

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**HUGH R. NICHOLSON**

Associate Professor of Comparative Religion, Loyola University Chicago  
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**Education**

- Ph.D. Boston College, Theology, 2001  
Dissertation: "Mandana Misra's Non-Dual Vedanta and the Sacramental Vision"  
Francis X. Clooney, S.J., Director
- M.A.R. Yale Divinity School, Philosophical Theology, 1994  
cum laude
- A.B. Brown University, Fine Arts, 1988

**Academic Positions**

- 2019- Professor, Loyola University Chicago
- 2012-2018 Associate Professor, Loyola University Chicago
- 2009-2011 Assistant Professor, Loyola University Chicago
- 2008-2009 Joseph E. McCabe Associate Professor of Religion, Coe College
- 2001-2008 Assistant Professor, Coe College
- 1999-2001 Teaching Fellow, Boston College
- 1996-1999 Research Assistant in the Cross Cultural Religious Idea Project, a three-year collaborative study in comparative religion convened by Robert C. Neville, John Berthrong, and Peter Berger of Boston University. This project produced three volumes under the titles, *The Human Condition*, *Ultimate Realities*, and *Religious Truth* (SUNY, 2000).

**Languages**

Ancient: Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Pali  
Modern (reading knowledge): French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese

**Publications**

Books:

- 2023 *Buddhism, Cognitive Science, and the Doctrine of Selflessness: Revolution in Our Self-Conception.* Routledge.
- 2016(a) *The Spirit of Contradiction in Buddhism and Christianity.* Oxford University Press.

2011(a) *Comparative Theology and the Problem of Religious Rivalry*. Oxford University Press.

**Publications** (cnt'd.)

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

- Under Review "The Internal Dimension of Theory of Mind and the Cognitive Science of Religion." Submitted to the *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*.
- Forthcoming "Taylor's Critique of Secularism from a Naturalist Perspective." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- 2024 "The Scope of Ambiguity in the Yogacara Three Natures Doctrine." *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*.
- 2019(a) "Religion, Cognition, and the Myth of Conscious Will." *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 31 (2): 91-119.
- 2019(b) "Buddhist Selflessness and the Transformation of Folk-Psychology." *Philosophy East and West* 69:1: 216-239.
- 2018(a) "Rudolf Otto's Encounter with Ramanuja as a Model for Comparative Theology." *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies* 31: 4-8.
- 2018(b) "Agentless Action as a Mark of Ultimacy." *Open Theology* 4: 386-394.
- 2018(c) "Two Levels of Commitment in James Fredericks's Comparative Theology." *Buddhist Christian Studies* 38: 165-169.
- 2014(a) "Social Identity Processes in the Development of Maximally Counter-intuitive Theological Concepts: Consubstantiality and No-Self," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 82:3, pp. 736-770.
- 2014(b) "The History in Front of Comparison: The Reception History of Eckhart and Indian Thought and the Future of East-West Comparison," *Medieval Mystical Theology* 23:2, pp. 127-141.
- 2012(a) "The Unanswered Questions and the Limits of Knowledge," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 40:5, pp. 533-552.
- 2012(b) "The Spirit of Contradiction in the Buddhist Doctrine of Not-Self," *Journal of Religion* 92:1, pp. 31-57.
- 2010(a) Co-authored with Reid B. Locklin, University of Toronto: "The Return of Comparative Theology," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 78:2, pp. 477-514.
- 2010(b) "The Shift from Agonistic to Non-Agonistic Debate in Early Nyaya," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 38, pp. 75-95.

- 2009 "The Reunification of Theology and Comparison in the New Comparative Theology," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 77:3, pp. 609-646.
- 2007(c) "Comparative Theology After Liberalism," *Modern Theology* 23:2, pp. 229-251.
- 2005(a) "A Correlational Model of Comparative Theology," *Journal of Religion* 85:2, pp. 191-213.
- 2004(a) "Specifying the Nature of Substance in Aristotle and Indian Philosophy," *Philosophy East and West* 54:4, pp. 533-553.
- 2002 "Apologetics and Philosophy in Mandana Misra's *Brahmasiddhi*," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 30: 6, pp. 575-596.

