

# Loriliai Biernacki

# Curriculum Vitae

## Associate Professor

University of Colorado, Department of Religious Studies  
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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Religious Studies**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
**B.A., English**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

## EMPLOYMENT

**Assistant Professor**, University of Colorado at Boulder 1999–2006  
**Associate Professor**, University of Colorado at Boulder 2007–present

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books (Peer-reviewed):**

Co-Editor: *Panentheism Across the World's Religious Traditions* Oxford University Press, 2013.  
*The Renowned Goddess of Desire: Women, Sex and Speech in Tantra*, Oxford University Press, 2007.  
**Winner of the Kayden Book Award, 2008**

### **Peer Reviewed Articles:**

"Abhinavagupta's Tantric Theology of Becoming and Contemporary Secularism" in *Prabuddha Bharata*, vol.121, no.1, January 2016, pp.191-204 (invited with editorial review, not blind peer review).

"Material Subjects, Immaterial Bodies: Abhinavagupta's Panentheist Matter" in *Entangled Worlds: Religion, Science and the New Materialisms*. Mary-Jane Rubenstein and Catherine Keller, Eds., Fordham University Press, forthcoming, 2016 (in press).

"Psychology of Meditation: Philosophical Perspectives" in *The Psychology of Meditation: Research and Practice*. Michael West, Ed., New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 2016 (in press).

"The Conscious Body: Thinking about the Relation between Mind and Body with Abhinavagupta's Tantra" in *Beyond Physicalism: Toward Reconciliation of Science and Spirituality*. Edward Kelly, Adam Crabtree and Paul Marshall, eds., Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield. 2015.

Reprint of "The Paranormal Body" in *4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology of Paranthropology: Strange Dimensions: A Paranthropology Anthology*, Ed., Jack Hunter, 2015.

"Words and Word-bodies: Writing the Religious Body," in *Words. Religious Language Matters.*, Hemel, Ernst van den, and Asja Szafraniec, Eds., New York: Fordham University Press, 2015.

"A Cognitive Science View of Abhinavagupta's Understanding of Consciousness," *Religions* 5(3):767-779 (2014).

"The Paranormal Body: Reflections on Indian Perspectives towards the Paranormal." *Paranthropology* 5:1, (2014), 81-92.

"Miming Manu: Authority and Mimicry in a Tantric Context," *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 36:4 (2014) 644-660.

"Abhinavagupta's Theogrammatical Topography of the One and the Many," in *Divine Multiplicities: Trinities and Diversities*, Chris Boesel, Ed., New York: Fordham Press, 2014, 85-105.

"Panentheism Outside the Box" in *God's Body: Panentheism Across the World's Religious Traditions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, 1-17.

"Panentheism and Hindu Tantra: Abhinavagupta's Grammatical Cosmology" in *God's Body: Panentheism Across the World's Religious Traditions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, 161-176.

"The Yoginī and the Tantric Sex Rite, or How to Keep a Secret" in *'Yoginī' in South Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches*. Istvan Keul, Ed. New York: Routledge Press, 2013, 213-225.

"Real Men Say No: Representations of Masculinity in Hinduism" in *English Language Notes*, Fall/Winter 2012, 50:2, 49-62.

"Towards A Tantric Nondualist Ethics through Abhinavagupta's Notion of Rasa" in *Oxford Journal of Hindu Studies*, 4:3 October 2011, 4:3 October 2011, 258-273.

"The Absent Mother and Bodied Speech: Psychology and Gender in Late Medieval Tantra" in *Transformations and Transfer of Tantra in Asia and Beyond*, Istvan Keul, Ed., De Gruyter Press, December 2011, 215-238.

"Kālī Practice: Revisiting Women's Roles in Tantra" in *Woman and Goddess in Hinduism: Reinterpretations and Re-envisionings*, ed. Tracy Pintchman and Rita Sherma, Palgrave-McMillan, 2011, pp.121-145.

"Wilhelm Halbfass: India and Philology": in *Religious Studies Review*, 33:2 August 2007, pp. 95–111.

"Possession, Absorption and the Transformation of *Samāveśā*": in *Expanding and Merging Horizons: Contributions to South Asian and Cross-cultural Studies in Commemoration of Wilhelm Halbfass*, Ed., Karin Preisendanz, *Veröffentlichungen zu den Sprachen und Kulturen Sudasiens* series. Wien: Osterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2007 and Varanasi: Motilal Banarsidass 2007, 491-505.

"Sex Talk and Gender Rites: Women and Tantric Sex" in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 10:2 August, 2006, pp. 187–208.

"Shree Maa of Kamakkhya" in *The Graceful Guru: Hindu Female Gurus in India and the US*, Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 179–202.

