

SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

JOHN S. STRONG

Personal data:

- born, 13 September 1948 in Tongxian, Hebei, China
- married, 13 March 1971 to Sarah Mehlhop
- children: Anna (b. 1979), Aaron (b. 1984)
- grandchildren: Isaac (b. 2002)
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Education:

- secondary schools: Collège de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland; and Leonia High School, Leonia, NJ.
- B.A., 1969. Oberlin College (Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa).
- M.A., 1972. Hartford Seminary Foundation (Thesis: "Tibetan Buddhists in Switzerland: A Study of Religion in Exile").
- Ph.D., 1977. University of Chicago (Dissertation: "Making Merit in the *Aśokāvadāna*: A Study of Buddhist Acts of Offering in the Post-Parinirvāṇa Age").

Professional Employment:

- Lecturer in History of Religions, The Divinity School, The University of Chicago, 1977-78.
- Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Bates College, 1978-85.
- Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Bates College, 1986-92.
- Professor, Department of Religion, Bates College, 1992-2004.
- Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Bates College, 1999-2008.
- Charles A. Dana Professor of Religion, Bates College, 2004-present.

Visiting Appointments:

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Theology, The University of Notre Dame, Summer, 1978.
- Visiting Professor of Comparative Religion, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, 1986-87.
- Visiting Professor of Religion, Associated Kyoto Program, Kyoto, Japan, 1992-93.
- Visiting Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, 1993-94.
- Numata Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies, The University of Chicago, Spring Quarter,

1995.

- Visiting Stewart Professor, Department of Religion and Council of the Humanities, Princeton University, Fall Semester 1997.
- Visiting Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies, Harvard University, Spring Semester, 2002.
- Visiting Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University, Spring Term, 2003.
- AdHoc Fellow, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. June 2008-August 2009.

Membership and Service in Professional Organizations:

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
 - member of steering committee, AAR Buddhism Section, 1991-2001
 - co-chair of AAR Buddhism Section, 1996-2001.
- American Society for the Study of Religion (ASSR)
 - member of ASSR executive council, 1992-95
 - vice-president of ASSR, 2002-05
 - president of ASSR, 2005-08.
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS).
- International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS).
- Maine Asian Studies Consortium (MASC) (co-founder).
- Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Educational (ISLE) Program
 - member of ISLE Board of Directors, 1982-2009
 - director of ISLE Program in Sri Lanka, 1986.

Fellowships and Awards:

- Thomas Watson Travel Fellowship (Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, China, Japan), 1969-70.
- Thomas Watson Fellowship Renewal (Switzerland, India, China, Japan), 1971-72.
- American Council of Learned Societies, Grant-in-aid for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D., Summer 1979.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Fellowship for College Teachers, 1982-83.
- Social Science Research Council, Research Grant, Summer 1983.
- Fulbright Foundation, Teaching/Research Fellowship (at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), 1986-87.
- Lincoln and Gloria Ladd Faculty Research Grant, Bates College, 1992.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Fellowship for College Teachers, 1993-94.
- Roger C. Schmutz Faculty Research Grant, Bates College, Summer 1995.
- McGinty Faculty Research Grant, Bates College, Summer 1995.
- Lincoln and Gloria Ladd Faculty Research Grant, Bates College, 2000.
- Dean of Faculty Research Award, Bates College, 2000-01.
- Dean of Faculty Research Award, Bates College, 2002-2003.
- Research Grant from Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, 2002.
- Freeman Grant for travel to conference on Birth of the Buddha in Lumbini, Nepal (declined), 2004.
- Freeman Grant for co-directing Faculty Seminar on Tibet and Western China (on campus

seminar, Spring 2005; group travel to Tibet, Summer 2005).

- Phillips Fellowship, Bates College. 2008-09.

