 7-9 p.m., Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.
- “Women in the Profession: The state of the Field—How Far Forward Have We Come, How Far Back Have We Gone?,” American Academy of Religion Southwest regional Meeting, The Profession Roundtable Program Unit, Organizer/Moderator with Tiffany Puett, Sunday, March 5, 2023, Marriott Dallas Las Colinas, Irving, Texas.
- American Academy South West Plenary Talk: *Hopeful Futures and the Future of SWCRS—A Cross Disciplinary Community Conversation*, Presidential Plenary Address Speaker and Organizer, March 5, 2023, Marriot Dallas Las Colinas, Irving, Texas.
- “Everyone Drinks from the Same Well: Charismatic Authority and Female Gurus’ Struggle for Gender Equality in South Asian Hinduism,” American Academy of Religion Southwest, Regional Meeting, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion Program Unit, March 5, 2023, Marriott Dallas Las Colinas, Irving Texas.
- American Academy of Religion, Southwest, Presider/Respondent, *The Role of Embodiment in Religious Hermeneutics*, AAR: Religion, Gender, Sexuality Program Unit, Saturday, March 5, 2023, Marriott Dallas Las Colinas, Irving, Texas.
- Muslim Women in the age of ‘Woman, Life, Freedom.’ Panel Presider/Respondent, Study of Islam/Religion, Gender, Sexuality Program Unit, American Academy of Religion Southwest regional meeting, March 4, 2023, Marriott Dallas Las Colinas, Irving, Texas.
- World Anthropology Congress 2023, Pre-Congress Theme, *Rescripting the Anthropocene: Health, Happiness, and Hope*—“Messengers of the Goddess: How Female Gurus are changing religious cultures of misogyny and creating hopeful futures for women in South Asia,” Friday, January 13, 2023, Invited Public Lecture organized by the Anthropology Department, University of Delhi, India.
- “Women Influencers in Asian Religions,” Invited Presentation, Asia@Noon Presentation, Texas Christian University, Ft Worth, December 12, 2022.
- “What can Indigenous Religious Feminism Teach Religion Scholars about Gender Ethics? (Part 1)” and “How ‘Feminist’ is Indigenous Religious Feminist Responses to Sexual Misconduct and Abuse (Part 2)?” Invited Public Lecture, Third Biennial Buddhist Ethics Symposium, University of Vancouver, British Columbia, September 30-October 1, 2022.
- “Mentoring and the Professionalization of Scholars of Religion: Latina/o/x Perspectives,” Roundtable Discussion, Latinx Religions and The Profession sections, co-organized with Grace Vargas, Southwest Commission for Religious Studies (SWCRS/AAR Southwest region), March 2022.
- “Good Guru, Bad Guru: Hinduism, Feminine Respectability, and the Rhetoric of Saintliness at India’s Kumbh Mela Fair,” Comparative Asian Studies Section, Panel on *Religion in the Public Sphere/India*, Southwest Commission for Religious Studies (SWCRS/AAR Southwest region), March 2022.
- “Hindu Women Gurus Resisting Gender-Based Violence in India.” Invited Public Lecture for Whittier College (sponsored by Religious Studies, Gender Studies, Asian Studies) February 18, 2022.



