

Juli L. Gittinger

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EDUCATION

- 2010-2015 PhD, Religious Studies (Hinduism)
McGill University, Montreal
Dissertation: *Contesting Hinduism in the electronic public sphere*
Supervisor: Daves 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: Sîan 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 Religiuese. [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 <i>Polyphonic Thinking and the Divine</i> (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, <i>Journal of Religion and Violence</i>
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