

Curriculum Vitae

Robert J. Stephens

Instructor
Department of Religious Studies
The University of Alabama

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Education:

- Ph. D. History of Asian Religions**
The University of Iowa, December 2004.
Comprehensive examination areas: Religion in Modern India, Religion in Ancient India, Religion in China, Religion in Japan, Robert D. Baird, Ph.D. adviser.
- M. A. Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion**
The University of Kansas, May 1998.
Comprehensive examination areas: Historical, Psychological, and Anthropological Approaches to the Study of Religion, Robert N. Minor, M.A. adviser.
- B. A. Religious Studies Emphasis: History of Judaism and Christianity, Social Studies Education, minor**
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
cum laude, May 1994.

Academic Work Experience:

Full-time Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Alabama, 2005-present.

Full-time Instructor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, The University of Northern Iowa, 2002-2005.

Instructor, Department of Arts and Sciences, Hawkeye Community College, 2003-2004.

Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 2001.

Instructor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Kirkwood Community College, 2001-2002.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Buddhism," Department of Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 2001.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Religious Studies," Department of Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 2001.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, "Varieties of American Religion," Department of Religious Studies/Department of History, The University of Iowa, 2000.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, "Living Religions of the East," Department of Religious Studies/Department of Asian Languages and Literature, The University of Iowa, 1999-2000.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, "Quest for Human Destiny: Sex, Love, and Death," Department of Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 1999.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, "Living Religions of the East," Department of Religious Studies, The University of Kansas, 1996-1998.

Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible," Department of Religious Studies, Missouri State University, 1992-1993.

Courses Taught:

Living Religions of the East
Introduction to Religious Studies
Introduction to the Study of Religion (Honors)
Religions of the World
Humanities: Non-Western Cultures, India
Karma, Rebirth, and Human Destiny
East Asian Civilizations
Native/Indigenous Religions
Tibetan Buddhism Seminar
Hinduism (Spring, 2006)

Academic Awards and Grants:

Stanley-University of Iowa Foundation Fellowship for Study Abroad (2001).

The University of Iowa, Department of Religious Studies Travel Grant (2001).

The University of Iowa, Department of Asian Languages and Literatures Travel Scholarship (2001).

Hazelle-Lockhart-Rhodes Scholarship, The University of Iowa (2000).

Alice Marguerite Blough Distinguished Essay Award, The University of Iowa (1999).

The University of Kansas, Department of Religious Studies, Graduate Scholarship (1996-1998).

The University of Kansas, Graduate College and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Honor Roll (1995-1998).

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award (1992-1993).

Missouri State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Honor Roll (1990-1994).

Missouri State University, Department of Religious Studies, Martin H. Boone Scholarship (1993).

Missouri State University, Department of Religious Studies Scholarship (1990-1994).

Missouri State University, James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship (1993).

Missouri State University, Regent's Center Academic Scholarship (1990-1993).

Missouri State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean's Honor Roll (1989-1993).

G.T.E. Academic Scholarship for undergraduates (1989-1993).

Ray A. Kroc Youth Achievement Award for in-coming freshmen (1989).

Publications: Book Chapters:

"Hinduism in Independent India: Fundamentalism and Secularism" in *Contemporary Hinduism: Ritual, Culture, and Practice* ed. Robin Rinehart (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Religion in Contemporary Society Series, 2004).

"Religious Conflict in the Courts: Caste and Conversion in the Indian Secular State" in *Religion and Law in Independent India*, 2nd edition, ed. Robert D. Baird (New Delhi: Manohar, 2004).

Publications: Reviews and Book Notes:

Review of Alf Hiltebeitel's *Rethinking the Mahabharata: A Reader's Guide to the Education of the Dharma King* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001), in *Religious Studies Review* (forthcoming).

Review of Rowena Robinson and Sathianathan Clarke, eds., *Religious Conversion in India: Modes, Motivations, and Meanings* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003), in *Religious Studies Review* (Fall 2004).

Review of Margaret Case's *Seeing Krishna: The Religious World of a Brahman Family in Vrindaban* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 60/4 (2001): 1218.

Response article to Raymond Williams' "So, What Are We Professing Here? Religion, the Liberal Arts, and Civic Life," in *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* (Fall 2000): 79-80.

Review of Ninian Smart's *The World's Religions*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), in *Religious Studies Review* (Fall 1999).

Book manuscripts in-progress:

Competing Concerns: Religious Conversion and Its Respondents in Modern India. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 2004, vi + 352. Supervisor: Emeritus Prof. Robert D. Baird

The "Meaning" But Not the "End of Religion": Humanity, Transcendence, and Scripture in the Thought of Wilfred Cantwell Smith. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Kansas, 1998, iv + 101. Supervisor: Prof. Robert N. Minor.

Articles to be submitted for publication:

"Caste and Conversion in the Indian Secular State." [Will be submitted to the *Journal of Asian Studies*]

"Conversion to Islam in India: Problems and Perspectives, Past and Present." [Will be submitted to the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*]

"Contesting Rama: B.R. Ambedkar's Reading of the *Ramayana*." [Will be submitted to the *Journal of Dharma: An International Quarterly of World Religions*, Bangalore, India]

"The Footprint of Order in the Cosmos: The Concept of *Rita* in Early Vedic Sources." [Will be submitted to the *Journal of Dharma: An International Quarterly of World Religions*, Bangalore, India]

“A Neo-Vedic Reading of Karma: Dayananda Saraswati’s View of Justice and Equality from the *Satyarth Prakash (The Light of Truth)*.” [Will be submitted to the *Journal of Dharma: An International Quarterly of World Religions*, Bangalore, India]

“Women in *The Light of Truth*: Swami Dayananda Saraswati’s View of Women from the Second Edition of the *Satyarth Prakash*.” [Will be submitted to the *Journal of Dharma: An International Quarterly of World Religions*, Bangalore, India]

Presented Papers:

“Conversion to Islam in India: Problems and Perspectives, Past and Present” for the “Religion in Culture” series, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL July, 2005.

“A History of the Reception of Taoism in the West” at the American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Meeting, Dallas, TX April, 1998.

“The Place of Ecclesiastes in the Hebrew Wisdom Tradition” at the Truman State University Conference on Religion and Philosophy, Kirksville, MO April, 1994.

Language Training:

Reading knowledge of Hindi
Reading knowledge of Sanskrit
Reading knowledge of German
Passed graduate examination on “Reading French for the Arts and Sciences”

Hindi Language Study: Intensive Hindi Language Program, Mussoorie, Uttaranchal, India, 2001.

Professional Activities, Service, and Memberships:

Religion Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty Senate, The University of Iowa.

Graduate Student Representative, Islam Faculty Search Committee,
Department of Religious Studies, The University of Kansas.

Graduate Student Representative, Studies Committee, Department of
Religious Studies, The University of Kansas.

President of *Zeitgeist*, the Academic Religious Studies Club, Missouri
State University.

Member of the American Academy of Religion.

List of References:

Dissertation adviser:

Professor Emeritus Robert D. Baird
Department of Religious Studies
The University of Iowa
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Cottage Grove, WI 53527
rbaird@uiowa.edu
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Current department chair:

Professor Russell McCutcheon, Department Chair
Department of Religious Studies
211 Manly Hall
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Previous department chair:

Professor Betty A. DeBerg, Department Head
Department of Philosophy and Religion
135 Baker Hall
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Dissertation committee members:

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M.A. Thesis adviser:

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