

DARTMOUTH

Department of Religion

Dr. Gregory Max Seton

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- DPhil, Buddhist Studies (Department of Oriental Studies), University of Oxford, 2016
Supervisors: Alexis Sanderson and Vesna Wallace
- Research Fellow, Kultur u. Geschichte Indiens u. Tibets, Universität Hamburg, 2011–2014
Under: Harunaga Isaacson and Dorji Wangchuk
- M.A., Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2008
Advisors: José Cabezón and Vesna Wallace
- M.A., Naropa University, Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies, 2004
Advisor: D. Phil Stanley
- Certificate (M.F.A. equivalent), Film Directing, American Film Institute
- B.A., Film Studies, Wesleyan University

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT

- *Senior Lecturer*, Religion, Dartmouth College, 2017 – present

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- *Assistant Professor* (tenure-track convertible), International PhD Program in Buddhist Studies, Mahidol University, Salaya, Thailand, 2015–16
- *Research Fellow*, Kultur u. Geschichte Indiens und Tibets, Universität Hamburg, 2011–2014
- *PLTO Tutor*, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 2010–11
- *Teaching Assistant*, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2007–08
- *Research Assistant*, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2006–07
- *Adjunct Professor*, Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies, Naropa University, Boulder, 2005–06

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- Leslie Humanities Center Research Award, July 2019
- Numata Award, Ryokoku University, October 2017
- Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Research Fellow, 2011–2012
- Numata Fellowship, University of Oxford, 2008–11
- Max Muller Memorial Grant, February 2009
- Oxford South Asian Travel Grant, February 2009
- Rowny Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2006–08
- FLAS Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, summer 2008
- Religious Studies Departmental Award, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2007

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VOLUMES

- *Ratnākaraśānti's System and its Impact in Tibet*, ed. Dorji Wangchuk, Indian and Tibetan Studies series, Universität Hamburg. (forthcoming 2019)
- *The Sāratamā by Ratnākaraśānti: Sanskrit and Tibetan Critical edition with Introduction*, eds. Harunaga Isaacson and Francesco Sferra. Manuscripta Buddhica series 4, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale," Napoli (in-press)
- *The Scripture on the Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Verse Lengths: A Translation from Tibetan and Introduction*, 84000: Buddhist Literary Heritage Project. (online 2020)
- *The Quintessential Commentary: An Introductory Study and Annotated Translation*, eds. Harunaga Isaacson and Francesco Sferra. Manuscripta Buddhica series 5, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale," Napoli. (forthcoming 2020)

CHAPTERS

- "Ratnākaraśānti, the Tantric Philosopher" in *The Routledge Handbook of Indian Buddhist Philosophy*, eds. Sara McClintock & Pierre-Julien Harter, London: Routledge (forthcoming 2020)

ARTICLES

- "Integrating Tantric and Non-tantric Buddhist doctrines through the Perfection of Wisdom in the mid-Eleventh Century," In *Reconstructing the History of Late Indian Buddhism (Vikramasīla, part III), Proceedings from the International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference 2017*, ed. Dorji Wangchuk and Taiken Kyuma, Indian and Tibetan Studies Series, Universität Hamburg, (in press, n.d.).
- "Ratnākaraśānti," in *Brill Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, vol 2., ed. Jonathan Silk & Vincent Eltschinger.
- "Shantipa/Ratnākaraśānti," in *Treasury of Lives, A Biographical Encyclopedia of Tibet, Inner Asia, and the Himalayan Region*, ed. Alexander Gardner.
- "Killing the Buddha: Ritualized Violence in *Fight Club* Through the Lens of Rinzai Zen Buddhist Practice" in *Religions Open Access Theology Journal*, Special Issue ed. by Francisca Cho, August 2018.
- "Goer, Going, Gone and Other Heuristic Etymologies of Perfection of Wisdom." In *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, special edition by Mattia Salvini & H. R. Kantor. (forthcoming 2019)
- "The Bodies of a Buddha: A Comparison of early Tantric Conceptions of Enlightenment (forthcoming)
- "The Tension between Tantric Sexual Practice and Monastic Celibacy in the Eleventh Century." (in-progress)
- "The Making of an Indian *gZhan stong pa*: The First Jonang Reinterpretation of Ratnākaraśānti's System" (in-progress)

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THESES

- *Defining Wisdom: Ratnākaraśānti's Sāratamā*, Doctoral Thesis (examiners Harunaga Isaacson and Ulrike Roesler), Oriental Studies Department, University of Oxford, 2016
- *A Preliminary Study of the Meaning of "Yoga" in Saṅgharākṣa's Yogācārabhūmi and Its Context*, Master's Thesis, Religious Studies Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, 2008
- *Pema Benzar's "Concise Summary" of the Paths to Enlightenment from the Perspective of the rNying ma School*, Master's Thesis, Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies Department, Naropa University, Boulder 2004

