

# Pierre-Julien Daniel Harter, Ph.D.

Email : [pjharter@uchicago.edu](mailto:pjharter@uchicago.edu)

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## Education

### **Ph.D. – Philosophy of religions**

The University of Chicago Divinity School (Chicago, IL), June 2015

Dissertation: “Buddhas in the Making: Path, Perfectibility, and Gnosis in the *Abhisamayālaṃkāra* Literature”

Advisors: Professors Matthew T. Kapstein, Gary Tubb, and Daniel A. Arnold

### **Doctoral qualifying exams:**

- Classical philosophy of religions (examiner: Prof. M. Kapstein)
- Anglo-American philosophy of religions (examiner: Prof. F. Gamwell)
- Indian Buddhist Scholasticism (examiner: Prof. D. Arnold)
- History of religions: South Asian Religions ((examiner: Prof. Ch. Wedemeyer)

### **Master’s Degree in Historical, Philological and Religious Sciences** (graduated "with distinction")

École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris, France), 2006

Dissertation: “Idéalisme et médiété : traduction et commentaire du *Fleurion des Preuves de l’Idéation* de Red mda’ ba gZhon nu blo gros”

Advisor: Professor Matthew Kapstein

### **Dulco in Tibetan** (equivalent of US Bachelor’s Degree)

Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (Paris, France), 2005

### **Maîtrise in Philosophy** (equivalent of first year US Master's Degree – graduated “with distinction”).

Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne (Paris, France), 2004

Dissertation: “Identité et analogie dans les *Ennéades* de Plotin”

Advisor: Professor P-M. Morel

### **École Normale Supérieure** (Paris, France)

Fellow in the Philosophy Department, 2003-2008

### **Licence in Philosophy** (equivalent of US Bachelor’s Degree)

Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne (Paris, France), 2002

### **Lycée Louis le Grand** (Paris, France), 1999-2003

Preparation for the competition of the École Normale Supérieure, equivalent work for BA degrees in five literary academic disciplines: French literature, English, Philosophy, History, Ancient Greek.

## Areas of Teaching Competence

Buddhist thought and literature; Indian philosophy, religions, and civilization; philosophy of religions; comparative philosophy; Tibetan civilization; introduction to Religious Studies; language instruction in Tibetan and Sanskrit.

## Teaching Experience

**Adjunct Lecturer**, Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL), Spring 2014–Present – “The Examined Life”. Introduction to philosophy for 1<sup>st</sup> year students using Western and Buddhist materials (Plato, Marcus Aurelius, Montaigne, Buddhist suttas, Vasubandhu, etc.).

**Lecturer**, Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies, Winter 2014–Present. Multiple classes in the Asian classics program and in Humanities classes: "Fourth Year Basic Program in the Humanities"; “An Introduction to Yoga”, “Tibetan Buddhism: an Introduction”, "Reflecting in Ancient India: An Introduction to Indian Philosophy”, “Introduction to the Mahābhārata”, “A Philosophical Approach to Buddhism”.

**Adjunct Lecturer**, Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL), Spring 2015 – “The Buddhist Tradition”. Introduction to Buddhism, 200 level.

**Lecturer**, University of Chicago, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Spring 2014 – Sanskrit (second year).

**Teaching Assistant** for Prof. Richard Rosengarten, University of Chicago, Divinity School, Fall 2013 - “Introduction to the Study of Religion”. Led class discussions required of all entering M.A. students, commented on and graded student papers

**Lecturer**, University of Chicago, New Collegiate Division, Spring 2012 - “What is Enlightenment?”  
Designed the syllabus, co-taught classes, prepared exams, met with students, graded student papers  
The class introduced the notion of Enlightenment in European thought and in Buddhist thought

**Teaching Assistant**, for Prof. Ryan Coyne, University of Chicago, Divinity School, Fall 2011 - “Introduction to the Study of Religion”. Led class discussions required of all entering M.A. students, commented on and graded student papers

**Teaching Assistant** for Prof. Daniel Arnold, University of Chicago, Divinity School, Spring 2011 - “Philosophical Reflection on Death”. Led class sessions on ancient Greek philosophy

