

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### ELISABETTA PORCU

University of Leipzig  
Centre for Area Studies  
Thomaskirchhof 20  
04109 Leipzig, Germany  
Tel. +49- (0)341-9737889  
Fax +49- (0)341-9739099  
Email: [elisabetta.porcu@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:elisabetta.porcu@uni-leipzig.de)

**\* 1 January - 30 June 2013 \***

University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Department of Religion  
2530 Dole St., Sakamaki A403  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: 808-956-8222  
Email: [eporcu@hawaii.edu](mailto:eporcu@hawaii.edu)

#### Education

2006 Ph.D. in Religious Studies, University of Marburg, Germany  
2001-2002 Post Graduate Diploma, Center of Buddhist Studies, K.J. Somaiya College, Mumbai, India (Buddhist Studies)  
1994 Laurea MA, University of Cagliari, Italy  
• European languages and literatures (German and English)  
1991-1992 Exchange student (Erasmus project), University of Essen, Germany

#### Experience

January - July 2013 Numata Visiting Professor, University of Hawaii at Mānoa  
April 2010-present Senior researcher and lecturer, Center for Area Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany (1 January-30 June 2013 on leave)  
April- May 2012 Visiting Scholar, Tokyo University, Department of Religious Studies  
May-June 2012 Visiting Scholar, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan  
2011- present Founding Editor and Editor, *Journal of Religion in Japan* (Brill)  
Nov 2008-Dec 2010 Assistant editor for the academic journal *Japanese Religions*  
Sept 2008-July 2010 Website editor for NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, Kyoto, Japan  
Sept 2007-Sept 2009 Visiting Scholar, Ryukoku University, Research Institute for Buddhist Culture, Kyoto  
Sept 2009- present Member of Ryukoku University Translation Center, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan  
Apr 2007-March 2010 Lecturer, Kyoto University for Foreign Studies, Kyoto, Japan  
Oct 2004- Sept 2007 Research Fellow, Otani University, Kyoto

#### Fellowships and Grants

Sept 2007- Sept 2008 Numata Research Fellowship, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan  
Sept 2005-Apr 2006 Post-doctoral Fellowship of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)  
Oct 2004- March 2005 Grant from the Käthe-Eliseit-Stiftung im Stiftungsverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, Essen, Germany

#### Teaching Qualifications

2000 State examination for qualified teachers, Ministry of Education (Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione), Italy  
1999 Course for educators for educational development, CISP Roma/Passaparola Cagliari, Italy

## Teaching/Administrative Experience

January-July 2013	Visiting Professor at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Hawaii at Mānoa
Oct 2010-present	Lecturer in the Institutes of Religious Studies, East Asian Studies, and Global Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany
Apr 2007-April 2010	Lecturer in the Department of Italian Studies, Kyoto University for Foreign Studies, Kyoto, Japan
Oct 2002-Sept 2004	Italian teacher at Volkshochschule Marburg; Lessing Kolleg, Marburg, Germany
1995- Sept 2002	German and English teacher at public high schools, Cagliari, Italy
1993-1994	Italian teacher at public high schools, Steyr, Austria

## Courses taught

Spring term 2013 (University of Hawaii at Mānoa):

“Japanese Religions, Popular Culture and the Media”

Winter term 2012-2013 (University of Leipzig):

“Religion and the Secular in Japan” (MA and BA students)

Summer term 2012 (University of Leipzig):

“Religion, *Manga* and *Anime*” (MA and BA students)

Winter term 2011-2012 (University of Leipzig):

“Women and Buddhism (East Asia and Beyond)” (MA students)

“Religion and Film” (MA and BA students)

Summer term 2011 (University of Leipzig):

“Religion, Art and Culture in Modern Japan” (MA and BA students)

“The Internet and Global Religious Communication” (MA students)

“Looking at the Interconnection between the Religious and the Secular in Japan” (lecture within the lecture series “Säkularitäten und kulturelle Dynamik: Regionalwissenschaftliche Perspektiven”) [BA students]

Winter term 2010-2011 (University of Leipzig):

“Visual Images, Popular Culture and Religions: Representing Japanese Religions in and through the Media (MA and BA students)

April 2007-April 2010 (Kyoto University for Foreign Studies):

Various courses on Italian language and culture (MA and BA students)

