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Dharma Drum Buddhist College  
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## Contact Information

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## Education

- Ph.D. History of Religions, University of Virginia. Primary concentration: Tibetan and Indian Buddhist Studies. Secondary concentration: Hinduism. Dissertation: "Tradition and Innovation in the Consequence School: *svabhāva* in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism." (Advisor: Jeffrey Hopkins)
- M.A. History of Religions, University of Virginia. Buddhist Studies.
- B.A. English Literature, Lynchburg College.

## Employment

- 2003-present Assistant Professor, Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taiwan.
- 2000-2002 Director, the Yaxche Learning Center, Taos, New Mexico.
- 1998-2000 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
- 1996-1998 Instructor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, James Madison University.
- 1996 Instructor, Department of Religion, Sweet Briar College.
- Fall 1995 Visiting Instructor, Department of Religion, Washington and Lee University.
- Fall 1993 Instructor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Ithaca College.
- 1988-2000 Faculty, Summer Foreign Language Institute at the University of Virginia.
- 1992-1993 Translator and language instructor, the Dalai Lama's Namgyal Institute, Ithaca, NY.

## Academic Publications

### 1. Books:

- *The Nature of Things: Emptiness and Essence in the Geluk World* (Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications, 2000).
- *Fluent Tibetan: A Proficiency-Oriented Learning System*. Co-author with Elizabeth Napper. In four volumes, 1000 pages (Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications, 1993; second printing, 1996). Digital version on CDROM.
- *Paths to Omniscience: the Geluk Hermeneutics of Nga-wang-bel-den* (forthcoming from Dharma Drum Press, September, 2010).

### 2. Articles:

- “Structuring Reality: the Perfection of Wisdom Sūtras and the *Treatise on the Middle*,” in *Studia Orientalia Tartuensis*, Series Nova (vol. 3; 2008).
- “Does Candrakīrti Assert ‘Non-dependence on Another’ To Be the Object To Be Negated in the View of Emptiness?” in *The Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* (Winter, 2008).
- “A Tree in the West: Competing *tathāgatagarbha* Theories in Tibetan Buddhism,” in *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal* (Vol. 19; Summer, 2006).
- “The Role of Reasoning in Meditation.” *Mandala* (April, 2005).
- “A Controversy Unveiled: How Many Sūtra Passages Are Indicated as Requiring Interpretation in Candrakīrti’s *madhyamakāvatārabhāṣya*” in *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal* (Vol. 18; Summer, 2005).
- “The Tibetan World View and the Wheel of Life” *Religions of the World*, ed. Edward Irons (New York: Facts On File, 2005).
- “Three Modes of Teaching Collected Topics,” in *Proceedings of the Symposium on Contemporary Tibetan Studies* (Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission, Taiwan. Spring 2004).
- “Geshe Tashi Tsering and the Chenrezig Institute.” *Mandala* (February, 2004).
- “Expressing the Fallacy from the Viewpoint of a Pervader: Nāgārjuna and the Putative Consequences of *svabhāva*,” in *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal* (Vol. 17; Summer, 2004).
- “Materialism and the Immaterial Mind in Geluk Buddhism,” in *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* (Vol. XI, 2, Summer 2003). Nominated for Leonardo Excellence Award.
- “Two Faces of Religious Charisma in Fifteenth-Century Tibet,” in *Fifteenth-Century Studies* (Vol. XXV, 1999).

## Published Fiction

- *She Still Lives*. A novel about Tibet (Snow Lion Publications, 2006).
- *Colombo and the Samurai Sword* (New York: Detective Book Club, 1980). A detective novel commissioned by the Detective Book Club and MCI-Universal Studios.
- “Crossing the James” *Harper’s Weekly*. February, 1976. A short story.