Courses Taught:

- At Bates College: "The Buddhist Tradition," "Buddhist Texts in Translation," "Religions of Tibet," "Religions of India: The Hindu Tradition," "Religions of East Asia: China," "Religions of East Asia: Japan," "Myths and their Meanings," "Death and Afterlife: Bodies and Souls in Comparative Perspective," "Life and Writings of Mircea Eliade," "Senior Major Seminar," "Buddhism in East Asia," "First Year Seminar: The Life of the Buddha."
- At the University of Peradeniya (1987): "Theories and Method in the Study of Religion," "History of Christianity."
- On the Bates College Fall Semester in Japan [Tokyo] (1991 and 1998), "New Religions and Modernity in Japan."
- On the Associated Kyoto Program (1992-93): "Japanese Religions," "Buddhist Myths and Legends: India, China, Japan."
- At the Divinity School of the University of Chicago (Spring 1995): "Buddhist Relics: Myths and Legends."
- At Princeton University (Fall 1997): "Buddhist Relics in Comparative Perspective: Bones and Bodies East and West."
- At Harvard Divinity School (Spring 2002): "Buddha Relics and Relics in Buddhism."
- At Stanford University (Spring 2003): "The Lifestory of the Buddha," "Buddhist Relics."

Publications:

(a) Books:

- *Guide to Buddhist Religion* (co-authored with Frank E. Reynolds and John C. Holt). Resources for the Study of Asian Philosophies and Religions Series. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1981. Pp.415.
- *The Legend of King Aśoka: A Study and Translation of the Asokāvadāna.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983. Pp.336.
 - Paperback edition: Princeton University Press, 1989.
 - South Asian edition: Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1989.
- *The Legend and Cult of Upagupta: Sanskrit Buddhism in North India and Southeast Asia.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991. Pp. 390.
 - South Asian edition: Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1994.
- *The Experience of Buddhism: Sources and Interpretation.* Religious Life in History Series. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1994. Pp.375.
 - 2nd. edition, revised and expanded, 2002. Pp. 377.
 - 3rd. edition, revised and expanded, 2008. Pp. 418.
- *The Buddha: A Short Biography.* Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2001. Pp.203.
 - Finnish translation: *Buddha: Elämä ja teot.* Translated by Virpi Hämeen-Anttila. Helsinki: Art House, 2002.
 - Revised and republished as: *The Buddha: A Beginner's Guide.* Oxford: Oneworld

Publications, 2009. Pp. 264.

- *Relics of the Buddha*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004. Pp. 290.
- South Asian Edition: Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2007.

(b) Articles:

- "Buddhism in China." *The Atlantic Monthly* 231(Jan. 1973): 16-22. Reprinted in *China Notes* 11 (1972-73): 1-4.
- "A Post-Cultural Revolution Look at Buddhism" (co-authored with Sarah M. Strong). *The China Quarterly* 54 (1973): 321-30.
- "Gandhakuṭī: The Perfumed Chamber of the Buddha." *History of Religions* 16 (1977): 390-406.
- "The Transforming Gift: An Analysis of Devotional Acts of Offering in Buddhist Avadāna Literature." *History of Religions* 18 (1979): 221-37. Reprinted in: *Buddhism: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies*. Edited by Paul Williams. London: Routledge, 2005. Vol. 2.
- "The Chinese Pendulum." *Bates College Bulletin* 77 (August, 1979): 4-7.
- "The Legend of the Lion-Roarer: A Study of the Buddhist Arhat Piṇḍola Bharadvaja." *Numen* 26 (1979/80): 50-88.
- Fourteen articles co-authored with Joseph M. Kitagawa in the *Academic American Encyclopedia*, 1st edition, Princeton, 1980. S.v. "Bodhisattva," "Buddha," "Buddhism," "Buddhist Sacred Literature," "Karma," "Nichiren," "Nirvana," "Pure Land Buddhism," "Shinto," "Soka-Gakkai," "Suzuki, D.T.," "Tantra," "Tibetan Buddhism," "Zen Buddhism."
- "Filial Piety and Buddhism: The Indian Antecedents to a 'Chinese' Problem." In *Traditions in Contact and Change*. Edited by Peter Slater and Donald Wiebe. Waterloo, Ont.: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 1983. Pp. 171-86.
- "Wenn der magische Flug misslingt: zu einigen indischen Legenden über den Buddha und sein Schüler" [When Magical Flight Fails: A Study of Some Indian Legends about the Buddha and his Disciples]. Translated by Udo Rennert. In *Sehnsucht nach dem Ursprung: Zu Mircea Eliade*. Edited by Hans-Peter Duerr. Frankfurt: Syndikat, 1983. Pp.503-19.
- "Friedrich Max Müller and the Comparative Study of Religion" (co-authored with Joseph M. Kitagawa [and Lawrence Sullivan]). In *Nineteenth Century Religious Thought in the West*. Edited by Ninian Smart, John Clayton, Steven Katz, and Patrick Sherry. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985. 3: 179-214.
- "The Buddhist Avadānists and the Elder Upagupta." In *Tantric and Taoist Studies in Honour of R.A. Stein*, vol. 3. Edited by Michel Strickmann. Mélanges chinois et bouddhiques, vol. 22. Bruxelles: Institut Belge des Hautes Etudes Chinoises, 1985. Pp.862-81.
- "The Other Side of Theravāda Buddhism." *Religious Studies Review* 12 (1986): 24-29.
- "Buddhism East & West: The Past One Hundred Years." *The Island* (Colombo), November 2, 1986.
- "Lanka, Best Place for Study of Comparative Religion." *The Daily News* (Colombo), June 16, 1987 (Part I) and June 17, 1987 (Part II).
- "Images: Veneration of Images." In *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. Edited by Mircea Eliade. New York: MacMillan, 1987. 7: 97-104.
- "Merit: Buddhist Concepts." In *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. Edited by Mircea Eliade. New York: MacMillan, 1987. 9: 383-86. Reprinted with expanded bibliography in 2nd edition, ed. Lindsay Jones. New York: MacMillan, 2005. 9: 5872-5875.
- "Relics." In *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. Edited by Mircea Eliade. New York: MacMillan,

