

## WENDY DONIGER

### Curriculum Vitae

<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/faculty/doniger.shtml>

also a newsweek/washington post blog, at  
[http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/wendy\\_doniger/](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/wendy_doniger/).

### PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Born: New York City, November 20, 1940.

Child: Michael , born November 5, 1971.

Studied dance under George Balanchine (School of American Ballet) and Martha Graham, 1954-58.

Graduated from Great Neck Senior High School, New York, June 1958.

Graduated from Radcliffe College, June 1962, *summa cum laude*.

Received M. A., Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, June, 1963.

Studied in India under a 12-month Junior Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies, 1963-64 [\$6,000].

Received Ph. D. in Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University, June, 1968.  
Dissertation title: "Asceticism and Sexuality in the Mythology of Siva." Dissertation supervisor, Daniel H. H. Ingalls. Reader: Mircea Eliade.

Carried out research in Moscow and Leningrad at the Institut Vostokovedeniia, 1970-71.

Received D. Phil. in Oriental Studies from Oxford University, February 1973. Dissertation: "The Origins of Heresy in Hindu Mythology." Supervisor: R. C. Zaehner.

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Teaching Fellow in General Education (Natural Sciences: History of Science), Harvard College, 1964-65.

Taught Sanskrit, Indian religion, etc., at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, intermittently, 1966-68.

Lecturer in the Ancient History of South Asia at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, September 1968 -June 1975.

Visiting Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, 1975-77.

Lecturer at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, and at the Wright Institute, 1976-77.

Associate Professor of the History and Phenomenology of Religions at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, 1977-78.

Professor of the History of Religions and Indian Studies, and Chair of the Area of History of Religions, in the Divinity School, the College, the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the Committee on Social Thought, at the University of Chicago, July 1978 - October 1986.

Mircea Eliade Professor of History of Religions at the University of Chicago, October 1986-

Distinguished Service Professor, October 1996-

Director of the Martin Marty Center, 2004-7

Chair of the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2005-6

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

### **Honorary Degrees**

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Kalamazoo College, Michigan, January 18, 1985, and Scholar's Day Speaker.

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Bard College, May 25, 1996.

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Washington and Lee University, June 5, 1997.

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Northwestern University, June 18, 1999.

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Lehigh University, May 18, 2009, and Convocation Speaker.

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Harvard University, June 4, 2009.

Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, Willamette University, May 15, 2011.

## Other Awards

Awarded National Merit Scholarship and General Motors Scholarship, June 1958. Class Valedictorian.

Graduated *summa cum laude* from Radcliffe College, in Sanskrit and Indian Studies. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, March 1961. Awarded Lucy Allen Paton Prize for distinguished achievements in the humanities, June 1961. Awarded Phi Beta Kappa prize given to ranking senior [first in class], March, 1962. Awarded Captain Jonathan Fay Fund Scholarship granted "to the member of each graduating class who, in the judgment of the Administrative Board, has during her whole course, by her scholarship, conduct and character, given evidence of the greatest promise"; June, 1962.

*Who's Who in America*, 1982-

Received the Radcliffe Medal of the Radcliffe Alumnae Association, April 16, 1986.

Elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, May 10, 1989. Elected to the Nominating Committee, May, 1992; Executive Committee for Publications and Research, 2000.

Appointed A. D. White Professor-at-Large, Cornell University, 1989.

Awarded the Medal of the Collège de France, April 9, 1992.

Elected Member of the American Philosophical Society, April 26, 1996.

PEN Oakland literary award for excellence in multi-cultural literature, non-fiction, for *Splitting the Difference*, June 17, 2000.

Rose Mary Crawshay prize from the British Academy, for the best book about English literature written by a woman, for *The Bedtrick*, October 10, 2002.

Graham School of the University of Chicago, award for Excellence in Teaching in Graduate Studies. November 10 2007.

Convocation Speaker, University of Chicago, June 13-14, 2008.

American Academy of Religion's 2008 Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion to recognize extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion. The award goes to those whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks, not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public as

well. November 2, 2008.

South Asian Literary Association, Distinguished Scholar Award, 2009, December 27, 2009. "Your work has made visible what was only remotely known to the few."

Finalist (one of five) in Non-Fiction for the National Book Critics' Circle Award, for *The Hindus: An Alternative History*, January 23, 2010.

October, 2010, *Playboy*: Honor Roll: Meet Twenty Professors Who Are Reinventing the Classroom. College Will Never Be the Same.

