

Christopher Thane Callahan

Work: Konan University
8-9-1 Okamoto
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Kobe 658-8501 Japan

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Education

- Ph.D. Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion, 2011
Comprehensive Examination Fields: Theory and Method in Religious Studies; The Development of Pure Land Buddhism in India and China; Hagiography and History in Medieval Japanese Religion; and Shin Buddhism. Passed with Distinction, 2007.
- M.A. University of Hawai'i-Manoa, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, 2002.
- M.A. University of Hawai'i-Manoa, Department of Religion, 1999.
- B.A. Washington and Lee University, Department of Philosophy, 1990.

Dissertation

“Kakunyo and the Making of Shinran and Jōdo Shinshū”
Committee Members: Ryūichi Abe, Janet Gyatso, Melissa McCormick, David Carrasco, James Robson

Professional Employment

Resident Director of the Year-in-Japan Program, Konan University, 2022-2023
Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana 2016 to present
Visiting Professor of East Asian Studies and Religion, Oberlin College, 2014-2015
Andrew W. Mellow Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California, 2012-2014
Harvard University, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2011-2012

Publications

“Recognizing the Founder, Seeing Amida Buddha: Kakunyo’s *Hōon kōshiki*” Special Issue of the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 43/1(2016): 177-205.
“Awakening Faith in the Pure Land section of the *Qixinlun*,” *The Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, Third Series, no. 12 (2011) 25-44.

Fellowships and Awards

Center Affiliated Faculty Travel Award, Fall 2019.
Andrew W. Mellow Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Southern California, 2012-14.
Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University, 2011-12.
Satoh-Tsuchiya Merit Scholarship, 2010.
Reischauer Institute Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2009-2010.
Reischauer Institute Graduate Student Associate, 2009-2011.
Harvard University, Graduate Fellowship, 2004-2011.
Columbia University, Graduate Fellowship, 2003-2004.
Reischauer Institute Summer Research Grants, Summers 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

“The Moths of Yukiguni,” University of Hawai’i Manoa, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, Best Paper Award 2003.

“Five Women who loved Love, Religiously: Saikaku’s Double vision of Love and Religion,” University of Hawai’i-Manoa, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, Best Paper Award 2002.

Teaching Experience

University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana, Teaching Assistant Professor

Introduction to Buddhism	Fall 2017, Spring 2017
Seminar on Pure Land Buddhism	Spring 2017, 2022
Undergraduate Seminar on Japanese Religion and Pop Culture	Fall 2017, 2018, 2019
Introduction to Japanese Culture	Fall 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
	Spring 2017, 2018
Colloquium on The Visual Culture of Japanese Buddhism.	Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Seminar on Japanese Religions	Spring 2019
Karma of Words: Buddhism, Language and Literature	Spring 2018, 2019
Death, Dying and the Dead in Japanese Buddhism	Fall 2019, 2020
The Lotus Sutra and Japanese Culture	Fall 2021

Oberlin College, Visiting Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies and Religion

First Year Seminar: Japanese Religion and Pop Culture	Fall 2014, 2015
Chinese Thought and Religion	Fall 2014, 2015
Karma of Words: Japanese Literature and Buddhism	Fall 2014, 2015
Introduction to Religion: Narrative in Asian Traditions	Spring 2015
Japanese Thought and Religion	Spring 2015

University of Southern California, Andrew W. Mellow Postdoctoral Fellow

Religions of East Asia	Spring 2014
Graduate Seminar in Japanese Buddhism	Spring 2013
Religions of Japan	Fall 2012, 2013

Harvard University, Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow

The Karma of Words: Buddhism and the Japanese Literary Art	Fall 2011
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Harvard University, Teaching Fellow

Moctezuma’s Mexico: Then and Now	Fall 2010
Introduction to Buddhism	Spring 2009
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion	Spring 2008
Japanese History: Tradition and Transformation	Spring 2008
Buddha: Myth, Image and Ritual	Fall 2007
Buddhism and Japanese Culture	Fall 2007
Personified Objects/Objectified Persons	Spring 2007
On Being Human: Conceptions of the Self	Spring 2007
Religious Dimensions in Human Experience	Fall 2006

Harvard University, Extension school, Teaching Assistant

Religions of Latin America	Spring 2011
World Religions	Spring 2006, 2007, 2009, Summer 2009
Japanese History: Tradition and Transformation	Spring 2008

University of Hawai’i-Manoa, Instructor

Japanese Literature in Translation-Traditional	Summer 2003
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Selected Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Performing Pictures: Etoki and the Illustrated Biography of Shinran,” MLA Conference, January 8th, 2020.