1987. 12: 275-82. Reprinted in *Death, Afterlife and the Soul*. Edited by Lawrence E. Sullivan. New York: MacMillan, 1989. Pp.51-61. Reprinted with expanded bibliography in *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd edition. Ed. Lindsay Jones. New York: MacMillan, 2005. 11: 7686-7692.

- Five articles in *Encyclopedia of Asian History*. Edited by Aislee T. Embree. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988. S.v. "Ashoka," "Chandragupta Maurya," "Magadha," "Maurya Empire," and "Megasthenes."
- "Rich Man, Poor Man, Bhikkhu, King." In *Ethics, Wealth and Salvation: A Study in Buddhist Social Ethics*. Edited by Russell F. Sizemore and Donald K. Swearer. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1990. Pp. 107-23.
- "From Abhinavagupta to Zen." *The Journal of Religion* 70 (1990): 368-81.
- "Buddha Bhakti and the Absence of the Blessed One." In *Premier Colloque Etienne Lamotte (Bruxelles et Liège, 24-27 Septembre 1989)*. Publications de l'Institut Orientaliste de Louvain, no. 42. Louvain: Institut Orientaliste, 1993. Pp. 131-40.
- "Images of Aśoka: Some Indian and Sri Lankan Legends and their Development." In *King Aśoka and Buddhism: Historical and Literary Studies*. Edited by Anuradha Seneviratna. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1994. Pp. 99-125.
- "A Tooth Relic of the Buddha in Japan: An Essay on the Sennyū-ji Tradition and a Translation of Zeami's Nō Play 'Shari'" (co-authored with Sarah M. Strong). *Japanese Religions* 20 (1995): 1-33.
- Twelve articles in *The Harper Collins Dictionary of Religion*. Edited by Jonathan Z. Smith. San Francisco: Harper, 1995. S.v. "Alms," "Ananda," "Arhat," "Asoka," "Kingship, Buddhist," "Mahaprajapati," "Mara," "Merit," "Relics," "Tooth Relic," "Universal Monarch," "Wheel of the Dharma."
- "The Moves Maṇḍalas Make." *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 19 (1996): 301-12.
- "A Family Quest: Rāhula, Yaśodharā and the Bodhisattva in the *Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya* and Related Traditions." In *Buddhist Sacred Biography in South and Southeast Asia*. Edited by Juliane Schober. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1997. Pp. 113-28.
- "Les reliques des cheveux du Bouddha au Shwe Dagon de Rangoon." *Aséanie* 2 (1998): 79-107.
- "The Western Pure Land Re-Viewed." *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 11 (1998): 231-40.
- "Towards a Theory of Buddhist Queenship: The Legend of Asandhimittā." In *Constituting Communities: Theravāda Buddhism and the Religious Cultures of South and Southeast Asia*. Edited by John Clifford Holt, Jacob N. Kinnard, and Jonathan S. Walters. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003. Pp. 41-55.
- Ten articles in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*. Edited by Robert L. Buswell. New York: MacMillan, 2003. S.v. "Ālayavijñāna," "Aśoka," "Buddhacarita," "Hīnayāna," "Lalitavistara," "Mahāparinirvāṇa-sūtra," "Mahāvastu," "Sūtra," "Tathāgata," "Upagupta."
- "Aśoka's Wives and the Ambiguities of Buddhist Kingship." *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* 13 (2002/2003): 35-54.
- "Relics in Comparative Perspective: Beyond the Parallels." In *Embodying the Dharma: Buddhist Relic Veneration in Asia*. Edited by Kevin Trainor and David Germano. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2004. Pp. 27-49
- "Māra." In *Encyclopedia of Religion*. 2nd. edition. Edited by Lindsay Jones. New York: MacMillan, 2005. Vol. 8, pp. 5690-91.