**Publications** (cnt'd.)

Articles in Edited Volumes:

- 2023 "Comparative Theology After Clooney," in Joseph Kimmel and Axel Takacs, eds., *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Comparative Theology: A Collection in Honor of Francis X. Clooney, SJ*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2023 "The Development of Comparative Theology in the Twentieth Century," in Wilhelmus Valkenberg, ed., *Brill Companion to Comparative Theology*, Brill.
- 2023 "Creative Tensions in Buddhist and Christian Doctrine," in Carol Anderson and Thomas Cattoi, eds., *Handbook of Buddhist-Christian Studies*, Routledge.
- 2021 "The Emergence of Modern Hinduism," in Michelle Voss Roberts and Chad M. Bauman, eds. *Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, Routledge.
- 2017(a) "Rhetorics of Theological One-Upmanship in Christianity and Buddhism: Athanasius' Polemic against the Arians and Vasubandhu's Refutation of Pudgalavada Buddhism," in Francis X. Clooney and Klaus von Stosch, eds., *How To Do Comparative Theology: European and American Perspectives in Dialogue*, Fordham University Press.

- 2017(b) "Religion and Classic Comparative Theology," in Richard King, ed. *Theory, Religion, Critique: Classic and Contemporary Approaches*, pp. 77-86. Columbia University Press.
- 2016(b) "Response: Christology in Comparative Perspective," in Michelle Voss Roberts, ed., *Comparing Faithfully: Insights for Systematic Theological Reflection*, pp. 238-252. Fordham University Press.
- 2015 "Reconciling Christian Identity and Interreligious Respect," in Hilda P. Koster and Rosemary Carbine, eds. *The Gift of Theology: The Contribution of Kathryn Tanner*, pp. 209-232. Fortress Press.
- forthcoming "Religious Pluralism and the Political Dimension of Theology," *Oxford Handbook of Political Theology*. Oxford University Press
- 2010(c) "The New Comparative Theology and the Problem of Theological Hegemonism," in Francis X. Clooney, S.J. and James Fredericks, eds., *The New Comparative Theology: interreligious insights from the next generation*, pp. 43-62. T & T Clark.
- Book Reviews:
- 2014 *Early Indian and Theravada Buddhism*, by Bradley S. Clough, *Sophia* 53:4, pp. 581-583.
- 2013 *Piety and Responsibility: Patterns of Unity in Karl Rahner, Karl Barth, and Vedanta Desika*, by John N. Sheveland, *Journal of Religion*
- 2013 *Dharma: Its Early History in Law, Religion, and Narrative*, by Alf Hiltebeitel, *Sophia* 51:4, pp. 579-580.
- 2012(e) *Dualities: A Theology of Difference*, by Michelle Voss Roberts, *Journal of Religion* 92:3, pp. 437-439.
- 2009(b) *Genealogy of the South Indian Deities*, by Daniel Jeyaraj, *Religious Studies Review*
- 2006 *Divine Mother, Blessed Mother*, by Francis X, Clooney, *Religious Studies Review* 32:1
- 2005(b) *Hinduism: A Postcolonial Perspective*, by Sharada Sugirtharajah, *Journal of Religion* 85:3
- 2004(b) *Advaita Vedanta*, edited by R. Balasubramanian, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 124:3
- 2003 *The Problem of Universals in Indian Philosophy*, by Raja Ram Dravid, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 123:2

### **Fellowships, Grants, and Awards**

- 2012-2013      Sujack Family Research Award for Faculty Research Excellence, College of Arts and Sciences, Loyola University Chicago
- 2004-2005      Senior Research Fellow, The University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2006  
2001-2004      Faculty Summer Research Grant (Perrine Faculty Fellowship Program), Coe College
- 2001              Six-week travel grant to read Sanskrit philosophical texts in Pune, India.

### **Conference Presentations**

- 2023              “Religion and the Contingency of the Relation between Voluntary Action and Conscious Will.” Cognitive Science of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- 2021              Respondent: “Mind-Body Philosophy in Buddhism.” American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, San Antonio, TX (Virtual Session).
- 2020              Panelist: Theology without Walls: The Interreligious Imperative. American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting (Virtual Session)
- 2017              “Rudolf Otto’s Encounter with Ramanuja as a Model for Comparative Theology.” Presented in the panel session, “Ramanuja’s Reception in the Christian Tradition: Theological Uses and Prospects,” American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2016              "Two Levels of Commitment in James Fredericks's Comparative Theology." Presented in the panel session, "The Contribution of James Fredericks," American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- 2011              "The Two Truths as Hermeneutical Categories." Presented in the panel session, “Post-Metaphysical Comparative Theology,” American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2007              “Dichotomization and the Occlusion of Imperialist Forms of Discourse in Comparative Theology.” Presented in the panel session, “Comparative Theology and the Problem of Hegemony,” American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, San Diego, CA.