January, 2012. Ramnath Goenka Award from the Express Group, India, for the best book, non-fiction (*The Hindus - An Alternative History*). "This award will go to a writer/writers whose published works, through in-depth research and investigation, covers an issue/idea on a scale which newspapers or television channels with their limited space and time cannot aspire to tackle. This award will be for books published in English language. The prize money is R 100,000."

Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring. University of Chicago, June 9, 2012.

**BOOKS and ARTICLES: See separate file.**

**PUBLIC LECTURES (SELECTED LIST)**

Evans-Wentz Lectures. Stanford University, January 1978.

"A Tribute to Professor Claude Levi-Strauss." Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Embassy of the United States of America. Paris, November 8, 1978.

Arthur O. Clark Lectures, Pomona College, February 1979.

Phi Beta Kappa Symposium Lecture, co-sponsored by *Daedalus*. Emory University, Atlanta, October 1979.

Woodward Court Lecture. University of Chicago, January 1980.

Gest Lecture. Haverford College, March 1980.

"People out of place; moments out of time." A dialogue with Victor Turner. Twelfth annual lecture in religious studies. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, April

1980.

"Methodology." Concluding presentation for the American Society for the Study of Religion. Chicago, May 1980.

Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture. Royal Society of Arts. London, May 1980.

Kreeger-Wolf Lectures on Hinduism. Northwestern University, November 1980.

"Hinduism." The Asia Society, New York, November 1980.

"The archetypal hamentasch: a feminist mythology." Thirty-fourth annual Latkehamentasch symposium, University of Chicago, November 1980.

"The transfer of sin in ancient India." University of Hawaii at Manoa, April 1981.

"Opposing passions in the mythology of Siva." Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts, April 1981.

"How to prove that a mythical experience is real." American Museum of Natural History, New York, May 1981.

"Indian theories of dreams." C. G. Jung Foundation, New York, October 1981.

"God, evil, and karma in Vedic and post-Vedic orthodoxy." Colloquium on Max Weber's study of India. University of Heidelberg, Bad Homburg, November 1981.

Foerster Lecture on the Immortality of the Soul. University of California at Berkeley, March 1982.

Mead-Swing Lectures. Oberlin College, March 1982.

Otis Lecture. Wheaton College, October 1982.

Keynote address, South Asian Conference. University of Wisconsin at Madison, November 1982.

"Indian mythology." The Asia Society, New York, December 1982.

Celebrity Seminar. Dartmouth College, March 1983.

Snuggs Lecture. University of Tulsa, March 1983.

Spencer Trask Lecture. Princeton University, March 1984.

Guest lecturer on the cruise, "A Passage to India and Sri Lanka."  
University of Chicago Alumni Association, March-April 1984.

Goodspeed Lecture. Denison University, April 1984.

Demarest Lloyd Lecture. Colorado College, September 1984.

Keynote Lecture, Humanities Open House. University of Chicago, October 1984.

"Death and sex in Indian mythology." The Asia Society, New York, November 1984.

Getlin Lecture. Trinity College, Hartford, November 1984.

"Myths, dreams, and other realities: where scholars and shapers meet." Panel of  
lectures with James Hillman and Lloyd Alexander. Swarthmore College,  
February 1985.

"The paradox of the dreamer dreamt: the Red King and the Hindu God." Lecture at the  
annual meeting of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America, The Newberry  
Library, Chicago, April 1985.

"The erotic as a metaphor for something else." Paper at the conference on The Erotic  
Theme in the Cultural Traditions of India, Minneapolis, May 10-12, 1985.

"Eastern Religions in J. D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*." Arts Week Lecture at the  
Laboratory Schoolers, University of Chicago, June 1985.

"Impermanence and eternity in Indian art and literature." Canvas of Culture  
Symposium at the Festival of India. Smithsonian Institution, June 21, 1985.

"The Aims of Education Lecture." University of Chicago, September 23, 1985.

Faber Lecture. Princeton University, November 4, 1985.

"The last lecture." University of Chicago, February 18, 1986.

Humanities Society Lecture. University of Florida, Gainesville, March 11, 1986.

University Lecture in Religion. Arizona State University, April 10, 1986.

Arnold Lowe Lecture. Macalester College, Saint Paul, April 17, 1986.

Radhakrishnan Lectures. All Souls College, Oxford University. Trinity Term, May 1986.

Visiting Canterbury Fellowship, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, July 1986.

"Other peoples' classics." Keynote address at the meeting of the National Federation of State Humanities Councils, Washington, D. C., September 14, 1986.

"Sexual doubles and sexual masquerades in India." The Asia Society, New York, October 20, 1986.

"The contribution of American scholars to the study of Indian religions." Address at the Symposium on American Understanding of India, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., October 24, 1986.

