

## TRACY SUE PINTCHMAN

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1992 University of California, Santa Barbara: Religious Studies (South Asian religions)

M.A. 1987 Boston University: Religious Studies

B.A. 1984 Cornell University: Film Studies (Magna Cum Laude)

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor (tenure, April 1998; promotion to Professor, April 2005), Theology Department, Loyola University Chicago (1992- present); Associate Faculty in Women's Studies: Courses include: (undergraduate) Introduction to Hinduism; Hindu Goddess Traditions; Women and Religion in India; Introduction to Buddhism; Asian Religions; South Asian Civilizations and Literatures; Encountering Asia; Introduction to the Study of Religion; Theory and Method in the Study of Religion; Women, Religion, and Ethnography; Religion and Healing; (graduate) Mysticism; Global Feminisms; Theology and Culture: Christianity and World Religions; Roman Catholicism in Context (taught in Rome, 2014)

Visiting Professor, University of Virginia's Semester at Sea Program, summer 2011 (taught "Religion in the Modern Mediterranean World" on a Mediterranean voyage)

Harvard University Divinity School, Women's Studies in Religion Program (September 2000-June 2001): taught graduate course in "Women and Religion in India"

Visiting Assistant Professor, Northwestern University, March-June 1996: Taught "Hindu Myths"

Teaching Assistant and Lecturer, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1987-1991: Courses include: Hindu Myth and Image; Introduction to Asian Religions; Buddhism; Introduction to Western Religions; Religion and Western Civilization; Introduction to the Study of Religion; Women as Creators of Culture; Religion and the Impact of Vietnam

Teaching Fellow and Lecturer, Boston University, 1985-1987: Courses include: Introduction to Eastern Religions; Greek and Roman Mythology; Introduction to Modern French Language

### ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Director, Global Studies Program, Loyola University Chicago, July 2008 to present

Assistant Director, International Studies Program, Loyola University Chicago, 2006-2008

Director, Asian Studies Program, Loyola University Chicago, 2002-2004

Director, Religion, Culture, and Society Minor Program, Loyola University Chicago, 1997-2003 (on leave fall 1997-fall 1998, fall 2000-spring 2001)

## PRIMARY AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Religious Traditions of South Asia: Hinduism, religion in Asia, women and religion in India, Hindu goddess traditions, Hindu religion and philosophy, Buddhist religion and philosophy, South Asian civilizations

General Religious Studies: religion and gender, religion and the social sciences, method and theory in the study of religion, goddess traditions, philosophy of religion, phenomenology of religion

## PUBLICATIONS

### I. Books

#### A. Monographs (3)

*Goddess Beyond Boundaries: Worshipping the Eternal Mother at a North American Hindu Temple*. Oxford University Press, 2024.

*Guests at God's Wedding: Celebrating Kartik Among the Women of Benares*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005.

*The Rise of the Goddess in the Hindu Tradition*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994.

#### B. Edited and Coedited Books and Journal Issues (6)

“Ethical and Political Dimensions of Narrative and Practice in Contemporary Hinduism.” Guest editor. *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 29/2 (August): 2025.

*Sacred Matters: Materiality in Indian Religions*, edited by Tracy Pintchman and Corinne Dempsey. New York: State University of New York Press, 2015.

*Hindu Ritual at the Margins: Transformations, Innovations, Reconsiderations*, edited by Linda Penkower and Tracy Pintchman. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2014.

*Goddess and Woman in Hinduism: Reinterpretations and Re-envisionings*, edited by Tracy Pintchman and Rita D. Sherma. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan 2011.

*Women's Lives, Women's Rituals in the Hindu Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

*Seeking Mahādevī: Constructing the Identities of the Hindu Great Goddess*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.

### II. Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters (39) (published and forthcoming)

“The History of Anger in Hinduism.” In *The Routledge History of Anger*, edited by Katie Barclay and Peter Stearns. New York: Routledge. Forthcoming in 2027.

“Balbir Mathur and Trees for Life International: Hinduism, Spirituality, Trees, and Modes of ‘and’ Between India and the United States.” In *Plurality in South Asia*, edited by Friederike Grenner. Heidelberg University Press: in process and forthcoming in 2027.

“This is a place where Śakti dances: Intensifying the Goddess's presence in Michigan.” In *Sweetening and Intensification: Currents Shaping Hindu Practices*, edited by Amy Allocco and Xenia Zeller. Albany: State University of New York Press, forthcoming, October 1, 2025.

