

Anand Venkatkrishnan
Assistant Professor
University of Chicago Divinity School
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EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Religion (South Asian Religions). Oct. 2015
M.Phil. in Religion (South Asian Religions), conferred with distinction. Feb. 2013
M.A. in Religion (South Asian Religions). May 2012

Stanford University

B.A. in Classics (Philology), conferred with distinction. June 2010

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Certificates of Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center, Harvard University 2017-2019
Junior Research Fellowship, Balliol College, Oxford 2015-2017
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship 2011-2015
Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University 2010-2015, declined after 2011
Deans' Award for Academic Achievement, Stanford University 2010
James W. Lyons Award for Service, Stanford University 2010
Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society 2010

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

Love in the Time of Scholarship: The Bhāgavata Purāṇa in Indian Intellectual History (book manuscript).

“Hidden Mūrtis: The Sanskrit Students of Radcliffe College.” In *Modern Sanskrit: Dialogues Across Times, Spaces, and Religions*, edited by Finnian Moore Gerety, Laurie Patton, and

Charles Preston. London: Routledge, forthcoming.

with Andrew Ollett, "Plumbing the Depths: Reading Bhavabhūti in Seventeenth-Century Kerala." *Études Asiatique / Asiatische Studien* (forthcoming).

Journal Articles

"Skeletons in the Sanskrit Closet." *Religion Compass* 15.5 (2021): 1-9.

"Leaving Kashi: Sanskrit Knowledge and Cultures of Consumption in 18th C. South India." *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 57.4 (2020): 567-581.

with Rosalind O'Hanlon and Richard David Williams, "Scribal service people in motion: Culture, power, and the politics of mobility in India's long eighteenth century, c. 1680-1820." *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 57.4 (2020): 443-460.

"Philosophy From the Bottom Up: Eknāth's Vernacular Advaita." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 48.1 (2020): 9-21.

"*The River of Ambrosia: An Alternative Commentarial Tradition of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa.*" *Journal of Hindu Studies* 11.1 (2018): 53-66.

"Love in the Time of Scholarship: An Advaita Vedāntin Reads the Bhakti Sūtras." *Journal of Hindu Studies* 8.1 (2015): 139-152.

"Ritual, Reflection, and Religion: The Devas of Banaras." *South Asian History and Culture* 6.1 (January 2015): 147-171.

with Rosalind O'Hanlon and Christopher Minkowski, "Social History in the Study of Indian Intellectual Cultures?" *South Asian History and Culture* 6.1 (January 2015): 1-9.

Book Chapters

"You Came So That We May Live." In *Sensitive Reading: The Pleasures of South Asian Literatures in Translation*, edited by Yigal Bronner and Charles Hallisey, pp. 226-229. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2022.

"Are There Atheists in Potholes? Mīmāṃsakas Debate the Path of Bhakti." In *Regional Communities of Devotion in South Asia: Insiders, Outsiders, and Interlopers*, edited by Gil Ben-Herut, Jon Keune, and Anne Monius, pp. 177-191. London: Routledge, 2020.

Edited Volumes

Co-editor, *Scholar Intellectuals in Early Modern India* (London: Routledge, 2015).

Book Reviews

“*Translating Wisdom: Hindu-Muslim Intellectual Interactions in Early Modern South Asia*,”
Journal of Islamic Studies 33.1 (2022): 117-119.

“*Hindu Pluralism: Religion and the Public Sphere in Early Modern South India*,” *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, forthcoming.

“*A Vaiṣṇava Poet in Early Modern Bengal: Kavikarṇapūra’s Splendour of Speech*,” *Journal of Religion* 101.4 (2021): 550-551.

“*The Pariah Problem: Caste, Religion, and the Social in Modern India*,” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 8.3 (2015): 338-340.

“*Periodization and Historiography of Indian Philosophy*,” *Philosophy East and West* 65.2 (2015): 604-610.

“*Liturgy of Liberation: A Christian Commentary on Shankara’s Upadeśasāhasrī*,” *Toronto Journal of Theology* 30.2 (2014): 331-332.

TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

Assistant Professor

Fall 2019-

Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Divinity School, including Hinduism, Contemporary Topics in the Study of South Asian Religion, Classical Theories of Religion, Indian Philosophy, and Philosophy and Literature in India.