"Fundamentalism: Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, and Fundamental." Response to the papers of Martin E. Marty, Arthur Herzberg, and Yvonne Haddad, at the plenary session of the American Historical Association, December 27, 1986.

"The survival of myth in science fiction." Keynote speech for the Eaton Conference of Science Fiction Writers, Riverside, California, April 11, 1987.

"Sexual doubles and sexual masquerades." Symposium on Contemporary Women and Psychoanalysis, Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chicago, May 2, 1987.

"Can a humanist compare religions?" Symposium on The University of the Future. The Ohio State University, May 8, 1987.

"Sexual fantasies in ancient Indian literature." Keynote speech at the annual meeting of the American Association of Psychiatrists from India, Chicago, May 13, 1987.

"Myths about Myths about Rituals." Inaugural lecture for the Mircea Eliade Professorship in History of Religions, University of Chicago, May 14, 1987.

Commemoration Address, Radcliffe College, June 12, 1987.

"Mythe et vie réelle dans l'oeuvre de Mircea Eliade." Keynote speech, XIIe Congrès International de l'Académie Roumano-Américaine, L'Université de Paris -- Sorbonne, June 24, 1987.

"The God Shiva, with and without Goddesses." Inaugural celebration of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., September 12, 1987.

Murphy Lecture, Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, March 3-4, 1988.

The Willson Lectures at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas. March 17-18, 1988.

The first Mircea Eliade Lectures in the History of Religions. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, March 21-24, 1988.

"The Importance of Indian Concepts of Time and Yoga in Mircea Eliade's Approach to the Religions of the World." Conference on Mircea Eliade and the Asian Religions, Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente, Rome, April 23, 1988.

The first Quallo lecture, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey, November 3, 1988.

"The Re-opening of the American Mind: Belief in a Pluralistic Society." The first of the Chicago Seminars on the Future, Chicago Access Corporation (PBS), March 30, 1989.

"The Future of Asian Studies." Convocation Lecture, De Pauw University, Greencastle Indiana, April 5, 1989.

The Loy H. Witherspoon Lecture, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, March 21, 1990.

The Ressler Lecture, Ohio State University, May 6, 1990.

Stated Meeting Address at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 9, 1990.

Symposium on the Book of Numbers, with Mary Douglas, Ernest Gellner, Peter Schaefer, and Hans Rentdorff, University of Frankfurt, May 18, 1990.

"Religious and non-religious arguments in the Laws of Manu," general lecture at the Sixteenth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Rome, 3 - 8 September, 1990.

Frederic C. Wood, Jr., Lecture, Vassar College, September 15, 1990.

Tamblyn Lectures, University of Western Ontario, September 26-28, 1990.

"The King and the Corpse and the Rabbi and the Talk-show Star: Heinrich Zimmer's Legacy to Mythologists and Indologists." Conference on the Centennial of Heinrich Zimmer, Columbia University, December 7, 1990.

Wallace Distinguished Visitor, Macalester College, January, 1991.

Cole Lectures, Vanderbilt University, February 6-7, 1991.

Mackay Lecture, St. Lawrence University, September 23, 1990.

"Aspects of the Transmission of Knowledge in Ancient India."  
Annual South Asia Lecture, University of London, School of Oriental and African  
Studies, December 12, 1991.

"Mythologie et sexualité: quelques masques, quelques déguisements." Conférence au  
Collège de France, April 9, 1992.

"The Paradox of Popular Publishing: The Academic Snob Goes to Market." Keynote  
Address to the Association of American University Presses, The Palmer House,  
Chicago, Sunday, June 22, 1992.

Whidden Lectures, McMaster University, March 17-18, 1993.

Orr Lecture on Culture and Religion, Dartmouth College, May 10, 1993.

Homer J. Armstrong Lectures at Kalamazoo College, October 13, 1993.

The First J. Gonda Lecture, Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen.  
Amsterdam, October 30, 1993.

Surjit Singh Lecture, Graduate Theological Union, October 31, 1994.

Ryerson Lecture, University of Chicago, May 18, 1995.

Berry Lectures, University of Hawaii, February, 1996.

ACLS Lectures on the History of Religions, Autumn and Winter 1996.

Jordan Lectures, University of London, Autumn, 1996.

Richards Lectures, University of Virginia, February 1997.

Keynote address, 1997 National Conference of State Humanities Councils, Washington,  
D. C., September 7, 1997.

Wickenden Lectures, Miami University, October, 1997.

Ingersoll Lecture, Harvard, November, 1997.

Erbschaft unserer Zeit Lecture, Einstein Forum, Berlin, December, 1997.