- “Honoring the Work and Scholarship of Professor June McDaniel: How a phone call inspired an academic journey,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2021, *Honoring the Scholarship of Mysticism Scholar, June McDaniel* Panel, Mysticism Group.
- “Revelation, Performance, and a Guru’s Mobilization of a Women’s Liberation Movement in India,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2021, *Women and Revelation in India, Tibet, and China* Panel.
- “*‘Do we find what we want? Or, do we want what we find?’: A Tribute to the Enduring Legacy of Joyce Flueckiger,*” Emory University, Atlanta, GA, August 13-14, 2021.
- “I am the one who will change the direction of the world”: A Female Guru’s Response to Gender-motivated Sexual Abuse and Inequality in Hinduism,” Southwestern Commission for the Study of Religion (SWCRS), Dallas, TX, February 29, 2020.
- “Guru, Goddess, Woman: A Tale of Independent Female Power in Three Scenes,” Southwestern Commission for the Study of Religion (SWCRS), Dallas, TX, March 1, 2020.
- “Religion, Law, and the Indian State: The Religious Politics of a Female Hindu Guru in India,” Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series, Asian Studies Program, TCU, December 6, 2019.
- *Rethinking Religious Feminisms through the Religious and Ritual Lives of Buddhist and Hindu Women in Asia and the Diaspora: New Directions in Gender Theory and Comparative Studies of Religion*, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit, panel co-organizer with Caroline Starkey, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, 2019.
- “The Fight for Women’s Equal Rights is *Dharma*: Rethinking Religious Feminism through the New Leadership of the Female Shankaracharya,” *Rethinking Religious Feminisms* Panel, Feminist Theory and Reflection Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, 2019.
- “What the Government Won’t Give us, God and the Courts Will!: How a Woman Guru’s Religious Politics of Gender Equality is Transforming Hinduism through the Indian Legal System,” *The Politics of Religion* Panel, Theology and Religious Reflection Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, 2019.
- “Gender, Religion, and Female Empowerment in the Public Sphere”: A Guru’s Quest for Gender Equality in North India, Religion Department Brown Bag Presentation, November 13, 2019, Texas Christian University.
- “If global learning opportunities are what you seek, then study religion!” Religion Department Chi Delta Mu Talk, November 18, 2019, Texas Christian University.
- “Can a Woman be a Shankaracharya? A Guru’s Quest for Gender Equality in Contemporary Hinduism,” Presentation for the Gender and Women’s Studies *Claudia V. Camp Research Award*, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, September 4, 2019.
- “The *Satis* are Rising!: A Guru’s Quest for Gender Equality in India—Feminism, Agency, and Female Spiritual Leadership in Contemporary South Asia,” Invited Research Presentation for the International Workshop on “The Dynamics of Female Agency in Hinduism and Buddhism,” organized by Ute Huesken, Chair, Department of Religion, South Asian Religions, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, July 1-5, 2018.

- “Being Aware While Being Abroad: Pedagogical Strategies for International Fieldcourses in India,” Asia\_Net Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 8, 2018.
- Women Gurus and the Good Life: Constructing Asceticism as the Dharma of Flourishing in India,” Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C., March 24, 2018.
- “God Enters Women’s Bodies to Change the World: A Female Hindu Guru’s Vision of Freedom in North India.” AAR Regional Southwest Conference (SWCRS), Irving, TX, March 11, 2018.
- “A Female *Shankaracharya*: The Alternative Religious Authority of a Feminist Female Guru in a North Indian Pilgrimage Town,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. November 19, 2017.
- “God in the Machine?: How Technology is Changing an Ancient Religious Way of Life in India Today,” Religion Department, Chi Delta Mu Presentation, September 25, 2017.
- “The Power A Woman’s Story Creates: Female Renouncers in India,” Keynote Presentation, Conference on *Women and Power in Indian Traditions*, South Asian Research and Information Institute (SARII), Southern Methodist University, September 18, 2017.
- “Women, Religion, and Ethnography in India: Hindu Ascetics and Oral Tradition,” Invited Public Lecture, The College of Lewis and Clark, Portland, OR, March 2, 2017.
- “Leave Everything and Sing to God: Hindu Holy Women in India,” Invited Public Lecture, Saturday University, University of Wyoming, Gillette, WY, February 9, 2017.
- “‘Their hearts are Indian but their minds are Western’: Religious Identity Formation and the Construction of Authentic Indianness among Hindu Ascetics in North India,” American Academy of Religions Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 21, 2016.
- “Female Hindu Renouncers’ Organizations as the Provocation of Justice: Notes on Indeterminacy, Creativity, and Critique in Contemporary Hinduisms.” Center for Global Studies, University of Wyoming, February 7, 2016.
- “Gender, Monasticism, and the Reimagining of *Sangha* in Indian Traditions of Renunciation: Hindu *Sadhus*’ Creation of Women’s-only *Mandals* in Rajasthan,” American Academy of Religion Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 17, 2015.
- “‘God’s DNA and Our DNA are the same’: The Rhetoric of Technoscience and the Theologizing of the Modern in the Practices of Hindu Renouncers in North India,” American Academy of Religion Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 18, 2015.
- “Change is the Rule of Nature and the Nature of *Dharm*: Experimental Hinduism and the Emerging Moral Ecologies in the Practices of Hindu Renouncers and their Constituencies in North India,” paper presented on the *Hindu Moralities* panel at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR), San Diego, April 19, 2015.
- 2014, *Religion at the Crossroads: Experimentation, Innovation, and Change in Hinduisms and Buddhisms as practiced in Contemporary Asia*, panel organizer, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, Nov. 20-25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- 2014, “Religion is Technology: Experimental Hinduism through the lens of Vernacular Asceticism in North India,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 20-25, 2014.
- 2014, “Meeting is Good, but Parting is Painful: Gender and Vernacular Asceticism in Rajasthan—A Devotional Model,” presented at the conference, *Textual and Lived Religions: Precepts and Practices*, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India

