

Benjamin Wood, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

Degrees

- 2012: PhD, Religious Studies, University of Toronto, Department for the Study of Religion
 2005: MA (Distinction), Buddhist Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London), Department of the Study of Religions
 2001: BA (Honours), Religious Studies, McGill University, Faculty of Religious Studies

Additional Education

- 2023: Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Writing, Humber School for Writers, Faculty of Media and Creative Arts
 2021: SI (Supplemental Instruction) Supervisor Workshop, University of Guelph
 2011: Visiting Student, McMaster University, Department of Religious Studies
 2008: Intensive Summer Program for the Study of Colloquial Tibetan, University of Virginia
 2007: Tibet Site Seminar, Princeton University
 2003–4: Modern Japanese Language Program, Azabu Japanese Language Institute (Tokyo)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Current

- 2017–present: Instructor (full-time), Department of Asian Studies, Langara College (Vancouver)

Prior Academic Positions (Selected)

- 2020–2022: Peer-Supported Learning Advisor, Langara College
 2013–2017: Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, St. Francis College (Brooklyn, New York) *resigned voluntarily in good standing*
 2012–2013: Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Victoria
 2011: Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, King's College—University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario)
 2009–2012: Lecturer, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
 2008–9: Lecturer, Department of Languages, University of Toronto at Mississauga

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Refereed Translation (Classical Tibetan-English)

- 2024: *A Teaching on Dreams (Svapnirdeśa). 84000*. Co-translated with Dr. Khenpo Kunga Sherab.

Refereed Publications

- 2024: “Introduction.” *A Teaching on Dreams (Svapnirdeśa). 84000*.
 “Coming to Terms with a Monk’s Seduction: Speculations on the Conduct of Sgra tshad pa Rin chen rnam rgyal (1318–1388).” *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, pp. 1–28.
 2016: “The Childhood of Dorjé Sangwatsel (b. 1814) and the Theme of the Deficient Parent in Tibetan Hagiography.” *Journal of Global Buddhism*, vol. 16, pp. 157–179.
 2015: “The Scrupulous Use of Gifts for the Saṅgha: Self-Ennoblement Through the Ledger in Tibetan Autobiography.” *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines*, vol. 26, April 2013, pp. 35–55.
 2013: “Misbehaviour and Punishment in a Paper Inscription at Zha lu Monastery: A Preliminary Report.” In C. Scherrer-Schaub and K. Tropper (eds.) *Tibetan Inscriptions: Proceedings of XII Seminar of IATS*. Leiden: Brill (Tibetan Library Studies Series), pp. 107–138.

PUBLICATIONS (continued)**Non-Refereed Publications**

- 2016: “Review of Tibet on Fire: Buddhism, Protest, and the Rhetoric of Self-Immolation, by John Whalen-Bridge.” *Journal of Global Buddhism*, vol. 17, pp. 22–24.
- 2016: “Review of Yaroslav Komarovski, 2015. *Tibetan Buddhism and Mystical Experience*. Oxford University Press. *Religious Studies Review* 42(3), p. 229.”
- 2012: “Teaching with New Media, Collaboration and Community Engagement,” in *Department for the Study of Religion Newsletter*. University of Toronto. Spring, 2012, pp. 4–5, 20 (co-authored with Syed Adnan Hussain and Frances Garrett).
- 2010: “Drakpa Gyeltsen,” *Treasury of Lives: Biographies of Himalayan Religious Masters*.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (SELECTED)

- 2013–16: Faculty Research Grant (5 grants in total), St. Francis College (\$6,386)
- 2015: Faculty Development Grant, St. Francis College (\$1,500)
- 2012–13: Teaching Fellowship, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria
- 2011–12: Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto (\$18,000)
- 2011: Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai Canada Graduate Scholarship [declined] (\$40,000)
- 2010–12: SSHRC Research Development Initiative, co-authored with Frances Garrett, Jennifer Purtle, and Sarah Richardson (\$40,000)
- 2010–11: Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2008–10: SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (\$40,000)
- 2008: Faculty of Arts and Sciences Study Elsewhere Scholarship for Less Commonly Taught Languages, University of Toronto (\$6,500)
- 2007–8: Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2007–8: Shastri Indo–Canadian Institute Student Excellence Award (\$2,000)
- 2007: H. Albert Ellam Memorial Travel Award (\$2,590)
- 2007: Indo–Canadian Advisory Group Bursary (\$2,000)
- 2007: Faculty of Arts and Sciences Study Elsewhere Scholarship for Less Commonly Taught Languages (\$5,000)
- 2006–11: University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship (\$20,000, *per annum*)
- 2006: Margaret and Nicholas Fodor PhD Fellowship, School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto (\$3,000)
- 2004: Agon Shu Scholarship, SOAS Center for Buddhist Studies (£3,000)
- 2004: Japanese Language Proficiency Exam (日本語能力試験), Level 4