Gauss Lectures. Princeton. March, 1999.

Plenary Address, Millennial Meeting of the American Philosophical Society,  
Philadelphia, May 26, 1999.

Townsend Center lecture, Berkeley, October, 1999.

Keynote Speech, National Convention of the Community College Humanities  
Association, Chicago, October 29, 1999.

John R. Adams Lecture in the Humanities, San Diego State, November 3, 1999.

Presidential Panel, American Association for Anthropology, Chicago, November 19,  
1999.

Jane Ellen Harrison Memorial Lecture, Cambridge, England, May 5, 2000.

Paper delivered on the occasion of Mary Douglas's 80th Birthday, the British Academy,  
March 25, 2001.

Inaugural Lecture for the Center for Gender Studies, SOAS, May 8, 2001.

Lecture at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, May 10, 2001.

Huizinga Lecture, Leiden, December 15, 2001.

Lecture on the Kamasutra, Chicago Humanities Festival, November 5, 2001.

Humanities Without Boundaries lecture, Madison, Wisconsin, January 30, 2003

Distinguished Humanities Lecture, University of South Florida, Tampa, February, 2003

Chancellor's Lecture, Vanderbilt University, March, 2003

First Annual Memorial Barry Ulanov Lecture, Union Theological Seminary, March, 2003

Henry Myers Lecture at the Royal Anthropological Institute, London, September 20,  
2004

Humanities Open House Lecture, University of Chicago, October 23, 2004

President's Lecture, Radcliffe Institute. November 18, 2004.

Ninian Smart Lecture, University of California at Santa Barbara, January 20-21, 2005

Burke Lecture, University of California at San Diego, February 24, 2005

Presidential Lecture, Stanford Humanities Center, 2004

Phi Beta Kappa Lectures, 2004-5 [Colorado College, Colorado Springs; Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts; Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts; Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington; Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota; Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York; St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota; Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

Lectures on the Goddess, Sydney, Australia, March 2006

Jung Forum, Kilkenny, Ireland, March 2007

Lectures in Delhi (J. N. U.), Agra, Jaipur, and Varanasi, March 2007

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, May 2007

Einstein Forum, June, 2007

Cobb Lecture, Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, September, 2007

Kline Lecture, Northern Arizona University, May, 2010

Special Lecture at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, June 14, 2010

Lecture for the Opening of the Humanities Institute, Cape Town, South Africa, October 25, 2010.

President's Lecture, Art Institute of Chicago, November, 2010

Work in Progress Seminar, King's College, Cambridge, November, 2010

Annual South Asia Lecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, November, 2010

Terry Lectures at Yale, 2014

## GRANTS

12-month Junior Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies, for study in India, 1963-64.

NEH Summer Stipend, 1980.

Guggenheim Fellowship, 1980-81.

American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship, 1988-89, 1996.

## ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICES

American Academy of Religion:

Vice-President, December 1982;

President Elect, 1983;

President, 1984.

Association for Asian Studies:

South Asia Council and the Board of Directors, 1981-83.

Vice-President and President-elect, March, 1997;

President, March, 1998.

American Association for the Study of Religion:

Board of Directors, 1983

Fellow of the Society for the Arts, Religion, and Culture, February, 1985-

Vice-President of the Academic Board of the Einstein Forum, Potsdam, 1992-2001

Board of Directors of the American Council of Learned Societies, 1994-8

Advisory Board, Chicago Humanities Institute, 1993-1996

NEH Advisory Committee to the Lincoln Park Zoo, 1994-1996

Advisory Board, National Coalition of Independent Scholars, 1994- 200

Advisory Board, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, 1994-

Advisory Board, Chicago Humanities Festival, 2003-

Advisory Board, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, 2004-

Advisory Board, Einstein Forum, Potsdam, Germany 1993-

Educational Advisory Board, Guggenheim Foundation, 2010-2014

## JOURNAL EDITORIALSHIPS AND ADVISORY EDITORIALSHIPS

*Encyclopedia Britannica*, University of Chicago Advisory Committee, 1985-87;

International Board of Editors, 1988-97, 2005-.

*Daedalus*, editorial board, 1990-2009

*History of Religions*, editorial board, 1979-

.  
*International Journal of Hindu Studies*, Advisory Editorial Board, 2007-

*Journal of the History of Sexuality*, associate editor, 1993-

Editorial Board, University of Chicago Press, 1981-89

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (associate editor), 1977-82.

Berkeley Religious Studies Series (advisory editor), 1979-83.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, publication series in religion (advisory editor), 1979-85

Delegate for history of religions, Oxford University Press, New York, 1984-1996.

