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EDUCATIONAL SUMMARY

1976. M.A./PhD. University of Chicago, History of Religions

1967. A.B. Wilson College, Biblical Studies/Asian Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2002—. Professor, Department of Religion, Syracuse University

1993-2002. Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill

1987-1993. Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill

1983-85. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Bowdoin College

1975-83. Assistant Professor, Study of Religion Program University of Massachusetts/Boston

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION AND UNIVERSITY SERVICEMember

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

American Anthropological Association

Service

Member of the steering committee for the new Space, Place, and Religion Group of the American Academy of Religion, 2014-

Member of the steering committee for Space, Place and Religious Meaning Consultation of the American Academy of Religion, 2007-2013

Director of Graduate Studies, 2009-2013, 2015-2016

Member of the Faculty Advisory Board for the Syracuse Humanities Center 2008-2010

Undergraduate Coordinator of the Department of Religion, 2006-2007

Member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee of the College of Art and Sciences, Syracuse University, 2003-2004

Campus Director, North Carolina Center for South Asian Studies, 2001-2002

American Institute of Indian Studies. Elected to the Executive Committee, 1996-1999

Member of the Executive Committee, Triangle South Asia Consortium, 1988-2002

Re-elected to steering committee, Religion in South Asia Section, American Academy of Religion, 1992-95

Member-at-large, Publications Committee, American Academy of Religion, 1990-1993
 Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Appointed to the South Asia
 Advisory Committee, 1990-1993

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH ABROAD

Research funds, Syracuse University continuing research in Singapore:

- January/February 2017
- June/July 2015 (and return to India)
- July 2014
- September-October 2013
- May-June 2012
- May-June 2011
- May-June, 2010.

Senior Fellow, American Institute of Indian Studies. Short-term work in Chennai, India
 December 2008-January 2009

Continuation of research on guru-centered organizations

Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship and Visiting Senior Research
 Fellow (sabbatical leave program), Asian Research Institute (Globalization and
 Religion cluster), National University of Singapore, August 2007 to August 2008
 "Re-Placing Religion: Spirituality, Guru-Centered Movements, and New
 Cosmopolitan Communities in Singapore"

Research funds, Syracuse University, July 2006

Continued conversations at the National University of Singapore and preliminary
 research on guru-centered new religious movements

July 2005

Preliminary research in Singapore on new Hindu-based religious
 movements with global connections with the help of Prof. Vineeta Sinha
 and others in the Department of Sociology, National University of
 Singapore

June-July 2004

Preliminary research in Chennai to identify a new comparative project on
 the organizations, temples centered on Divine Persons (Shirdi Sai Baba,
 Rama Krishna etc. with an eye to the effects of globalizations

Research funds, Syracuse University. March 2003

Continued research in London to update work on South Indian Hindu temples

University Research Council, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, summers 1996,
 and 1999

Research in London at the British Library on colonial records as well as fieldwork
 on new Hindu temples built in metropolitan London

Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, University of North
 Carolina/Chapel Hill, fall 1997

Initial writing period for my current book, *The Diaspora of the Gods: Modern
 Hindu Temples and Their Urban Middle-Class Patron.*

Fellowship for University Teachers, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1994-95

- Field research in Madras, India: "Making Space for Hinduism: New Temples in Urban India, the United Kingdom and the United States"
 Senior Fellow, American Institute of Indian Studies, 1986-87
 Madras, India. Research on the rituals of the Kapaleeswara Temple, Mylapore and of new temples in suburban Madras City
 Post-doctoral Grant, Social Science Research Council, 1983
 Research in the British Museum and the India Office Library on the British attitude toward and interaction with religious rituals in the princely states of India (summer)
 Senior Fulbright Fellow, Faculty Research Abroad, Department of Education, 1978-79
 Research in the former princely state of Pudukkottai in Tamilnadu to reconstruct the rituals at the royal court and the royal rituals at the state temple
 University of Madras, Research Associate, Department of Politics and Public Administration, 1972-73
 Research on C. Rajagopalachari, a major figure in the independence movement and an active statesman who was equally known for his retellings of India's religious epics
 NDEA Title VI Fellow, University of Chicago: 1969-72 Tamil language studies.
 Junior Fulbright Fellow: English Tutors Program, 1968-69.
 Teaching English and beginning the study of Tamil literature at Ethiraj College in Madras.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Books

