

Nancy G. Lin

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Institute of Buddhist Studies, summer 2021–present
Associate Professor of Tibetan and South Asian Studies, Buddhist Chaplaincy

University of California, Berkeley, fall 2017–spring 2021
Visiting Scholar, Center for Buddhist Studies

Vanderbilt University, spring 2013–summer 2017
Assistant Professor (tenure track), Department of Religious Studies
Assistant Professor, Graduate Department of Religion
Secondary appointment in the Department of History of Art
Affiliated with the Asian Studies Program

Dartmouth College, fall 2011–fall 2012
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Religion
Affiliated with the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Program

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Buddhist Studies, 2011

M.A. Columbia University, East Asian Regional Studies, Tibet specialization, 2003

A.B. *cum laude*, Harvard University, Government, 2000

BOOKS

Water Moon Reflections: Essays in Honor of Patricia Berger, edited with an introduction by Ellen Huang, Nancy G. Lin, Michelle McCoy, and Michelle H. Wang. Berkeley: IEAS Publications, 2021.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Karmic Affinities: Rethinking Relations Among Tibetan Lamas and the Qing Emperor.” Co-authored with Wen-shing Chou. In *Water Moon Reflections: Essays in Honor of Patricia Berger*, edited by Ellen Huang, Nancy G. Lin, Michelle McCoy, and Michelle H. Wang. Berkeley: IEAS Publications, 2021.

“Ornaments of This World: Materiality and Poetics of the Fifth Dalai Lama’s Reliquary Stūpa.” In *Jewels, Jewelry, and Other Shiny Things in the Buddhist Imaginary*, edited by Vanessa R. Sasson. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2021.

“Recounting the Fifth Dalai Lama’s Rebirth Lineage.” *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines* 38 (February 2017): 119–156, http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/journals/ret/pdf/ret_38_07.pdf.

“Purity in the Pudding and Seclusion in the Forest: Si tu paṅ chen, Monastic Ideals, and the Buddha’s Biographies.” *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies* 7 (August 2013): 86–124, <http://www.thlib.org/collections/texts/jiats/#!/jiats=/07/lin/>.

“Döndrup Gyel and the Remaking of the Tibetan Ramayana.” In *Modern Tibetan Literature and Social Change*, edited by Lauran R. Hartley and Patricia Schiaffini-Vedani, 86–111. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.

WORKS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PROGRESS

“Nartang Woodblock Prints and Their Painted Copies: Previous Lives of the Panchen Lamas: Abounding Visions of Eminent Lives.” In *Himalayan Art in 108 Objects*, edited by Karl Debreczeny and Elena Pakhoutova. New York: Rubin Museum of Art (forthcoming 2022).

Worldly Buddhists in Early Modern Tibet (book manuscript in preparation).

REVIEWS, SHORT PUBLICATIONS, TRANSLATIONS

Contributing translator, *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa: The Teaching of Vimalakīrti*, translated by Luis Gómez and Paul Harrison with the Mangalam Translation Group. Berkeley: Mangalam Press, 2022.

Review of *A Buddhist Sensibility: Aesthetic Education at Tibet’s Mindröling Monastery*, by Dominique Townsend. *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 29 (2022), https://blogs.dickinson.edu/buddhistethics/files/2022/01/Lin_Review_of_Townsend_A_Buddhist_Sensibility.pdf.

“What language we dare learn and speak: decolonizing the study of Tibetan poetry.” Abstract. *Waxing Moon: A Journal of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies* 1 (2020), <https://journals.library.columbia.edu/index.php/waxingmoon/article/view/7121/4077>

Review of “A Tibetan Buddhist Polymath in Modern China,” by Nicole D. Willock. *Dissertation Reviews*, January 30, 2012, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/884>.

Review of *In the Forest of Faded Wisdom: 104 Poems by Gendun Chopel*, edited and translated by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. *Religious Studies Review* 37, no. 3 (September 2011): 239.

Review of *Patron and Painter: Situ Panchen and the Revival of the Encampment Style*, by David P. Jackson; with an essay by Karl Debreczeny. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, no. 3 (August 2010): 893–895.

“The Not-So-Simple ‘Tibet Question’.” Review of *Buddhism Between Tibet and China*, edited by Matthew T. Kapstein; and *On the Cultural Revolution in Tibet: The Nyemo Incident of 1969* by Melvyn C. Goldstein, Ben Jiao, and Tanzen Lhundup. *Buddhadharma: The Practitioner’s Quarterly* 7, no. 4 (Summer 2009): 73–76.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Junior Scholar Grant, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, 2016–2017

Research Scholar Fellowship, Vanderbilt University Research Scholar Grant, 2016–2017

Chancellor’s Dissertation-Year Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2010–2011

Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2009–2010

Padmanabh S. Jaini Graduate Student Award in Buddhist Studies, 2009 (inaugural recipient)

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2007–2008

Fulbright Institute of International Education (IIE) Fellowship, 2007–2008 (declined)

The Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study, 2003–07, 2008–2009

Liu Graduate Research Fellowship in Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley, Summer 2007

Qayum Family Foundation Grant for Travel and Conferences, UC Berkeley, Summer 2005

Group in Buddhist Studies Summer Travel and Study Grants, UC Berkeley, 2004, 2005, 2010

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Ornamenting the World.” Exploratory session on *Poetics, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, 20–23 November 2021.