## Current Research

- Nāgārjuna’s ultimate analyses applied to the paradoxes of Zeno.
- A comparison of Buddhist and non-Buddhist philosophical assertions regarding parts and wholes and the application of these findings to a structured understanding of Mādhyamika theory.
- Language-learning pedagogy in virtual reality (see <http://magee.ddbc.edu.tw>).

## Fellowships, Grants, and Appointments

- 2008 Appointed Chair, Organizing Committee, the XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, 2011.
- 2008 Director, “Hopkins Tibetan Treasures Multimedia Research Archive.” Taiwan National Science Council Project (third year).
- 2007 Appointed Editor-in-Chief, the *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal*.
- 2006 Director, “Hopkins Tibetan Treasures Multimedia Research Archive.” Taiwan National Science Council Project (second year).
- 2007 Editor, *Proceedings of the Fifth International Chung-Hwa Conference*.
- 2006 Director, “Hopkins Tibetan Treasures Multimedia Research Archive.” Taiwan National Science Council Project (first year).
- 2005 Editorial Board, *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal*.
- 2003 Director, Summer Tibetan Language Program, Tibet House, New York.
- 2003 FPMT one-year translation grant.
- 2001 Board of Directors, Junior Achievement of New Mexico.
- 2000 Director, the Dharma Farm Asian Language Institute.
- 1999 Board of Advisors, *Fifteenth-Century Studies*.

- 1996 Outreach Grant from the Center for South Asia at the University of Virginia.
- 1992-1993 Visiting East Asia Fellow, Cornell University.
- 1990-92 Project Director of a two-year International Research and Studies Program grant from the Department of Education to design, write, and publish *Fluent Tibetan: A Proficiency-Oriented Learning System*. In four volumes with accompanying audio tapes.
- 1989-90 Researched, authored, and implemented first national standard Tibetan oral proficiency evaluation exams at the University of Virginia for the Center for South Asia on a grant from the Department of Education.
- 1989 Researched and authored Tibetan language oral proficiency guidelines for the Center for South Asia on a grant from the Department of Education.
- 1988 Core Faculty, the Center for South Asia at the University of Virginia, Tibetan Language.
- 1985-88 Four consecutive NDEA Title VI National Resource Fellowships in Tibetan language.

## Presentations

- 2010 “Workshop on Education in Virtual Worlds.” Language Teaching and Training Center at National Taiwan University.
- 2010 “The Academic Scholar and the Yogi.” Chung-hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies 30th Anniversary Round-Table.
- 2010 “Ultimates in Tibetan Buddhism.” National Chengchi University Project Event: Lectures on Indian Buddhist Thought in 6th–7th Century China.
- 2009 “The Hopkins Digital Archive in Second Life.” Academia Sinica, Taiwan. TELDAP Conference on Digital Research in the Humanities.
- 2008 “The Four Powers in Tibetan Buddhism.” Dharma Drum Buddhist College International Conference on Confession and Purification in World Religions.
- 2008 “Teaching Tibetan in Virtual Worlds.” The XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Emory University, Atlanta.
- 2008 “The Cube of Tibetan Consonants.” University of Virginia Tibetan Graduate Student Seminar, Charlottesville, Virginia.