“Introduction.” In Tracy Pintchman, ed., “Ethical and Political Dimensions of Narrative and Practice in Contemporary Hinduism.” Special issue of *International Journal of Hindu Studies*: 29/2, July 24, 2025: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11407-025-09399-4>.

“A Sita for the New Millenium: Sita in Amish Tripathi's Ramchandra Series.” In Tracy Pintchman, ed., “Ethical and Political Dimensions of Narrative and Practice in Contemporary Hinduism.” Special issue of *International Journal of Hindu Studies*: 29/2, July 24, 2025: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11407-025-09400-0>.

“Hindu Social Organization and Everyday Norms: *Dharma* and Hindu Women.” *A Cultural History of Hinduism*, Vol. 6, chapter 3, 69-90. Oxford: Bloomsbury Press, 2024.

“Śākta (Goddess) worship in the Hindu Diaspora.” In the *Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Diasporas*, edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, 286-303. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

“Rethinking *Diaspora* in the American Hindu Landscape: The Translocal Śaktiscape of the Hindu Goddess in Pontiac, Michigan.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 91/1 (March 2023): 121-135.

“The Month of Kartik and Women's Ritual Devotions to Krishna.” Republished in *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, second edition, edited by Gavin Flood, 323-337. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2022.

“Women’s Observances: *Vratas*.” In the *Oxford History of Hinduism: Ritual Practice*, edited by Gavin Flood, 362-77. NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Shakti Garbha as Ark of the Covenant at an American Hindu Goddess Temple.” In *Dharma and Halacha: Comparative Studies in Hindu-Jewish Philosophy and Religion*, edited by Ithamar Theodor and Yudit Greenberg, 35-49. Boulder, CO: Lexington Books, August 2018.

“Hindu Goddess Traditions: Cosmological, Devotional, and Social Perspectives.” In *The Oxford History of Hinduism: The Goddess*, edited by Mandakranta Bose, 17-28. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

“The Divine Mother Comes to Michigan.” In *The Oxford History of Hinduism: The Goddess*, edited by Mandakranta Bose, 304-321. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

“Fruitful Austerity: Embodied Devotion in Women’s *Vrat* Performance.” In *Refiguring the Body: Embodiment in South Asian Religions*, edited by Barbara Holdrege and Karen Pechilis, 301-319. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2017.

“Introduction” and “The Goddess’s Shaligrams.” In *Sacred Matters: Materiality in Indian Religions*, edited by Tracy Pintchman and Corinne Dempsey. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2015.

“From Local Goddess to Locale Goddess: Karumariamman as Divine Mother at a North American Hindu Temple.” In *Inventing and Reinventing the Local Goddess: Contemporary Iterations of Hindu Deities on the Move*, edited by Sree Padma, 89-103. Boulder, CO: Lexington Books, 2014.

“Introduction” (co-authored) and “A Tale of Two Weddings: Gendered Performances of Tulsi's Marriage to Krishna.” In *Hindu Ritual at the Margins: Transformations, Innovations, Reconsiderations*, edited by Linda Penkower and Tracy Pintchman. Columbia, SC: USC Press, 2014.

“Conclusion: Reimagining the Hindu Feminine.” Concluding chapter in *Goddess and Woman in Hinduism: Reinterpretations and Re-envisionings*, edited by Tracy Pintchman and Rita D. Sherma, 219-228. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

"Friendship, Humor, Levity, and Love in a Hindu Women's Ritual Tradition." In *Sacred Play: Ritual Levity and Humor in South Asian Religions*, edited by Selva J. Raj and Corinne Dempsey, 91-105. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2010.

"Reflections on Power and the Post-Colonial Context: Notes from the Field." *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 21 (2009): 66-72.

"New Voices, New Challenges, and New Opportunities in Hindu Studies." *Religions of South Asia (ROSA)* (Dec. 2007): 145-163.

"Lovesick Gopi or Women's Best Friend? The Mythic Sakhi and Ritual Friendships among Women in Benares." In *Women's Lives, Women's Rituals in the Hindu Tradition*, edited by Tracy Pintchman, 55-64. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

"Introduction." In *Women's Lives, Women's Rituals in the Hindu Tradition*, edited by Tracy Pintchman, 3-16. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

"When Vows Fail to Deliver What They Promise: The Cases of Shyamavati." In *Dealing with Deities: The Ritual Vow in South Asia*, edited by William Harman and Selva Raj, 219-233. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2006.