“Iterated Rebirth Lineages of Tuken Lobzang Chökyi Nyima (1737–1802).” International Colloquium on Tibetan Buddhism: Benefiting Sentient Beings through Re-embodiment: The Development of the Tulku-Recognizing System Since the Seventeenth Century, National Palace Museum, Taipei, 16–17 December 2020.

“What Language We Dare Learn and Speak: Decolonizing the Study of Tibetan Poetry.” Roundtable on *Decolonial/Anti-Racist Interventions in Tibetan/Buddhist Studies*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, 23–26 November 2019.

- “Queen of Song, Mother of All Buddhas: Dbyangs can ma (Sarasvatī) in Courtly Praise and Practice.” Panel on *Wisdom’s Eloquence: Intersections of the “Wise” and the “Well-spoken” in Tibetan Literature*, Fifteenth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris, 7–13 July 2019.
- “Making Sense of War in Eighteenth-Century Tibet.” Panel on *Buddhist Responses to War and Moral Chaos*, Conference on Order and Disorder in Asia, Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, 3–4 June 2019.
- “Models of Lay Kingship for Miwang Polhané.” Conference on Tibetan Buddhism and Political Power in the Courts of Asia, Rubin Museum of Art and Columbia University, New York, 5–7 April 2019.
- “Rebirth Lineage Albums,” co-authored with Wen-shing Chou with contributions by Brian Baumann and Shih-Hsuan Lin. Workshop on Multilingual and Multimedia Translation in Qing China, University of California, Berkeley, 1–2 June 2018.
- “Ornaments of This World.” Symposium on New Directions in the Study of Tibetan Buddhist Art History, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University, 28–29 April 2018.
- “Promiscuous Bodies of Knowledge: Poetics at the Fifth Dalai Lama’s Court.” Panel on *Poetic Turns in Buddhist Literature*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, 18–21 November 2017.
- “Ordinary Flourishing in the Writings of Zhuchen Tsültrim Rinchen.” Panel on *Affect in Poetry and Songs from Tibet and the Himalayas*, Himalayan Studies Conference V, University of Colorado Boulder, 1–4 September 2017.
- “Recalling the Past Lives of a Qing Ruler: An Album of the Qianlong Emperor’s Previous Incarnations,” co-authored with Wen-shing Chou. Eighteenth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, 20–25 August 2017.
- “Karmic Affinities: Teachers and Disciples in Rebirth Lineage Albums of the Qing Court,” co-authored with Wen-shing Chou, with contributing remarks by Brian Baumann. Symposium on Return of Ten Thousand Dharmas: A Celebration in Honor of Patricia Berger, University of California, Berkeley, 5–6 May 2017.
- “Condensing Indic Buddhist Narratives.” Seminar on *Religion and the Literary in Tibet*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, 22–25 November 2014.
- “The Return of the Cakravartin: Poetry and Portraiture at the Lhasa Court of Polhané.” Panel on *The Aesthetics of Power and the Power of Aesthetics in Buddhist South Asia*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, 27–30 March 2014.

“In Layman’s Terms: The Politics of Poetry at the Fifth Dalai Lama’s Court.” Panel on *The Secular in Tibet and Mongolia*, Thirteenth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, 21–27 July 2013.

“Birth-Stories of the Fifth Dalai Lama.” Panel on *Envisioning and Retelling Birth-Stories: Tulku Lineage Narratives and the Quest for Legitimation*, Symposium on The Tulku Institution in Tibetan Buddhism: Past, Present, and Future Prospects of the Reincarnation System, University of San Francisco, 15–16 February 2013.

“An Ordinary Life? Zhuchen’s Autobiography and the Dilemmas of Emulating the Buddha.” Panel on *Memory, Narrative, Community: Reinventing the Past in Tibetan Art and Text*, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, 15–18 March 2012.

“Ocean in a Vase: Producing Canonical Birth-Stories in Seventeenth-Century Tibet.” Panel on *India in the Asian Buddhist Imagination*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, 19–22 November 2011.

“Called to Eloquence: The Fifth Dalai Lama’s Teachings at the Great Prayer Festival.” Panel on *Lives of the Buddha in the Himalayas*, Fourth Conference of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR), Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, Thimphu, 30 June–3 July 2011.

