

# Paride Stortini

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Chicago, IL, 60615  
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## EDUCATION

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### 2013 **The University of Chicago**

PhD candidate in the History of Religions, Divinity School  
Expected degree: summer 2021

Dissertation title: *The Language of the Gods in the Land of the Kami. Sanskrit, Indology and Modernity in Japanese Buddhism*

Dissertation committee: James Ketelaar, Wendy Doniger, Paul Copp, Richard Jaffe

### 2010 **University of Padua & Ca' Foscari University of Venice joint degree** (Italy)

M.A. Religious Studies, focus on Asian Religions

### 2007 **Ca' Foscari University of Venice** (Italy)

B.A. East Asian Languages and Civilizations

## AREAS OF TEACHING EXPERTISE

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Primary: Japanese Religions, Buddhism, Theories and Method in the Study of Religion, Colonialism and Religion, Postcolonial Theory

Secondary: East Asian History and Religions, South Asian Religions, Chinese Religions, Visual and Material Culture of Religion, Modern Intellectual History

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Articles in peer-reviewed journals:

- "Between Tradition and Revolution: Political Appropriations of Japanese Buddhism in Italy" in *Journal of Religion in Japan* (accepted, forthcoming).

- "Materializing Buddhist Memories: Objects and Images of the Silk Road in Hirayama Ikuo and Yakushiji temple" in *Japanese Religions* 43, n. 1&2 (2018): 121–144.

### Contributions to edited volumes:

- "Following the Footsteps of Shakyamuni: Nanjo Bunyu's Travel to India" in *Buddhism in Indo-Japanese Cultural Relations*, Routledge (forthcoming edited volume).

- "Tsukiji Honganji: India and the Aesthetics of Buddhist Modernism in Japan" in *Handbook of Japanese Religions*, Bloomsbury (forthcoming).

- "Imagining a Cosmopolitan Homeland. India and Buddhism in the Silk Road Imaginary of Hirayama Ikuo," in *Proceedings of the Conference on Indian Inputs to Central Asian Art and Culture*, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (forthcoming edited volume).

- "Nanjō Bunyū's Sanskritization of Buddhist studies in Modern Japan" in *Buddhism in the Global Eye. Beyond East and West*, edited by John Harding, Victor Hori, and Alexander Soucy, 137–149. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.

- "Ancestor." In *A Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Charles Taliaferro and Elsa J. Marty. New York: Bloomsbury, 2018.

- second author in Kazunori Iwagami, "Takakusu Junjirō (1866–1945): Buddhist Idealist, Scholar and Educator," in *Britain & Japan: Biographical Portraits*, vol. 10 edited by Hugh Cortazzi, 2016.

- "Doi Masatoshi: storia, significato e dialogo nell'esperienza di un teologo giapponese osservatore al Concilio Vaticano II" [Doi Masatoshi: History, Meaning and Dialogue in the Experience of a Japanese Theologian Observer at the Second Vatican Council], in *Colloquia Mediterranea*, 4/1, 2014.

- "La presenza del Buddhismo in Italia: la storia e il presente" [The Presence of Buddhism in Italy: History and Present], in *Quaderni italiani di cultura*, Trauben – Trinity College Dublin, 9, 2012.

### **Book reviews:**

- book review of *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan*, by Jolyon B. Thomas, in *The Journal of Religion* (forthcoming).

- book review of *Against Harmony: Progressive and Radical Buddhism in Modern Japan*, by James M. Shields, in *Religion* 48, n. 4 (2018): 743–746.

- book review of *Shimaji Mokurai and the Reconceptation of Religion and the Secular in Modern Japan*, by Hans Martin Krämer, in *Japanese Religions* Vol. 39 (2017): 89–93.

### **Articles published online:**

- "Bibliografia sul Buddhismo in Italia" [Buddhism in Italy: a Bibliography], in *Carte Allineate*, online journal edited by R. Bertoni, <http://cartescoperterecensionietesti.blogspot.it/2012/10/paride-stortinibibliografia-sul.html> (10/17/2012).

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

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2020-21 Toyota Dissertation Fellowship

2019-20 Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion Fellowship

2019-20 Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship at the University of Chicago

2019-20 Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, Dissertation research fellowship

2018 Committee on Southern Asian Studies, University of Chicago, Sanskrit language study grant

2017 Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago, Pre-Dissertation Research Grant

2015 Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago, Professional training grant

2014-15 Nippon Foundation Fellowship

2013-19 University of Chicago Graduate Student Fellowship

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

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### **Invited talks and presentations**

2019 “The Silk Road in post-WWII Japanese religious imagery: Hirayama Ikuo’s art and activism and Yakushiji temple,” Center for Religious Studies of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, July 2019.

2018 “Imagining a Cosmopolitan Homeland: India and Buddhism in the Silk Road Imaginary of Hirayama Ikuo,” Invited Presentation at the Conference “Indian Contribution to Central Asian Art and Culture”, Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, Delhi, India.

### **Panels organized**

2021 “Japan and the Others: Islam, India, and Christianity in the Construction of Modern Japanese Identity,” European Association for Japanese Studies conference, Ghent, Belgium, August 2021 (postponed from 2020, panel accepted and confirmed).

2020 “Buddhism, Racism and Xenophobia across Continents,” American Academy of Religion conference, online, December 2020 (panel accepted and confirmed).

2020 “Materializing Memory in Contemporary Japanese Religions,” Association for Asian Studies conference, Boston, March 2020 (panel accepted but conference cancelled for pandemic).