"Child, Lover, Husband, or God? Reconsidering Parental and Erotic Emotions in Hindu Women's Devotions to Krishna." In *Incompatible Visions: South Asian Religions in History and Culture*, edited by James Blumenthal, 51-69. Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005.

"Raising Krishna, with Love: Maternal Devotion as a form of Yoga in a Hindu Women's Ritual Tradition." In *Essays on the Theory and Practice of Yoga: In honor of Gerald James Larson*, edited by Knut Axel Jacobsen, 351-362. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2005.

"Domesticating Krishna: Friendship, Marriage, and Women's Experience in a Hindu Women's Ritual Tradition." In *'Alternative' Krishna Traditions: Krishna in Folk Religion And Vernacular Literature*, edited by Guy Beck, 43-63. State University of New York Press, 2005.

"Courting Krishna on the Banks of the Ganges: Gender and Power in a Hindu Women's Ritual Tradition." In *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 24/1 (Spring 2004): 18-27.

"Women's Songs for the Marriage of Tulsi and Krishna in Benares." *Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies* 12/1 (Fall 2003): 57-65.

"The Month of Kartik and Women's Ritual Devotions to Krishna." In *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, edited by Gavin Flood, 327-342. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2003.

"Is the Hindu Goddess Tradition a Good Resource for Western Feminism?" In *Is the Goddess a Feminist?* Edited by Alf Hiltebeitel and Kathleen Erndl, 187-202. New York: New York University Press, 2000.

"The Month of Kārttik as a Vaiṣṇava Mahotsav: Mythic Themes and the Ocean of Milk." *Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies* 7/2 (March 1999): 65-92.

"Gender Complementarity and Gender Hierarchy in Purāṇic Accounts of Creation." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 66/2, Summer 1998: 257-282. This article is reprinted in an abridged form in Gary Kessler, *Eastern Ways of Being Religious* (CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1999).

"The Ambiguous Female: The Conception of Female Gender in the Brahmanical Tradition and the Roles of Women in India." In *Ethical and Political Dilemmas of Modern India*, edited by Ninian Smart and Shivesh Thakur, 144-159. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993.

"Creation and the Great Goddess in the Purāṇas." *Purāṇa* 35:2 (July 1993): 146-170.

"Speculative Patterns in Hopi Cosmology." *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 22:3 (1993): 351-364.

"Snakes in the Cave: Religion and the Echo in E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*." *Soundings* 75:2 (Spring 1992): 61-78.

#### **IV. Encyclopedia Articles (8)**

"Vratas," in *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, Vol. 2 (Leiden: Brill, 2010), 427-434 (5,000 word entry).

"Mahādevī," in *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, Vol. 1 (Leiden: Brill, 2009), 625-634 (5,000 word entry).

"Gods in Hinduism" (pp. 262-63) and "Goddesses in Hinduism" (254-56), for *Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions*, edited by Yudit Greenberg. ABC-CLIO, 2007.

"Tulsi," "Tulsi-vivaha," "Karttik," and "Alakshmi," for *The RoutledgeCurzon Encyclopedia of Hinduism*. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2007: 20-21, 414, 886-887.

#### **V. Academic Essays (not peer reviewed) (4)**

"Not either this or that, but always this and that." *National Jesuit News* 33/4 (February/March 2004), 14.

"Ninian, At Home in the World." *Religion*, October 2001 (31/4): 359-360.

"Celebrating Karttik in Benares." *Dak: The Newsletter of the American Institute of Indian Studies*, Summer 1999: 8-11.

"Hinduism and Social Justice," "Buddhism and Social Justice," for *Just Readings: A Loyola University Chicago on-line Social Justice Reader*, edited by Michael Maher and Daniel Hartnett, S.J. 2005.

#### **VI. Book Reviews (16)**

Review of *The Cow in the Elevator. An Anthropology of Wonder*, by Tulasi Srinivas. *Anthropos* 2019 (114:2): 645-646.

Review of *Studying Hinduism in Practice*. Edited by Hillary P. Rodrigues. *Religious Studies and Theology* 33/1 (2014): 111-112.

Review of Constantina Rhodes's *Invoking Lakshmi: The Goddess of Wealth in Song and Ceremony*. *Journal of Hindu Studies* (2013) 6 (3): 394-395.