- "Przyluski, Jean." In *Encyclopedia of Religion*. 2nd. edition. Edited by Lindsay Jones. New York: MacMillan, 2005. Vol. 11, p. 7460.
- "The Funeral of the Buddha." In *The Buddhist Dead: Practices, Discourses, Representations*. Edited by Bryan Cuevas and Jacqueline S. Stone. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007. Pp. 32-59
- "Two Buddha Relic Traditions." *Religion Compass* 1 (2007): 341-52.
- "When Magical Flight Fails." *The Mahachulalongkorn Journal of Buddhist Studies*. 1 (2008): 107-26.
- "Aśoka and the Lotus Sūtra." In *Aśoka in History and Historical Memory*. Edited by Patrick Olivelle. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2009. Pp. 95-102.
- "The Triple Ladder at Saṃkāśya: Traditions about the Buddha's Descent from Trayastriṃśa Heaven." In: *From Turfan to Ajanta: Festschrift for Dieter Schlingloff on the Occasion of his Eightieth Birthday*. Edited by Eli Franco and Monika Zin. Lumbini: LIRI, 2010. Pp. 967-78.
- "Relics and the Life Story of the Buddha." In *Medieval and Early Modern Devotional Objects in Global Perspective: Translations of the Sacred*. Edited by Elizabeth Robertson and Jennifer Jahner. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2010. Pp. 11-20.
- "'The Devil Was in that Little Bone': The Portuguese Capture and Destruction of the Buddha's Tooth-Relic, Goa, 1561." In *Relics and Remains*. Edited by Alexandra Walsham. Past and Present Supplement 5, 2010. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. Pp. 184-98.

(c) Book Reviews:

- Holmes Welch, *Buddhism under Mao*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 33 (1974): 474-75.
- Ria Kloppenborg, *The Paccekabuddha: A Buddhist Ascetic*. In *History of Religions* 15 (1975): 104-105.
- Barbara Nimri Aziz, *Tibetan Frontier Families*. In *Ibid.*, 18 (1979): 382-84.
- Sherry B. Ortner, *Sherpas Through their Rituals*. In *Ibid.*, pp. 384-85.
- David Snellgrove and Tadeusz Skorupski, *The Cultural Heritage of Ladakh*. In *Ibid.*, pp. 385-86.
- Loring M. Danforth, *The Death Rituals of Rural Greece*. In *Bates: The Alumni Magazine* 82 (1984): 37.
- Ninian Smart and Swami Purnananda, *Prophet of a New Hindu Age*. In *Journal of Religion* 66 (1986): 360-61.
- Stanley I. Tambiah, *Sri Lanka: Ethnic Fratricide and the Dismantling of Democracy*. In *Journal of Religion* 68 (1986): 491-92.
- Paul Griffiths, *On Being Mindless: Buddhist Meditation and the Mind-Body Problem*. In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 56 (1988): 332-33.
- Alain Forest, Eiichi Kato, and Leon Vandermeersch, eds., *Bouddhismes et sociétés: clergés, sociétés et pouvoir*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 50 (1991): 114-15.
- Paula Richman, *Women, Branch Stories and Religious Rhetoric in a Tamil Buddhist Text*. In *History of Religions* 30 (1991): 317-19.
- Phyllis Granoff and Koichi Shinohara, *Speaking of Monks: Religious Biography in India and China*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 53 (1994): 915-16.
- Reginald A. Ray, *Buddhist Saints in India: A Study in Buddhist Values and Orientations*. In *Journal of Asian Studies*. In *Journal of Asian Studies* 55 (1996): 193-94.
- Caroline Walker Bynum, *The Resurrection of the Body in Western Christianity, 200-1336*. In *History of Religions* 36 (1996): 64-69.
- Mircea Eliade and Raffaele Pettazzoni, *L'histoire des religions a-t-elle un sens? Correspondance 1926-1959*. In *Journal of Religion* 76 (1996): 682.

