

Catherine (Kate) Hartmann
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Wyoming Fall 2020-Present
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

EDUCATION

Harvard University Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., Study of Religion, Buddhist Studies May 2020

Dissertation: “To See a Mountain: Writing, Place, and Vision in Tibetan Pilgrimage Literature”
Committee: Janet Gyatso (advisor), Charles Hallisey, James Robson, Leonard van der Kuijp

University of Chicago Divinity School Chicago, IL
M.A., History of Religions May 2013

University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA
B.A., Religious Studies (Honors) May 2011

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

Making the Invisible Real: Practices of Seeing in Tibetan Pilgrimage, Oxford University Press, May 2025.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS: JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Study of Pilgrimage in Tibetan Buddhism,” *Religion Compass* 18, September 2024, e70003.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.70003>.

“Reading Milarepa in his Footsteps: How a Tibetan Pilgrim Engages the Life of Milarepa,” solicited by Gregory Clines and John Nemec for Anne Monius memorial volume. Submitted December 2024.

“Śāntideva’s Dirty Little Tricks: Manipulating Obstacles on the Buddhist Path,” solicited by Constance Kassor for Jay Garfield memorial volume. Submitted February 2024, passed first round of revisions February 2025.

“The Twelve-Step Path? Mindfulness and Ethics in Buddhist Addiction Recovery Literature,” *Mindfulness* 15, August 2024, 2093–2113. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-024-02355-0>. Part of themed issue of *Mindfulness* on the theme of “The Ethics of Mindfulness,” edited by Eviatar Shulman.

“How to See the Invisible: Attention, Landscape, and the Transformation of Vision in Tibetan Pilgrimage Guides,” *History of Religions* 62:4, May 2023, 313–339. <https://doi.org/10.1086/724562>.

“Karmic Opacity and Ethical Formation in a Tibetan Pilgrim’s Diary,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 51:2, May 2023, 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jore.12435>.

“Against Pilgrimage: Materiality, Place, and Ambivalence in Tibetan Pilgrimage Literature,” *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines* 65, October 2022, 127-158.

“Necessary Questions of Chö: Uses and Abuses of Religion in Dondrup Gyel’s ‘Tulku,’” in *Himalaya* Vol. 40.2, Fall 2021), 6-17. <https://doi.org/10.2218/himalaya.2021.6600>.

Translation of “Tulku” by Dondrup Gyel, in *The Tibet Journal* Vol. XXXVIII No. 3 & 4 (Autumn-Winter 2013), 35-55. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/tibetjournal.38.issue-3-4>.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS: RESEARCH

UW Center for Global Studies International Research Grant, \$2,000	2024
NEH Summer Stipend Grant, University of Wyoming Junior Nominee, \$6,000	2024
University of Wyoming A&S Dean's Travel Grant, \$2,500	2024
Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research Fellow, \$6,000	2022-23
UW Center for Global Studies International Research Grant, \$4,000	2020

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS: TEACHING

UW Honors College Award for Excellence in Teaching: Upper-Level Courses, \$500	2024
College of Arts and Sciences Extraordinary Merit in Teaching Award, \$1,200	2024
Cap and Gown Chapter of Mortarboard “Top Prof” Award	2024
University of Wyoming Honors College Clay Faculty Fellow, \$5,000	2022
Cap and Gown Chapter of Mortarboard “Top Prof” Award	2021
Undergraduate Dean’s Council “Thumbs Up” Award for Outstanding Contributions	2020

NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Review of Christopher Peacock, trans. *Flowers of Lhasa*, by Tsering Yangkyi. *Shanghai Literary Review*, July 2022.

Review of *Buying Buddha, Selling Rumi: Orientalism and the Mystical Marketplace* by Sophia Rose Arjana, *Reading Religion*, August 2021.

Review of *The Battle for Fortune: State-led Development, Personhood, and Power Among Tibetans in China*, by Charlene Makley, *H-Net Reviews*, February 2021.

“Seeing Things As They Are: Perception in Buddhist and Western Thought,” essay commissioned by George Haas and the Mettagroup for inclusion in *Punch Outs*, a book of photography to be published Spring 2022.

