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University of Hawaii at Manoa
Department of Religion
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Teaching and Research Experience

August 2013-present, Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa

August 2004 – July 2012, Chair, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii at Manoa

August 1999 – Present, Associate Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa

August 1993-July 1999, Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Undergraduate courses include: World Religions, Understanding Japanese Religions, Understanding Buddhism, Women and Religion, Zen Masters, Cults and New Religions, Seminar on Buddhism in America

Graduate courses include: Seminar in Japanese Religions, Pedagogy in Religion, Theory and Method in the Study of New Religions

Fall 1993- Spring 1999, Secretary for the Society for the Study of Japanese Religion and editor of Bulletin of Japanese Religions.

Fall 1991- Spring 1993, Teaching Assistant, Columbia University

Courses include: Introduction to Japanese Religious Traditions, East Asian Buddhism, Introduction to the Study of Eastern Religions

October 1990- September 1991, Visiting Research Fellow, International Research Institute for Zen Buddhism, Hanazono College, Kyoto, Japan

August 1984- July 1986, Teacher, Notre Dame High School, Trenton, New Jersey
Department of Religion, full time teaching and curriculum development

Courses included: Hebrew Bible, Christian Scriptures, world religions, human sexuality

Academic Training

Columbia University, 1986-1993, Department of Religion

Ph.D. May 1993

M.Phil. May 1990

Dissertation title: Buddhism in Early Tokugawa Japan: The Case of Obaku Zen
and the Work of Tetsugen Dōkō (1630-1682)

Comprehensive areas included: East Asian Buddhism, Chinese religions,
Japanese religions

Princeton Theological Seminary, 1981-1984, Department of Theology

M.Div. May 1984

Thesis Title: The Problem of the "Suffering of God" in Contemporary Roman
Catholic Theology

Grinnell College, 1977-1981

B.A. May 1981

Majors: Mathematics and Religious Studies

Major Publications

*Love, Rōshi: Correspondence between Robert Baker Aitken and his Distant
Correspondents.* Albany: SUNY Press 2012.

Iron Eyes: The Life and Teachings of the Obaku Zen Master Tetsugen Dōkō. Albany:
SUNY Press, 2006.

An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Zen Buddhism. New York: Rosen Publishing, 2002.

Obaku Zen: The Emergence of a Third Sect of Zen in Tokugawa Japan. Honolulu,
Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2000.

Other Publications

"Violence, Nonviolence, and Japanese Religions: Past, Present, and Future."

Review of Steven Heine, *Zen Skin, Zen Marrow* in *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Winter
2010 Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 202-206

"Harmony within One's House: Shintō Understandings of Harmony and Social Conflict,"
in *Ideas of Human Social Concord and Discord in Selected Religions*, Joseph B. Gittler,
ed. Greenwich, Connecticut: JAI Press, Inc, 2000.

"Ties that Bind: On-going Relationships between the Living and the Dead in Japanese
Culture" in *Living and Dying in Buddhist Cultures*, David W. Chappell and Karma
Lekshe Tsomo, eds., pp. 173-182. Honolulu, Hawaii : University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Review of Arvind Sharma, ed., *Women in World Religions and Today's Woman in World
Religions* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, no. 15, Autumn 1995, pp. 317-320.

"Bottled Anger: Episodes in Obaku Conflict in the Tokugawa Period" in *Journal of
Japanese Religious Studies*, vol. 21, no. 2-3, June-Sept., 1994, pp. 191-210.

"Obaku Zen- An Introduction" in *Japanese Religions*, January 1992, pp. 31-49.

Invited Presentations and Papers

"The System Stinks: Sources of Inspiration for the Buddhist Peace Fellowship" for the Numata Conference on Buddhist Studies, "Violence, Nonviolence, and Japanese Religions: Past, Present, and Future," Honolulu, Hawaii, March 20, 2014.