SCHEDULED UPCOMING ACADEMIC LECTURES

- "The Impact of Tibetan Patronage on Indian Prajñāpāramitā Studies in Pāla Period Buddhism." Panel on *Prajñāpāramitā, Pāla Period Buddhism and Its Himalayan Legacy* In the Tantric Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, November 2019.
- Presiding/Respondent on Panel *How Empty and Empty How? Extending a Distinction to New Realms?* In Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit and Buddhist Philosophy Unit, American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, November 2019.
- "Reading Between the Eight Thousand Lines: Tibetan and Indian Perspectives on Perfecting Wisdom" Lecture panel on *Prajñāpāramitā and Esotericism: Mahāyāna vs. Vajrayāna?* Presentation in International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference, Seoul, 2020.
- Co-convenor/Informal Respondent (with Professors Harunaga Isaacson and Hong Luo), Panel on *Ratnākaraśānti and his Writings*. Lecture in International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference, Seoul, Korea, August 2020.

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC LECTURES

- "Interpreting Words of Buddhist Wisdom," Tibetan Studies Department, Sichuan University, Chengdu, August 2019.
- "The Different Interpretations of the 'Neither One, Nor Many' Argument," as Respondent for the Panel on (Indian) Buddhist Philosophy, American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver, November 2018.
- "What is Consciousness *Free of* Representations?" Shoryu Katsura's colloquium, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, October 6–13, 2017
- "The Distortion of a Buddha?" Taisho University, October 13, 2017
- "Bhutanese Buddhism and Its Development," Presented in the Department of Government, hosted by Diederick J. Vandewalle, Dartmouth College, September 27, 2017
- "Integrating Tantric and Non-tantric Religious doctrines in India in the mid-Eleventh Century," Presented in International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference, Toronto, August 2017
- "The Quintessence of the Path," Vikrama Workshop, Kyoto University, March 2014

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- “Minding the Mindset in the Perfection of Wisdom Scriptures,” Taisho University, Feb 2014
- “Yogācāra or Madhyamaka: Rivals or Allies?” Presented in International Association of Buddhist Studies, Taiwan, June 2011
- “Translating Tibetan Buddhist Metaphors.” Presented in Wolfson College's Presidential Lecture Series. June 2010
- “Classifying Tibetan Buddhist Schools.” Presented in Oriental Studies Graduate Lecture Series. November 2009
- “The Practice of Yoga in the Early Yogācāra Communities.” Presented at the University of California Buddhist Studies Conference, Asilomar, March 2008
- “The Dead and Dying in Tibetan Cultural Regions.” Presented in Prof. José Cabezón’s “Tibetan Religions” course, University of California, Santa Barbara, March 2008
- “The Monastic Revival Movement in Modern Tibet.” Presented in Prof. José Cabezón’s “Tibetan Religions” course, University of California, Santa Barbara, January 2008.
- “Communities of Ascetic Mendicants in the Modern Tibetan Context.” Presented in Prof. Acarya Tenpa Gyaltzen’s “Paths to Enlightenment” course, Naropa University, Boulder, May 2006

ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM

- “The White Lake Monastery of Nangchen, Tibet” Tibet: MSB Productions. (Executive Producer, Researcher, Translator, and Narrative Writer), 2005.

FIELD RESEARCH

- 2019—Tibet (Kham, Dege), Monastic Nonsectarianism (*ris med*) at Dzogchen & Dzongsar
- 2015—Japan (Tokyo & Kyoto), Shingon-shū Temples
- 2009—India (Himachal & Sikkim), Sanskrit palm-leaf manuscripts
- 2005—China, Tibet (Central and Eastern), Monastic revival
- 2004— India (Himachal) & Nepal, Exile Tibetan Buddhist monastic curricula

PREVIOUS COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Courses

- Professor, “Tibetan Buddhism,” Dartmouth College, 2017–2020
- Professor, “Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Theory,” Dartmouth College, 2018–2020
- Professor, “Buddhism and Film,” Dartmouth College, 2017–2020
- Professor, “Identity East and West,” Dartmouth College, 2019
- Professor, “Consciousness in Tibetan Buddhism,” Indep. Study, Dartmouth College, 2019
- Co-Professor, “Buddhist Philosophy,” Mahidol University, 2015–16
- Co-Professor, “Buddhist Ethics,” Mahidol University, 2015–16
- Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Religion,” (Prof. Tom Carlson), Department of Religious Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, 2008

