

Adeana McNicholl

Department of Religious Studies
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Employment

2019– Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University
Secondary appointments in the Asian Studies Department and Graduate Department of Religion

Education

2019 Ph.D., Stanford University, Religious Studies
Certificate in American Religions

2015 M.A., Stanford University, Religious Studies

2013 B.A. (Hons.), University of Manitoba, Religious Studies, History Minor
Distinction: First Class Honours

Publications

Books

Forthcoming *Of Ancestors and Ghosts: Preta Narratives and the Construction of Buddhist Cosmology*. New York: Oxford University Press. In press, est. Aug 2024.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2021 “The ‘Black Buddhism Plan’: Buddhism, Race, and Empire in the Twentieth Century.” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. 31(3). 1–47. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/rac.2021.16>.

2021 “Buddhism and Race in the United States.” *Religion Compass* 15 (8). 1–13. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12412>

2021 “The Generative Power of Disgust: Aesthetics, Morality, and the Abject *Preta* Body.” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*. 43 (2020). 129–165.

2018 “Being Buddha, Staying Woke: Racial Formation in Black Buddhist Writings.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 86 (4). 883–911.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfy019>

Jointly Authored Publications

Forthcoming Ding, Yi, Fan Muyou, Paul Harrison, Sangyop Lee, Adeana McNicholl, Grace Ramswick, Simon Wiles. “A Second Copy of the Manuscript of the Bhaiṣajyaguru Sūtra in the Schøyen Collection.” *Buddhist Manuscripts (Manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection)*. Vol. V. ed. Jens Braarvig. Oslo: Hermes Publishing. (31 pages)

Book Chapters

Forthcoming “‘Their Provisions for the Journey Being the Fruits of Their Own Actions’: *Pretas* in the *Saddharmasmṛtyupasthāna Sūtra*.” *Buddhakṣetrapariśodhana: A Festschrift in Honour of Paul Harrison*. ed. Charles DiSimone and Nicholas Witkowski. Bonn: Indica et Tibetica Verlag. 2023. (7000 words)

2018 “Buddhism and Race.” *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*. ed. Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lum. New York: Oxford University Press. 223–240.

Book Reviews

2021 Review of Chenxing Han, *Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists*, in *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*. 4 (2). 123–127. <https://pwj.shin-ibs.edu/2021/6990>

2020 Review of Ann Gleig, *American Dharma: Buddhism Beyond Modernity*, in *The American Historical Review*. 125 (4). Oct 2020. 1464–1465. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaa506>

2018 Review of Scott A. Mitchell, *Buddhism in America: Global Religion, Local Contexts*, in *Reading Religion*. <https://readingreligion.org/books/buddhism-america>

2016 Review of Sharon E. Smith, Sally R. Munt, and Andrew Kam-Tuck Yip, *Cosmopolitan Dharma: Race, Sexuality, and Gender in British Buddhism*, in *Reading Religion*. <https://readingreligion.org/books/cosmopolitan-dharma>

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

2023 Mellon Foundation Dean’s Faculty Fellow in Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University. 2-year term.

2022 Dean’s Research Studio Grant, College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University

2021 Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University

2020 “Teaching Resources for Buddhism, Race, and Racism.” Funded by the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of

Toronto. Hosted at *teachingbuddhism.net*. Project Directors: **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig.

- 2018 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2017 Centennial Teaching Assistant Award, Stanford University
- 2016 Ric Weiland Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities & Sciences, Stanford University, 2-year term.
- 2014 Language Study Grant, Faculty of Arts Dean's Office, Stanford University
- 2013 SSHRC: Joseph-Aramand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship—Master's (declined)

Invited Talks

- 2023 Invited panelist, “Dalit and Black Liberation Theologies in Movement” Panel, *Ambedkar's Religion*, Union Theological Seminary. Co-sponsored by Columbia's Ambedkar Initiative and Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life and the Thich Nhat Hanh Program for Engaged Buddhism of UTS. Sept 30, 2023.
- 2023 Invited panelist, “DEI and the Undergraduate Buddhism Class,” Conference on Supporting Black Students and Faculty in Buddhist Studies, Princeton University. Sept 29–30, 2023.
- 2022 “The ‘Black Buddhism Plan’: A Buddhist Black Pacific Narrative.” Bucknell University. Sept 29, 2022.
- 2022 “Reaping the Fruits of False Views: Arguments about Karma in *Preta* Narratives.” Heidelberg University, Germany. Jan 25, 2022. Online.
- 2021 Invited Panelist. “Race and Racisms in Asia/Asian Studies.” Conference Plenary. *Association for Asian Studies*. March 25, 2021. Online.
- 2020 “Black Buddhism as Religio-Racial Identity in the Early Twentieth Century,” Princeton University, Religion Department and the Buddhist Studies Workshop, Religion and Race Series. Sept 21, 2020. Online.