- Place/No-Place in Urban Asian Religiosity*** edited by Joanne Punzo Waghorne, ARI-Springer Asian Series. Dordrecht/Heidelberg/London/New York: Springer, 2016
 Includes a lengthy introduction (1-28) and my chapter "Alone Together: Global Gurus, Cosmopolitan Space, and Community" (71-90). Plus "Editor's Preface" to each chapter.
- The Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class World.*** Oxford University Press, 2004
 Awarded "Excellence in the Study of Religion, Analytical-Descriptive Category" by the American Academy of Religion at the annual meeting, November 2005
- The Raja's Magic Clothes: Re-visioning Kingship and Divinity in England's India.*** In the series "Hermeneutics: Studies in the History of Religions" edited by Kees Bolle. University Park: Penn State Press, 1994.
- Gods of Flesh/Gods of Stone: The Embodiment of Divinity in India.*** Coeditor with Norman Cutler. New York: Columbia University Press (First published by Anima Press, 1985)
- Images of Dharma: The Epic World of C. Rajagopalachari.*** New Delhi: Chanakya Publications, 1985.

Book in Progress:

The Soul of a Little Red Dot: Placing Hindu-based Spiritual Movements in Singapore

Based on almost ten years of travel and research in Singapore, “Soul of a Little Red Dot,” considers spirituality not only as practiced by the many guru-centered movements but also as an unacknowledged aspect of the landscape of the city itself. The People’s Action Party which has ruled Singapore since Independence, took the rare opportunity to tear, down and rebuild much of Singapore, both physically and affectively, remolding not only the landscape but citizens into a well-ordered and wildly successful nation. This new creation has the feel of a “secular” cosmos into which all else must fit—including the many yoga, meditation, guru-centered movements which exist in the interstates between the formally recognized *Religions* with their obviously sacred sites and the many clubs and social organizations in the city. Concerned with the scruffy lines between sacred and secular, business and spirituality, the state and cosmology, *Little Red Dot* introduces Singapore as both a unique case of urban religiosity and yet, as some have argued, “where the urbanized world is headed” for those nations—especially in southeast and east Asia—emerging from an avowedly secular politic.

Articles and Book Chapters:

In print (and online):

- “Urban Hinduism.” 2017. *Oxford Bibliographies in Hinduism*. Edited by Tracy Coleman. New York: Oxford University. Summary online at <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com>
- "From Diaspora to (Global) Civil Society: Global Gurus and the Processes of De-ritualization and De-ethnization in Singapore." In *Hindu Rituals at the Margins: Transformations, Innovations, Reconsiderations* edited by Tracy Pintchman and Linda Penkower, 186-207. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2014.
- “Reading Walden Pond at Marina Bay Sands—Singapore.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 82, 1: 217–247 (March 2014)
- "Engineering an Artful Practice: On Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Yoga and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living." In *Gurus of Modern Yoga*: edited by Ellen Goldberg and Mark Singleton, 283-307. New York: Oxford University Press,
- “Beyond Pluralism: Global Gurus and the Third Stream of American Religiosity.” In *Religious Pluralism in Modern America* edited by Charles L. Cohen and Ronald L. Numbers, 228-250. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013
- “A Birthday Party for a Sacred Scripture: The Gita Jayanti and the Embodiment of God as the Book.” In *Iconic Books and Texts* edited by James Watts, 283-298. Sheffield, UK: Equinox, 2013. (reprint)
- "A Birthday Party for a Sacred Text: The Gita Jayanti and the Embodiment of God as the Book and the Book as God." *Postscripts* 6.1–3: 225–242 (2010).
- "Global Gurus and the Third Stream of American Religiosity: Between Hindu Nationalism and Liberal Pluralism." In *Political Hinduism* edited by Vinay Lal, 90-117. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009.