- 2014, “Jaagrat Sannyas (aur Mata-Ram Parampara) Bharat men—Do (paschimi aur bharatiya) modelon ki tulnaa,” presented at the Silwaasa *Hindu Dharam Katha* Program, Silwaasa, India (Union Territory State).
- 2013, “Speaking Shadows to Light: Vernacular Narrative as Vehicle for Rajasthani Female Sadhus’ Voicing Vulnerability and Violence,” 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Shephard Symposium, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.
- 2011, “Panel on Strategies for Hope, Strategies for Survival: Gendered Networks in India and its Diaspora,” International Conference on South Asia, Co-organizer, Madison, WI.
- 2011, “Leave Everything and Sing to God: Devotional Gatherings as Alternative Social Network for Female Hindu Renunciants in Rajasthan, International Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI.
- 2011, “Panel on Performing Gender and Identity through Song in South Asia,” American Academy of Religion, Organizer, San Francisco, CA.
- 2011, “God Eat or I’ll Beat You: The Construction of Female Renunciant Gender Roles through *Bhajan* Singing,” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA.
- 2011, “Panel on Gendering Circles of Power: Women’s Performances of Authority in South Asia,” Association for Asian Studies, Co-organizer, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 2011, “The Gendering of Power and Devotion in a Rajasthani Expression of Female Asceticism,” Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 2010, “Panel on Female Leadership and Alternative Authorities in Hinduisms and Judaisms,” American Academy of Religion, Organizer, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2010, “Real Sadhus Sing to God: Devotion, Performance, and (Symbolic) Capital in the Leadership of Female Renunciants in Rajasthan,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2010, “*Bhakti* is Like a Tigress’ Milk: Asceticism and Caste Hegemony in Rajasthani Sadhus’ Popular Religious Practices,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2010, Dissertation-into-Book Workshop Participant, University of Wisconsin, Madison, South Asian Studies Council, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2010, “My *Bhakti* is My Power: Gender, Power, and the Performance of Asceticism in Rajasthan,” University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.
- 2009, “Panel on Asceticism in Dharma Traditions I: Ascetics and their Practices,” Dharma Association of North America, Organizer, Montreal, Canada.
- 2009, “Panel on Asceticism in Dharma Traditions II: Laity and their Practices,” Dharma Association of North America,” Organizer, Montreal, Canada.
- 2009, “My *Bhakti* is My Power: Gender, Power, and the Performance of Devotional Asceticism in Rajasthan,” Dharma Association of North America, Montreal, Canada.
- 2009, “Everything in Life is a Matter of Fate: Female Ascetics’ Performance of Self through Personal Narrative,” Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.
- 2008, “Female Sadhus’ Performance of Mysticism through Narrative and Song,” Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2008, “‘I Couldn’t Just Say, ‘You Stand up and I’ll Sit’’: Gendered Strategies of Negotiating Authority, Status, and Power in a Rajasthani Renouncer Community,” American Academy of Religion, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2008, “Duty, Destiny, and Devotion: Themes in Hindu Holy Women’s Personal Narratives,” Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

- 2007, “God Depends on His Devotees: Social Engagement and Reciprocity between Sadhus and Householders in Rajasthan,” Dharma Association of North America, San Diego, California.
- 2006, “Hindu Holy Women, Renunciation, and Performance Strategies,” American Institute of Indian Studies, Gurgaon, India.
- 2002, “*Durgamahisasuramardini: The Confluence of the Verbal and the Visual in the Narrative of the Great Goddess of India*,” Michael Carlos Museum, Atlanta, Georgia.

## **PERFORMANCES**

2020, *To Be Honest: Voices on Islam from an American City*, a one-act play by Habiba Noor, Sarah Beth Kaufman, and William Christ, TCU Performance, February 7, 2020, Sid Richardson Hall #2; Performance at Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas Marriot, Las Colinas, February 15, 2020. I played the role of the character Sarita.