Respondent for Lewis Richmond, "Reflections on 50 Years of Meditation Buddhism in the West, for Futaba Memorial Lecture series, June 7, 2012

Summer Seminar on Buddhism (UNM and Rinzaiji Program):

 "Obaku Zen in Context: Buddhism Under the Tokugawa"

 "Laying the Foundations: Establishing Obaku Zen in Japan"

 "Life and Teachings of Tetsugen Dôkô"

 "Tetsugen's Dharma Lesson in Japanese"

Bodhi Mandala Zen Center, Jemez Springs, NM, June 13-18, 2010

"Zen at a Distance: Isolation and the Development of Distant Membership" for Buddhism without Borders: Contemporary Developments in Buddhism in the West Conference at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, California, March 20, 2010.

"Love, Roshi: Correspondence between Robert Baker Aitken and his "Distant Correspondents," for Annual Meeting of the AAR, Chicago, IL, Nov. 1, 2008.

"How in the Buddha's Name: Precepts and Practice in Japanese Buddhism," for a Dharma seminar series at Honolulu Diamond Sangha, September 23, 2003.

"Pivot Points: The Importance of the Robert Baker Aitken Paper," in relation to a grant from the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, February 25, 2003.

"The Dark Side of the Millennium: Violence in New Religious Movements," for Celebrating or Fearing the Millennium? a symposium sponsored by the UH Medieval and Renaissance Consortium and the UH Department of Philosophy, October 12, 2000.

"Haoli Zen: Ethnic and Non-ethnic Zen Communities in Hawaii" for Lotus in Paradise: Buddhism and Japanese American Identity, at the Japanese Cultural Center, March 31, 2000.

"Ties that Bind: On-going Relationships between the Living and the Dead in Japanese Culture" for the conference on Living and Dying in Buddhist Cultures, May 27, 1995.

"Reflections on the Celebration of Hana Matsuri," for the Buddha Day Services sponsored by the Hawaiian Buddhist Council, April 2, 1995.

"The Emergence of Obaku as the Third School of Zen in Japan" for the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions, at the AAS conference, March 27, 1993.

Grants

"The Robert Baker Aitken Audio-Visual Collection"

Principal Humanities Scholar for a project to prepare the photographs, videotapes and audiotapes for preservation at Hamilton Library. Funded by the Hawaii Council for the Humanities (\$5,000). January-June, 2004.

The World's Religions: A Digital Library of Images

Wrote and received a \$5,000 EIF Grant in collaboration with departmental colleagues to create a digital library of images for use in undergraduate teaching. Served as the principal investigator and manager of the project. January-June 2003.

"The Robert Baker Aitken Papers"

Principle Humanities Scholar for a project that converted the personal papers and other materials of Robert Aitken, founder of the Honolulu Diamond Sangha into an archives which was donated to the University of Hawaii Library. Funded by the Hawaii Council for the Humanities (\$5,000). September 2002- June 2003.

"Zen in Hawaii: From Immigrant Communities to American Innovations," research funded by a grant from the Harvard Pluralism Project, 1997-1999.

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

University Service

Fall 2009-present General Education Committee Contemporary Ethics Focus Board

Serve as chair, 2011-2012

Fall 2005-Spring 2007 General Education Committee

Served as vice-chair for one year and chair for one year

Spring 2007-Fall 2007 VCAA's Assessment Committee

Fall 2005-Fall 2007 Manoa Faculty Senate

Fall 2003-Spring 2004 System-wide Articulation Committee

Spring 2003 System-wide Fast Track Articulation Committee

Served as chair of discipline-based meeting of religion faculty throughout the system to evaluate and recommend course for articulation to the Manoa General Education curriculum.

Fall 2002-Spring 2005 General Education Committee Writing Intensive Focus Board

Spring 2002-Spring 2006 College of Arts and Humanities Program and Curriculum

Development Committee

Spring 2001-present University of Hawaii Mentoring Program

Serving as a mentor for four recently hired junior faculty members.
Served on a focus group providing recommendations for the redesigning of the program.

Department Service

Fall 2004-Summer 2012

Fall 2004-Spring 2009

Fall 2001-Spring 2007

Department Chair for the Department of Religion

Assessment Coordinator for the Department of Religion

Curriculum Chair for the Department of Religion