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- Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Ch’an and Zen,” (Prof. Gregory Hillis), Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2008
- Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Buddhism,” (Prof. Vesna Wallace), Department of Religious Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, 2007

Graduate Seminars

- Professor, “Adv. Buddhist Philosophy,” Mahidol University, 2015–16
- Professor, “Introduction to Literary Tibetan,” Mahidol University, 2015–16
- Professor, “Adv. Readings in Tibetan Texts,” Mahidol University, 2015–16
- Co-Professor, “Adv. Readings in Sanskrit Texts,” Mahidol University, 2015–16
- Co-Professor, “Literary Tibetan I” Naropa University, Boulder, 2005–06
- Co-Professor, “Literary Tibetan III,” Naropa University, Boulder, 2005–06

STUDENT THESIS SUPERVISION

PhD Thesis Supervision

- External Co-Supervisor (presently), Lee Jeong Su, Universität Hamburg, not yet completed.
- Co-Supervisor (2015–16), Maxim Voroshilov, Mahidol University, not yet completed.

Undergraduate Thesis/Research Supervision

- Co-Advisor, Eliza Rockefeller, “Enlightenment in a Female Body: The Creation of the *Togdenma* Lineage of Tibetan Buddhist Yoginis,” Dartmouth College, awarded Jonathan B. Rintels Prize for the best honors thesis in the Arts & Humanities for the Class of 2017.
- Co-Advisor, Josephina Lin, “An Ethnographic Study of Buddhist Practices at Rangjung Yeshe Institute and Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery,” Senior Paper, Dartmouth, 2018.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Inner Asian Languages

Classical Tibetan
Colloquial Tibetan

Graduate Study

9 academic years,
3 years (plus immersion)

South Asian Languages

Sanskrit
Pāli
Gāndhārī

8 academic years
1 academic year
1 academic year

Proficiency: Devanāgarī, Proto-Bengali, Early Newari, and other Kuṭiḷa Scripts

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European Languages:

Literary French	2 academic years
Colloquial French	3 years (living in France)
Literary German	2 academic years
Colloquial German	3 years (living in Germany)

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, 2007– present
- International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Lausanne, 2008– present
- United Kingdom Association of Buddhist Studies, 2008– present

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

- Professor Reiko Ohnuma – Dartmouth College (Chair of Religion Department), Hanover, NH 03755, reiko.ohnuma@dartmouth.edu
- Professor Vesna Wallace – University of California Santa Barbara, (Department Vice-Chair) Religious Studies, HSSB 3045, Santa Barbara, 93106-3130, vwallace@religion.ucsb.edu
- Professor Harunaga Isaacson – Universität Hamburg, (Department Chair) Kultur und Geschichte Indiens und Tibets, Asien-Afrika-Institut, Alsterterrasse 1, 20354 Hamburg, Germany, harunaga.isaacson@uni-hamburg.de
- Professor (Emeritus) Alexis Sanderson – University of Oxford, (Chair of Indian Religions) All Souls College, Oxford OX1 4AL, alexis.sanderson@orinst.ox.ac.uk
- Professor Mattia Salvini – Mahidol University (Department Chair) Buddhist Studies, Nakhorn Pathom, Thailand 73170, prasajya@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT IN FILM MAKING

- Director – five short films; several commercials & industrials
- Cinematographer – three short films

SHORT NARRATIVE FILMS

- “Nonfat,” starring Bianco Min, a half hour film for Korean television, Los Angeles: Sang sup Lee Productions, (Producer, Writer, Director).
- “Love Korean Style,” starring David Schwimmer, a half hour film for Korean television, Los Angeles: Sang sup Lee Productions, (Producer, Writer, Director).
- “Silent Knight,” Starring Lawrence Austin, a half hour film, Los Angeles: AFI Productions, (Writer, Director).

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- “Illusions,” a half hour film, Los Angeles: AFI Productions, (Writer, Director).
- “Two Clicks,” a short film, Middletown: Seton Productions, (Producer, Writer, Director).

SCREENPLAYS

- “The Mystery of Mary Rogers,” a feature length screenplay, Los Angeles: Spec. (Writer).
- “The Dream Team,” a feature length screenplay, Los Angeles: Spec. (Writer).

FILM AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

- *Grand Prize*. Charleston International Film Festival. (For “Nonfat,” Producer, Writer, Director).
- *Bronze Medal*. Houston International Film Festival. (For “Nonfat,” Producer, Writer, Director).
- *Official Selection*. Over twenty film festivals worldwide. (For “Nonfat,” Producer, Writer, Director).
- *Official Selection*. Berlin International Film Festival. (For “Two Clicks,” Producer, Writer, Director).