“The Debate over Shukuzen and the Conflict over Shinran’s Memorial Site,” Pre-modern Japanese Studies Conference, McGill University, October 10th, 2019.

“The Accession and Enthronement of the Reiwa Emperor: Tradition and Controversy,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, April 30th, 2019.

“Picturing Performances and Performing Pictures: The Ritual Dimensions of Pure Land Picture Scrolls,” Buddhism and Ritual Performance in Pre-modern Japan Workshop, McGill University, September 28th, 2018.

“Yōkan and the *Ōjō kōshiki*,” Pure Land in the Nara Schools Workshop, McGill University, September 29th, 2017.

“Ritual Dimensions of an Illustrated Biography,” Religion and Secularism Across the Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Forum, Case Western University, May 6, 2015.

“Shinran’s Revelatory Dream at Rokkakudō: Interpretation and Illustration,” The Fourth Ryūkoku University International Symposium: “Shin Buddhist Studies: Japan and the US,” 2013.

“Memorializing Shinran: The Ritual Dimensions of the Illustrated Biography of Shinran,” American Academy of Religion, 2012.

“Buddhism and Violence.” University of Southern California, guest lecture for Religion in Violence Course 2012.

“Hōon kōshiki to soshi sūhai” (“The *Ceremonial Lecture on Responding to Benevolence* and Founder Worship”), The Third Ryūkoku University International Symposium: “Buddhism in Japanese Culture,” 2012.

“Eulogizing Shinran: Kakunyo and the Making of Shin Buddhism.” Japan Forum, Reischauer Institute, Harvard University, 2011.

“Buddhism, Japanese Literature and Oe Kenzaburo.” Harvard University, guest lecture for “Introduction to Buddhism,” 2010.

“A Tale of Two Founders: Religious Authority and Memorial Services in Early Shin Buddhism.” New England Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, 2009.

“Shinranzō e no arata Apurōchi--- Shinbunka rekishigaku no hōhō” (“A New Approach to the Image of Shinran: The Method of New Cultural History”). Kyoto Prefectural University, 2008.

“Form and Genre in Kakunyo’s Illustrated Biography of Shinran.” American Academy of Religion Conference, 2006. Panel co-organizer.

“Theodicy without Theo: Karmic Cosmodicy and the Atomic bomb.” Harvard University, “Religious Dimensions in Human Experience,” 2006.

“A Eulogy for Yoshitsune, A Dialogue with Tradition and A Buddhist Mondō,” Columbia East Asian Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University, 2003.

“Five Women who loved Love, religiously: Saikaku’s Double vision of Love and Religion,” Graduate Student Conference of the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literatures, University of Hawai’i, 2002.

"Appropriating Konjaku Monogatari-shū: Akutagawa and his Aesthetics of Brutality," for the panel "Mediating the Past" at the Center for Japanese Studies Seminar Series, University of Hawai'i, 2002.

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies
International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies

Languages

Modern and Classical Japanese, Classical Chinese, French (reading)

References

Ryūichi Abe, Harvard University, Reischauer Institute Professor of Japanese Religions, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. (617) 495-4305 email: rabe@fas.harvard.edu

David Carrasco, Harvard University, Neil L. Rudenstien Professor for the Study of Latin America, Department of Anthropology and the Divinity School, 11 Divinity Ave, Cambridge MA 02138. (617) 384-9499 email: dcarrasco@hds.harvard.edu

Robert Tierney, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, 2090A Foreign Language Building, 707 South Mathews, Urbana, Illinois 61801. (217) 333-8879 email: rtierney@illinois.edu