

Amanda J. Huffer
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Presented is a summary of a strong foundation in academic scholarship, language skills, teaching experience, program coordination, innovative design, and administration. A position is desired that further develops my scholarship in the fields of anthropology, religion, social history, and culture.

EDUCATION

Current PhD Candidate, History of Religions, Divinity School, University of Chicago
MA, University of Chicago, 2004, History of Religions
BA, Indiana University, 1998, Religious Studies, India Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- American Religions, Hinduism, New Religious Movements
- Immigration, Race, Ethnicity
- Ethnographic Methodology, Contemporary Theory
- Gender

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 9/2005 – 5/2006 2nd year Hindi/Urdu, Visiting Lecturer, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Designed and implemented curriculum, assessed student abilities, developed student fluency in both Hindi and Urdu scripts.
- 9/2004-6/2005 2nd year Hindi, Lecturer, University of Chicago. Designed and implemented Hindi language curriculum.

COURSES TAUGHT

Second Year Hindi
Second Year Hindi/Urdu
Advanced Readings in Hindi/Urdu

CONFERENCE PAPERS and GUEST LECTURES

- *10/24/2009*
(accepted) From the Serampore Mission to the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (HTGC): a history of “American Hinduism,” *Panel Chair, 38th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI*
- 5/28/2009 From the Serampore Mission to the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (HTGC): a history of “American Hinduism,” *Theory and Practice in South Asia (TAPSA) Seminar*
- 10/15/2007 “Surprising Parallels: rhetoric of divine motherhood in the discourses of the Sadhvi Shakti Parishad and Amritanandamayi Ma,” *Panel Chair:*

Identity and Literary Cultures in 19th C. India, 36th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

- 3/31/2007 “An analysis of female agency in Nancy Falk’s ‘Shakti Ascending: Hindu Women, Politics, and Religious Leadership During the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,’” *Panel: In Honor of Nancy Falk, Midwest AAR (American Academy Of Religion), River Forest, IL*
- 3/28/2007 Guest lecture at Loyola University, Chicago, IL, “Contemporary Hindu Women”
- 11/8/2006 Guest lecture at Loyola University, Chicago, IL, “Female Asceticism in Hinduism”

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 7/2007 – 10/2008 Program Assistant, South Asia Language Resource Center (SALRC), University of Chicago. Supported and maintained website, blog, and database. Organized conference meetings and workshops. Disseminated information and managed administrative tasks.
- 6/2005 – 9/2005 Research Assistant for Professor Riesebrodt (Anthropology and Sociology of Religion)
Research Assistant for Professor Wedemeyer, (History of Religions)
- 6/2005 – 9/2005
9/2002 -9/2004 Coordinator, South Asia Outreach. Organized and administrated quarterly art exhibits. Designed and edited newsletter. Managed book and film libraries. Maintained databases.
- 5/2004 – 9/2004 Research Assistant for Professor Riesebrodt (Anthropology and Sociology of Religion)
- 2/1999 – 8/2002 Director of Public Housing and Volunteer Programs, Merit School of Music, Chicago.

GRANTS AWARDED

- 2008-2010 COSAS Dissertation Write-up Fellowship
- 5/2009 COSAS/Divinity School Dissertation Research Stipend
- 2003-2006 FLAS Hindi Fellowship
- 6/2003-9/2003 AIIS/FLAS Fellowship, Jaipur, India
- 6/1996-9/1997 UW Madison, College Year in India Program, Varanasi, India

SKILLS

Languages: Proficiency in Hindi and Urdu, Reading ability in Sanskrit, French, and German, limited ability in Malayalam

Technical: Word, Excel, Publisher, Databases, Adobe, basic HTML/XHTML

References available upon request