Review of Elaine Craddock, *Śiva's Demon Devotee: Kāraikkāl Ammaiṅār*. *Religion* (March 2012): 1-4.

Review of Edwin Bryant, ed., *Krishna: A Sourcebook*. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76/2 (June 2008): 509-512.

Review of Robin Rinehart's *Contemporary Hinduism: Ritual, Culture, and Practice*. *Journal of Asian Studies* 65/1 (February 2006): 214-216.

Review of June McDaniel's *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls: Popular Goddess Worship in West Bengal*. *Religion* 35/2 (April 2005), 130-132.

Review of Ellen Goldberg's *The Lord Who Is Half Woman: Ardhanārīśvara in Indian and Feminist Perspective*. *Journal of Religion* 84/1 (January 2004), 151-153.

Review of Laurie L. Patton's *Jewels of Authority: Women and Textual Tradition in Hindu India*. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 71/4 (December 2003): 961-964.

Review of Kunal Chakrabarti's *Religious Process: The Purāṇas and the Making of a Regional Tradition*. *American Historical Review* (October 2003): 1126-1127.

Review of Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India*. *Religious Studies Review* 28/1 (January 2002): 94-95.

Review of Brooke Ackerly's *Feminist Theory of Social Criticism*. *Journal of Asian Studies* 60/4 (Nov. 2001): 1117-1118.

Review of Ian Whicher's *The Integrity of the Yoga Darśana*. *Religious Studies Review* 26/2 (April 2000): 205.

Review of Antonio Rigopoulos's *Dattātreya: The Immortal Guru, Yogin, and Avatāra*. *Religious Studies Review* 25/2 (April 1999): 221.

Review of J. C. Heesterman's *The Broken World of Sacrifice*. *Journal of Developing Societies* 14/2 (September 1998): 347-350.

Review of Liz Wilson's *Charming Cadavers: Horrific Figurations of the Feminine in Indian Buddhist Hagiographical Literature*. *Religious Studies Review* 24/1 (January 1998): 122.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PROFESSIONAL LECTURES (80)**

Reframing Kalki for a Global Audience.” Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, “ Kathmandu, Nepal, June 2, 2025.

“Kalki and Cosmopolitanism: Chronicling the Life and Times of a Lesser-Known Vishnu *Avatāra* in Kevin Missal’s *Kalki Series*.” American Academy of Religion National Conference, San Diego, CA, November 25, 2024.

“Balbir Mathur and the Trees for Life Movement.” European Association for the Study of Religion Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, August 24, 2024.

“Reimagining the *Pativrata* Ideal Among Contemporary Hindu Women.” European Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Palermo, Italy, May 20, 2024.

“Rewriting Karumariamman as a Tantric/Yogic Deity.” Association of Asian Studies Conference, Seattle, WA, March 15, 2024.

“Forged from Fire: Recasting the Goddess’s Presence in a Diaspora Hindu Temple.” Association of Asian Studies Conference, Seattle, WA, March 15, 2024.

“What Happens When a Goddess Destroys Her Own Diaspora Temple?” American Academy of Religion National Conference, Denver, CO, November 19, 2023.

“Rewriting Sita: Sita as Warrior, Prime Minister, and ‘The Vishnu’ in Amish Tripathi’s Novel, “Sita: Warrior of Mitthila.” American Academy of Religion National Conference, Denver, CO Nov. 20, 2023.

“A Sita for the Twenty-First Century.” The Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 17, 2023. Repeated at the European Conference of South Asian Studies, Turin, Italy, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

A Hindu Goddess Moves to America: Breaking Boundaries at the Parashakthi Temple in Pontiac, Michigan.” Valparaiso University, April 20, 2022.

“Goddess Beyond Boundaries: Worshipping the Eternal Mother at a North American Hindu Temple.” Anjali Lecture in Hindu Studies, University of Tennessee, April 5, 2022.

“The Global Goddess: Reconstituting Hindu Sacred Space as Śaktiscape.” The Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI, March 25, 2022.

“New Wine, New Wineskins: The Translocal Śaktiscape of the ‘Hindu’ Goddess in Pontiac, Michigan.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 22, 2021 (**repeated** at the American Academy of Religion National Conference, San Antonio, TX and online, Nov. 22, 2021).

“Recasting Shakti: Female ‘Otherness’ and Sita as the Warrior of Mithila.” European Academy of Religion Conference, Munster, Germany and online, August 30, 2021.

“The Global Goddess.” Many Faces of the Hindu Goddess Weekend School, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, March 27, 2021.