- "The Power of Public Splendour." In *Maharaja: The Splendour of India's Royal Courts* edited by Anna Jackson and Amin Jaffer. London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2009. Pp. 76-105 (Volume accompanying the major exhibit of the same name October 10, 2009 to January 17, 2010.)
- "Adhikāra: On the Dilemmas of Authority and Rights of Access in Contemporary Urban India and in a Globalizing World." In *Authority in Hindu Texts, Translations, and Transnational Communities* edited by Deepak Sharma. Hampton, Virginia: Deepak Heritage Books
- "Global Gurus in Motion: Challenges for the Academic Study of Religion." *Religion and Culture* 15: 39-55/ 57-72 (2008) (Seoul National University). In English and Korean.
- "Spaces for a New Public Presence: The Sri Siva-Vishnu and Murugan Temples in Metropolitan Washington DC." In *American Sanctuary: Understanding Sacred Spaces* edited by Louis P. Nelson. Bloomington, IN: Indian University Press, 2006.
- "Comparison: Moving out of the Scholar's Laboratory." *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 16, 1:72 -79 (2004).
- "Chariots of the God/s: Riding the Line Between Hindu and Christian in South India." In *Popular Christianity in India: Riting Between the Lines* edited by Corrine Dempsey and Selva Raj. Albany: SUNY, 2002. Pp.11-37.
- "The Gentrification of the Goddess." *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 5,3 (December 2001): 227-67.
- "The Diaspora of the Gods: Hindu Temples in the New World System, 1640-1800." *Journal of Asian Studies* 58 (August 1999): 648-686.
- "The Chariots of the God/s: Riding the Line Between Hindu and Christian in South India." *History of Religions* 39 (November 1999) 95-116.
- "The Hindu Gods in a Split-level World: The Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple in Suburban Washington, DC." In *Gods of the City* edited by Robert Orsi. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999. Pp.103-130.
- "The Divine Image in Contemporary South India: The Renaissance of a Once Maligned Tradition." In *Born in Heaven Made on Earth: The Making of the Cult Image in the Ancient Near East* edited by Michael B. Dick. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbauns, 1999.
- "Mylapore." In *Temple Towns of Tamil Nad*, edited by George Michell. Bombay: Marg Publications, 1993. Pp. 114-128.
- "Dressing the Body of God: South Indian Bronze Sculpture in Its Temple Setting." With photographs by Dick Waghorne. *Asian Art* (Sackler Museum of the Smithsonian Institution) (Summer, 1992): 8-33.
- "Vahana: The Conveyers of the Gods" In *Living Wood: Sculptural Traditions of Southern India* edited by George Michell in connection with the exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Bombay: Marg Publications, 1992. Pp. 15-28.
- "From Robber Baron to Royal Servant of God: Gaining a Divine Body in South India." In *Criminal Gods and Demon Devotees* edited by Alf Hiltebeitel. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1989.
- "From Geertz's Ethnography to an Ethno-theology?" In *Anthropology and the Study of Religion*, edited by Robert L. Moore and Frank E. Reynolds. Chicago: Council

- for the Scientific Study of Religion, 1984.
- "When the Mother Goddess is not a Mother." *Anima* 7(March, 1981) :141-154.
- "A Body for God: An Interpretation of the Nature of Myth Beyond Structuralism." *History of Religions* (August, 1981): 20-47.
- "The Case of the Missing Autobiography." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (December, 1981): 589-603.
- "Rajaji, the Brahmin: A Style of Power." In *Religion and the Legitimation of Power in South Asia*, edited by Bardwell Smith. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1978.
- "The Power of the Word: Rajaji, the Kathakar." *Journal of the University of Madras* (January, 1975): 1-13.

Work Anthologized:

- "The Hindu Gods in a Split-level World: The Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple in Suburban Washington, DC." In *The Expanding Landscape: South Asian and the Diaspora* edited by Carla Petievich, New Delhi: Manohar, 1999
- "The Hindu Gods in a Split-level World: The Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple in Suburban Washington, DC." In *Religion and American Culture: A Reader* edited by David G. Hackett. 2nd ed., New York: Routledge. 2003.
- "The Hindu Gods in a Split-level World: The Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple in Suburban Washington, DC." Abridged and reprint in *Major Problems in American Religious History*, by Patrick Allitt, 2nd ed., Florence, KY: Cengage Learning, 2011.
- "Chariots of the God/s: Riding the Line Between Hindu and Christian in South India." In *Popular Christianity in India: Riding Between the Lines*, edited by Corinne Dempsey and Selva Raj, Albany: SUNY, 2002.
- "The Embodiment of Divinity in India." Introduction to *Gods of Flesh/Gods of Stone: The Embodiment of Divinity in India*. In *From Sacred Text to Internet* edited by Gwilym Beckerlegge, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2001.