SUNY series on Kashmiri Saivism (advisory editor), 1983-88

Editorial Advisory Board, Asian Religious Studies Information Bibliography, SUNY Institute for the Advanced Study of World Religions, 1985-90

Editor of Hinduism Series, SUNY Press, 1989-

Corresponding Editor, *South Asia Research*, 1994-

Editorial Board, *Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, 2001-4

Editorial Board, *International Journal for the History and Theory of Emotions* (Berlin), 2009-

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN LEARNED SOCIETIES**

American Academy of Religion: Vice-President, President-Elect, President, 1983-5; Board of Directors, 1983-7; Program Committee, 1983-5; Task Force, 1984; Long Range Planning and Development, 1984-5; Nominating Committee, 2002-4; member -

Association for Asian Studies: South Asia Council; Board of Directors, 1981-83; President, 1998-9; member -

American Philosophical Society, 1996-

American Oriental Society

American Society for the Study of Religion

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Conference on Religion in South India

International Association of Historians of Religion

### **MEMBERSHIP ON GRANT-GIVING AND VISITING COMMITTEES**

American Council of Learned Societies - Social Science Research Council, Joint Committee on South Asia, 1978-82; Advisory Committee on International Programs, 1984-85.

American Council of Learned Societies, final selection board, 2003-5

Project Evaluator, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1978-86

Project Evaluator, Guggenheim Foundation, 1982-94

Project Evaluator, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1982-6

Project Evaluator, Fulbright Awards, 1983-90

Graves Awards Selection Committee, Pomona College, 1979-84.

Board of Directors, Triopian Foundation, 1980-94

Committee to Visit the Harvard Divinity School, 1980-86.

Final Selection Committee, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 1993-2002

Ad Hoc Committee for the Radcliffe Institute, 2000-2001

Program Committee, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2001-4, 2010-

### **COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

1978-9

Classical problems in the history of religions (w/ Mircea Eliade)

Hindu Mythology

Approaches to the Comparative Study of Myth

Mythology in the Brahmanas

Translation of Religious Texts: the Rig Veda

The Bacchae of Euripides and Frogs of Aristophanes

(with James Redfield)

1979-80

Religious Symbols in Historic Contexts (with Eliade)

The Mahabharata and the Odyssey

Karma and Dharma

Readings in the Yogavasistha (in Sanskrit)

Mythology of the Rig Veda

1980-81

The Ramayana and the Iliad

The Comparative Mythology of Evil

Freud's Interpretation of Dreams

1981-2

Science and Myth: Paradigm Clashes

The Odyssey (with David Grene)

Myths about Women

Folklore and Psychology in the Brahmanas

Dreams and Dreaming in Myth and Reality

Readings in the Puranas (in Sanskrit)

1982-3

Classics in the Literature of Religion (I & II)

Indian Civilization (with Ralph Nicholas) (I & II)

The Doctrine of Illusion in Indian Literature

The Ramayana (in Sanskrit)

1983-4

Indian Civilization (with Ralph Nicholas) (I & II)

Hindu Mythology

The Upanishads: Brihadaranyaka and Chandogya

1984-5

Epics: Iliad, Odyssey, Gilgamesh, Morte d'Arthur, Tristan, Nibelungenlied, Beowulf,  
Winnebago Twins (I & II)

The Mahabharata (in Sanskrit)

Greek Tragedies: Prometheus Bound, Baccahe, Trachiniae, Alcestis (with David  
Grene and David Tracy) (I & II)

Theories of Myth and Symbolism

1985-6

Mythologies of Animals

Herodotus (with David Grene and David Tracy)

The Doctrine of Illusion and the Yogavasistha

The Odyssey

1986-7

The Oresteia

The Mahabharata (in Sanskrit)

Plato's Timaeus (with David Grene and David Tracy)

The Ramayana (in Sanskrit)

The Mahabharata and Ramayana

The Asvasastra (in Sanskrit)

1987-8

Manu's Dharmasastra (in Sanskrit)

Sacrifice

Classics in the Literature of Religion

The Kamasutra (in Sanskrit)

Religion, Sex & Politics in Ancient India (with McKim Marriott)

1988-9

Theories of Myth and Symbolism

Readings in the Puranas (in Sanskrit)

Selected Topics in Hinduism

The Rig Veda (in Sanskrit)

The Rig Veda (in English)

The Mythology of the Double

1990

Mythologies of Evil, with Anthony Yu

The Religious Symbolism of Horses in Indian History

1990-91

Contemporary Issues in the Study of Religion

The Iliad, I.

The Iliad, II.