#### **Non-Peer Reviewed Articles:**

"The Future of Hinduism: A Rich and Strange Metamorphosis: Glocal Hinduism" in ed. Kathleen Mulhern, *Future of Religion: Traditions in Transition*, Patheos Press, 2012, pp.16-17.

"Hinduism" for *Sacred Agent* Website, an interactive web project, <http://www.sacredagent.com/> (6000 words), 2010.

"A Rich and Strange Metamorphosis: Glocal Hinduism" July 1, 2010, Washington Post <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/patheos/> and <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/A-Rich-and-Strange-Metamorphosis.html>

#### **Encyclopedia Articles:**

"Abhinavagupta" for *Routledge History of Indian Philosophy Encyclopedia*, 4100 words, 2016.

"Satya Narayana Vrat Katha" for *South Asian Folklore: An Encyclopedia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka*. Eds. Peter Claus, Sarah Diamond, Routledge, 2003.

"Vedas" for *Contemporary American Religion Encyclopedia*, Macmillian, 2000.

### ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS

- Editorial Board for the Journal of the American Academy of Religion 2015
- LEAP grant 2015
- GCAH grant 2015
- Center for Asian Studies, and Dept of Religious Studies grant to bring Joseph Alter for CU talk April 2015
- AFSE award for conference presentations in Pomona Ca April 2015
- University of Colorado Marinus Smith Award (for significant impact on the lives of CU undergraduates) April 2013
- Center for Asian Studies Fellowship to bring Peter Heehs from India for a week long symposium events and talks April 2010
- Fulbright: Project Scholar for Fulbright Study Tour, India July 2009
- Nominated for the Graduate Student Mentoring Award April 2009
- Center for Asian Studies, Conference Funding for *Sex and Texts: Representations of Sexuality in Asian Religious Traditions*, to invite nine scholars to present papers for a projected volume Oct 14–16, 2009
- Fellowship Grant Award from the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society 2009
- Kayden Book Prize 2008 for *Renowned Goddess of Desire* (Oxford, 2007). The Kayden Book Prize is given to the best book among books submitted by University of Colorado Faculty in the liberal arts; the competition is across disciplines and includes senior and junior faculty submissions. 2008
- Center for Asian Studies Travel Grant for paper presentation at the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy conference June 2008
- Center for Asian Studies Research Assistance Grant, University of Colorado at Boulder 2007
- Wabash, Lilly Foundation Research Fellowship for summer research in Assam, India 2004
- Award for Teaching Excellence, Student nominated. Sponsored by the Committee on Learning and Academic Support Services and the National Residence Hall Honorary, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder 2000

### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED, WITH FUNDING OBTAINED:

"Sex and Texts: Representations of Sexuality in Asian Religious Traditions," University of Colorado at Boulder, Oct. 14–16, 2009. Funded by the Center for Asian Studies and the Kayden Award.

"Panentheism Across the World's Traditions," Center for Theory and Research, Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California, Nov. 28–Dec. 2, 2010.

### BOOK REVIEWS

Book Review of Religion and the Subtle Body in Asia and the West: Between Mind and Body, New York and Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2012. In *Asian Medicine--Tradition and Modernity*, 9:1-2 (2015), 277-279.

Book Review of *Authors of the Impossible*, Jeffrey Kripal, University of Chicago Press, 2010 and *Esalen: America and the Religion of No Religion*, Jeffrey Kripal, University of Chicago Press, 2007 in *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, 2:1 (Spring 2011), 142-145.

Book Review of *The Teachings of the Odd-Eyed One: A Study and Translation of the Virūpākṣapañcāśīkā with the Commentary of Vidyācakravartin* by David Lawrence. State University of New York Press, 2008 in *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 4:2, (July 2011), 214-216.

Book Review of *Women in Tibet*, ed. Janet Gyatso and Hanna Havnevik, New York, Columbia University Press in *Religion* 40 (2010), 327-329.

Book Review of *Representing Religion: Essays in History, Theory and Crisis*, by Tim Murphy, Oakville, CT, Equinox Press, 2007, in *Religion* 39, (2009), 396–397.

Book review of *Women In Ochre Robes* by Meena Khandelwal in *Religious Studies Review*, 30: 2/3, (April/July 2004), 151.

Book Review of *Renewal of the Priesthood* by C.J. Fuller *Religion*, *Religion*, 37 (2007), 250–252.

Book Review of *Untouchable Freedom: A Social History of a Dalit Community* by Vijay Prashad in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 9:1-3, (2005), 182-184.

Book Review of *Limits of Thought: Discussions* by J. Krishnamurti and David Bohm in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 6:1 (April 2002), 96–97.

Book Review of *Sapta Matrka Worship and Sculptures*. By Shivaji K. Panikkar, in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 4:1 (April 2000), 84–85.

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED:**

“Hinduism and Science” AAR response paper, Atlanta, GA, Nov. 22, 2015.