## **Editorships**

*Journal of Festive Studies*, Editorial Board, Associate Editor, 2022-present  
*International Journal of Indic Religions* (ISSN 2471-8947), Associate Editor and Editorial Board, 2022-present  
*Nidan: International Journal for the Study of Indian Traditions*, Editorial Board (2016-present)  
*International Journal of Dharma Studies*, Associate Editor (2018) and Editorial Board (2015-present)  
*International Journal of Hindu and Dharma Studies*, Editorial Board (2016-present)  
*American Academy of Indic Studies Journal*, Editorial Board (2017-present)

## **External Support Received or Pending**

### **Applied**

2020-2021	Radcliffe Fellowship, Harvard University, 80, 000 (not selected)
2021-2022	Joseph H. Fichter Summer Research Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion (\$6,000) (not selected)
	American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-Term Fellowship (\$15,000) (alternate)
2023	National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Residential Institute on <i>Women in Buddhism: Religion, Politics, and the Arts</i> , East-West Center for Asian Studies Development, University of Hawaii, Honolulu (\$3450), June 5-June 30, 2023

### **Awarded**

2018-2019	Global Religion Research Initiative (GRI), University of Notre Dame, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Book-Leave Writing
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Fellowship, \$70,000

2018 American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, \$6000.

Awarded

2019-2020 American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-Term Fellowship, University of Chicago, \$15,000  
(*Fellowship Period postponed due to COVID-19; rescheduled for June 2023-September 2023*).

2023 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Residential Institute on *Women in Buddhism: Religion, Politics, and the Arts*, East-West Center for Asian Studies Development, University of Hawaii, Honolulu (\$3450), June 5-June 30, 2023.

TCU Internal Grant Programs

Awarded

2018-2019 Mid-Career Summer Research Support Program, \$5000

2018-2019 Claudia V. Camp Research and Creative Activity Award, \$4000.

2018-2019 Research and Creative Activity Fund, \$4500

2023 Research and Creative Activity Fund, \$4500

2023 Mid-Career Summer Research Grant, \$3000

Nominated

2017-2018 NEH Summer Stipend Award Competition, AddRan College

2022-2023 NEH Summer Stipend Award Competition, AddRan College

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND FLUENCY**

Sanskrit (Reading, Writing, and Translation Proficiency)  
Hindi (Advanced Reading, Writing, Speaking Proficiency)

French (Reading and Translation Proficiency)

## **SERVICE**

### *Religion Department Service*

#### Committees

- Chair, Search Committee on Hebrew Bible (2023-2024)
- Advisory Committee, 2020-2023, Chair (2020-2022)
- Leave-load Committee 2020-2022
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, co-chair, 2020-present
- Ad Hoc Committee on Peer Review of Teaching Post-Covid
- Pre-Selection Committee for upcoming Searches, Chair, Fall 2022
- Lectures Committee, 2019-2023
- Recruitment Committee, 2017-2018

#### Leadership

- Advisory Committee, Chair (2020-2022)
- Search Committee Chair, Christianities in the U.S. (2021-2022)
- Search Committee Chair, Hebrew Bible (2023-2024)

#### Chi Delta Mu Talks

- “Sacred Objects in Hinduism,” April 24, 2023
- “Women and Charismatic Authority in Hinduism,” December 4, 2021
- “Becoming a Scholar of Religion: The Road to an Academic Life,” October 2019
- “Hindu Asceticism and the Theologizing of Technology in India,” September 2017

#### Advising

- Erin Carter (2021-present)
- Elle Rinewalt

### *AddRan College of Liberal Arts Service*

#### Current Committees

- Women and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee
- AddRan Curriculum Committee
- AddRan DEI Committee

#### Adjunct Faculty, AddRan College

- Asian Studies Program (Core)
- Women and Gender Studies Program (Core)

#### Leadership

- Faculty Mentor for the AddRan’s New Faculty Mentoring Program (2022-2023)

- AddRan DEI Representative for the Religion Department (2021-present)

#### AddRan Student Research and Creativity Symposium (ASRACS)

- Panel Judge, April 11, 2023 (10:30-11:15 a.m.)
- Opening Remarks Speech, April 13, 2023

#### TCU Institution-wide University Service

##### Current Committees

- HUM, SSC, and FA Assessment Committee (with Theresa Gaul)
- Student Conduct and Grievance Committee
- Chair and Evaluator, Chancellor's Award, Humanities Division, May 2022
- First Gen Faculty Member

##### Faculty Sponsor of TCU Student Organization

- HER TCU, women-led student campus organization focusing on empowerment of women, Faculty Sponsor (January 2021-present).