Harvard University

Preceptor

Fall 2017-Spring 2019

Taught Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced courses in Sanskrit in the Department of South Asian Studies. Conducted independent readings and helped supervise graduate student dissertation projects.

Columbia University

Lecturer

Spring 2015

Taught seminar course “Language and Religion in South Asia” in Religion Department. Designed syllabus, facilitated discussion, monitored responses, and graded final papers.

Lecturer

Spring 2014

Taught “Intermediate Sanskrit II” in Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS). Directed readings in *Hitopadeśa* and *Uttararāmacarita*. Composed and graded midterms and exams.

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2012

Assisted John Stratton Hawley in his introductory course “Hinduism.” Helped compose curriculum and exams. Delivered two-day lecture on Śaṅkara and Vedānta [<http://vimeo.com/36418959> (Password: Barnard)]. Led two individual discussion sections twice a month. Graded written assignments and exams.

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2011

Assisted Robert F. Thurman in his course “Indo-Tibetan Buddhism.” Led weekly discussion sections. Graded and administered written assignments and exams.

Rutgers University

Adjunct Instructor

Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

Taught “Elementary Sanskrit I & II” in the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures. Designed syllabus and supplementary material, including electronic and audio exercises for blind student. Composed and graded written assignments and exams.

SUNY Stony Brook

Adjunct Lecturer

Spring 2013

Taught introductory course “Hinduism: Tradition and Dissent” in Department of Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS): a comprehensive historical survey of Hindu religious, philosophical, and political traditions. Designed syllabus and lectures. Composed and graded written assignments and exams.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Sensitive Readings: Nārāyaṇa and the Art of Commentary in Premodern Kerala.” Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Oct. 21, 2021.

“Bhakti and Mukti: Literature and Liberation in Sixteenth-Century Kerala.” Department of

South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Oct. 26, 2020.

“The Study of Sanskrit and the American Caste System.” University Seminar on South Asia. Columbia University. Jan. 27, 2019.

“*Hum Hain Naye, Andaz Kyun Ho Purana?* Hermeneutical Innovations in Prakāśātman’s *Pañcapādikāvivarāṇa*.” Age of Vedanta Conference, Stanford University. Nov. 15, 2019

“Won’t You Say You Love Me Too? Śaiva Devotion for Viṣṇu in Medieval Kerala.” American Academy of Religion. Denver, Colorado, Nov. 19, 2018.

“The Hermit, The Harlot, and the Holy Roller: Deep Reading in 17th-Century Kerala.” Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Oct. 13, 2018.

“Vedānta From the Bottom Up: Eknāth’s Hastāmalaka Stotra.” World Sanskrit Conference. University of British Columbia. July 11, 2018.

“*Khana Khazana: Brahmins, Scholars, and Cooks in the Long 18th Century*.” Oxford Early Modern South Asia Workshop. Oxford University, June 2, 2017.

“Love in the Time of Scholarship: Religious Intellectuals in Early Modern India.” (Dis)entangling Global Early Modernities Workshop. Harvard University, March 24, 2017.

“Who Owns the Bhāgavata Purāṇa?” Keynote Address, Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Conference. University of Madras, January 6, 2017.

“From Godless to Gītā: Mīmāṃsā in Early Modern India.” Critical Philology Symposium. Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, Aug. 19, 2016.

“Bhakti on the Move: The *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* in Medieval History.” American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA, Nov. 24, 2014.

“The Chronicle of Hired Education: Self-Interested Scholarship and Religious Rhetoric in Early Modern Banaras.” Conference on the Study of Religions in India, Butler University. Indianapolis, IN, June 28, 2014.

“God’s Name on Any Lips: The Chequered Career of the *Bhagavannāmakāumudī*.” American Academy of Religion. Baltimore, MD, Nov. 23, 2013.

“Ritual, Reflection, and Religion: The Devas of Banaras.” Oxford Early Modern South Asia Workshop. Oxford University, May 31, 2013.

LANGUAGES

Advanced: Sanskrit, Tamil (native fluency), Spanish

Reading: Hindi, German, Greek, Latin

Basic: Persian, Urdu, Malayalam

Indic Scripts: Nagari, Sharada, Newari, Grantha