The Mahabharata (in Sanskrit)

With Sudhir Kakar: Mystics and Ecstatics.

1991-92

Myth and Law in Hinduism (Manu and Puranas).

Sexual Doubles in Jewish and Christian Mythologies.

Modern Approaches to the Study of Religion.

The Ramayana (in English)

The Mahabharata (in Sanskrit)

1992-3

Modern Approaches to the Study of Religion.  
Hindu Mythology.  
Bodies of Mythology.  
Some Myths of Plato (with David Tracy and David Grene).  
Authorship and Authority in Myth and Epic (with Bruce Lincoln).

1993-4

Structures of the Unconscious: Sigmund Freud and Claude Lévi-Strauss.  
The Mahabharata in English Translation.  
Two Phases of Greek Religion: Hesiod and Aeschylus (with David Tracy and David Grene)  
Sex and Religion

1994-5

The Odyssey, in English translation. With David Grene.  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Mahabharata.  
Legal and Other Fictions in Ancient India. With Bruce Lincoln.  
Sexual Doubles in Jewish and Christian Myth.  
A Cross-Cultural Study of Sexual Masquerades.  
South Asian Texts: Many Ramayanas

1995-6

Opera and Myth (with Michael P. Steinberg)  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Mahabharata.  
Sexual Masquerades [for the MLA program]  
Hindu Mythology  
The Brauer Seminar: Myth: History of Interpretation [with Bruce Lincoln and Cristiano Grottanelli]

1996-7

Introduction to the Study of Religion in the Human Sciences  
Mythologies of Transvestism and Transsexuality  
The Mahabharata in English Translation.  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Mahabharata.

1997-8

Shakespeare's Black Comedies: Measure for Measure and Troilus and Cressida, with David Grene.  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Mahabharata.  
The Ramayana. For the MLA degree.  
Mythologies of Evil, with Anthony Yu.  
Hindu Mythology [in the college]  
The Kamasutra and the Laws of Manu [Sex and Religion in Ancient India].

1998-9

Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Mahabharata.  
The Mahabharata in English Translation.  
The Bedtrick [MLA]  
The Mythology of the Sexual Double  
Storytelling in India

1999-2000

The Kamasutra and the Laws of Manu [Sex and Religion in Ancient India].  
Mythologies of Transsexuality and Transvestism  
The Ramayana [MLA]  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Kamasutra.  
Medeas, with Glenn Most  
Dissertation Seminar

2000-2001

Sex in Judaism and Hinduism, with Tikva Frymer-Kensky  
Dissertation seminar  
The Kamasutra and Ancient Indian Sexuality [MLA]  
Hindu Mythology  
Contemporary Theory and the Study of Religion, with Saba Mahmood  
Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Ovid's *Ars Amatoris*, with Glenn Most.

2001-2002

Introduction to the Study of Religion in the Human Sciences, with Richard Rosengarten  
The Mahabharata in English Translation.  
The *Kamasutra* and the *Laws of Manu* [Sex and Religion in Ancient India].  
Mythologies of Evil, with Anthony Yu.  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the Mahabharata.  
Problems in the History of Religions

2002-3

Introduction to the Study of Religion in the Human Sciences, with Richard Rosengarten  
Religion, Sex, Politics, and Release in Ancient India [also in the MLA]  
Second year Sanskrit. Readings in the *Mahabharata*.  
Hindu Mythology  
Problems in the History of Religions

2003-4

Introduction to the Study of Religion in the Human Sciences, with Richard Rosengarten  
Religion, Sex, Politics, and Release in Ancient India [also in the MLA]  
The Theology and Mythology of Evil, with David Tracy

Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
The Mahabharata in English Translation.

2004-5

Mythologies of Transvestism and Transsexuality  
Storytelling in India  
Religion, Sex, Politics, and Release in Ancient India [in the MLA]  
Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
Problems in the History of Religions

2005-6

Hinduism: A Chronicle [also in the MLA]  
Machiavelli and the Arthashastra [with Nathan Tarcov]  
Shakespeare's Tragedies and Comedies [with David Tracy]  
Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
Problems in the History of Religions

2006-7

Hinduism: A Chronicle [also in the MLA]  
Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
Problems in the History of Religions  
Illusion in Indian Religion and Literature, with David Shulman

2007-8

Hinduism: A Chronicle [also in the MLA]  
Many Ramayanas  
The Mahabharata in English Translation  
Mythologies of Transvestism and Transsexuality

2008-2009

The Hindus: An Alternative Narrative [also in the MLA]  
Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
Religion, Sex, Politics, and Release in Ancient India