“The Hindu Goddess Comes to Michigan: Breaking Boundaries, Making Home.” Virtual kickoff lecture for the University of Wisconsin, Madison Center for South Asia’s 2020-21 lecture series, September 10, 2020.

“Karumariamman at the Crossroads: Translocality and the Hindu Goddess in India and the United States.” Association of Asian Studies in Asia virtual conference, September 1, 2020.

“The Intellectual Legacy of Gerald James Larson.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, Nov. 23, 2019.

Response to session, “Making Home, Marking Space: Negotiating Local, Global, and Spatial Identities in Contemporary Diaspora Hinduisms.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, Nov. 24, 2019.

Response to session, “Hinduism on the Rise: Twenty-First Century Hindu Communities in Diaspora.” Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, July 3, 2019.

“A *Rajagopuram* for the New Millennium.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver, CO, November 19, 2018.

Response to session, “New Directions in the Study of South Asian Religions.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver, CO, November 20, 2018.

Participant in panel on research strategies for junior faculty. Loyola University Chicago, October 26, 2018.

Participant in session on “Religious Flows and Ruptures in South Asia.” European Conference on South Asian Studies, Paris, France, July 26, 2018.

Participant in session on “Hindu Temples in Motion: The Hindu Temple in Diaspora.” Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, Delhi, India, July 6, 2018.

“The Hindu Goddess Comes to Michigan.” Invited talk, Indiana University Pennsylvania, April 5, 2018.

Discussant for panel on religion and the body. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 18, 2017.

“The Divine Mother Comes to Michigan.” Presentation at the Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, Seoul (North Korea), June 25, 2017.

Enshrining the Heroic Male Body: Bhi(sh)ma at the Wayside.” Presentation at the European Conference on South Asian Studies, Warsaw, Poland, July 28, 2016.

“Channeling Hope at a Hindu Goddess Temple in Michigan, USA.” Presentation at the Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, Kyoto, Japan, June 2016.

“Shakti Garbha as Ark of the Covenant at an American Hindu Goddess Temple.” Presentation at the National American Academy of Religion (AAR), November 2015.

“Romancing the Stones.” University of Iowa, April 27, 2015.

“Karumariamman as Supreme Shakti at a North American Hindu Temple.” Harvard University, March 5, 2015.

“The Goddess and Her Shaligrams.” Yale University, March 3, 2015.

“The Divine Mother Comes to Michigan.” Presentation at National American Academy of Religion (AAR), November 2014.

Response to Francis X. Clooney’s presentation, “Seeing God in All Things.” Loyola University Chicago, September 2014.

Response to conference review panel on *Goddess and Woman in Hinduism: Reinterpretations and Re-imaginings*. Dharma Association of North America Annual Conference, November 23, 2013.

“The Goddess’s Shaligrams.” Presentation at National American Academy of Religion (AAR), Nov. 25, 2013.

“The Goddess as Healer at a North American Hindu Goddess Temple (Michigan, USA). South and Southeast Asian Association for Culture and Religion (SSEASR), Manila (Philippines), May 16, 2013.

Constructing Locality at a North American Hindu Temple.” Presentation at the National American Academy of Religion (AAR), Nov. 17, 2012.

“The Future of Hindu ‘Bodies that Matter.’” Response to session, “Re-figuring Bodies That Matter: Sex, Gender, and Alternative Bodily Identities in South Asian Traditions.” Presentation at the National American Academy of Religion (AAR), Nov. 18, 2012.

“Fruitful Austerity: Constituting the Auspicious Body in Hindu Women's Performance of the Chāṭh vrat,” Edmund Perry Lecture, Northwestern University, February 29, 2012.

