

UPALI SRAMAN

Lecturer in Buddhist Languages and Cultures
School of Divinity, Edinburgh University
New College,
Mound Place,
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EDUCATION

PhD (Religion), 2016-2023.

Dissertation: “Bending the Body, Keeping the Mind Upright: The Pedagogy of Bodily Comportment in the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya”

Comprehensive Exams: (1a) Buddhism in Tibet; (1b) Buddhism in East Asia; (2a) Literary Theory and Narratology; (2b) Ethnographic Methods in Buddhist Studies; (3) South Asian Religions; (4) Specialized Exam in Vinaya Studies.

MDiv. (Buddhist Ministry), 2013-2016, Harvard University.

Thesis: “To be is to Care: Conception of the Human in Care Ethics with Special Reference to Selected Buddhist Texts”

MA (Buddhist Studies), 2012-2013, Department of Buddhist Studies, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy.

Master’s Thesis: “*Samacitta* (Same-mind): An Inquiry into its Usages, Meanings, and Implications in the Pali and Buddhist Sanskrit Sources”

Exchange Student, Fall, 2011, Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Göttingen, Germany.

Courses taken: Religion and Modernity; Religion and Politics; Hinduism and Its Others, Critical Historiography, German.

Bachelor of Arts, (Sanskrit), 2007-2011, University of Peradeniya, Sri-Lanka.

Honor’s Thesis: “Śāṅavāsyavadāna and Upaguptāvadāna in Kṣemendra’s Avadānakalpalatā: A Critical Study with an Introduction, Annotated Translations, and Supplementary Essays”

PAST TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Emory University.

Buddhist Philosophy, Fall 2022.

Introduction to Sanskrit- Part II, Spring, 2020. (half online due to Covid-19).

Introduction to Sanskrit-Part I, Fall, 2019.

Adjunct Instructor, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Kathmandu University, Nepal.

Buddhist Studies-Concepts, Summer Program, 2021. (online asynchronous & synchronous).
Intensive Pali for Beginners, Summer Program, 2020. (online synchronous).
Intensive Pali for Beginners, Summer Program, 2019.

Teaching Assistant/Associate, Emory University.

Religion and Healing: Buddhist and Christian Meditation. Spring, 2018.
Asian Religious Traditions, Fall, 2017.
Introduction to Buddhism, Spring, 2017.

Teaching Assistant, Harvard University.

Buddhism through its Scriptures, Spring 2016 (four weeks online course).

Visiting Lecturer, International Buddhist Academy, Kathmandu.

Introduction to Theravada History, Texts, Doctrines, and Culture, Spring, 2019.

Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Buddhist Studies, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA).

Buddhism and Social Work, Spring, 2013.
Research and Literary Works in Buddhist Studies, Spring 2013.
Intermediate Sanskrit, Spring, 2013.
Sri Lankan Sangha Administration, Fall, 2012.
Dhamma Communication, Fall, 2012.
Vinayapitaka (Buddhist Monastic Discipline), Fall, 2012.
Intensive Pali for Beginners, Fall, 2012 (co-taught with two teachers).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Journal Editing

Editorial board member, *The Graduate Journal of Harvard Divinity School*, Vol.11, 2016.
Associate editor, *Sri Lanka International Journal of Buddhist Studies (SIJBS)*, Vol.2, 2014.

Higher Education Chaplaincy

Office of Spiritual and Religious Life, Emory University.
Buddhist Religious Life Scholar, 2017-2018. 2019-2020.

Tufts University Chaplaincy, Tufts.

Buddhist Chaplain, 2014- 2016.

Harvard Divinity School.