- 2005 “Liberating Religion from Social Conflict: A Critical Examination of Three Evasive Strategies.” Theology and Religious Reflection Section, American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2003 “Concealing the Buddhist Influence in Mandanamisra’s *Brahmasiddhi*.” Presented in the panel session, “Refutation and Ridicule: Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains as Seen by Others” (Religion in South Asia Section), American Academy of Religion Annual National Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

### **Invited Talks**

- 2024 "Comparative Religion." Conference on "Comparing Comparativisms." Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago.
- 2020 “Anti-Cartesian Meditations: The Buddhist Challenge to Folk Psychology.” Forum on 15, School of Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics. University of Illinois at Chicago.
- 2019 “Buddhism, Science, and Nature.” Religion and Nature Seminar Series, Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago.
- 2014 “Rhetorics of Theological One-Upmanship in Christianity and Buddhism: Athanasius' Polemic against the Arians and Vasubandhu's Refutation of Pudgalavāda Buddhism.” Methods and Criteria for Comparative Theology, Universität Paderborn, Germany.
- 2014 Respondent: Divine Embodiment Panel. The Promise of Religious Pluralism, Wake Forest University
- 2013 "The Modern Reception of Eckhart and Indic Philosophies and the Future of East-West Comparison." 26th Annual Meeting of The Eckhart Society, held in Hoddesdon, England.
- 2011 "The Spirit of Contradiction in Buddhism and Christianity: Comparative Reflections on the Shaping of Religious Doctrine." Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University.
- 2005 “Religion, Terrorism, and the Myth of the State.” Presented at the University of Chicago Divinity School Wednesday Lunch Series. An abridged version of this talk appeared under the title of “Myth and the War on Terror” in the February 3, 2005 edition of *Sightings*, an online editorial sponsored by the Divinity School.
- 2005 “Gandhi and Human Rights” in the series “Human Rights and the Underclass,” First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, IA.

## Courses Taught

Seminars "Religious Practice in Comparative Perspective: Hinduism and Buddhism" (graduate level)  
"Buddhist-Christian Dialogue" (graduate level)  
"Theologies of Religious Pluralism" (graduate level)  
Directed Reading: First Semester Seminar (for entering PhD Students)  
"Mystery of God in Christian Theology" (graduate level)  
"Religious Traditions" (Method and Theory in the Study of Religion)  
"Orientalism and Postcolonialism in the Indian Context"  
"Theology and Religious Pluralism"  
"Religious Nationalism"  
"Modern Religious Thought"  
"Hindu Gods and Goddesses"  
"Christian Mysticism"  
"Comparative Religion"  
"Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics"

Survey Courses "Introduction to the Study of Religion"  
"Theology of Faith"  
"Religions of Asia"  
"Death, Self, and Afterlife"  
"Introduction to Hinduism"  
"Introduction to Buddhism"  
"Belief and Unbelief" (On the Problem of Belief in Modernity)  
"New Testament"  
"Hebrew Bible/Old Testament"  
"Introduction to Eastern Religions"  
"The Philosophies of India"  
"The Religious Quest"  
"World Religions"

## Service to the Academy

2013-2015 Co-chair, Comparative Theology Group, American Academy of Religion  
2009-2012 Steering Committee, Comparative Theology Group, American Academy of Religion

## Service at Loyola University

2021-2022 Departmental Advisory Committee, Chair  
2020-2021 Departmental Advisory Committee, Chair  
Search Committee Member: Tenure Track Position in Theology.  
2016-2017 Theology Section Coordinator  
Graduate Policies Committee  
Departmental Advisory Committee, Chair (Spring semester 2017)

2014-2015	Events and Colloquia Committee
2013-2014	Graduate Fellowships Committee
2011-2012	Undergraduate Policies Committee Academic Council Departmental Representative Search Committee: Tenure-Track Position in Theology
2010-2011	Departmental Advisory Committee Academic Council Departmental Representative Search Committee: Full-Time (Non-Tenure) Position in Theology
2009-2010	Undergraduate Policies Committee Search Committee: Tenure-Track Position in Judaism

### **Service at Coe College**

2008-2009	Search Committee: Tenure-Track Position in Religion
2007-2009	Chair, Petitions Committee
2005-2007	Petitions Committee
2003-2004	Search Committee: Tenure-Track Religion Position; Writing Committee
2002-2003	Honors and Independent Study Committee
2001-2002	Search Committees: Tenure-Track Position in Religion; Full-Time Position in Philosophy

### **Membership in Learned Societies**

American Academy of Religion  
American Oriental Society