## Theses Supervision

Supervisor: Sophie Wübbenhorst, BA student, Japanese Studies, University of Leipzig. Title of thesis: “Adaption des japanischen Buddhismus im Westen” [Adaptations of Japanese Buddhism in the West] (Dec. 2011- July 2012)

Supervisor: Ling-Tzu Yang, MA student, Global Studies Program, University of Leipzig. Title of thesis: “‘Reading’ Taiwanese Animation in a Global Context: A Comparative Analysis.” (2010-2011)

Associate Supervisor: Alex Minchinton, PhD candidate, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Latrobe University, Australia. Title of thesis: “Hearing the Call, Seeing the Light: A Study of the History, Reception and Adaption of Australian Shin Buddhism.” (2010-present)

Co-Supervisor: Daniela Seesing, MA student, Institute of Religious Studies, University of Leipzig. Title of thesis: “Religion in populären Anime: Mythen und Mythenbildung in *Sailor Moon*” [Religion in popular *anime*: Myths and myth creation in *Sailor Moon*] (October 2012-present).

## **Presentations and Lectures (Invited lectures/papers are marked with an asterisk)**

- \* 7 March 2013 (accepted): UBC Kameyama Lecture Series on Japanese Buddhism, University of British Columbia, Canada. Lecture: "Consumerism and Popular Culture in Contemporary Japanese Buddhism."
- \* 14-15 December 2012: Conference "Objects, Art, and Agency: Material Cultures of Modern Zen in Japan and the West," Heidelberg University, Germany. Paper: "*Fancy Zen: Zen Buddhism and Popular Culture in Contemporary Japan.*"
- 11-13 October 2012: The 3rd Annual Conference of CAS (Center for Area Studies), University of Leipzig, Germany. Paper: "Sacred Spaces Reloaded: New Trends in Buddhism and Shintō in Japan."
- 5-7 September 2012: AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society Programme-Conference, University of Cambridge, UK. Paper: "Updating Religion in Japan: Two Case Studies in the Tokyo Area."
- 23-26 August 2012: 11th Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions, Södertörn University, Stockholm. Paper: "Pop Religion in Japan: Temples, Icons and Branding."
- \* 13 April 2012: Göttingen University. Lecture: "Religion and Popular Culture in Contemporary Japan."
- \* 6 March 2012: Czech Association for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University, Brno. Lecture: "*Pop Religion* in Japan: Religious Institutions and Popular Culture in the Twenty-First Century."
- \* 13-15 October 2011: The 2nd Annual Conference of CAS (Center for Area Studies), University of Leipzig, Germany. Paper: "Religion and the Secular in a Japanese Urban Setting" (panel 'East Asian Secularities,' chair: Philip Clart; other panelists: Ian Reader, John Nelson; discussant: Paul Katz).
- 13-15 October 2011: The 2nd Annual Conference of CAS (Center for Area Studies), University of Leipzig, Germany. Convener and co-chair of the panel "Global Interconnectedness and Secularity" (Panelists: Peter Beyer, Mark Mullins, David Lehmann; discussant: Johann Arnason; co-chair: Matthias Middell).
- \* 3 June 2011: Workshop "Buddhism and Film: Aspects and Perspectives of Media-Communicated Religion," Freie Universität Berlin. Paper: "Staging Zen Buddhism: An Analysis of Japanese and non-Japanese Movies."
- \* 6 May 2011: Conference of the Working Group on Japanese Religions (AJR), University of Tübingen, Germany. Paper: "*Tariki* as a Source of Inspiration in Modern Japanese Art and Aesthetics."
- 28 October 2010: The 1st Annual Conference of CAS (Center for Area Studies), University of Leipzig, Germany. Paper: "Selling the Sacred in Japan: Tradition, Religion and Commodification."
- 28 October 2010: The 1st Annual Conference of CAS (Center for Area Studies), University of Leipzig, Germany. Convener of the panel "Commodification of Religions in Japan and Africa" (panelists: Galen Amstutz, Dorothea Schultz, Elisabetta Porcu; discussant: Christoph Kleine).
- \* 28 October 2010: The 1st Annual Conference of CAS (Center for Area Studies), University of Leipzig, Germany. Panelist in the round-table "Area Studies in an Age of Globalisation: Rethinking Intellectual and Institutional Traditions."
- \* 4 October 2010: International Symposium "Why 'Manga Studies' Matter: East Asian Perspectives onto a Global Phenomenon," University of Leipzig, Germany. Paper: "Japanese Religions through *Manga*: a Study-of-Religions Approach."
- \* 22 June 2010: Guest lecture, University of Leipzig, Seminar by Philip Clart "Tradition und Wandel der chinesischen Religionen in der Moderne." Title of the lecture: "Reform Movements in Modern Shin Buddhism."
- 16 June 2010: Lecture, Center for Area Studies (CAS), University of Leipzig, Germany. "Japanese Religions, Popular Culture and the Media in the Global Context."
- \* 14 June 2010: Guest lecture, University of Leipzig. Seminar by Christoph Kleine "Lehrtraditionen und populäre Kulte des japanischen Buddhismus." Title of the lecture: "Shin Buddhism in Modern and Contemporary Japan."
- 11-13 September 2009: The 68th Annual Conference of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies (JARS), Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. Paper: "Gendai shakai ni okeru nihon shūkyō to media 現代社