Review of *The Monastery Rules: Buddhist Monastic Organization in Pre-Modern Tibet*, by Berthe Jansen, *Religious Studies Review*, July 2019.

Review of *Divine Stories: Divyāvadāna, Part II (Classics of Indian Buddhism)*, translated by Andy Rotman, *Reading Religion*, January 2019.

Review of *Echoes of Enlightenment: The Life and Legacy of Sonam Peldren* by Suzanne Bessenger, *H-Net Reviews*, September 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Zombie Ethics: Narratives of Liberation and Entrapment in Tibetan Zombie Tales and George Saunders’ ‘Liberation Day’,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit and Religion and Science Fiction Unit Joint Session; Boston, MA; November 22-25, 2025.

“Hungry Ghosts No More: Buddhist Addiction Recovery Communities in the United States,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Drugs and Religion Unit; Boston, MA; November 22-25, 2025.

“Circumambulating Mules and Suffering Yaks: Reflections on Animals in Tibetan Pilgrimage,” International Association of Buddhist Studies; Surveying Tibetan Pilgrimage Panel; Leipzig, Germany; August 12, 2025.

Panel Organizer, “Surveying Tibetan Pilgrimage,” International Association of Buddhist Studies; Leipzig, Germany; August 12, 2025. Organized with Michael Ium.

“Experiments with Oral Exams in a Generative-AI World,” Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education Conference; Alexandria, VA; May 27-30, 2025.

Keynote Speaker, “Reading Milarepa in his Footsteps: How a Tibetan Pilgrim Engages the Life of Milarepa,” 49th Annual Spalding Symposium; Cardiff University; April 19-21, 2024.

“Karmic Opacity and Ethical Formation in a Pilgrim’s Diary,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Collective Karma and Karmic Collectives; San Antonio, TX; November 19, 2023.

“Connecting Scholars and Practitioners of Buddhism Through Podcasts,” on “Podcasting Premodernity” Roundtable at 58th International Congress of Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 11-13, 2023.

Presider, “Innovative Elements of ‘Funerary Buddhism’ in Medieval China and Tibet,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Denver, CO; November 2022.

“The Twelve Step Path? Buddhist Ethics in Addiction Recovery Literature,” on “Buddhist Ethics” panel at International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference; Seoul, South Korea; August 14-19, 2022.

“Karma as Interpretive Lens in the Pilgrim Diary of Khatag Zamyak,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit; San Antonio, TX; November 20-22, 2021.

“Don’t Throw Away These Favorable Conditions for Nothing!: Place, Materiality, and Agency in Tibetan Pilgrimage,” in “Buddhist Philosophies of the Material” Panel, for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; jointly hosted by Buddhist Philosophy and Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Units; online due to Covid-19; December 1, 2020.

Panel Organizer, “Vision and Visualization in Tibetan Buddhism,” Association of Asian Studies Conference; Boston, MA; March 19-22, 2020, *cancelled due to Covid-19*.

“Khatag Zamyak’s Co-Seeing: Perception, Imagination, and Practices of Seeing in a Tibetan Pilgrimage Diary” for Association of Asian Studies Conference; Boston, MA; March 19-22, 2020, *cancelled due to Covid-19*.

“Sakya Pandita and the Conflict Between Poetry and ‘The Way Things Really Are,’” for International Association of Tibet Studies Conference; Paris, France; July 8-13, 2019.

“Faith and Figuration in Tibetan Pilgrimage Guides,” for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Religion in South Asia Unit; Denver, CO; November 17-20, 2018.

“How to Identify a Mountain: Uncovering the Epistemological Logics at Work in a Debate about the Authenticity of a Tibetan Mountain,” for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit; Denver, CO; November 17-20, 2018.

“How to See the Unseen: Chokyi Drakpa’s 16th Century Guidebook to Gyangme,” for American Academy of Religion, New England Maritime Regional Meeting; Boston, MA; April 8, 2017.

