

## **Juli L. Gittinger**

Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies  
Georgia College CBX 111, Beeson 341 Milledgeville, GA 31061  
juli.gittinger@gcsu.edu (478) 445-8618  
jgitting.wordpress.com

## **EDUCATION**

- 2010-2015 PhD, Religious Studies (Hinduism)  
McGill University, Montreal  
Dissertation: *Contesting Hinduism in the electronic public sphere*  
Supervisor: Davesh Soneji
- 2006-2008 MA, Indian Religions  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Thesis: *Hindutva from Savarkar to Ayodhya: phantasmic identity of Hindu Nationalism*  
Supervisor: Loriliai Biernacki
- 2004-2005 MA, Indian Religions  
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), United Kingdom  
Dissertation: *From Priestess to Prostitute—Reclaiming the history of the Devadasi tradition in India*  
Supervisor: Sian Hawthorne
- 2002-2004 BA (Honors), Religious Studies  
Webster University, St. Louis MO  
Thesis: *Gender Jihad: A struggle for women's equality in Islam*  
Supervisor: Dennis Klass
- 1987-1992 BFA, Printmaking (Intaglio) and Film making  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2018-present Program Coordinator for Religion  
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2020-present Assistant Professor, South Asian Religions and Islam  
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2015-2020 Lecturer, South Asian Religions and Islam  
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, Asian Religions  
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro GA
- 2011-2014 Teaching Fellow, Religion and Globalization  
McGill University, Montreal QC

## BOOKS

- 2019      *Personhood in Science Fiction: religious and philosophical considerations.* Palgrave-Macmillan.
- 2018      *Hinduism and Hindu Nationalism Online.* Routledge.

## EDITED VOLUMES

- 2020      *Theology and Westworld.* Co-edited with Shayna Sheinfeld. Lexington Press.

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2019      “Hijabi Cosplay: Negotiating Spheres of Cultural, Religious, and Fan Identities,” in Cusak, Carole and John Morehead, eds. *The Sacred in Fantastic Fandom.* McFarland.
- 2019      “Mediating Hindu Identities: cultural regrouping online,” in Zeiler, Xenia, ed. *Digital Hinduism.* Routledge.

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2022      “The New Gods: Free Will, Determinism, and AI in *Westworld* and *DEVS.*” *Journal of Popular Culture.* June.
- 2021      “Liberal Prepping as Apocalyptic Eco-Religion.” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture.* December.
- 2018      “Hijabi Cosplay: performances of culture, religion, and fandom,” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture.* 30.2 (Summer 2018): 87-105.
- 2017      “The Rhetoric of Violence, Religion, and Purity in India’s Cow Protection Movement,” *Journal of Religion and Violence.* May 2017: 131-149.
- 2015      “Hindu diaspora as ‘virtual community’: digital neighborhoods, electronic transnationalism,” *Symposia Volume VII*, University of Toronto. 2015: 1-16.
- 2015      “Modi-era Nationalism and the Rise of Cyber-Activism.” *Exemplar* 3.1. Special Issue: The Meaning of Modi. 3:1 Spring 2015: 9-17.
- 2014      “Is there such a thing as ‘cyberimperialism’?” *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* 28.3 May 2014: 1-11.
- 2011      “Saffron Terror: Splinter or Symptom?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol XLVI no 37, 10 Sept 2011: 22-25.
- 2010      “Hindutva: from nationalism to secularism,” *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*, Nov 2010.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2022 *The Dreamer and the Dream: Afrofuturism and Black Religious Thought*. Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuse. [forthcoming]
- 2022 *Holy Science: The Biopolitics of Hindu Nationalism* by Banu Subramaniam. International Journal for Hindu Studies 25.3 [forthcoming].
- 2017 *Heathen, Hindoo, Hindu: American Representations of India, 1721-1893* by Michael J. Altman. JAAR/ReadingReligion. <http://readingreligion.org/books/heathen-hindoo-hindu>
- 2016 *The Value of Comparison* by Peter van der Veer. JAAR/ReadingReligion. <http://readingreligion.org/books/value-comparison>
- 2016 *Digital Methodologies in the Sociology of Religion* edited by Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor and Suha Shakkour. JAAR/ReadingReligion. <http://readingreligion.org/books/digital-methodologies-sociology-religion>

## ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- 2021 Updated “Digital Hinduism” entry in *Oxford Bibliographies in Hinduism*.
- 2020 Jerryson, Michael, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Violence*. Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO. Twenty-five entries (approx. 29,000 words) on various topics on Hinduism and violence.
- 2017 “Digital Hinduism.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Hinduism*. Ed. Tracy Coleman. New York: Oxford University Press.  
<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195399318/obo-9780195399318-0178.xml>
- 2011 Kaminsky, Arnold P. and Roger D. Long, eds., *India Today [Two Volumes]: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*. Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO. Five entries (approx. 8,000 words) on topics of Hindu nationalism.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 *Whose Utopia? Personhood, ability, exclusion, and belonging*. American Academy of Religions. Religion and Media Workshop, November 2. San Diego, CA.
- 2019 *Science fiction/science future: How scifi helps us dream, cope, and critique our reality*. Oconee Regional Library. Young Adult Summer Program, June 10. Dublin, GA
- 2019 Panel: “Mediated Hindutva.” U.S. State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research. March 18. Washington DC.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (last ten years)

- 2021 *Diving Deeper Into DEVS*. Christianity and Science Fiction, virtual conference, October.
- 2021 *The New Gods: Free Will, Determinism, and AI in Westworld and DEVS*. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), virtual conference, June.
- 2020 *Science Fiction, Immigration, and the 'Alien Other'*. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA). Philadelphia, PA. April.  
\*Cancelled due to Covid19
- 2020 *The New Apocalyptic Eco-Religion of Prepping*. Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR). Athens, GA. February.
- 2020 *India's 'Sacred' Cow: colonial and post-colonial shifts*. British Colonial and Postcolonial Studies (BCPS) Annual Conference. Savannah, GA. February.
- 2018 *Counter-colonialism and the Afrofuturist utopia in Black Panther*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. Denver, CO, November.
- 2018 *A "Proper" Hindu woman: Hindu nationalism vs. feminist activism on social media*. International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture (ISMRC). Boulder, CO, August.
- 2018 *(Re)telling History: The fiction of idealized Hindu nationhood*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2017 *Techno-orientalism: representations of South Asia on the Web*. Association for Global South Studies (AGSS). Marrakesh, Morocco. December.
- 2017 *Personhood in HBO's Westworld*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. Boston, MA. November.
- 2017 *Secularism, plurality, and majority: "Religious freedom" in India*. SECSOR (Southeast regional AAR), Raleigh, NC. March.
- 2017 *Dalit suicides and post-colonial hangovers*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2016 *Rhetoric of violence, religion, and purity in India's Cow Protection movement*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. November.
- 2016 *Secularism vs Sickularism: The post-colonial legacy of communalism in India*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2016 *Trans...something? Labelling alternate sexual identities in Indian vs US media*. Center for Media, Religion, and Culture (CMRC) Annual Conference. Boulder CO, January.
- 2012 *Talking about Saffron Terror in 'Secular' India*, Association of Asian Studies (AAS) National Conference, Toronto March. [Panel organizer and presenter]
- 2011 *Hindu Radicalism and the 'Talibanisation' of Hinduism*, American Academy of Religion Eastern International Regional Conference (AAR-EIR), Syracuse NY, May.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2021 Best Faculty Paper Award, PCA/ACA 2021
- 2016 Faculty Research Grant, Georgia College.
- 2013 Eugene McBurney Foundation Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2013 SSHRC Award for Research Assistance on *Polyphonic Thinking and the Divine* (Rodopi 2013).
- 2012, 2013 Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2012 Eugene McBurney Foundation Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2010-2011 President's Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University.
- 2010-2011 Provost's Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2017-2018 Book Review Editor, *Journal of Religion and Violence*
- 2011-2014 Project Assistant, Faith and Globalization Initiative (in conjunction with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation), McGill University
- 2011-2013 Proofing, copy editing, formatting (various faculty member publications)

## **SERVICE**

- 2021-present Honors Faculty Council
- 2020-present Digital Humanities Initiative
- 2020-2021 Diversity Leadership Team
- 2015-2021 Dean's Advisory Committee (AY 2017/18 as Chair)
- 2018, 2020 Newell Scholar search committee
- 2017-2019 Faculty Development Awards subcommittee
- 2017-2020 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Awards subcommittee
- 2017-present Web Advisory Committee and webmaster for departmental website

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Introduction to World Religions | Religion, Media, and Culture              |
| South Asian Religions           | Religion and Science Fiction              |
| Asian Religions                 | Hindu Nationalism                         |
| Hindu Traditions                | Religion and Human Rights                 |
| Islam and the Modern World      | Thinking Through Religions                |
| Religion and the Body           | Mystical, Magical, and Ecstatic Religions |
| Women's Studies                 | Religion and Technology                   |

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA)

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Modern Hinduism

Secularism

Technology and Religion

Hindu Nationalism

Conflict and Violence

Religion and Pop-culture

## **LANGUAGES**

Reading/writing/translation proficiency in Hindi and French