- Donald Lopez, Jr., ed. *Curators of the Buddha: The Study of Buddhism under Colonialism* In *Religious Studies News* 12 (1997): 17
- Paul I. Griffiths, *On Being Buddha: The Classical Doctrine of Buddhahood*. In: *Journal of Religion* 78 (1998): 462-64
- J.W. de long, *A Brief History of Buddhist Studies in Europe and America*. In: *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 5 (1998). [On line publication: <http://jbe.la.psu.edu/backissues.html>]
- Kevin Trainor, *Relics, Ritual, and Representation in Buddhism: Rematerializing the Sri Lankan Theravāda Tradition*. In: *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 2 (1998): 155-56.
- Gregory Schopen, *Bones, Stones and Buddhist Monks*. In *Buddhist Studies Review* 16 (1999): 109-19.
- Brian D. Ruppert, *Jewel in the Ashes: Buddha Relics and Power in Early Medieval Japan*. In: *History of Religions* 41 (2002): 288-90.

(d) Book Notes

- Over 90 book notes in *Religious Studies Review* between 1984 and 1994.

Papers Presented at Conferences:

- "Max Weber and Some Buddhist Theories of Kingship: A Response to Stanley J. Tambiah." Henry R. Luce Seminar in Comparative Religious Ethics, Colloquium on Max Weber's *Religion of India*, Amherst College. 9 November 1979.
- "Filial Piety and Buddhism: The Indian Antecedents to a 'Chinese' Problem." XIVth Congress of the International Association for History of Religions, Winnipeg, Manitoba. 21 August 1980.
- "King Aśoka's Pañcavārṣika and Other Great Festivals of Merit: An Essay on the Nature of Giving." Study Group on Wealth and Ethics in Theravada Buddhism, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. 28 May 1982.
- "The Buddhist Avadānas and Jātakas: The Question of Genre." American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX. 2 December 1983.
- "Gift of Dharma, Gift of Kings." Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Chicago. 21 March 1986.
- "The Function of the Narrator in Avadāna Literature." Workshop on the Question of Genre in Buddhist Studies, The University of Chicago. 24 March 1986.
- "Current Trends in the Comparative Study of Religions." The Philosophy Forum, The University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. 18 July 1986.
- "Buddhism East and West: The Past One Hundred Years." The Henry Steele Olcott Memorial Lecture, Ananda College, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 29 October 1986.
- "The Comparative Study of Religions: Its Relevance and Importance for Sri Lanka Today." Dharmaraja College, Kandy, Sri Lanka. 5 June 1987.
- "Buddhism and American Thought." Seminar on Philosophy, Religion, and Science: A Comparison of East-West Perspectives, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 13 June 1987.
- "Buddha Bhakti and the Absence of the Blessed One." First E. Lamotte Symposium on Buddhism in India, Collonster Castle, Liège, Belgium. 27 September 1989.
- Same lecture. The Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago. 26 March 1990.
- Same lecture. The Department of South Asian Studies, The University of Wisconsin, Madison.