**Teaching Assistant** for Prof. Daniel Arnold, University of Chicago, Spring 2008 - “Introduction to Constructive Studies”. Included leading a class discussion once a week required of all entering M.A. students

**Lecturer**, University of Chicago, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Spring 2010 – Second year Tibetan

**Lecturer**, University of Chicago, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Spring 2006 – First year Tibetan

**Language Assistant**, University of Chicago, Romance Languages and Literature, 2007-2014 – French  
Led class discussions, graded final exams, corrected essays, and met for one on one French conversations

## Publications

### **Articles :**

“Une histoire intellectuelle et exégétique de l’interprétation de *L’Ornement des Réalisations* (*Abhisamayālaṅkāra*) : réflexions sur l’idée de tradition philosophique”, *Revue d’Histoire des Religions*, 231/3 (2014) 349-383.

“Doxography and philosophy: usage and significance of school denominations in Tibetan doctrinal literature”, *Revue d’Études tibétaines*, 22 (2011) 93-119

“Tibet, les frontières introuvables”, *Chantiers politiques*, 2 (2004), 59-66

## **Reviews :**

*The Bhagavad Gita: A Biography*, by Richard H. Davis, Lives of Great Religious Books, in *The Journal of Religion* (under review).

*Groundless Paths: the Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras, The ‘Ornament of Clear Realization’, and Its Commentaries in the Tibetan Nyingma Tradition*, by Karl Brunnhölzl, in *Religious Studies Review*, 40/1, march 2014, 61.

*Gone Beyond: the Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras, The ‘Ornament of Clear Realization’, and Its Commentaries in the Tibetan Kagyü Tradition*, by Karl Brunnhölzl, in *Religious Studies Review*, 40/1, march 2014, 60-61.

*Against a Hindu God*, by P. Patil, in *Revue d’histoire des religions*, 2012, 439-442

*Stairway to Nirvāṇa: a study of the twenty saṃghas based on the works of Tsong Kha pa* by John B. Apple, in *Religious Studies Review*, 36/1, march 2010, 100.

*mTshur ston gZhon nu seng ge: Tshad ma shes rab sgron ma* edited by Pascale Hugon, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 128.4, 2008, 783-784

## **Presentations and Papers**

“Another way into Buddhist philosophy: the path as a philosophical concept”, Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University, New York City, May 2015.

“Spiritual exercises and the Buddhist Path: an exercise in thinking with and against Hadot”, Hadot Conference, Mangalam Center, San Francisco, March 2015.

“The concept of *path* in Buddhist philosophy: finding a way as a selfless person”, University of Dayton, February 2015.

“Ethics and the Buddhist Person: A Defense of Non-Self against Deconstruction from the Perspective of the Path”, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2014.

“The Buddhist case for a compassionate life, or why Buddhists advocate compassion”, Saint Xavier University, Chicago, October 2014.

“Having ‘Power over Knowledge’: appropriation, personhood, and philosophy of mind in the *Abhisamayālaṅkāra* Tradition”, International Association of Buddhist Studies, Wien Universität, Vienna, Austria, August 2014.

“Ethics and the Buddhist self: a defense of non-self against deconstruction”, South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, April 2014.

“Having Power over Knowledge: Theory and Practice in the *Abhisamayālaṅkāra* Tradition”, Buddhist Philosophy Group, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

“Meeting half-way: Haribhadra and Augustine on the concept of path”, Philosophy of Religions Club, University of Chicago, May 2013.

“Towards a comparative and philosophical approach of the notion of ‘Path’: Mimāṃsā, Advaita, and Buddhist perspectives”, Theory and Practice of South Asia workshop, University of Chicago, February 2013.

“A map rather than a trail: the Buddhist path between sequential and non-sequential models in the *Ornament of Realizations*”, American Academy of Religion, annual meeting, Chicago, November 2012.

“Buddhology as Part of Philosophy: *māyoparna* and what the Buddha sees in Haribhadra’s *Ālokā*”, conference “Ways of Knowing”, Harvard Divinity School, October 2012.