INVITED LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS (SELECTED)

“Translation Fidelity or Intervention—When Should Translators Sanitize Misogyny, Explain It, Reproduce It, or Refuse to Translate It?” Breakout session, Lotsawa Translation Workshop: Celebrating Buddhist Women’s Voices in the Tibetan Tradition, Northwestern University, 13–16 October 2022.

“Rasa and Affect in Tibet.” Breakout session co-led with Annabella Pitkin, Lotsawa Translation Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, 5–8 October 2018.

Gallery talk, “Master Traces, Transcultural Visions,” Berkeley Art Museum, 6 September 2018.

“Filling Vases and Stringing Garlands: Condensing Buddhist Stories in Tibet.” Seminar on Religion and the Literary in Tibet, sponsored by the American Academy of Religion, University of California, Berkeley, 17–18 October 2015.

“Establishing Yonghegong as an Imperial Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in 1744.” Collaborative Reading-Workshop on Buddhist Networking in the Eighteenth Century: Lives and Letters, sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies, Columbia University, 6–8 March 2015.

Religion and the Literary in Tibet Seminar, invited participant, American Academy of Religion, 2010–2014.

“Reincarnation Lineages of the Fifth Dalai Lama.” Directed workshop for the Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, 8 March 2013.

“Complex Agencies and the Formation of Buddhist Courts in Lhasa.” The Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, 7 March 2013.

Workshop on research methodology co-led with Ariana P. Maki, National Library and Archives of Bhutan, Thimphu, 25 October 2012.

TEACHING

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Buddhism and World Religions
Buddhist Pastoral Care I
Readings in Early Buddhist Texts
Readings in Mahayana Texts: Bodhicaryāvatāra

Vanderbilt University

Buddhism and the State
Buddhist Traditions
Encountering Religious Diversity
Religions of Tibet and the Himalaya
Sacred Space in the Tibetan World
Master’s thesis committees (2014, 2019)

Dartmouth College

Visual Cultures of Tibet and the Himalayas
Lives of Saints in South Asia
Tibetan Buddhism

University of California, Santa Cruz

Visual Approaches to Tibetan Buddhism

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-chair, Seminar on Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible, American Academy of Religion, 2022–2026.

Steering Committee, Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2018–2024.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Tibetan Literature*, 2021–present.

Advisory Board, *Waxing Moon: A Journal of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies*, 2020–present.

Reviewer: *Archives of Asian Art*; *Himalaya*; *History of Religions*; Lexington Books, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield, Studies in Modern Tibetan Culture series; *Numen*; *Oxford Bibliographies in Buddhism*; *The Treasury of Lives: A Biographical Encyclopedia of*

Tibet, Inner Asia, and the Himalaya; Wisdom Publications, Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism series.

Panel presider, *A Geluk-Inclusive Non-Sectarian Movement*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, 23–26 November 2019.

Respondent, Lotsawa Translation Workshop group, University of Colorado, Boulder, 5–8 October 2018.

Moderator, “Reflections on the Translation Process,” Lotsawa Translation Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, 5–8 October 2018.

Panel presider, *Imagination and Visualization in Tibetan Buddhist Literature*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, 19–22 November 2016.

Consultant for the National Library and Archives of Bhutan, 2012–2014.

Inaugural field co-editor, Tibetan and Himalayan Studies, *Dissertation Reviews*, April 2012–June 2014, <http://dissertationreviews.org/>.

Panel presider, *In Good Taste: Aesthetics and South Asian Religions*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 17–20 November 2012.

WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, AND PANELS ORGANIZED

Exploratory session on *Poetics, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible*, co-organized with Roy Tzohar, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, 20–23 November 2021.

Workshop on Multilingual and Multimedia Translation in the Qing, co-organized with Patricia Berger and Wen-shing Chou, Department of Art History, University of California, Berkeley, 1–2 June 2018.

Panel on *Poetic Turns in Buddhist Literature*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, 18–21 November 2017.

Symposium on Return of Ten Thousand Dharmas: A Celebration in Honor of Patricia Berger, co-organized with Wen-shing Chou, Ellen Huang, and Orna Tsultem, University of California, Berkeley, 5–6 May 2017.

Workshop on Networks and Religious Difference in Asian Buddhist Traditions, co-organized with Robert Campany and Bryan D. Lowe, Vanderbilt University, 3–4 April 2015.

Workshop on Religious Negotiations at the Boundaries, co-organized with Tony K. Stewart, Robert Campany, and Bryan D. Lowe, Vanderbilt University, 22–23 February 2013.

LANGUAGES

Classical and modern Tibetan, Sanskrit, Pali, classical and modern Chinese, French

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association of Professional Chaplains
International Association of Buddhist Studies
International Association for Tibetan Studies