#### Honors College Service

- Contemporary Reading Series, Facilitator, April 10, 2018
- Honors Admissions Reader, 2019-2020; 2020-2021; 2021-2022
- Adjunct Faculty, 2018-present

#### Service to the Profession

##### Membership in Discipline-specific Professional Organizations

- American Academy of Religion
- Southwest Commission on Religious Studies
- Association of Asian Studies
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- Asia-Net
- South Asian Studies Association
- International Society for the Study of Nature, Religion, and Culture
- Association for the Study of Women and Mythology
- Association for the Sociology of Religion

##### Offices Held and Committee Assignments in Professional Organizations

- Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (AAR/SW), Vice President 2020; President-elect (2022); **President (2023)**; Past President (2024)
- American Academy of Religion, Research Grants Jury Committee, 2020-2024
- American Academy of Indic Studies, Executive Committee, Faculty Convener, 2017
- American Academy of Indic Studies, Gender Studies Committee Chair 2017-present

- American Association of University Women, International and Dissertation Fellowships Selection Panel Committee, 2017, 2016, 2015

### Editorships

- *International Journal of Indic Religions* (ISSN 2471-8947), Associate Editor and Editorial Board, 2022-present
- *Nidan: International Journal for the Study of Indian Traditions*, Editorial Board (2016-present)
- *International Journal of Dharma Studies*, Associate Editor (2018) and Editorial Board (2015-present)
- *International Journal of Hindu and Dharma Studies*, Editorial Board (2016-present)
- *American Academy of Indic Studies Journal*, Editorial Board (2017-present)
- *Journal of Festive Studies*, Editorial Board, 2022-present

### Consulting and Manuscripts Peer Reviewer

- Manuscript reader for the following university/academic presses:
  - Oxford University Press
    - Reviewed a manuscript for Oxford entitled, *Hinduism: The Primary Sources*;
    - Reviewed a manuscript for OUP entitled, *Becoming Religious Again: Global and Urban Networks in Urban India*.
  - Palgrave Macmillan, *Anthropology of Religion* series
    - Reviewed a manuscript titled, *Living Mantra: Seers, Deities, and Visionary Experience Today*;
    - Reviewed *Shakti's Voice: Guru Devotion in a Woman-led Spiritual Movement*.
  - Routledge Taylor and Francis Group
    - Reviewed Manuscript Proposal, *Nuns, Gurus, and Priestesses: Gendered Agency in Transcultural Hinduism and Buddhism* edited by Ute Hüsken, Agi Wittich, Nanette Spina
- Reviewer of article-length manuscripts for the following journals:
  - *Religions* (MDPI)
  - *Material Religion*
  - *Journal of Festive Studies*
  - *Journal of Hindu Studies*
  - *International Journal of Hindu Studies*
  - *International Journal of Indic Religions*
  - *Asian Ethnology*
  - *International Journal of Dharma Studies*
  - *American Academy of Indic Studies*
  - *Nidan*
- Reviewer of grant proposals for different academic institutes and organizations:
  - AAUW, International Dissertation Grants



- AAR, Individual Research Grants

#### Invitations to Write Books from Academic Presses

- Invitation from Dr. Catherine Wessinger (1/14/2022) to write a book entitled, *Women in Hindu Traditions*, for the Series *Women in World Religions*, New York University Press. DECLINED due to Publisher's timeline for submission of manuscript.

#### Service to the Community

- Guest Speaker, "Religion and Rights in Contemporary India," First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth, April 19, 2020.;
- Consultant with Jain Religious Community, DFW Metroplex, 2017-present (references: Mr. Anup Pahade and Mrs. Rakhi Pahade);
- Consultant with Kadampa Buddhist Meditation Center, Dallas, TX (references: Gen Kelsang Wangpo; Gen Kelsang Menla);
- Consultant with Hindu Temple of Greater Fort Worth (reference: Dr. Murali Krishna, Head Priest);
- Consultant with Niskama Seva Sikh Gurudwara, Irving, TX (reference, Mr. Harbhajan Singh Virdee, President of Gurudwara);
- Consultant with Hindus for Human Rights Organization (International organization, U.S. headquarters, Taos, New Mexico (reference, Mr. Punya Upadhyay);
- Consultant with Vedanta Society and Meditation Center, Irving, TX (reference, Pravajika Brahma-prana, Religious Leader and Director);
- Interview, John Paul Roach, Radio Show, *Hinduism*, May 5, 2020 (postponed due to Covid).