- "The Embodiment of Auspiciousness in a Hindu Women's Ritual Tradition." Bowdoin College: Nov. 8, 2011.
- "Karumariamman as the Eternal Mother at a North American Hindu Temple." Association of Asian Studies Meeting, Honolulu, HI, April 1, 2011.
- Response to session, "Power Spots of the Goddess: Transforming Physical Impurity and the Feminized Landscape in India." National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Canada, Nov. 8, 2009.
- Response to panel, "Migrant Women and Mediterranean Feminisms." Conference on "The Changing Face of the Mediterranean: Migrant Women's Creativity and Constraints," Rome, Italy, March 31, 2009.
- "The Goddess and the Miraculous: Experiencing Wonder at the Parashakthi Temple in Michigan." American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 3, 2008.
- "Fruitful Austerity: Embodied Devotion in Women's *Vrat* Performance." Conference on the Study of Religions of India, Albion, MI, September 15, 2007. A revised version of this paper was also delivered at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 21, 2007.
- "Gender and power in ethnographic practice: notes from the field." American Academy of Religion National Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 21, 2007.
- "New Voices, New Challenges, and New Opportunities in Hinduism Studies." Keynote Address, The Spalding Symposium, Oxford, England, March 30, 2007.
- "The Wisdom of Hindu Goddess Traditions: Cosmological, Mythic, and Social Perspectives." Conference on the Feminine Divine in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Northwestern University, November 27, 2006.
- "Gods of Mud, Temples of Flesh: Materials of Worship in Women's Kartik Traditions." Conference on the Study of Religions of India. Loyola University Chicago, June 9, 2006.
- "Gendered Performances of Tulsi's Marriage." Conference on "Ritualizing In, On, and Across the Boundaries of the Indian Subcontinent," University of Pittsburgh, April 1, 2006.
- "A Tale of Two Weddings: Gendered Performances of Tulsi's Marriage." American Anthropological Association National Meeting, Washington, DC, December 3, 2005.
- "Evaluating discourses of Motherhood and Mothering in Hindu and Jewish Traditions." Response to panel, "Mothers and Mothering in Hindu and Jewish Traditions." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 21, 2005.
- Panel participant, "Samkhya-Yoga after Larson: New Directions in Samkhya-Yoga Research." Dharma Association of North America Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 19, 2005.
- "Raising Krishna with Love: Maternal Devotion as a form of Yoga in a Women's Ritual Tradition." National Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 8, 2005.
- "Reconsidering Sanatana Dharma." Response to panel, "Constructing Sanatana Dharma," Association of Asian Studies, Chicago, IL, April 2, 2005.
- "Good Mothers and Other Mothers, or another View of Mothers? Reconsidering Maternal Sexuality in Krishna Devotion." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 21, 2004.

"Grove, Goddess, Houseplant, Bride: Ascetic/Domestic Values in the Worship of Tulsi." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, November 26, 2003.

"Lovesick *Gopi* or Woman's Best Friend? The Mythic *Sakhi* and Female Friendship in a Hindu Women's Ritual Tradition." National Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 20, 2003.

"Friendship, Levity, and Love in a Women's Ritual Tradition." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada, November 24, 2002.

"Thinking Anew the Hindu Feminine." Response to a panel entitled "Hinduism and the Feminine: Reinterpretations and Reclamations." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada, November 24, 2002.

"Sentimental Commingling: Parental and Amorous Emotions in Hindu Women's Ritual Devotions to Krishna." National Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 11, 2002.

"Inscribing Krishna Traditions in Hindu Women's Lives." National Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 19, 2001.

"When Krishna Takes a Bride." Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, April 3, 2001.

Participant in panel, "Living in the Master's House: Critical Gender Studies and the Academy 2001." Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, March 14, 2001.

"Celebrating Krishna and Tulsi's Wedding in Benarsi Women's Folk Traditions." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, November 1999.

"When Vows Fail to Deliver What They Promise: The Case of Rajavanti." The National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, Florida, November 1998.

"Guests at God's Wedding: Women Celebrating Krishna in North India." University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, March 28, 1997.

"Gender Complementarity in Purāṇic Myths of Creation." Tenth World Sanskrit Conference, Bangalore, India, January 4, 1997.

"Talking about Men: What Patterns of Ritual Participation Tell Hindu Women about the Inherent Nature of Males." National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, November 24, 1996.

"Journey to the Land of *Tapas*: Ascetic Dimensions of a Hindu Pilgrimage." National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, November 24, 1996.

"Is the Hindu Goddess Tradition a Good Resource for Western Feminism?" National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 20, 1994.

"Negotiating Sectarian Allegiances in Purāṇic Constructions of the Goddess." National Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, November 5, 1994.

"Deciphering the Goddess: The Feminine Principle in Purāṇic Accounts of Creation." Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago, Illinois, September 1, 1993.

"Goddesses, Women, and Ambiguity: The Progressive/Regressive Female in Brahmanical Hinduism." International East Meets West Conference, Long Beach, California, April 9, 1993.

"The Rise of the Great Goddess in Purāṇic Cosmogonies." University of Chicago, December 10, 1992.