“The Affect of Tantric Bodies” AAR, Atlanta, GA, Nov. 21, 2015.

“Imagination in the Context of Hindu Religious Praxis” AAR DANAM, Atlanta, GA, Nov. 20, 2015.

“Micro and Macro Ecosystems: the Tantric Body” Pando Populus Seizing an Alternative Conference for Sustainability, June 6, 2015.

“Varieties of Immanence: Tantric Possibilities for Demonstrating how Matter matters.” Pando Populus Seizing an Alternative Conference for Sustainability, June 5, 2015.

“Bhāvana,” *Invited with full funding*, presented at ITP, Mill Valley, California, May 15-17, 2015.

“The Body in Tantra: Cakras,” *Invited with full funding*, SurSem Conference, Big Sur, California, April 7, 2015.

“Contemplative Studies in the Humanities” at Naropa Contemplative Studies Conference, April 4, 2015.

“Subtle Bodies,” Center for Asian Studies, Univ of Colorado, Feb, 26, 2015.

“Bhakti, Tantra and Wonder” presented at AAR national meeting, Danam group, Nov.23, 2014.

"History of the Cakras" at "Esoteric Anatomies" conference, June 9, 2014, Mill Valley, CA. Invited and fully funded.

"Transforming the Body in Abhinavagupta's Tantra" at SurSem conference, April 15, 2014. Invited and fully funded.

"Subjects and Objects" presented at Drew University Transdisciplinary Conference: Religion and Science, March 28-30, 2014. *Invited with full funding.*

"Tantra at the Margins: Response" presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Baltimore Nov. 21, 2013.

"The Subtle Body" presented at Anthropology and the Paranormal Symposium, Big Sur, CA, Oct. 13-17, 2013. *Invited with full funding.*

"The Conscious Body: Thinking about the Relation Between Mind and Body with Abhinavagupta's Tantra," *Invited with full funding*, presented at SurSem Conference, Big Sur, California, May 19, 2013.

"Kundalinī, Neuroscience and the Filter Theory" presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Additional Meetings DANAM, Chicago, IL, Nov. 17, 2012.

"Response to Cognitive Science and Tantra Panel" presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Additional Meetings DANAM, Chicago, IL, Nov. 20, 2012.

"Ritual and Contemplative Education" *Invited with full funding and honorarium*, presented at Contemplative Mind and Society, Northampton, MA, August 1, 2012.

"Abhinavagupta's Cosmology in Relation to Contemporary Physical Models," *Invited with full funding*, presented at SurSem Conference, Big Sur, California, May 22, 2012.

"Subtle Bodies" *Invited with full funding*, presented at SurSem Conference, Big Sur, California, May 24, 2012.

"Panentheism across the World Traditions," *Invited with full funding*, presented at Panentheism Conference, Big Sur, CA, November 28, 2011.

"Tantric Bodies and Siddhis," *Invited with full funding*, Presented at Panentheism Conference, Big Sur, CA, November 30, 2011.

"Rethinking the Body: the Hybrid Tantric Body," presented at the National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19, 2011

"Imitatio Gandhi: Hindu Meditation Practices," *Invited with full funding and honorarium*, San Diego State University Conference on Dharma, July 21, 2011.

"Abhinavagupta's Tantric Model for Understanding the Nature of Consciousness" *Invited with full funding*, SurSem, Big Sur, CA, May 22-27, 2011.

"Abhinavagupta, Siddhis and Science" *Invited with full funding*, Conference on the Siddhis, Big Sur, CA, May 18-20, 2011.

"Real Men Say No: Representations of Masculinity in Hinduism" *Invited with partial funding*. Conference on Masculinities in South Asia, Miami University, Ohio, May 1-3, 2011.

"Panenthesim and Hindu Tantra: Abhinavagupta's Grammatical Cosmology," Panentheism Conference, Big Sur, California, November 30, 2010. *Invited with full funding*.

Drew Theological and Philosophical Studies Colloquy: "Writing the Body: Magical Speech and Super-Bodies," September 29, 2010. *Invited with full funding*.

"Abhinavagupta and Ethics," Society of Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff, AZ, Sept. 25, 2010.

"Response to Recent Research in Tantra" panel presentation at the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Nov. 8, 2009.

"Translation, Universality and the Subject-Object Divide" paper presentation at the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Nov. 7, 2009.

"Evolution, Emergence Theory and Abhinavagupta's Tantric Non-dualism" paper presentation at Dharma Association of North America conference, Montreal, Nov. 6, 2009.

"Women in the Tantric Sex Rite, or How to Keep a Secret" at the "Sacred Feminine" Conference, University of Missouri, Missouri, Oct. 18, 2009, *Invited with full funding and honorarium*.

