

# ALICIA TURNER

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## EDUCATION

**The University of Chicago**, Divinity School, Ph.D. *History of Religions*, expected Aug 2008

Dissertation: **“Buddhism, Colonialism and the Boundaries of Religion:  
Theravada Buddhism in Burma 1885-1920”**

Advisors: Bruce Lincoln and Steven Collins

**The University of Chicago**, Divinity School, M.A. *History of Religions*, 2000

**Kalamazoo College**, B.A. *Religion, Women’s Studies Minor* 1997

## DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS

History of Religions: Religion, Colonialism and Nationalism

History of Religions: Buddhism

History of Religions: Contemporary Theory

Anthropology and Sociology of Religions: Theories of Religion and Methods of Comparison

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Committee on Southern Asian Studies Fellowship, 2007-8

Martin Marty Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion Fellowship, 2006-7

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2005

Wabash Fellow: Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion, 2003-4

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Burmese, 2003, 2001

University of Chicago Divinity School Fellowship 1998-2002

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Visiting Instructor**, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI

- ***Women in Asian Religions***, Spring 2007, Autumn 2007 A thematic course exploring relationships between women’s social status and their engagements with Buddhist and Hindu traditions. Developed syllabus, taught course and guided research projects for twenty-five students including senior religion majors.
- ***Religions of Asia***, Autumn 2007 Introductory survey course covering Hinduism, Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism and Shinto. Used current events to develop skills in analyzing the role of religious discourse in politics and media. Developed syllabus and taught course for thirty non-majors.
- ***Buddhism in South Asia*** Spring 2008 Intermediate level course dealing with the history of Theravada Buddhism and its contemporary practice. Explores issues of colonialism and Buddhist approaches to modernity, meditation movements and female monasticism. Designed syllabus with existing course description.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)**

**Adjunct Instructor**, Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

- *Religions of Asia Spring 2006* Introductory survey course exploring five religious traditions in South and Southeast Asia. Assignments included discussion, exams and analytical essays. Designed course within departmental parameters and taught two sections of forty students each.

### **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

“Monks, Schools, Morals and Manners: Burmese Buddhist Engagements with a Colonial Category of Religion,” presented at The Politics of Religion-Making, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, October 4-6, 2007, longer version under consideration for an edited volume.

“Peace, Scholarship and Disciplinary Limits: Postcolonial Potential and Problems of the Study of Religion,” forthcoming in *Religion*.

Review of, *Karaoke Fascism: Burma and the Politics of Fear*, by Monique Skidmore, *SOAS Bulletin of Burma Research*, 4, no. 2 (Autumn 2006) 85-6.

“Before the YMBA,” presented at Communities of Interpretation, Burma Studies Conference, Singapore, July 13, 2006.

“The Shoe and the Shikho,” paper presented at the Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Dominican University, River Forest, IL April 1, 2006.

“Subaltern Concerts and Carnival Game Religion,” presented at Identity and Change in Southeast Asia, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, March 2002.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Managing Editor, *The Journal of Burma Studies*, Southeast Asia Publications, 2007- present

Steering Committee, Religion and Colonialism Consultation, American Academy of Religion, 2006-present

Co-organizer, panel, “Buddhism in Burma and Beyond: Religion as a Lens for the Study of Southeast Asia,” for the Association for Asian Studies Meeting, March 2007.

### **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Editorial Assistant, *History of Religions* journal, University of Chicago Press 2002-4

Research Assistant, Professor Saba Mahmood, University of Chicago Divinity School 2002-3

**TEACHING INTERESTS**

Buddhism, Religions of Asia, Hinduism, Religions of Southeast Asia, Religion and Colonialism/Empire, Religion and Nationalism, Gender and Religion, Female Asceticism, Introduction to Religion, Theory and Method in the Study of Religion.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Religion, Colonialism and Nationalism, Critical approaches to the Study of Religion, Theravada Reform and Modernity, Postcolonial Theory, Feminist Theory, Religious Cosmopolitanism and Transnationalism, History of the Study of Religion, Gender in Mainland Southeast Asia.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
Association of Asian Studies  
Burma Studies Group

**LANGUAGES**

Burmese (literary and colloquial)  
Pali  
Reading knowledge of French and German.

**REFERENCES**

Bruce Lincoln, Caroline E Haskell Professor of the History of Religions  
*The University of Chicago Divinity School*  
Steven Collins, Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilization  
*The University of Chicago*  
Michael Charney, Senior Lecturer in the History of South East Asia  
*School of Oriental and African Studies*