Short Articles and Recent Reviews

- "Revisiting the Question of Religion in the World Religions Textbook." *Religious Studies Review*, 31, 1&2 (January and April 2005).
- "The *Discipline of Religion* and the Problem of the Empirical." A Review Symposium on Russell McCutcheon's *The Discipline of Religion* for the *Bulletin of the Council of Societies for the Study of Religion*, 33, 3&4 (September and November 2005), p.85-87.
- "Frank Reynolds: The Postmodern Man Who Looks a Lot Like Socrates." *Criterion* 40, 3 (August 2001) p 2-15.
- "Background Books" on "Hinduism and the Fate of India." Special Issue. *The Wilson Quarterly* (Summer, 1991) 51-52.
- "King" in the *Harper's Dictionary of Religion*. 1996.

Plus reviews in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, *The Journal of Religion*, *History of Religions*, and *Contemporary South Asia*.

In Press:

“Unsettling Religion 101,” with Mary Keller. In *Teaching Comparison: Pedagogical Perspectives as Comparative Theory in Religious Studies*” edited by Jennifer R. Rapp. Oxford University Press, New York Press, for the AAR/OUP Teaching Religious Studies series.

“Introduction” in a Thematic issue titled *Where Class Meets Religion: Examining Middle Class Religiosity in India* edited by Jennifer Ortegren for the *International Journal of Hindu Studies*

The issue developed out of a conference panel from the American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings in San Diego, CA, USA in November 2014 titled “Where Class Meets: Re-shaping the Middle Class and Hindu Worlds in Contemporary India,” which Jennifer Ortegren organized and I served as chair and respondent. This issue will serve as a 15-year follow up to the December 2001 issue of *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, Vol. 5 (3), which considered "Modern India and the Question of Middle Class Religion," with original contributions by John Stratton Hawley, Philip Lutgendorf, Joanne Waghorne, and Timothy Lubin. This current issue includes papers by recent SU graduates Daniel Heifetz [formerly Cheifer] Ph.D. 2015, Religion and Nicole Wilson, PhD 2015, Anthropology.

LECTURES AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: (Presentations from 2017 to 2000 only)

- “The Soul of a Little Red Dot—Cosmology and Statecraft in Singapore.” Talk presented at the workshop, “Mining for New Topics and Resources—The Future of Comparative Religion in a Transatlantic Perspective,” CERES at Ruhr Universität Bochum, June 13, 2017
- “The Soul of a Little Red Dot—Singapore, Macrospace and Microplaces.” Invited talk for the Globalisation and Religion Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, February 2, 2017.
- Respondent for a panel “Globalization and Transnational Networks in South Asian Religious Worlds: Vaishnav, Shaivite, and Ambedkarite Traditions.” New York Conference on Asian Studies (regional AAS) at Utica College, Sept 14, 2016. The four papers developed from my graduate seminar on Globalization and Religion.
- “Yoga and the Power of Togetherness in Satsang in Singapore” invited paper for the panel Moments and Movements: Collaboration and Ambivalence Across South Asia and the Fragmented Diaspora. Society for Cultural Anthropology Biannual Meeting, Cornell University, May 14. 2-16.
- “The Soul of a Little Red Dot—Singapore, Macrospace and Microplaces.” Invited talk in conjunction with a special Manuscript Review Workshop for Deonnie Moonie, Assistant Professor. Religious Studies Program, University of Oklahoma, Norman, April 20-22, 2016.
- “Cultural Flows in Singapore” presentation for Cultural Flows in Space and Time: Reimagining Asian Diaspora, Workshop for Community College Faculty. Cornell University, February 5, 2016.
- “Saint Above (Beyond) Religion: Mapping Shirdi Sai Temples in Chennai” invited paper