“What Kind of Eye is the Eye of Dharma: Conflicting Visions of Kailas in 13th-17th Century Tibet,” for 5th Annual Harvard Divinity School Ways of Knowing Conference; Cambridge, MA; October 28-9, 2016.

“Necessary Questions of Dharma: Reexamining Dondrup Gyel’s ‘Lama,’” for 3rd ANHS Himalayan Studies Conference at Yale University; New Haven, CT; March 14-16, 2014.

“Madness as True Discourse in Chöd: Understanding Machik Labdron’s Regulations on Clothing,” for Madness and Wisdom in South Asia at the University of Chicago; Chicago, IL; February 14, 2014.

“Transformations of Medical Texts from India to Tibet,” for Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine at MIT; Cambridge, MA; October 25-26, 2013.

“Bridging the Gap: Embryology and the Scholastic Response to Tantra,” for 1st Annual Harvard Divinity School Ways of Knowing Conference; Cambridge, MA; October 26-27, 2012.

“Demons Displaced: Models of Disease Causation in the Four Tantras,” for New Directions, Graduate Student Conference in Buddhist Studies at UVA; Charlottesville, VA; September 14-16, 2012.

INVITED TALKS: SCHOLARLY

“Reading Milarepa in his Footsteps: How a Tibetan Pilgrim Engages the Life of Milarepa,” Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum Invited Speaker; Harvard University; September 25, 2024.

“Religion and Pilgrimage in Tibet,” University of Vienna; June 10, 2024. Invited by Stefan Krist.

Invited Keynote Speaker, “Reading Milarepa in his Footsteps: How a Tibetan Pilgrim Engages the Life of Milarepa,” 49th Annual Spalding Symposium; Cardiff University; April 19-21, 2024.

“Using Digital Platforms to Expand Humanities Instruction: The Case of Buddhist Studies Online.” University of Wyoming Arts and Sciences IDEAS Symposium. April 18, 2022. Invited by Nevin Aiken.

“Self, Soul, Meaning.” Opening Plenary Panel for University of Wyoming Honors College. Laramie, WY. February 10, 2022. Invited by Mary Catherine Fenton.

“Khatag Zamyak’s Co-Seeing: Perception, Imagination, and Practices of Seeing in a Tibetan Pilgrimage Diary” at Hebrew University; Jerusalem, Israel; May 30, 2021. Invited by Eviatar Shulman.

“How to See the Invisible: Vision and Transformation in Tibetan Pilgrimage Guides,” at Kalamazoo College; Kalamazoo, MI; May 3, 2021. Invited by Taylor Petrey.

“Do Places Have the Power to Transform Pilgrims?: On the Agency of Material Places.” *Spotlight* Speaker Series. Mangalam Research Center. Berkeley, CA. March 2020. Invited by Karin Meyers.

“Buddhism’s Perspective on What it Means to Be a Human Being.” Opening Plenary Panel for University of Wyoming Honors College. Laramie, WY. January 28, 2020. Invited by Mary Catherine Fenton.

INVITED TALKS: PUBLIC-FACING

“Experiments with Oral Exams in a Generative-AI World,” Elbogen Center for Teaching and Learning Assessment Academy; Laramie, WY; April 15, 2025.

“The Next Dalai Lama?” UW Center for Global Studies Centennial Speaker Series; Centennial, WY; July 17, 2024. Invited by Caroline Mccracken-Flesher.

“Shantideva and Seneca on Anger,” Wyoming Stoic Camp; Centennial, WY; May 15, 2024. Invited by Rob Colter.

“Studying Buddhism in the New Millennium,” for 84000 In Conversation speaker series, hosted by 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha; August 28, 2021. Invited by Joie Chen.

“Pilgrimage in Buddhism and Tibet” to Philadelphia Buddhist Association; August 8, 2021. Invited by Curtis Key.

“Buddhism in Wyoming’s Mosaic of Faith,” presentation for the Wyoming Interfaith Network. May 24, 2021. Invited by Jordan Bishop.

SCHOLARLY WORKSHOPS

Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation in Buddhist Studies Symposium; Laramie, WY; August 2023.

Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation in Buddhist Studies Book Manuscript Development Workshop; Princeton, NJ; August 2022.

Harvard-München-Ghent Workshop in Buddhist Studies; Ghent University, Belgium; May 2022.

American Institute of Indian Studies Dissertation-to-Book Workshop; at Madison South Asia Conference; Madison, WI; October 2021.

Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation in Buddhist Studies Symposium; Albuquerque, NM; September, 2019.

Lotsawa Translation Workshop; Boulder, CO; October, 2018.

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP: YOUTUBE

Wrote series on Buddhism in collaboration with YouTube channel “Religion for Breakfast” (608K subscribers). Have continued to serve as fact checker for Buddhism series.

“The Next Dalai Lama?” forthcoming July, 2025.

“[Buddhist Meditation Explained](#),” published February 2022; 260,000 views as of 5/1/2025.

“[Who was the Buddha?](#)” published November 2021; 2,100,000 views as of 5/1/2025.

“[What is Buddhism](#),” published October 2021; 500,000 views as of 5/1/2025.

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP: PODCASTS

Podcast Co-Host, *The Buddhist Studies Podcast*, 2021-present.

Podcast Co-Host, *New Books in Buddhist Studies*, on the New Books Network, 2019-present.

Guest on *New Books in Buddhist Studies Podcast*, hosted by Jue Liang, May 9, 2025.

Guest on *The Yogic Studies Podcast*, hosted by Seth Powell, March 20, 2024.

Guest on *The Manicuum Podcast*, hosted by Mac and Zoe, September 16 and 30, 2023.

Guest on *The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Education*, produced by the University of Toronto Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Studies, January 2022.

Guest on *New Books in Indian Religions Podcast*, hosted by Raj Balkaran, April 30, 2021.

Guest on *Yogic Studies Podcast*, hosted by Seth Powell, April 9, 2021.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK

Director , Buddhist Studies Online	2021-2023
Online educational platform dedicated to making accessible, affordable, and high-quality courses on the history and philosophy of Buddhism available to the public	

Consultant and Project Manager , MAPlabs	2020-2021
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Start-up focused on using social science research on meaning and purpose to develop programs for consumers to foster sense of meaning and purpose in their lives

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming

RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Summer 2025
RELI/PHIL 4270: "Buddhist Ethics," Spring 2025
RELI 1000: "Introduction to World Religions," Spring 2025
HONORS 4152: "Buddhism in Thailand," January 2025
RELI/HIST 3280: "Tibetan Buddhism," Fall 2024
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Summer 2024
RELI 1000: "Introduction to World Religions," Spring 2024
HONORS 4152: "Buddhism in Thailand," January 2024
RELI/PHIL 4270: "Buddhist Ethics," Fall 2023
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Meditation and Mindfulness," Fall 2023
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Summer 2023
HONORS 4152: "Buddhism in Thailand," January 2023
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Fall 2022
HONORS 3152: "Anger," Fall 2022
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Summer 2022
RELI 1000: "Introduction to World Religions," Spring 2022
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Tibetan Buddhism," Fall 2021
RELI 2050: "Religions of Asia," Fall 2021
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Summer 2021
RELI 1000: "Introduction to World Religions," Spring 2021
RELI 2050: "Religions of Asia," Spring 2021
RELI/HIST 2315: "History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism," Fall 2020
RELI 4310: "Seminar in Asian Religions: Buddhist Ethics," Fall 2020

Visiting Instructor, Amherst College

"Introduction to Buddhist Traditions," Fall 2017

Departmental Teaching Fellow, Religion, Harvard University

"Teaching in Religion at Harvard," Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Senior Thesis Seminar Leader, Harvard Divinity School

"Master of Divinity Senior Seminar," Fall 2015-Spring 2018

Head Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

"Studying Buddhism Across Time and Place" (Professor Janet Gyatso), Fall 2016

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

"If We Are To Repair The World: An Introduction to Religion, Ethics, and Politics" (Professor Charles Hallisey), Spring 2017

"Theological Spanish" (Professor Lorraine Ledford), Summer 2016

"Studying Buddhist Thought Contextually" (Professor Charles Hallisey), Spring 2016

"Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion" (Professor Amy Hollywood), Fall 2015

Teaching Assistant, HarvardX

“Buddhism Through its Scriptures” (Professor Charles Hallisey), Summer 2016

THESIS ADVISING

Ally Quinn Parmely , PhD Counseling Education, Member of Committee	2024-2025
Alicia Bachtel , PhD Psychology, Member of Committee	2023-2025
Gisele Girones , Honors Capstone Thesis, Advisor	2023-2024
Margaret Gormley , MA History, Member of Committee	2022-2023

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

ECTL Great Teachers’ Retreat , University of Wyoming	May 18-20, 2022
Teaching in Buddhist Studies Workshop , American Academy of Religion	November 2021
Elbogen Center for Teaching and Learning , University of Wyoming Working towards ECTL Teaching and Learning Certification	Fall 2020-Spring 2021 Fall 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “New Faculty Learning Community”• “Digital Teaching and Learning”	
Teaching Certificate , Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Took four Bok Center teaching seminars, had teaching observed and evaluated	Summer 2019 Fall 2018-Spring 2019 Fall 2017-Spring 2018 Fall 2015-Spring 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Teaching with Purpose: An Introduction to Critical Pedagogy”• “Going from TF to Colleague”• “Departmental TF Workshop Series”• “Foundations of Teaching in the Humanities”	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: ACADEMIC FIELD

Reviewer , <i>Journal of Religious Ethics</i> , <i>Dialogue</i> , <i>Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines</i> , <i>Journal of Psychoactive Substances</i>	2023-present
Editorial Board , <i>Journal of Buddhist Ethics</i> Managed articles for peer review for 3-10 articles per year	2021- present
Reviewer and Copy-Editor , <i>Journal of Buddhist Ethics</i> Reviewed articles and provided editing services for 3-10 articles per year	2020-2021
Host , New Books in Buddhist Studies Channel Hosted author-interview podcasts for New Books Network	2019-present
Coordinator , Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum Planned and managed series of 10 speakers per year	2014-16

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Committee Member , UW AI Working Group	2025-present
Committee Member , Central Committee	Spring 2025
Search Committee , Philosophy of Science	Fall 2024
Search Committee , Global Christianity	Fall 2024
External Member of Search Committee , Asian History Search Committee	Spring 2024
Board Member , Wyoming Institute of Humanities Research	2023- present
Committee Member , Next-Gen Gen Ed Committee	2022-2023
"Cultural Diversity" Mentor , Malcolm Wallop Teacher Training Workshop	Summer 2021
Contributor , Malcolm Wallop Civic Engagement Project Designed materials for social studies instructors based on state education standards	2021

PROFESSIONAL AND HONORARY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

International Association of Buddhist Studies
 Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies
 American Academy of Religion
 Association of Asian Studies
 Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

LANGUAGES

Tibetan: reading fluency in Classical Tibetan, spoken proficiency in Lhasa dialect
Sanskrit: reading fluency
Chinese: intermediate reading and speaking
Hindi: beginning reading and conversation
French: reading fluency
German: reading fluency
Spanish: reading fluency and spoken proficiency

FIELDWORK

Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal	May 2025
Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal	May-June 2022
Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal	June-Aug. 2018
Sichuan University, Chengdu, China	June-Aug. 2017
Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala, India	June-Aug. 2013
Khachoe Drubling Nunnery, Karsha, Zangskar, Ladakh, India	May-Aug. 2012
Khachoe Drubling Nunnery, Karsha, Zangskar, Ladakh, India	May-Aug. 2011
Backpacking, Northern India	May-Aug. 2010

REFERENCES

Janet Gyatso
Hershey Professor of Buddhist Studies
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617-864-9313
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Charles Hallisey
Yehan Numata Senior Lecturer on Buddhist Literatures
Harvard University
Andover Hall
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Rob Colter
Department Chair, Philosophy and Religious Studies
Academic Professional Lecturer
University of Wyoming
Ross Hall Rm. #124
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James Robson
James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
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