22 April 1990.

- "A Family Quest: Rāhula, Yaśodharā and the Bodhisattva Reconsidered." Workshop on Buddhist Life Stories, sponsored by The University of Chicago, Arizona State University and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Divinity School, The University of Chicago. 9 April 1990.
- "Vinaya Violators." Conference on "Compassion in Action: Towards an American Vinaya," sponsored by The American Institute of Buddhist Studies, The San Francisco Zen Center, and the Callipeplon Society. Green Gulch Zen Center, Sausalito, CA. 4 June 1990.
- "The Buddha's Great Departure in the *Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya*." Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University. 11 February 1992.
- "Mortarized Molar or Canonized Canine: Some Reflections on an Episode in the Legendary History of the Buddha's Tooth Relic." Director's Seminar, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. 17 May 1994.
- "Buddhist Relics in Comparative Perspective: Beyond the Parallels." American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Chicago. 19 November 1994.
- "ABCD Mandala?" Conference on "Mandalas on the Move: Caves, Monuments, and Icons Across the Buddhist World, ca 750-850 C.E." sponsored by The Buddhism Workshop, The Committee on Southern Asian Studies, and The Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, The University of Chicago. 22 April 1995.
- "Multiplications and Division of the True Cross: Some Additional Subtractions." The Divinity School, The University of Chicago. 3 May 1995.
- "Tooth and Cross: Buddhist and Christian Relics and the Interaction of Traditions." The 1995 Numata Lecture, The University of Chicago. 17 May 1995.
- "Reorienting Orientalism." American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 24 November 1996
- "When Magical Flight Fails: Buddhist Saints Who Crash." Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, 3 March 1997.
- "Patterns of Pilgrimage." Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Chicago, 16 March 1997.
- "Mortarized Molar or Canonized Canine?" Stewart Lecture, Princeton University, 3 December 1997.
- "Aśoka's Wives and the Ambiguities of Buddhist Kingship." 1998-99 Evans-Wentz Conference on "Buddhist Priests, Kings, and Marginals." Stanford University, 28 May 1999.
- "Relics of Previous Buddhas: The Case of the Stūpa of Kāśyapa at Toyikā." XIIth Conference, International Association of Buddhist Studies, Lausanne, Switzerland. 25 August 1999.
- "Towards a Theory of Buddhist Queenship: The Legend of Asandhimittā." Conference in honor of Professor Frank Reynolds on "Constituting Communities." Breckinridge Center, York, Maine. 22 July 2000.
- "Relics of the Bodhisattva." Symposium entitled "Absence Made Tangible: The Relics of the Buddha in India, China and Japan." University of California at Los Angeles. 27 January 2001
- "Backaches, Bad Karma, or Good Means: Reading the Buddha's Afflictions." Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Cambridge, MA. 4 February 2002.
- "The Many Lives of the Buddha and the Life of Many Buddhas." University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, CA. 24 February 2002.
- "The Legend and Cult of Gavaṃpati in South and Southeast Asia." Lecture Series on Asian Gods and Demons, Stanford University. 25 February 2002.

- "The Funeral of the Buddha." Conference on Death and Dying in Buddhist Cultures, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. 18 May 2002.
- "The Buddha's Asceticism." XIIIth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, 13 December 2002.
- "The Making of a Sacred Spot: The Creation of the World's Smallest Vineyard." American Society for the Study of Religions, Conference on "Religious Groundings: Making Connections to Particular Places." Pisgah Inn, Asheville, NC. 26 April 2003.
- "Buddhist Relics in Comparative Perspective." 34th Annual Evans-Wentz Lecture, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. 8 May 2003.
- "Life Stories of the Buddha." Sati Center for Buddhist Studies, Redwood City, CA. 31 May 2003.
- "The Kaleidoscopic Buddha: Western Studies of the Life of the Buddha." Conference on New Directions in Research on the Biography of the Buddha, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. 23 October 2003.
- "The Life of the Buddha in the Imagination of European Scholarship." Amherst College, Amherst, MA. 16 February 2004.
- "Relics on the Move: A Historical Perspective." Lecture at the opening of the Maitreya Project's Heart Shrine Relic Tour, Stony Brook University, 28 October 2004.
- "The Development of a Cult: the Arhat Gavampati in South and Southeast Asia." The American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. 23 November 2004.
- "Gavampati in Pali and Sanskrit Texts: The Indian Background to a Southeast Asian Cult." XIVth Conference of the International Association for Buddhist Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London. 30 August 2005.
- "What Makes Relics Run?" Relics Redux Workshop. University of California at Berkeley, Institute of East Asian Studies. 5 November 2005.
- "Aśoka and the Lotus Sūtra." Aśoka Symposium. Department of Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin. 4 February 2006.
- "Two Facets of Buddha Relics: The One-and-Many-Stūpas Tradition and the Co-Existence of Buddhas." McMaster University, Department of Religious Studies Colloquium. 1 March 2007.
- "Relics and the Lifestory of the Buddha." Conference on "Sacred and Devotional Objects East/West. Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder. 14 February 2008
- "When Magical Flight Fails: A Study of Some Indian Legends about the Buddha and his Disciples." Center for Asian Languages and Culture. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor. 28 March 2008.
- "Ropes and Ladders: Reflections on the Tale of Prince Kāla at Śrāvastī and the Buddha's Descent from Trayastriṃśā." Annual Meeting of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies, York, England. 2 September 2008
- "The Portuguese Capture and Destruction of the Buddha's Tooth Relic." Past and Present Conference on Relics and Remains, University of Exeter, Exeter, England. 11 September 2008.
- "Reflections on Buddhist Miracles and the Śrāvastī Story." Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. 3 December 2008.
- "Miracles, Mango Trees and Ladders from Heaven." Italian Society for East Asian Studies/ Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient. Kyoto, Japan. 26 February 2009.