会における日本宗教とメディア” (Japanese Religions and Media in Contemporary Society). In Japanese.

12-14 June 2009: The 14th International Conference of the IASBS (International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies) at Ryukoku University, Kyoto. Paper: “Challenging the Twenty-First Century: Shin Buddhism on the Internet and in Popular Culture.”

\* 12-14 June 2009: The 14th International Conference of the IASBS (International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies) at Ryukoku University, Kyoto. Respondent in the panel “Pure Land Buddhist Practices in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries.”

26 November 2008: The 4th meeting of the Research group “Kagakuteki apurōchi ni yoru shinshū kenkyūkai” 科学的アプローチによる真宗研究会 (Research group for the scientific study of Shin Buddhism) at Ryukoku University, Kyoto. Presentation: “Jōdo Shinshū no jiko hyōshō o megutte” 浄土真宗の自己表象をめぐって (Self-representations in Shin Buddhism). In Japanese.

20-23 September 2008: The 12th International Conference of the EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies) at the University of Salento, Lecce Italy. Paper: “Anniversaries, founders and authoritative language in Shin Buddhism.”

13-15 September 2008: The 67th Annual Conference of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies (JARS), Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan. Paper: “Jōdo Shinshū ni okeru gyōji to shūha no jiko hyōshō” 浄土真宗における行事と宗派の自己表象 (Religious Events and Self-Representations in Shin Buddhism). In Japanese.

9 July 2008: The 2nd meeting of the Research group “Kagakuteki apurōchi ni yoru shinshū kenkyūkai” (Research group for the scientific study of Shin Buddhism) at Ryukoku University, Kyoto. Presentation: “Gendai nihon bunka ni okeru ‘tariki geijutsu’ to ‘tariki bigaku’ no gainen” 現代日本文化における『他力芸術』と『他力美学』の概念」 (The concepts of *tariki art* and *tariki aesthetics* in modern Japanese culture). In Japanese.

\* 28 June 2008: Ryukoku University, Kyoto- Public Lecture on the theme “Gendai shakai ni okeru Jōdo Shinshū” 現代社会における浄土真宗 (Shin Buddhism in Modern Society). Lecture: “Jōdo Shinshū no gendaitekina imēji” 浄土真宗の現代的なイメージ (Modern Images of Jōdo Shinshū). In Japanese.

\* 23 April 2008: Ryukoku University, Kyoto- Research group Jōdo Shinshū no dendō kenkyūkai 浄土真宗の伝道研究会 (Research group on Shin Buddhist proselytization). Presentation: “Dai niji sekai taisen ni okeru nihon to nihon bukkyō no byōsha” 第二次世界大戦における日本と日本仏教の描写」 (Representations of Japan and Japanese Buddhism during World War II). In Japanese.

\* 9-11 Sept. 2005: The 12th International Conference of the IASBS (International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies) at Musashino University, Tokyo. Paper: “Shin Buddhism and Japanese Culture”.

\* 30 Aug.-3 Sept. 2005: The 11th International Conference of the EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies) at the University of Vienna. Paper: “Aspects of Pure Land Buddhism in Japanese Culture”.

24-30 March 2005: The 19th World Congress of the IAHR (International Association for the History of Religions) in Tokyo. Paper: “Representations and self-representations of religion in the Japanese context”.

## Publications

### Monographs

*Japanese Religions, Popular Culture and the Media* (in preparation).