2019 “Rethinking Buddhism and Modernity in Meiji Japan,” European Association for the Study of Religion Conference, Tartu University, Estonia, June 2019.

2016 “De-Centering and Re-Centering India and Sanskrit: Translation and Canonization in Three Cases of Japanese Buddhist Scholarship, 1700–1945,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, November 2016.

### **Conference presentations**

2020 “Reimagining Modernity through Ancient Indian Art: Japanese Buddhists and the Ajanta Caves,” College Art Association annual conference, Chicago, February 2020.

2019 “Between Tradition and Revolution: Political Appropriations of Japanese Buddhism in Italy,” Japanese Buddhism in Europe workshop, University of Aarhus, Denmark, November 2019.

2019 “The Language of Public Buddhism: Sanskrit, Indology and the Place of Buddhist Studies in the Public Sphere of Meiji Japan,” American Academy of Religion national conference, San Diego, November 2019.

2019 “Indology as a Critical Tool to Think Modernity in Japan,” International Japanese Philosophy Conference at the University of Hawai’i Manoa, October 2019.

2019 “Displaying Religion as Shared Cultural Heritage: Buddhism and the Silk Road in the Art and Collections of Hirayama Ikuo,” International Society for the Sociology of Religion conference, Barcelona, July 2019.

2019 “Indology and Modernity in Japanese Buddhism,” presented in Japanese at the Buddhism and Modernity Workshop, Ryūkoku University, Kyoto, May 2019.

2017 “The Silk Road as the Way Home: Trauma, Memory and Buddhism in the Art and Activism of Hirayama Ikuo,” American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2017.

2017 “Promulgating the Law through History: What is Modern in Nanjō Bunyū’s *A Short History of the Twelve Japanese Buddhist Sects?*”, International Association of Buddhist Studies Congress, Toronto, August 2017.

2017 “Following the Footsteps of Shakyamuni: Nanjō Bunyū’s Travel to India,” Samutthan-Japan Foundation Conference on Buddhism in India-Japan Relations, New Delhi, April 2017.

- 2016 “Competing Universalizations: Nanjō Bunyū’s Redeployment of Max Müller’s Ideas on Religion, Christianity and Buddhism,” Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, August 2016.
- 2016 “Universalizing the Particular: Nanjō Bunyū and the Sanskritization of Modern Japanese Buddhism,” presented in Japanese at the Seminar for the Study of Japanese Religion and Culture, Center for Information on Religion, Tokyo, June 2016.
- 2015 “East and West of the Tsukiji Honganji. Travel and the Construction of a Modern Buddhist Temple,” presented in Japanese at Seminar for Graduate Students in Japanese Religions, Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, May 2015.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2020 Summer      Instructor at the University of Chicago Graham School for Continuing Studies, Liberal Arts program, course on Buddhism and the West (taught online)
- 2020 Spring      Wilson Fellow Instructor at the College, University of Chicago, course on Buddhism and Modernity (taught online)
- 2020 Winter      Writing Intern in the Humanities Core, University of Chicago
- 2017-2020      Various guest lectures in Buddhist studies and Religious studies for undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Chicago, DePaul University, and University of Padua (in 2010)
- 2017 Autumn      Teaching assistant for East Asian Civilizations: Japan course, University of Chicago
- 2017 Spring      Teaching assistant for Traditional East Asian Literature, University of Chicago
- 2016 Autumn      Teaching assistant in Classical Theories in Religion, University of Chicago
- 2012–14          English teaching experiences in Italy and Japan
- 2011–12          Italian Language teaching assistant, Colgate University, Hamilton (NY), U.S.A.

### **Pedagogical training**

- 2020 autumn      Planned completion of the University of Chicago College Teaching Certificate
- 2020 spring      Remote teaching pedagogy, Chicago Center for Teaching
- 2019              Divinity School Craft of Teaching Certificate completion
- 2017-18          Pedagogy workshops in East Asian studies and History
- Courses in College course design and teaching writing, Chicago Center for Teaching

### **Relevant professional experience and academic service**

- 2018–2020      Proposer and organizer of guest lectures, workshops, and book presentations with the University of Chicago Center for East Asian Studies, Divinity School, and Seminary Coop Bookstore
- 2020              Student consultant for Committee on Degrees, Divinity School
- 2015–2018      Editorial assistant, *History of Religions* journal, The University of Chicago Press
- 2011              Internship at the Italian Cultural Institute, London
- 2011              Internship at the Embassy of Italy, Tokyo
- 2010–11          Internship at sales and marketing company, East Asian markets focus

## LANGUAGES

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Advanced: Japanese, French, Italian

Reading: Classical Japanese, Sino-Japanese *kanbun*, German

Basic: Sanskrit

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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American Academy of Religion (since 2015)

International Association for Buddhist Studies (since 2016)

Association for Asian Studies (since 2019)

College Art Association (since 2019)

European Association for the Study of Religion (since 2019)

International Society for the Sociology of Religion (since 2019)

International Association for Japanese Philosophy (since 2019)

## REFERENCES

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Wendy Doniger

Mircea Eliade Distinguished  
Service Professor Emerita of the  
History of Religions

The University of Chicago  
Divinity School

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James Ketelaar

Professor of Japanese History,  
East Asian Languages and  
Civilizations, and the College

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Paul Copp

Associate Professor in Chinese  
Religion and Thought, East  
Asian Languages and  
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