Co-president, Harvard Buddhist Community, 2015-2016.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS

- Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Emory Laney Graduate School, 2022-2023.
- ACLS, Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2020-2021.
- PhD. Tuition and Stipend, Emory University, 2016-2020.
- South Asia and Himalayan Scholarship for the Spring Semester at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, 2019.
- Khyentse Foundation Scholarship for Tibetan Language Course at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Summer, 2018.
- Emory Religious Practices Funding for the Summer Intensive Tibetan Language Course at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, 2018.
- Emory Professional Development Support, Travel Grant for a Summer Intensive Classical Tibetan Language course at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2017.
- Travel Grant for “Asia in Motion: Ideas, Institutions, Identities” conference, the Association for Asian Studies, Michigan, 2015.
- Travel Grant for “Buddhism and Wellbeing Conference”, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 2015.
- Robert H.N. Ho. Family Scholarship for MDiv Degree at Harvard Divinity School, 2013-2016.
- University of Göttingen, “Experts Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Strand 1 Scholarship”, European Union, Fall, 2011.
- Winner, Anti-corruption Assignment Competition-2009 (English Medium), Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), Colombo, Sri Lanka.

PUBLICATIONS

a) Peer-Reviewed Journals

- “Connecting with and Distancing from: Transnational Influences in the Formation of Buddhist Identity and Practices in Bangladesh,” *Journal of Global Buddhism*, Vol.21, 2020: 205-222.
- “Why are the *Samacitta-devas* called “Same-minded Deities”?”, *Sri Lanka International Journal of Buddhist Studies (SIJBS)*, Vol. III, Ed. Bhikkhuni Suwimalee et.al., Pallekele, 2014: 149-160.
- “Elements of a “Buddhist Literary Theory” as Depicted in Pali Literature”, *Journal of Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka*, New Series, Volume LVII, Ed. Hema Goonatilake, Colombo, 2012: 19-40.

b) Book Chapters

- “Cognitive Distortions (*vipallāsa*) in Theravāda Texts”, in: *Understanding Mind, Consciousness and Person*. Ed. by Ramala Sharma. New Delhi: Rawat Prakashan. 2021: 115-134.
- “Understanding Buddhist, Sikh, and Hindu Students on Campus”, co-authored with Rahuldeep Singh Gill and Varun Soni, in *Educating About Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement - A Handbook for Student Affairs*. Ed. Kathleen M. Goodman et al., Bloomfield: Stylus Publishing. 2019: 275-290.

- “*Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinayavastu: A Brief Introduction*”, *Bauddha Saṃskṛta Grantha Adhyāyana (Studies on Buddhist Sanskrit Literature), Felicitation Volume for Pinangodakande Vipassi Mahatthera*. Ed. Vijita Kumāra et. al., Kandy, 2013:137-145.
- “*Abhisār – Rabindranath Tagore’s Poetic Adaptation of an Episode from Upagupta Legend: An Example of Buddhist Narratives in the Time of Bengal Renaissance*”, *Journal of Rabindranath Tagore Society of Sri Lanka*, Ed. Leel Gunasekera, Colombo, 2011: 36-41.

c) Book Review

- “Voice of the Buddha: Buddhaghosa on the Immeasurable Words by Maria Heim”, *Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 71 (2), 2021: 1-5.

d) Newspaper Articles, Public Facing Blog-posts, Long Conference Abstracts,

- “Utterances from ‘Om’: Poems of Quazi Johirul Islam.” *Daily Sun*. 26th April. 2022. <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/617808/Utterances-from-O%E1%B9%81-%E2%80%93-Poems-of-Quazi-Johirul-Islam>
- “Quazi Johirul Islam: Counter-realism in Poems.” *New Age*, 4th December, 2020. <https://www.newagebd.net/article/123317/counter-realism-in-poems>
- “Grandeur of Tibetan Buddhist Monastic Training.” *Rangjung Yeshe Student Blog*. 14th October, 2019. <http://ryi-student-blog.blogspot.com/2019/10/grandeur-of-tibetan-monastic-training.html>
- “The Plight of Buddhist Minorities in Bangladesh.” *Buddhistdoor International*. 18th October, 2013. <https://www.buddhistchannel.tv/index.php?id=0,11649,0,0,1,0>
- “Sangharaja Saramedha’s Role in the Revival of Buddhism in Bengal”, *International Pali Conference, Research Papers*, Ed. Magamma Pannananda Thera et. al., Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Sri Jayawardhenapura, Colombo, 2011: 51-57. [written in Pali]
- “Seven Games of India in the 6th Century B.C.E. As Depicted in the Mahātaṇhāsaṅkhasutta of Majjhima Nikāya”, *Proceedings of the Peradeniya University Research Sessions – PURSE 2009*, Volume 14, Part II: 660-662.