2009-2010

The Kamasutra and Ancient Indian Sexuality [MLA]  
Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
Hindu Mythologies of Evil  
States of Nature: The Animal Within (with Lorraine Daston)  
Problems in the History of Religions

2010-2011

Many Ramayanas

The Kamasutra and Ancient Indian Sexuality [MLA]  
Second Year Sanskrit: Readings in the *Mahabharata*  
Problems in the History of Religions  
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Religion, Sex, and Politics in Ancient India: The Kamasutra and the Arthashastra [MLA]  
Translation. The Brauer Seminar. With Jeffrey Stackert.  
Religion, Sex, and Politics in Ancient India: The Kamasutra and the Arthashastra  
Problems in the History of Religions

### PH.D. DISSERTATIONS COMPLETED UNDER MY SUPERVISION

(\* designates that I served as advisor)

#### A. In England

- \*1 Anne-Marie Gaston. "Siva in dance, myth and iconography." Oxford University, M. Litt., 1975.
- \* 2 David Dean Shulman. "Tamil mythology: an interpretation of a regional Hindu tradition." University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1976.
- \* 3 John Edward Mitchiner. "Traditions of the Saptarsi group down to the end of the Gupta period." University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1976.

#### B. At Northwestern University and Columbia University

- \* 4 Herman W. Tull. "Karma and death in the world of the Vedic sacrifice." Northwestern University, Department of History and Literature of Religion, 1985.
- \* 5 (co-advisor with John Stratton Hawley) Catherine Benton. "The Mythology of Kamadeva." Columbia University, Department of Religion, 1991.

#### C. At the University of Chicago

- \* 6 William P. Harman. "The sacred marriage of Maturai: myth, ritual and devotion in a South Indian temple." 1981.
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- Zhang Ni, on novels of Rushdie, etc. [Anthony Yu, Richard Rosengarten].
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- Michael Nichols on the Buddhist deity Mara and Hindu parallels. [George Bond]
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- \*67. Laura Desmond on the Kamasutra and shastras. [with Sheldon Pollock, Bruce Lincoln] 2011

- Rumya Pucha Chatterjee. *Revisiting the Classical: A Critical History of Kuchipudi Dance*.  
With Philip Bohlman.
68. Blake Wentworth. *The Procession of the Lord in the Tamil Ulas*. [with Sheldon Pollock,  
David Shulman]
- \*69. Carrie Dohe. Jung. [with Paul Mendes-Flohr, Michael Geyer, and Celia Brickman].

(110 as reader, of which 69 as advisor)

In progress

- \* Benjamin Schonthal on Religion in the Constitution of Sri Lanka. With Steve Collins,  
John Holt, and Dan Slater.
  - \* Alex Rocklin on the definition of religion in Trinidad. With Muzaffar Alam and  
Stephan Palmie.
  - \* Jeremy Morse. On the Dattatreya tradition in Maharashtra. With Anne Feldhaus,  
Philip Engblom.
  - \* Cynthia Rutz on folktales in Shakespeare's King Lear [with David Bevington and  
Marina Warner]
  - \* Emily Bloch on Sukumar Ray's stories for children [with Clint Seely, Thibaut]
  - \* Sunit Singh on "Social Transformation in Fin de Siecle Punjab." [with Moische Postone,  
Muzaffar Alam, Andrew Sartori].
  - \* Abhishek Ghosh. Bhaktivinod and the transplating of 19<sup>th</sup> century Hinduism.
  - \* Erin Epperson on Tibetan translation [with Christian Wedemeyer and Matthew  
Kapstein]
- Pesach Weinstein. With Jim Robinson  
Katarzyna Pazucha, *Literature as Culture: Introducing Rājasekhara's*  
*Kāvyaṃīmāṃsā* [with Yigal Bronner and Gary Tubb]
- Susan Zakin on Tibet [with Christian Wedemeyer and Matthew Kapstein]
- Ashley Lyons [Gary Tubb, Muzaffar Alam]

12 in progress, of which 8 as advisor

ABD:

- \* Myron Silberstein on frame narratives
  - \* Carol Tarr Tsaltas on dance as resistance in Brazil
  - \* Manu Shetty on Tulus
  - \* Claudia Traudt. Antony and Cleopatra, Joyce Portrait of an Artist, Yeats Among  
School Children, and her own paintings.
- Angela Taraskiewicz on Medea

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Rosenberg Committee, 1978-79

