

CYNTHIA COL
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Research Interests: Asian Art and Architecture with a particular interest in eighteenth-century Sino-Tibetan Buddhist forms; Asian material culture in relation to Buddhist ideas; framing of issues related to space and geography; cultural expression of space, place; Asian Religions with a particular interest in Tibet, China, and Mongolia; the adaptation of religion in history and across cultures; book and print culture; memory and culture.

Professional Experience*

INDEXER AND EDITOR, *freelance*

2008–present

- Preparation of manuscripts for publication in scholarly journals. Articles that I have edited have been accepted by *African Arts*, *China Journal*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *History Compass*, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *Journal of Population Ageing*, *Modern China*, and *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines*.
- Editing that includes restructuring sentences, correcting grammar, and checking conformity with required style guidelines, restructuring and repositioning paragraphs, offering ideas to support or clarify an argument, and calling attention to areas that could be shortened or enhanced.
- Checking and refining translations into English from original Chinese and Tibetan sources.
- Expert, professional indexing of scholarly material in the humanities, social sciences and history of science regarding topics related to China, Tibet, India, and Japan.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR, NON-AREA JOURNALS, *Bibliography of Asian Studies*

2009–2012

- Identification of articles on Asian topics in periodicals that do not specialize in Asian subject matter.
- Identification of topics of interest to Asian scholars within selected articles.
- Indexing of selected topics according to a prescribed format into pre-selected categories.

Education

PHD, 2009, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, *Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA*

Dissertation: “Picturing the Canon: The Murals, Sculpture and Architecture of the Derge Parkhang”

Committee: Judith Berling, Coordinator, Graduate Theological Union, Interdisciplinary Studies

Patricia Berger, University of California, Art History

Richard Payne, Graduate Theological Union, Institute for Buddhist Studies

MTS, 1997, *Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA*

Masters in Theological Studies: Research on “Manicheism and the Exchange of Alchemical Ideas between the East and the West”

AB, 1976, *Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio*

Major: Music History; Minor: German Language and Literature

Teaching Experience

LECTURER IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES, *Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.*

Spring 2008

Course taught: *Introduction to Buddhism.*

Grants and Honors

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Dissertation Fellowship

2005–2006

China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies Travel Grant

2005

Haskell Fellowship of the Oberlin College Alumni, Graduate Fellowship Committee,

1997–1998

for travel to Dunhuang, Gansu, China, to participate in the first seminar on Dunhuang Art and Society sponsored by the Silkroad Foundation and the Dunhuang Research Academy.

Presentations and Academic Activities

- “At the heart of the matter: The *Prajñāpāramitā* and the design of the Derge Parkhang.” Presented at the 12th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, Vancouver, Canada, August 2010.
- “Performing Vision: The Murals of the Derge Many-Doored Auspicious Wisdom-Gathering Printery.” Presented at the MLA Annual Convention, San Francisco, 2008.
- “Canons on the Move: The Murals of the Derge Many-Doored Auspicious Wisdom-Gathering Printery.” Presented at the New England East Asian Art History Seminar, 2008.
- “Picturing the Canon: The Murals of the Derge Religious Text Printing Academy.” Presented at the *XVth Congress of the IABS*, Atlanta, 2008.
- “Picturing the Canon: The Murals of the Derge Religious Text Printing Academy.” Presented at *Visualizing and Performing Buddhist Worlds Conference*, Toronto, Canada, 2007.
- “Walking with the Buddha: The Murals of the Derge Religious Text Printing Academy.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Diego, 2007.
- “Buildings and Canons on the Move: The Derge Parkhang as Culture Broker.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, Boston, 2007.
- “The Murals of the Derge Parkhang.” Presented at the Center for Bhutan Studies, Thimphu, Bhutan, 2005.
- “Historical Materials Related to the Establishment of the Derge Sutra Printing Academy.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, Chicago, 2005.
- “The Manichean Cosmological Still: The Movement of Alchemical Ideas between the East and the West.” Presented at *Religion and Science: Tension, Accommodation and Engagement*, Columbus, 1999.
- “Manicheism and the Exchange of Alchemical Ideas between the East and the West.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society for Biblical Literature*, Orlando, 1998.

Publications

Encyclopedia entries on the topics of “The Bon Kangyur and Tengyur (Tibetan Buddhism); “The Bodhicaryāvātāra of Śāntideva”; and “The Heart Sutra” in *Milestone Documents of World Religions*, Dallas: Schlager Group, 2010.

Professional Service

TREASURER, <i>New England Chapter of the American Society for Indexing</i>	2012–present
PEER REVIEWER, <i>Oxford University Press</i>	2010
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER, <i>AAR Sacred Space in Asia Group</i>	2008–2012
PANEL ORGANIZER, “ <i>Cultural Brokerage on the Sino-Tibetan Frontier</i> ,” <i>Annual Meeting, Association for Asian Studies, Boston.</i>	2007

Professional Memberships

- Association for Asian Studies
- American Society for Indexing
- American Academy of Religion
- Editorial Freelancers Association

Languages

Speaking proficiency in German and Chinese; Research proficiency in Chinese, Tibetan, German, and French; Supporting knowledge of Latin and Sanskrit; Familiarity with Mongolian and Manchu.

* *Before completing my PhD and establishing myself as a freelance editor and indexer in my area of research specialization, I did administrative work for various academic departments at MIT and Tufts University. That work provided me extensive experience with office procedures and practices and is relevant insofar as I have professional level administrative and computer skills.*