e) Newspaper Articles written in Bengali

- “A Bengali Poet in the Fifteenth Century Royal Court of Sri Lanka.” *Sāmpratik Deshkal – a national newspaper in Bangladesh*, 25th January, 2021: 9.
- “Vaṅḡisa Thera – the First Bengali Poet in Recorded History.” *Sāmpratik Deshkal – a national newspaper in Bangladesh*, 2nd January, 2020: 9.
- “Bengali Translation of Jamgön Khontrul Lodro Thaye’s Tibetan Devotional Poem ‘Calling the Guru from Afar.’” *Sougoto – Quarterly Buddhist Magazine*, Ed. Bhikkhu Sunandapriya, October, 2017: 47-49.
- “Devotion in Insight Meditation.” In: *Samādhi – An Annual Buddhist Magazine*, No: 14, ed. Ven. Dharmalankar Bhikkhu, Pomra Gyanankur Meditation Centre, Chittagong, 2013:13-15.
- “The Story of Five Sages on the most Severe Suffering in the World, based on *r̥ṣipañcaka-avadāna* in *Avadānasārasamuccaya*.” In: *Samādhi – An Annual Buddhist Magazine*, No: 13, Ed. Ven. Dharmalankar Bhikkhu, Pomra Gyanankur Meditation Centre, Chittagong, 2012: 16-19.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/INVITED TALKS (Selected)

- “Rival Monastic Groups and the Messiness of Ethical Practice in Buddhist Vinaya Texts.” Monasticism in South Asia Panel. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado, November 22, 22.
- “Why do Monks Punch Each Other: Humor and Ethics in Buddhist Vinaya Texts.” South Asia Seminar. Emory University. October 7, 2022.
- Buddhist Studies Dissertation Seminar and Workshop. American Council of Learned Societies. Princeton, New Jersey. August 7 -11, 2022.
- “Examine with Clear Eyes: Filtering Water as an Ethical Practice in Buddhist Monastic Training,” Conference on the Study of Religions of India. Colby College, Maine, June 23-26, 2022.
- “How to Make Sense of the Non-Legal Aspects of Buddhist Monastic Law?” invited talk at the CSLR Colloquy. Center for the Study of Law and Religion. Emory University. 20th November, 2019.
- “Buddhism and Youngsters”, Panel Discussion in Tibetan language at the Trans-Himalayan Seminar organized by the Himalayan Buddhist Library and Cultural Centre. Kathmandu. 30th April, 2019.
- “Is Theravāda the Lower Vehicle?” Invited Talk at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, 7th November, 2018.
- “The Transnational Character of Buddhism in Bangladesh (1864-present)”, “Buddhism in Motion” Panel, “Asia in Motion: Ideas, Institutions, Identities” Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, 22-24 June, 2015.
- “Healing through Spiritual Care: Arts and Ethics of Chaplaincy as Gleaned from Some Buddhist Narratives”, Buddhism and Wellbeing Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada 28-30 May, 2015.
- “Buddhist Understanding of Human Personhood: Doctrine of non-self (*anattā*),” invited talk, “The Sacred and the Self in World Religions: Explorations in Comparative Theology” lecture series, March 10th, 2015, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- “Bengalizing (Bengali reproductions of) Buddhist Narratives in Modern times”, World Religions Cafe Talk at the Centre for the Study of World Religions, Harvard. Spring 2014.
- “Sangha (Community) as a Lived Experience”, World Religions Cafe Talk at the Centre for the Study of World Religions, Harvard. Fall 2014.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Bengali (native)	advanced reading, writing, and conversation
English	advanced reading, writing, and conversation
Pali	advanced reading and writing
Classical Sanskrit	advanced reading, intermediate writing and conversation
Tibetan	advanced reading and conversation
Sinhalese	intermediate reading and advanced conversation
Hindi	intermediate reading and advanced conversation
German	basic reading, basic conversation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religions
Association of Asian Studies
Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Professor Charles Hallisey

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Cambridge, MA 02138
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Professor Sara McClintock

Department of Religion
Emory University
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