Conference Activity

Papers Presented

- Nov 2023 Co-organizer and Panelist, “Is There a Buddhism Without Caste?: An Interdisciplinary Conversation” Roundtable, *American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio.

- Nov 2021 Discussant, “Poverty as Rhetorical Trope and Lived Reality in Historical Buddhisms.” *American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio. Online.
- Dec 2020 “Shades of Whiteness in American Buddhism.” *American Academy of Religion*. Online.
- Mar 2020 “Orientalism, Race, and Buddhist Studies.” *Association for Asian Studies*, Boston. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- Feb 2020 “The Aesthetics of Disgust, Morality, and the Abject *Preta* Body.” *Bodies of Buddhism: Somaesthetic Explorations*. Florida Atlantic University.
- Nov 2018 Presenter and Organizer, “Sufi Abdul Hamid and the ‘Black Buddhism Plan’: Buddhism, Race, and Empire, 1900–1945.” Buddhism and National Security in Twentieth-Century America Panel, *International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies at the American Academy of Religion*, Denver.
- Nov 2017 “Being Buddha, Staying Woke: Racial Formation in Black Buddhist Writings.” *American Academy of Religion*, Boston.
- Mar 2017 “Racial Formation in American Buddhism: Approaches to the Theorisation of Black Buddhist Discourse.” *American Academy of Religion Western Region*, University of the West.
- Nov 2016 “Does American Buddhism Have a Race Problem? ‘White Normalcy’ and Constructing a Black Buddhist Identity.” *American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio.

Conferences, Events, and Workshops Organized

- Oct 2020 “Religion and the 2020 Presidential Election: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward.” Roundtable. Religious Studies Department and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University. Webinar. Organized and moderated.
- Oct 2017 “Buddhist Theories of Embodiment.” Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Workshop, Stanford University.
- Oct 2015 “Exploring Other Worlds: Constructing, Locating, and Navigating Imagined Religious Space,” Co-organizer, Graduate Student Conference, Religious Studies Department, Stanford University.

Public Scholarship

Teaching Resources

2021 “Teaching Race and Racism in Buddhist Studies.” *Teaching Buddhist Studies*. Directed by **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig. Research Assistant Molly Mignault. <http://teachingbuddhism.net/teaching-race-and-racism/>

Videos

“A Conversation with Dr. Amy Paris Langenberg about Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism.” Interviewed by **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig. *YouTube*. Uploaded by Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies. July 12, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCRGubXDuzc>

“A Conversation with Dr. Sarah Jacoby on Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism.” Interviewed by **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig. *YouTube*. Uploaded by Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies. July 12, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ-qnLxiZZY>

“A Conversation with Dr. Jeff Wilson on Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism.” Interviewed by **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig. *YouTube*. Uploaded by Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies. July 12, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WauUZcqNcRo>

“A Conversation with Dr. Scott Mitchell on Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism.” Interviewed by **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig. *YouTube*. Uploaded by Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies. July 12, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXULxj4i3Ko>

“A Conversation with Dr. Natalie Avalos on Teaching Buddhism, Race, and Racism.” Interviewed by **Adeana McNicholl** and Ann Gleig. *YouTube*. Uploaded by Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies. August 5, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt-guXR65eg>

Teaching Experience

Vanderbilt University

Buddhist Traditions
Encountering Religious Diversity
First-Year Writing Seminar: Buddhist Literature from the Buddha to the Beats
Asian and Asian American Religions in the United States

Stanford University

Religion Around the Globe (Co-Instructor)

Academic Service

2023 Co-Convener, “Remaking South Asia,” Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Collaborative Research Seminar, Vanderbilt University

2021 Search Committee Member, Religious Studies, Religion and the Environment search, Vanderbilt University

2021 Steering Committee Member, Buddhism in the West Unit, American Academy of Religion (5-year term)

2015 Search Committee in the Religious Studies Department for Stanford Global Studies (SGS) South Asian Studies search, Stanford University

Languages

English (fluent)

French (reading)

German (reading)

Sanskrit (reading)

Buddhist Chinese (reading)

Gāndhārī (reading)

Pāli (reading)

Tibetan (reading)