- “The Buddha as Peacemaker: The Rohiṇī River Water Dispute and the War between the Śākyas and the Kosalas.” Symposium on “Peace in the Buddhist Traditions of India and Tibet.” Asien-Afrika Institut, University of Hamburg. Hamburg, Germany. 18 June 2009.
- “Aśoka, the Commingling of Gods and Humans, the Unveiling of the World, and the Descent from Trayastriṃśa Heaven.” Conference on “Aśoka and the Making of Modern India” sponsored by University of Texas at Austin and Jawaharlal Nehru University. India International Centre. New Delhi, India. 7 August 2009.
- “The Beginnings of Buddhist Pilgrimage.” Conference on “Buddhist Pilgrimage.” Lumbini International Research Institute. Lumbini, Nepal. 11 January 2010.
- “The Many Lineages of the Buddha.” Workshop on Genealogy in South Asia, sponsored by Cardiff University. Saint Michael’s College, Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales. 27 May 2010.
- “Buddhist Attitudes towards Miracles: the Case of Piṇḍola Revisited.” Conference on Crosscultural Researches on Buddhist Mythology. Peking University, Beijing, China. 30 July 2010.
- “When are Miracles Okay? Buddhist Rules against Displays of Supernatural Powers.” Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University. 17 February 2011.
- “The *Sigālovada sutta* or: How to be a Good Rich Man (Gṛhapati).” Conference on Lay Buddhism, University of British Columbia. 25 March 2011.
- “The Wonderworking Buddha.” Annual meeting of the American Society for the Study of Religion.” Atlanta. 30 April 2011.

Lectures, Talks and Presentations:

- "The Buddhist Bibliography Project: An Overview." Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Chicago. March 1975.
- "Three Korean Capitals and Three Buddhist Monasteries." The Divinity School, The University of Chicago. 2 November 1977.
- "Sacred Biography and Asian Religions: A Response." American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Francisco. 29 December 1977.
- "Indian Antecedents to Chinese Buddhism." Colby College. 8 April 1981.
- "King Aśoka: The Legends and the Edicts." Bowdoin College. 6 October 1981.
- "Short Term in India: A Retrospective." Bates College. 24 October 1981.
- "La Légende d'Upagupta en Thaïlande et en Birmanie." Institut du Hōbōgirin, Kyoto, Japan. 1 June 1983.
- "In Search of Upagupta." Bates College, Faculty Luncheon Seminar. 27 October 1983.
- "Vimalakīrti: A Zero Hero." Bates College, Chapel Talk. 21 March 1984.
- "The Ritual Year at Shinnyōdō: A Japanese Tendai Temple." Colby College. 18 April 1984.
- "Religion and Human Rights in Asia: A Response to the Papers of David Little and Wm. Theodore DeBary." Conference on Religion and Materialism in the Future of Asia, School for International Affairs, Columbia University. 8 October 1984.
- "The Practice of Buddhism in India." Colby College. 6 November 1985.
- "Foreign Students in a Foreign Land." Fulbright Orientation for Sri Lankan Presidential Fund Scholars, The American Center, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 14 July 1986.
- "Buddhism in Sri Lanka." Peace Corps Volunteers' Orientation, Duhinda Falls Inn, Badulla, Sri Lanka. 18 November 1987.
- "The Legend of Upagupta in South and Southeast Asia." South Asian Seminar Lecture Series, Cornell University. 18 November 1987.
- "Kūkai, Shingon and the Interpenetration of the Maṇḍalas on Koya-san." Associated Kyoto

Program Meeting, Ichijo-in, Mount Koya, Japan. 26 October 1992.