"Creation and the Ambiguous Female in the Hindu Tradition." University of California, Santa Barbara, February 5, 1992.

"Textual Studies in the Air and on the Ground: A Response to Robert Michaelson's 1990 AAR Address concerning 'Cutting Edges' in Religious Studies." University of California, Santa Barbara, Spring 1991.

## **OTHER ADMINISTRATION, GRANTS ADMINISTRATION, AND APPOINTMENTS**

Editorial Board, Journal of Dharma Studies, Appointed 2019

Editorial Board, Routledge Series on South Asian Culture, Appointed 2018

Steering Committee of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, Appointed 2023

Steering Committee of the Hinduism Section, National American Academy of Religion (appointed 2023 for a three year term)

American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship Selection Committee (2016-2017)

Co-Chair, Comparative Studies in Religion Section, National American Academy of Religion (appointed 2005 for a three-year term)

Advisory Committee Member, Conference on the Study of the Religions of India (appointed 2005)

Steering Committee of the Comparative Hinduisms and Judaisms Group, National American Academy of Religion (appointed 2004)

Co-Chair, American Academy of Religion "Hinduism" Group (2000-2003)

Director, United States Department of Education Grant for Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (title VI-A), 2001-2004. The grant was for the development of South Asian Studies in Loyola's undergraduate curriculum.

Service on the Advisory Board for Mission and Interreligious Dialogue, USA, in conjunction with The Society of Jesus' initiative in interreligious dialogue

Selected to serve on a panel of judges, American Academy of Religion Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Historical Section, 1996-1998

## **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

Designated Master Researcher at Loyola University Chicago, April 2025

Fellowship, Gannon Center for Women and Leadership, Spring 2006

Faculty Fellow, Center for Ethics and Social Justice, Loyola University, spring 2005

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship, awarded 1996 for calendar year 1998

American Academy of Religion (AAR) Research Assistance Grant, October 1998

Loyola University Research Support Grant, September 1998

American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Senior Research Fellowship, awarded 1996 for 1997

Loyola Summer Research Fellowships, 2007, 2004, 2002, 1997

Mellon Award for the Development of Core Curriculum, Loyola University of Chicago, Fall 1992

Interdisciplinary Humanities Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, Spring, 1992

Graduate Affiliates Dissertation Award, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1991

Rotary International Fellowship for study and research abroad in Benares, India, 1989-1990

Regents Four Year Special Fellowship for graduate study, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, 1987

Graduation Magna Cum Laude with distinction in all subjects, Cornell University, 1984

#### **TEACHING AWARDS**

Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence, Loyola University Chicago, April 1997 (awarded to two faculty annually since 1994)

Graduate School Award for Excellence in Teaching, Boston University, 1987

#### **INVITED LECTURES (For General and Undergraduate Audiences)**

"Making Sense of the Hindu Goddess/es: Cosmological, Devotional, and Social Perspectives." Butler University, October 1, 2007.

"When God Takes a Bride: Tulsi's Marriage to Krishna." Ohio University, May 8, 2006.

"The Wisdom of Hindu Goddess Traditions." Boston College, Newton, MA, Feb 8, 2001.

"When God Takes a Bride: Divine Sexuality and Female Spirituality in a Hindu Ritual Tradition." Carthage College, Carthage, Wisconsin, April 28, 1999.

"Guests at God's Wedding: A Hindu Women's Celebration of Krishna in Benares, North India," Park Ridge Theology, St. Luke's Church, Park Ridge, IL, March 26, 1997.

"Contrasting Images of the Feminine in Hindu Mythology." Indo-American Center, Chicago, IL, March 15, 1997. Talk was part of a larger session on "Literature and Mythology: Vehicles for Values," in a semester-long teacher-education workshop, "Exploring South Asia."

"Waking and Wedding Lord Krishna: A Women's Celebration in Benares." DePauw University; Greencastle, Indiana, March 6, 1996.

"Celebrating Krishna: Women and Kartik." Benares, India, December 6, 1995.

"Faith and Work in the Hindu Tradition: Work as a Form of Yoga." St. Patrick's Church, Chicago, February 14, 1995.

"Goddesses, Women, and Ambiguity in the Hindu Tradition." Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pennsylvania, September 30, 1993.

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Sanskrit (ten quarters), Hindi (eight quarters), Greek (three semesters), Latin (two semesters), French (eight years), German (three semesters), Italian (two semesters)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

Association of Asian Studies