#### TCU Institution-wide University Service

##### University Committees

- School of Interdisciplinary Studies (moved to AddRan College in Fall of 2022), Women and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee, 2017-2018; 2022-2025
- Student Conduct and Grievance Committee, 2021-2024
- Chair and Evaluator, Chancellor's Award, Humanities Division, May 2022
- First Gen Faculty Member, 2021-present

##### University Accomplishments in TCU Lead on Goals and Foundational Themes

##### TCU Foundational Theme: Student Experience—Faculty Sponsor of TCU Student Organization

- HER TCU, women-led student campus organization focusing on empowerment of women, Faculty Sponsor (January 2021-present).

##### TCU Lead-on Goal #3: Strengthen the TCU Experience and Campus Culture by Enhancing DEI Core through Course Development

- Received DEI course approval for Goddess Traditions of India (April 21, 2021). I was part of the first batch of faculty to apply for the DEI core designation and receive it.

### TCU Lead On Goal #1: Strengthen Academic Profile and Reputation

- Invited Dr. June McDaniel, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the College of Charleston, to speak about her research on contemplative practice, psychology, and religious experience. October 16, 2019. Sponsored by Religion, Contemplative Studies (CALM), and Asian Studies.
- Participated in the first DEI Essential Pedagogy Workshop facilitated by Claire Sanders and Jean Marie Brown, January 2021.
- Developed one of the first DEI courses to be approved for the University (approved April 22, 2022).
- Organized Dr. June McDaniel's Guest Speaker Presentation on "Religious Freedom in Indonesia," for the Asian Studies Program on March 21, 2022.
- Faculty Mentor for the AddRan's New Faculty Mentoring Program (2022-2023)
- Faculty Co-Chair for the DEI Committee, RELI department, 2021-present
- First Gen Faculty Member, 2021-present
- CRES, Faculty Facilitator, Latinx Heritage Week, October 5, 2020 (CRES moved to AddRan in Fall of 2022).

### Additional Service

- Southwest Commission for Religious Studies Regional Meeting (SWCRS), Panel Moderator, "Equity in the Pandemic," March 6, 2021;
- Wrote Nomination Letter for Darren J. Middleton, Ferrari Award (submitted Feb. 26, 2021);
- Wrote Nomination Letter for Santiago Pinon, Dean's Teaching Award (submitted March 11, 2021);
- Wrote Nomination Letter for Scott Langston, Chancellor's DEI Award (submitted March 2, 2021);
- Wrote Nomination Letter for Yushau Sodiq, Dean's Research/Creative Activity Award (submitted March 11, 2021);
- Peer Evaluation of Santiago Pinon's teaching, Tuesday, March 12, 2021;
- Peer Evaluation of Patricia Duncan's teaching, August 1, 2020;
- First Gen Proud, RELI and AddRan Representative, November 8, 2021;
- First Gen Faculty Member, 2021-present;
- Peer-Evaluation of Sam Ross's Teaching, April (2022);
- Wrote Nomination Letter for Patricia Duncan, Dean's Teaching Award, April 2022;
- Wrote with Darren Middle the nomination letter for David C. Grant, the SWCRS John G. Gammie award, March 2022;
- Wrote Letter of Recommendation for Dr. Erik Estrada in support of his application for the Junior Scholar Award

### Professional References

Dr. Ann Gold, Professor Emerita, Syracuse University  
[aggold@syr.edu](mailto:aggold@syr.edu)

Dr. Lavanya Vemsani, Professor, Shawnee State University, President, Ohio Academy of History, Co-founder, American Academy of Indic Studies  
[Lvhistory740@gmail.com](mailto:Lvhistory740@gmail.com)

Dr. Ute Hüsken, Professor, Heidelberg University, South Asia Center  
[huesken@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:huesken@uni-heidelberg.de)

Dr. Karen Pechilis, Professor, Drew University  
[kpechili@drew.edu](mailto:kpechili@drew.edu)

Dr. Tulasi Srinivas, Professor, Emerson College  
[Tulasisrinivas07@gmail.com](mailto:Tulasisrinivas07@gmail.com)

Dr. Jeffrey D. Long, Professor, Elizabethtown College  
[longjd@etown.edu](mailto:longjd@etown.edu)

Dr. June McDaniel, Professor Emerita, College of Charleston  
[Mcdanielj@cofc.edu](mailto:Mcdanielj@cofc.edu)

Dr. K. Pratap Penumala, Professor Emerita, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa  
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Dr. Rosemary Carbine, Associate Professor, Whittier College  
[rcarbine@whittier.edu](mailto:rcarbine@whittier.edu)

Dr. Helen Boursier, Educator, Activist, Author  
[Helenb@boursier.us](mailto:Helenb@boursier.us)