"Sex and the Siddhi" at the *Sex and Texts: Representations of Sexuality in Asian Religious Traditions*, Conference at University of Colorado at Boulder Oct. 15, 2009.

"Rethinking the Religious Body: Tantric Models of Embodied Divinity" at the Heidelberg, Germany conference on "Rethinking the Religious Body", Oct. 4–6, 2009, *Invited with full funding and honorarium*.

"Ritual Subversion of Manu in a Tantric Context," Conference for the Study of Religion in India, June 19, 2009.

"The Ethics of Delight" Invited Paper, University of New Mexico Philosophy Department Colloquium Series. May 1, 2009, *Invited with full funding and honorarium*.

"Spanda and the Gap in the Vijñāna Bhairava," Paper Presentation for Evolutionary Panentheism Conference, Big Sur, March 24, 2009. *Invited with full funding*.

Western Conference for the Association of Asian Studies, "Chinese and Indian Developmental Experience" Interdisciplinary Panel Presentation, University of Colorado at Boulder, September 13, 2008.

"Panentheism, Scientific Emergence and Abhinavagupta's 11th century Tantra" Paper Presentation for the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, June 9, 2008.

"Miming Manu" presented at the National Meeting of the the AAR (American Academy of Religion) in San Diego, Nov. 20, 2007.

"The Ethics of Abhinavagupta's Conception of Rasa" presented at the Annual DANAM meeting in San Diego, Nov. 21, 2007.

"Subaltern Blues" presented at Challenging Cultures of Death Conference on War, Dublin, Ireland, Oct. 4, 2007.

"The Spanda and the Gap: Knowledge and Action/Theory and Practice in Abhinava's IPVV" presented at Esalen, Big Sur, California, December 10, 2007, *Invited with full funding*.

"Panentheism and a world without a teleology," presented at Panentheism conference, Esalen, Big Sur, California, December 11, 2007, *Invited with full funding*.

"Response to Panel on South Asia and Sacred Space" presented at the National Meeting of the the AAR (American Academy of Religion) in Washington, DC, November 19, 2006.  
Subsequently published on [http://asian.fiu.edu/sacred space session aar.html](http://asian.fiu.edu/sacred%20space%20session%20aar.html)

"The Kālī Practice," paper presented at the National Meeting of the AAR (American Academy of Religion) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Nov. 20, 2005.

"Abhinavagupta and Binaries", Paper presented for the Medieval and Early Modern Society at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Nov. 4, 2005.

"Movement and Time: Abhinavagupta," paper presented at the Society for Tantric Studies Conference, in Flagstaff, Arizona, Oct. 2, 2005.

"Rape of the Goddess," paper presented at the Regional Meeting of the AAR in Denver, Colorado, April 9, 2005.

"Sex Rites and Gender Talk," paper presented for the Association of Religious Studies Students, University of Colorado, Boulder, Feb. 23, 2005.

"Sex and the Other/Woman: The Role Of Wives And Goddesses In A Tantric Sex Rite Of Kāmākhyā," paper presented at the National Meeting of the AAR in San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 21, 2004.

"To Speak Like a Woman: Lacan, Magical Mantras and Bodied Speech," paper presented at Conference on Freud and Religion, Rice University, Texas, Dec. 3, 2003, *fully funded with honorarium*.

"How to Keep a Secret: Power, Hierarchy and the Function of the Feminine in Tantric Praxis," Paper presentation at University of Iowa, presentation Nov. 17, 2003, *Invited with full funding and honorarium*.

"Women in the Transgressive Sexual Rite," paper presentation at the AAR Regional Meeting in Boulder, Colorado, April 5, 2003.

Society for Tantric Studies Conference paper presentation: "The Tantric Transgressive Sex Ritual and Gender: How to Keep a Secret" Flagstaff, AZ, October 12, 2002.

"Hinduism and Terrorism" Talk at St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder, CO, Sept. 19th.

"Historical Religious Perceptions of Hindu-Muslim relations in Kashmir" American Airforce Academy, Colorado Springs, April 14, 2000.

"Whose Ghus is Goose: A Defense of Bribery in India," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the AAR in Boston, MA, November 21, 1999.

Paper presentation at the *International Conference for Religion, Science and Relativism* for the Society for Philosophy and Religion: "Unstoppable Karma and the Infinite Text: Strategies for Dealing with Relativism." sponsored by Elon College, North Carolina, held in Calcutta, India, August 1997.

"The God of Truth in the Land of Plenty: The Creation of the Indian Immigrant Identity in the U.S. in the ritual of the *Satya Narayana Vrat Katha*," paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the AAR in Philadelphia, PA, November 20, 1995.

Paper presentation at the *International Conference on Women and Religion*: "Tradition and the Engendered Mystic: A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mystic and Her Patriarchal Inheritance" Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, September 1995.