*Pure Land Buddhism in Modern Japanese Culture*. Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2008.

(co-author). *Il bodhisattva Kannon nel Buddhismo giapponese. Testi e studi* [The bodhisattva Kannon in Japanese Buddhism: Texts and Studies], Cosenza: Giordano editore, 2007.

## Articles in academic journals and edited books

- “Pop Religion in Japan: Buddhist Temples, Icons and Branding” (under review).
- “Religion and Politics in Japan.” In *Yearbook of European and Global Studies, Issue 1. Religion and Politics: European and Global Perspectives*. Johann Arnason and Ireneusz Karolewski (eds.). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (in preparation).
- “Sacred Spaces Reloaded: New Trends in Shintō Shrines in Japan.” In Matthias Middell (ed.). *Cultural Encounters and Political Orders in a Global Age*. Leipzig: Leipziger Universitätsverlag (forthcoming).
- “Observations on the Blurring of the Religious and the Secular in a Japanese Urban Setting.” *Journal of Religion in Japan* 1/1 (2012): 83-106.
- “Staging Zen Buddhism: Image Creation in Contemporary Films.” *Contemporary Buddhism* (forthcoming).
- “On- and Off-line Representations of Japanese Buddhism: Reflections on a Multifaceted Religious Tradition.” In *Pacific World* 32/1 (2010): 91-107.
- “Speaking through the Media: Shin Buddhism, Popular Culture, and the Internet.” In *The Social Dimension of Shin Buddhism*, Ugo Dessi (ed.). Leiden, Boston: Brill (2010), pp. 209-239.
- “Gendai Shakai ni okeru nihon shūkyō to media” 現代社会における日本宗教とメディア (Japanese Religions and Media in Contemporary Society). In *Shūkyō Kenkyū* 宗教研究 83/4 (2010): 342-343.
- “Anniversaries, Founders, Slogans, and Visual Media in Shin Buddhism.” In *Japanese Religions* 34/1 (2009): 53-73.
- “Glimpses of the Pure Land in Wartime Italy.” In *The Pure Land* NS 25 (2009): 71-86.
- “Jōdo Shinshū ni okeru gyōji to shūha no jiko hyōshō” 浄土真宗における行事と宗派の自己表象 (Religious Events and Self-Representations in Shin Buddhism). In *Shūkyō Kenkyū* 宗教研究 82/4 (2009): 337-338.
- “Jōdo Shinshū no gendaitekina hyōshō” 浄土真宗の現代的な表象 (Modern Representations of Jōdo Shinshū). In *Bukkyō Bunka Kenkyūjo Kiyō* 仏教文化研究所紀要 47 (2008): 109-119.
- “Aesthetics and Art in Modern Pure Land Buddhism.” In *Japanese Religions* 32/1-2 (2007): 53-68.
- “Shin Buddhism and Japanese Culture.” In *The Pure Land* NS 22 (2006): 93-101.

## Edited journals

- Journal of Religion in Japan* 1/ 3 (December 2012).
- Journal of Religion in Japan* 1/ 2 (June 2012).
- Journal of Religion in Japan* 1/1. Special issue: Religion and the Secular in Japan (February 2012).
- Japanese Religions* 34/1 (January 2009).
- Japanese Religions* 34/2 (July 2009).
- Japanese Religions* 35/1&2 (Spring & Fall 2010).

## Translations

- Simone Heidegger. “Shin Buddhism and Gender: The Discourse on Gender Discrimination and Related Reforms.” In *The Social Dimension of Shin Buddhism*, U. Dessi (ed.). Leiden, Boston: Brill (2010), pp. 165-208.
- Minowa Kenryō 蓑輪顕量, “The Movement for the Revival of the Precepts by the Ritsu School in Medieval Japan”. 戒律復興運動. In *The Eastern Buddhist* 29/2 (2009): 125-158.
- (with U. Dessi). 『観音經』 [I versi del Sūtra di Kannon], in: Dessi et al., *Il bodhisattva Kannon nel Buddhismo giapponese*, 29-33. Cosenza: Giordano Editore, 2007.
- (with U. Dessi). 『般若心經』 [Il Sūtra del Cuore della Prajñāpāramitā], in: Dessi, et al., *Il bodhisattva Kannon nel Buddhismo giapponese*, 43-44. Cosenza: Giordano Editore, 2007.