- for the panel Urban Religion in India. The 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison WI October 22-25, 2015
- “How is a Guru like a High-rise” invited keynote presentation for the "Spirits of the City," University of California graduate workshop and conference. University of California, Santa Barbara under the auspices of California Multi-campus Research Group interested in religion and urban place-making, Santa Barbara, May 30-31, 2015.
- “Rethinking Public and Person: Guru-Centered Movements in Singapore” for the panel “Gods into Politics: Political Positionings and Religious Domains in Asia.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington DC, December 3, 2014
- Respondent and chair for the panel: “Where Class Meets Religion”: Reshaping the Middle-Class and Hindu Worlds in Contemporary India.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, November 25, 2014
- “New sites for Spiritual Practices in Singapore High-Rise Buildings.” Invited talk at Lee Kuan Yew Center for Innovative Cities, Lunch Series at Singapore University for Technology and Design. July 29, 2014.
- “Hindu Gurus Moving up: New sites for Spiritual Practices in Singapore or How is a Guru like a High-Rise?” For the panel “Religion Rising: The High-rise Building as a Site for Religious/Spiritual Encounter” (Organizer) AAS-in-Asia (first annual meeting), National University of Singapore, July 19, 2014
- “Santa Baba or Christmas Chennai Style.” For the panel “Shirdi Sai Baba: A Saint for all Seasons, for all Reasons in a Time of Indeterminacy,” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Philadelphia, March 27-30, 2014
- Respondent for the panel “Rolling, Playing, Evangelizing: Religious Architecture at Work.” For the Space, Place, and Religious Meaning Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, November 17, 2012.
- Invited respondent for the workshop, 2013 Lewis Henry Morgan Workshop-Comparison with Peter Van der Veer, University of Rochester, Nov 13-14, 2013
- “Gods in the High-Rise: Hindu Gurus Above It All.” The Fourth Annual South Asia Religions Distinguished Lecture at McGill University, March 9, 2012.
- “Reading Walden Pond at Marina Bay Sands.” For “Surveying Sacred Space: An Interdisciplinary, Interfaith Symposium,” Pepperdine University, Malibu, February 17 & 18, 2012.
- “Alone Together: The Re-emerging Person and Reconfiguration of ‘Community’ in Guru-centered Movements in Singapore.” For the panel (which I organized) "Changing Conceptions and Configurations of Hindu Communities" for the Hinduism Group, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 20, 2011.
- “Singapore—A Bellwether or an Anomaly in Migration Issues.” For “Sacred Worlds in Motion: a Roundtable discussion of Religion and Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller’s *The Age of Migration* (Guilford Press, 4th ed., 2009) sponsored by the Religion and Migration Consultation, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion November 21, 2011.
- "Space without Place: Borderless 'Spirituality' within a Global City in Asia." For the panel "Portmanteau Space: Bringing Religious Meaning to Nonreligious Spaces,"

- sponsored by Space, Place, and Religious Meaning Consultation, October 31, 2010 for the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia.
- "Birthday Party for the Bhagavad-Gita: Gita Jayanti 2008, Singapore." Paper for the 3rd Iconic Books Symposium, Syracuse University, October 1-3, 2010.
- "Global Gurus: From Proselytizing to Publicity." Paper for the Proselytizing and the Limits of Religious Pluralism in the Era of Globalization, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore September 16-17, 2010. (In absentia)
- Respondent for the panel "Global Hinduism and Material Expressions of Belonging." Association for Asia Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, March 25-28, 2010.
- Organizer with Ann Gold and Gareth Fisher of an international conference *Place / No Place: Spatial Aspects of Urban Asian Religiosity*, Syracuse University, October 2-4, 2009. Presented as part of that conference, "Alone Together: Global Gurus, Cosmopolitan Space, and Community." Syracuse, October 2-4, 2009.
- "Birthday Party for the Bhagavad-Gita: Gita Jayanti 2008, Singapore." Presentation for the 2nd Iconic Books Symposium, Hamilton College, September 4-6, 2009.
- "Making Room for the New Asia in Religious Studies: Materialism and Spirituality Upside Down." Invited public lecture for the University of Maine at Farmington, May 1, 2009.
- " Global Gurus in Motion: Creating 'Cosmopolitan' Communities in Singapore (and Chennai)." Paper presented at the workshop, "Religion and Culture in the Indian Ocean Region, 1800-Present," Cornell University, October 4, 2008.
- "Global Gurus in Motion: Challenges for the Academic Study of Religion."
"Distinguished Lecture" for Department of Religious Studies, Seoul National University, South Korea, June 25, 2008
- "Global Gurus in Motion: Re-linking *public* and *person* in a new space?" Presentation for a joint seminar of the South Asia Studies Program and the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, April 22, 2008.
- "Religious Cosmopolitanism: Ethnicity, Oppression and Religion. A Conversation Between Joanne Waghorne and Bryan Turner." Roundtable discussion for the Religion and Globalisation in Asian Contexts Cluster of the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, December 4, 2007.
- "Developing a Religious Studies Ethnography: Moving Away from Texts and into the 'Field'." Presentation for a panel on New Directions in the Study of Religion sponsored by the Globalization and Religion cluster of the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, November 27, 2007.
- "Global Gurus and the "De-Ethization" of Hinduism In Singapore and the United States." Presentation for the Asia Research Institute Seminar Series, National University of Singapore, September 18, 2007.
- "Beyond Pluralism: Global Gurus and the Third Stream of American Religiosity."
Invited paper for the conference on 'Religious Pluralism in Modern America,' held in Madison, WI, under the auspices of the Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions, April 13-14, 2007.
- Respondent for the panel "A Conversation about Joanne Waghorne's *Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class World*. Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 22-25, 2007.