- "Unwrapping Pilgrimage: A Response to Three Films." American Society for the Study of Religion, Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia. 24 April 1994.
- "The Demon Was In that Little Bone: The Portuguese Destruction of the Buddha's Tooth Relic in the 16th Century." TGIF talk, Bates College. 3 December 1999.
- "True or Counterfeit: the Strange Saga of Joseph-Samuel Farinet." Faculty Presentation Dinner, Bates College. 11 October 2001.
- "Don Swearer at Oberlin." Retirement Banquet for Professor Donald K. Swearer, Department of Religion, Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, P A. 9 November 2002.
- "Prefaces to the study of Religion." Presentation to the "Religious Studies at Stanford" Seminar, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. 13 May 2003.
- "E-merit." A response to the papers presented to the panel on "It's Merit that Matters: Variations in the Practices and Aims of Merit Transfer." American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. 24 November 2003.
- "Buddhist Relics in a Comparative Context." The Dana Professors on Teaching and Scholarship. Bates Parents and Family Weekend. Bates College. 9 October 2004.
- "Twenty-Five Years and Looking Forward." Former Buddhism Section Co-chairs' Roundtable. American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. 19 November 2006.
- "Towards a Typology of Renunciant/Family Relations in Buddhism." A response to the panel on "Buddhists and the Family." American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. 20 November 2006
- "Working on Buddhist Relics" Talk to Graduate Students at the University of Toronto Buddhist Studies Program. Toronto. 1 March 2007.
- "Rethinking the Forest-Village Dichotomy in South Asian Buddhism." A response to the panel of that title. American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. 17 November 2007
- "Reconsidering Avadānas." A response to the panel on "New Research in Avadāna Literature." XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Atlanta, GA. 25 June 2008.
- "Lumbini: birthplace of the Buddha." Presentation to Religious Studies Department luncheon. 21 January 2010.

Service:

Editorial Work:

- Networker for Reviews of Books on Buddhism, *Religious Studies Review*, 1982-90
- Member of Editorial Board, *Religious Studies Review*, 1984-86, 1988-90
- Member of Editorial Board, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 1994-2005
- Associate Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, MacMillan Publishing
- Member of Editorial Board, *Oxford Bibliographies Online (Buddhism)*, Oxford University Press, 2010-present
- Reviewer of book manuscripts on Buddhism for: University of Chicago Press, Routledge/Curzon, University of California Press, University of Washington Press, University of Hawaii Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Columbia University Press, Wisdom Publications, Harvard University Press.

Evaluation Committees:

- Outside Examiner, Swarthmore College Honors Program, 1985, 1995, 1999, 2000, 2004

- Member of Visiting Committee on Asian Studies, Hamilton College, 1991
- Evaluator of Section on Comparative Study of Religions, American Academy of Religion, 1994
- Member of Selection Committee for Fellowships in Religious Studies, The National Endowment for the Humanities, 1994 and 1999.
- Member of Visiting Committee on Asian Studies, Swarthmore College, November 2000
- Evaluator of proposals for NEH Collaborative Research Program, 2004, 2005
- Member of External Review Team, Department of Comparative Religion, Miami University of Ohio, 2005.
- Member of Visiting Committee, Department of Religion, Smith College, 2005
- Referee for Tenure or Promotion Decisions for: University of Vermont, Arizona State University, Harvard University, University of Richmond, Kalamazoo College, Lewis and Clark College, University of Wisconsin, University of South Carolina, Miami University of Ohio, Indiana University, Dartmouth College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, University of California at Davis
- Outside Member of Ph.D. Dissertation Committees: School of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand (January 2004); Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (September 2006); Department of Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (in process); Oxford University (September 2008)