“Path and Conceptualization: An Investigation of Vikalpa in the Path of Preparation”, South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, April 2012.

“The Path of Vision in the *Abhisamayālaṅkāra*: gnoseological and soteriological considerations”, Theory and Practice of South Asia workshop, University of Chicago, February 2012.

“Getting a feel of the dead through the living: teaching modern Tibetan in Western universities”, “Looking through the languages: south Asian language study for the liberal arts” conference, Yale University, April 2011.

“Connecting to Insight: the *Nirvedhabhāgīyas* in the *Abhisamayālaṅkāra*”, Buddhist Studies Group, University of Chicago, March 2011.

“Doxography and philosophy: usage and significance of school denominations in Tibetan doctrinal literature”, *International Seminar of Young Tibetologists*, Paris, September 2009.

Respondent in the workshop “Religion and the social” to Urmila Nair on *Sex, Wrath, Metricality and Subjecthood: On the Notion of “Secret” (gsang ba) in the Nechung Scripture* – University of Chicago, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008.

## **Research Experience**

Research in Tibetan communities of India and Nepal in April-May 2005, Summer 2010 and 2011.

**Research Assistant** of Prof. M. Kapstein, University of Chicago, Divinity School, 2009

Included translating texts from Tibetan and establishing drafts for biographies based on Tibetan historical works.

**Cataloguer** for Tibetan volumes, The University of Chicago Library, 2009-2012

In charge of establishing OCLC records for individual works and collections of several hundred volumes.

## **Additional current projects**

Participant in the publication of a two-volume history of Tibetan thought under the direction of Prof. M. Kapstein (CNRS, Paris, France). In charge of the chapter on Sa-skyapa scholars of the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

Translation project of Sa-skyapa Pandita’s *Tshad ma rig gter* with the International Buddhist Academy (Kathmandu, Nepal).

## **Academic Service and Related Activities**

Translator from Tibetan to French or English for various Tibetan teachers including private interviews, general Buddhist teachings and administrative meetings.

Co-founder and co-organizer of the Buddhist Studies Group of the University of Chicago (2007-2012)

Tutor for the Tibetan community at the Tibetan Alliance of Chicago (Fall 2008-2010)

## **Grants and Fellowships**

Harper Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2012-2013.

Alma Wilson Lectureship, University of Chicago, 2012-2013 (declined)

Martin Marty Center Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2010-2011

Committee of South Asian Studies Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2007-2012

## **Professional Affiliations**

American Academy of Religion, Société Asiatique (by nomination - Paris), International Association of Buddhist Studies, American Philosophical Association.

## **Languages**

English (fluent)

French (native speaker)

Tibetan (advanced reading and speaking proficiency)

Sanskrit (advanced reading proficiency)

German (intermediate reading proficiency)

Ancient Greek (intermediate reading proficiency)

Latin (intermediate reading proficiency)

## **References**

Prof. Matthew T. Kapstein (PhD supervisor), Numata Visiting Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and the History of Religions (The University of Chicago Divinity School), Directeur d'Études (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris), [mkapstei@uchicago.edu](mailto:mkapstei@uchicago.edu)

Prof. Daniel Arnold (dissertation reader), Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Associate Faculty in South Asian Languages and Civilizations (The University of Chicago Divinity School), [daarnold@midway.uchicago.edu](mailto:daarnold@midway.uchicago.edu)

Prof. Gary Tubb (dissertation reader), Professor, Faculty Director of the University of Chicago Center in Delhi (Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago), [tubb@uchicago.edu](mailto:tubb@uchicago.edu)

Prof. Ryan Coyne, Assistant Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology (The University of Chicago Divinity School), rcoyne@uchicago.edu

Prof. Margaret Mitchell Dean and Shailer Mathews Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature (The University of Chicago Divinity School), mmmitche@uchicago.edu

Prof. Richard Rosengarten, Associate Professor of Religion and Literature (The University of Chicago Divinity School), raroseng@uchicago.edu

Prof. Jason Aleksander, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy (Saint Xavier University), aleksander@sxu.edu