Faculty Board for the University of Chicago Press, 1979-83, 87-91  
 Committee on Honorary Degrees, 1991-5, 2002-3  
 Chair, Committee on Honorary Degrees, 2003-2005  
 Chair, Committee to Assess the Committee on Ideas and Methods, 1993  
 Chair, Search Committee for the Dean of Rockefeller Chapel, 1994  
 Governing Board of the Chicago Humanities Institute, 1993-6  
 Committee for the Year of Reflection, 1996-7  
 Council of the University Senate, 1997-9, 2009-2011  
 Chair, Search Committee for the Director of the University of Chicago Press, 1999-2000  
 Committee to Advise the Provost on the Deanship of the Divinity School, 2004-5  
 Director of the Martin Marty Center of the Divinity School, 2004-7  
 Chair of the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2005-6  
 Independent Review Committee for University of Chicago Police Department, 2007-10  
 Executive Committee, Committee on Southeast Asian Studies, 2008-  
 Policy Committee of the Divinity School, 2009-2011  
 Deanship Committee of the Divinity School, 2009-2010  
 Ad Hoc Committee on India, 2009-  
 Chair, Committee on Guidelines on Honorary Degrees, 2011

## CITATIONS

Degree of Doctor of Human Letters, *honoris causa*, Kalamazoo College, Michigan, partial citation: "Dr. O'Flaherty's translation and interpretation of the sacred texts of India have been characterized by her unique regard for the cultural integrity and internal coherence of the Hindu myths. Using her skills as one of the finest English-speaking Sanskritists in modern history, she has brought these ancient stories into new life with scholarly lucidity, liveliness, and even humor. In her studies of comparative religion and mythology, Dr. O'Flaherty has defended her 'toolbox' methodology, which frees myths from reductionist methods and treats them as initially self-interpreting and coherent. Her work has served the cause of exploding Western myths about Eastern myths by careful regard and attention to the texts themselves, which has aided the general cause of a reasoning encounter between East and West."

Radcliffe Medal of the Radcliffe Alumnae Association citation: "Imaginative teacher and brilliant researcher for Indic religions, writer of wit, charm and insight, you have danced your way into the hearts of students and scholars worldwide. A seeker of reality on many levels, you have used your knowledge of Sanskrit and Hindu religion to cast light on matters of current moment, particularly women's issues. As another milestone in your distinguished career, the Radcliffe Graduate Society is honored to present you with this medal."

Doctor of Humane Letters, Bard College, Partial Citation:

"Called 'the greatest living mythologist,' Wendy Doniger has build such a roundhouse. . . . Her first book, *Asceticism and Eroticism in the Mythology of Siva* (1972), permanently changed the study of Indian culture and narrative. As one of the first structuralist studies of early and medieval Hindu mythology, it created a lasting link between Sanskrit and Western letters. . . . In *Other Peoples' Myths* (1988), she provided an answer to Allan Bloom and other scholars' critiques of contemporary attitudes toward cultural pluralism. . . Her works have contributed to the undergraduate curriculum in the study of ancient classics and will continue to do so for decades to come. . . .Her work . . .has made possible conversation between cultures in an age increasingly anxious about cultural contact. . . ."

From the *Express* of India, April 16, 1985. "'Erotic Ascetic'. Express News Service, New Delhi, April 15. Lord Shiva, who is worshipped by millions of Indians, has been described as an 'Erotic ascetic' by the committee organising the Festival of India in the USA and France later this year. Disclosing this in the Lok Sabha today, Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan (Cong-S) said this introduction to Lord Shiva had been made in the calendar of events brought out by the chairperson of the festival committee Mrs. Pupil Jayakar. Mr. Unnikrishnan said this description of Lord Shiva, who was worshipped by millions of people, was nothing but pure blasphemy. If the people were agitated with the manner in which the festival committee was proceeding with its task, they have reason for it, he said. The member described the chairperson of the festival committee as a 'riderless horse'.

Praise from Rajiv Malhotra, in an article entitled "Wendy's Children" posted on the internet, September, 2002  
[[http://rajivmalhotra.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=26](http://rajivmalhotra.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=26)]:

"Wendy Doniger [] is undoubtedly the most powerful person in academic Hinduism Studies today. She is a former President of the American Academy of Religion, now leads Religious Studies at the University of Chicago, chairs many academic and powerful bodies, has two PhDs (from Harvard and Oxford) and is a prolific author. She was also a past President of the very influential Association of Asian Studies.

"The most important leverage she has is that she has given more students their PhDs in Hinduism than any other person in the world and has successfully placed these former students in high-leverage academic jobs throughout the Western world, to carry the torch of her theories and principles of researching Hinduism. There is no place one can go to in this academic discipline without running into the effect of her influence, often present in a very invisible and subtle fashion, through her large cult of students, who glorify her in exchange for her mentorship."

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**Ars brevis, vita longa**