(with U. Dessì). Michael Pye, “Il *Sūtra del Cuore* nel contesto giapponese”; “Trasformazioni di un bodhisattva”; and “Pellegrinaggi buddhisti in Giappone. In: Dessì et al., *Il bodhisattva Kannon nel Buddhismo giapponese*. Cosenza: Giordano editore, 2007.

### Book reviews

- Prohl, Inken and John Nelson (eds.). *Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Religions*. Leiden: Brill, 2012. In *Religioni e Società* (forthcoming).
- Fisker-Nielsen, Anne Mette. *Religion and Politics in Contemporary Japan: Soka Gakkai Youth and Komeito*. London and New York: Routledge, 2012. In *Journal of Religion in Japan* 1/3 (2012): 253-258.
- Baffelli Erica, Ian Reader and Birgit Staemmler (eds.). *Japanese Religions on the Internet: Innovation, Representation and Authority*. New York and Abingdon: Routledge, 2011. In *Journal of Religion in Japan* 1/2 (June 2012): 189-193.
- Pye Michael, and Triplett Katja. *Streben nach Glück: Schicksalsdeutung und Lebensgestaltung in japanischen Religionen*. Mit Beiträge von Monika Schrimpf. Berlin: LIT-Verlag, 2007. In *Japanese Religions* 34/1 (2009): 101-104.
- Triplett Katja. *Menschenopfer und Selbstopfer in den japanischen Legenden: Das Frankfurter Manuskript der Matsura Sayohime-Legende*. Münster: LIT-Verlag, 2004. In *Japanese Religions* 33/1-2 (2008): 148-151.
- Heidegger, Simone. *Buddhismus, Geschlechterverhältnis und Diskriminierung: Die gegenwärtige Diskussion im Shin-Buddhismus Japans*. Münster, Berlin: LIT-Verlag, 2006. In *Japanese Religions* 32/1-2 (2007): 119-121.
- Rocha, Cristina. *Zen in Brazil: The Quest for Cosmopolitan Modernity*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2006. In: *The Eastern Buddhist* NS 38/1-2 (2007): 226-229.
- Blum, Mark L., and Yasutomi, Shin'ya (eds.). *Rennyō and the Roots of Modern Japanese Buddhism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. In *Japanese Religions*, 31/2 (July 2006): 213-216.
- Snodgrass, Judith. *Presenting Japanese Buddhism to the West: Orientalism, Occidentalism and the Columbian Exposition*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 2003. In *The Eastern Buddhist* NS 36/1-2 (2004): 232-236.
- Morris, Kent H., *The Historical Development and Contemporary Perspective of the Japanese Urasenke Way of Tea as Practiced in California*, The Edwin Mellen Press, 2003 in: “Marburg Journal of Religion” 9/1 (September 2004).

### Others

Porcu, Elisabetta. “Günter Kunert Poesia, dialettica del paradosso”. In: *Poesia*, 142 (September 2000): 42-51. Milano: Crocetti Editore [German contemporary poetry. Part of my MA thesis; translations from German into Italian with an introduction].

### Committees/Research groups/Other Tasks

- 2011- present            Founding Editor and Editor, *Journal of Religion in Japan* (Brill)
- 2011- present            Peer-reviewer for Brill
- Sept 2009- present      Member of Ryukoku University Translation Center
- Nov 2008-Dec 2010     Editorial board member, *Japanese Religions*
- June 2008-Mar 2010    Co-organizer of the Research group “Kagakuteki apurōchi ni yoru shinshū kenkyūkai” (Research group for the scientific study of Shin Buddhism)
- May 2004-Jan 2010     Contributor and Consultant, editorial board member, *Science of Religion*

### Professional Memberships

- Member, JARS (Japanese Association for Religious Studies)
- Member, AAR (American Academy of Religion)
- Member, EAJS (European Association for Japanese Studies)
- Member, SSJR (Society for the Study of Japanese Religions)
- Member, IASBS (International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies)

**Languages**

Italian (native speaker), English, Japanese, German, Spanish

**Technical Skills**

General skills in computing and website editing

Moodle (Course Management System)

Text formatting and office computing: PC: Word, PowerPoint, Excel; Mac: Pages, Keynote, Numbers

Editorial Manager (online submission and review system)

Dreamweaver (website editing)