- “*Adhikara* and the Twin Dilemmas of Authority and Rights of Access in the Diaspora.” Paper for the Dharma Association of North American meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC, November 17-21, 2006.
- “From Diaspora to (Global) Civil Society: New Hindu-Based Religious Movements in Singapore.” Invited paper for the conference “Ritualizing In, On and Across Boundaries. University of Pittsburgh.” March 31-April 2, 2006
- “Making Hinduism Global: “New” Guru-Centered Religious Movements as Confluent with or Counter to Hindutva?” Invited paper for the conference “Political Hinduism” organized by Vijay Lal. University of California at Los Angeles, May 6 and 7, 2005
- “Sannidhi/ Samadhi: The Temple-Tomb in Tamilnadu.” Invited paper for “Koyil” the first annual Tamil Studies Conference. University of California at Berkeley, April 30 to May 1, 2005.
- “New Religious Movements in an Era of Rapid Globalization: From Urban India to the World.” Invited lectures for the Global Studies Program at Siena College, Loudonville, New York, April 7-8, 2005.
- “Hindu Temples in New Global Middle-Class Space.” Invited paper for the “Temple Transfers” The Barbara Stoler Miller Memorial Conference. Columbia University, February 12, 2005.
- “Spaces for a New Public Presence: Hindu Temples in Metropolitan Washington DC.” Paper presented for the panel “Diaspora - Space and Identity” at the 19th Annual South Asia Conference at the University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, California, February 13-14, 2004
- “Shiva Festivals: Grandeur and Intimacy.” Invited presentation for the seminar *Procession, Performances, and Pujas: India’s Hindu Festivals* sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, November 8, 2003.
- “New Bronzes/ New Ritual Contexts.” Invited presentation for the symposium in conjunction with the exhibit *The Sensuous and the Sacred: Cholas Bronzes from South India*. Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian sponsored by the American Federation of Arts. Washington DC, March 8, 2003.
- “Thinking Locally, Building Globally: A New Kind of Hindu Temple in a Transnational Religious Landscape.” Invited presentation at the symposium “(Un)Common Ground: Rethinking American Sacred Space. University of Virginia School of Architecture, October 31-November 2, 2002.
- “The Paradox of the ‘Paradigmatic Sovereign’: Saiva Temples in 18th and 19th Century Madras.” Paper presented in the panel “Kingship in a Changing World: Rearticulating Rajadharma in Colonial India at the 31st Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin, October 11-13, 2002.
- Organized for the North Carolina South Asia Center, Symposium “South Asian Identities and Narratives of Origins” included speakers for the Department of History, University of Michigan and departments of religion from Washington and Lee University and Rutgers University. Chapel Hill, March 29-30, 2002.
- “Comparison: Moving out of the Scholar's Laboratory.” A paper for the panel “Comparison in the History of Religions: Reflections and Critiques” for the

- Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 18, 2001
- Invited presentation on "comparison" honoring the work John B. Carman the annual Conference for the Study of Religion in South India. Mount Holyoke College. South Hadley, Massachusetts, June 14-17, 2001.
- Invited presentation for "India Through Others Eyes" at the Sri Siva Vishnu Temple. Lanham Maryland (Metropolitan Washington DC), June 2, 2001.
- "Mylapore Shaiva Temples: The Royal Lord in a Middle-Class World." Paper for the panel "From Madras to Chennai: The City that Milton Singer Never Saw" for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. Chicago, March 22-25, 2001. (Organized the paper),
- "Seeing the Goddess in an Urban World: Temple Iconography for a New Age." Invited paper for the symposium "Experiencing Devi: Hindu Goddesses in Indian Popular Art" at the University of Iowa Museum of Art. Iowa City, February 24-24, 2001.
- "Thinking of Milton Singer/Rethinking the "City" in India: Architecture and Urban Space Beyond the Bounds of the "Colonial". Roundtable papers organized and presented for or the 29th Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 13-15, 2000.