TEACHING AWARDS

- 2009: Course Instructor Award (for *Introductory Sanskrit*), Department of Language Studies, University of Toronto at Mississauga
- 2009: Teaching Commendation, The Legislature of Ontario

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**Presentations on Pedagogy**

- 2019: “Teaching India-Focused Content to International Students from India,” Columbia College Professional Development Day.
- 2016: “Reflections on A Topical Index of Tibetan Life Writing—A Student-Faculty Collaborative Project,” St. Francis College Faculty Development Symposium
- 2011: “A Students’ Database for the Comparative Study of Tibetan Biography,” Department for the Study of Religion Pedagogy Luncheon, University of Toronto

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Invited Research Presentations

- 2017: “Searching for the Right Buddha: Procedures for Locating Incarnations (*tulkus*) in Tibetan Historical Literature,” UBC Himalaya Program Lecture Series, University of British Columbia
- 2013: “Life Stories of Buddhist Masters from Tibetan Monastic Literature,” Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Public Lecture Series, University of Victoria

Paper Selected by Committee

- 2016: “Contesting Tulku Candidates in the *Ocean Annals of Amdo*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio
- 2015: “Butön’s Collected Works and Character Development in *Shalu Monastery’s Abbatial History*,” The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- 2014: “Mapping the Life of Losel Tengyong,” The 2014 Himalayan Studies Conference, Yale University, New Haven
- 2012: “When the Apple Falls Far from the Tree: Narratives of Deficient Parenting in Tibetan Monastic Hagiography,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2012: “Zha lu’s Inaugural Statuary According to the Monastery’s Contemporary Promotional Publications,” Icons of Impermanence: Contemporary Buddhist Art, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- 2010: “Records of Fifteenth-Century Conflicts at Zha lu Monastery in Inscription and Biography: Cautionary Narratives in their Historical and Literary Contexts,” The XIIth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, UBC
- 2008: “Universal Emperors and World Systems: Inscription Editing in the Zha lu Skor lams,” Art History, Buddhist Studies, Tibet: New Perspectives, Princeton University

Other Presentations

- 2016: “Research on Historical Manuscripts from Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries,” Faculty Research Committee Faculty Research Presentations, St. Francis College
- 2012: “Sexual Misconduct in Tibetan Buddhist Monasticism,” Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria
- 2011: “Mapping a Tibetan Autobiography,” Roots and Routes: Scholarly Networks and Knowledge Production in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean and in the Digital Age, University of Toronto at Scarborough

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Department of Asian Studies, Langara College (Vancouver)

Courses Taught: *Asian Mythology*, *Buddhism*, *Cinematic Depictions of Indian Society and Culture*, *Cross-Cultural Perspectives*, *Religions of the East*, *Religions of India*

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, St. Francis College (Brooklyn, NY)

Courses Taught: *Approaches to the Study of Religions*, *Buddhism*, *Death and the Afterlife*, *Honors Freshmen Seminar (Topic: Protest)*, *Moral Values and Health Issues*, *Religions of India*, *Survey of the World’s Religions*, *Tibetan Buddhist Biography*

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Courses Taught: *Buddhist Religious Traditions*, *The Study of Religion*, *Tibetan Sacred Biography*

Department of Modern Languages, University of Toronto (Mississauga)

Courses Taught: *Introductory Sanskrit*

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT (SELECTED)

- 2010–2017: Researcher, SSHRC-Supported Project: Gold, Statue, Text: Visualizing Movement in Tibetan History, University of Toronto
- 2009–2010: Research Assistant, SSHRC-Supported Project: Empowering the Medicine: The History and Performance of a Tibetan Ritual Cycle, University of Toronto
- 2005: Research Officer, Information Network Focus on Religious Movements (Inform), London School of Economics

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECTED)

- 2018–present: BC Buddhism Teaching Group (University of British Columbia)
- 2015–present: Editorial Board Member, *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies*
- 2016–2018: Book Review Sub-Editor (Inner Asia), *Religious Studies Review*
- 2014–2016: Copy Editor, *Journal of Global Buddhism*
- 2015: Manuscript Reviewer, *Numen: International Review for the History of Religions*
- 2015: Copy Editor, Zurmang Kagyud Buddhist Centre, Singapore
- 2013: Manuscript Reviewer, Information Network Focus on Religious Movements (Inform), London School of Economics
- 2013: Tutor, Resource Centre for Students with a Disability, University of Victoria
- 2011: Participant, Roots and Routes: Scholarly Networks and Knowledge Production in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean and in the Digital Age, University of Toronto
- 2008–10: Private Sanskrit Teacher
- 2008–9: Member, Scholarly Output in a Digital Age (SODA), Jackman Humanities Working Group, University of Toronto
- 2008–9: Volunteer Leader, Sanskrit Reading Group, University of Toronto at Mississauga
- 2007–8: Manuscript Reviewer, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- 2007: Sanskrit Proofreader, *Penguin Books India*