- 2007 “The Sounds of Wisdom: Tibetan Orality and the Hopkins Tibetan Treasures Multimedia Research Archive.” Chung-hwa International Faculty Conference, November, 2007.
- 2006 “Why Write Buddhist Fiction?” Chung-hwa Student-Faculty Conference, December, 2006.
- 2006 “Does Candrakīrti Assert ‘Non-dependence on Another’ To Be the Object To Be Negated in the View of Emptiness?” Chung-hwa International Faculty Conference, November, 2006.
- 2006 “The Hopkins Multimedia Tibetan Research Archive.” Presented at the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan (April, 2006).
- 2005 “The Hopkins Multimedia Tibetan Research Archive.” Presented at the University of Virginia Conference in Honor of Professor Jeffrey Hopkins (April, 2005).
- 2004 “A Controversy Unveiled: How Many Sūtra Passages Are Indicated as Requiring Interpretation in Candrakīrti’s *madhyamakāvatārabhāṣya*” Chung-hwa International Faculty Conference, November, 2004.
- 2003 “Three Modes of Teaching Collected Topics.” Paper presented at the “Symposium on Contemporary Tibetan Studies,” Taiwan.
- 2003 “Dzong-ka-ba on Death and Emptiness.” A series of public talks sponsored by the Chenrezig Institute, Queensland, Australia.
- 2002 “Identifying Isolates.” Lecture sponsored by the Instituti Lama Tsongkhapa, Pomaia, Italy.
- 2002 “Gandhi and the Religious Ethic of Satyagraha.” Talk sponsored by the Taos, New Mexico, Community Against Violence.
- 2002 “Human Commonality in Tibetan Buddhism.” Colloquium sponsored by the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.
- 2001 “Tibetan Buddhism: A Union of the Practice of Sūtra and Tantra.” Colloquium sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2001 “Teaching About Tibet for K-12 Social Studies Educators.” North Carolina Conference of Teachers of Social Studies.
- 2000 “Nāgārjuna and *svabhāva*.” Colloquium sponsored by UNCG Department of Religious Studies.
- 1999 “Lang-ri Thang-ba on Training the Mind.” Interfaith Speaker Series, Pfeiffer University.
- 1999 “Tibetan Dialectical Debate.” With Professors Joe Wilson and Daniel Perdue. Colloquium sponsored by UNCG Department of Religious Studies.

- 1997 “Cultural Implications of Tibetan Buddhism.” Faculty Development Workshop, Piedmont Virginia Community College. Sponsored by the Center for South Asia.
- 1996 “Ten Uncommon Assumptions of Tibetan Buddhism.” Mini-Course for Educators, U.Va. Richmond Center. Sponsored by the U.Va. Center for South Asia.
- 1995 “Buddhism: the Adopted Religion of Tibet.” Festival of Tibet Lecture Series, sponsored by the Department of Religion, Shenandoah University.
- 1994 “External, Internal, and Secret Practices in Tibetan Religions.” Northern Virginia Community College. Sponsored by the U.Va. Center for South Asia.
- 1993 “Three Principal Aspects of the Path According to Je Āzong-ka-bā.” State University of New York, Oneonta. LaFrance Psychology and Religion Lecture Series.
- 1993 “Tathāgatagarbha in the Four Schools of Tibetan Buddhism.” Cornell University, East Asia Visiting Fellow Lecture Series.
- 1992 “Human Rights Violations in Tibet and U.S. Foreign Policy Towards the People’s Republic of China.” Grinnell College, The Rosenfield Lecture Series.
- 1989 “A Controversy Unveiled: How Many Sūtra Passages Are Indicated as Requiring Interpretation in Candrakīrti’s *madhyamakāvatārabhāṣya*” Georgetown University, Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting of the Association for Asian Studies.

## Fieldwork and Professional Development

- 2003 Tutor for the Chenrezig Institute course on “Buddhist Grounds and Paths.” I translated the Tibetan text and gave six weeks of tutorials.
- 2001-2002 Director of the Agama Foundation, Taos, NM: a non-profit organization providing assistance to the Taos Pueblo.
- 1999-2000 Undergraduate Advisor for the Dean’s Office, UNCG.
- 1999-2000 Founder and faculty advisor for the student group Ahimsa, dedicated to the eradication of landmines.
- 1992-93 Translator and language instructor at the Dalai Lama’s Namgyal Institute in Ithaca, NY. While employed at Namgyal, I pursued my doctoral research with lama-in-residence Geshe Rap-gye of Sera Monastic College.

- Fall 1988 American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Rater Certification Workshop, Brandeis University (leading to DOE-IRSP grant).
- 1985 Research and language study at the School of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala, India. Geluk epistemology and Tibetan dialectical debates.