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INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

RESEARCH FELLOW, TRANSCENDENCE AND TRANSFORMATION  
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## EDUCATION

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2016	Rice University	Ph.D., Department of Religion
2013	Rice University	M.A., Department of Religion
2003	Symbiosis University, India	M.B.A
2000	Hannover University, Germany	P.G.D., Gender and Work
1998	Delhi University, India	M.A., Buddhist Studies
1995	Delhi University, India	B.A., English Literature

## TEACHING

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2022-	Research Associate, Transcendence and Transformation, <b>Harvard University.</b>
2022-	Instructional Assistant Professor, <b>University of Houston.</b>
2020-2022	Lecturer, Hindu Traditions, <b>Harvard University.</b>
2017-2021	Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religion, <b>University of North Carolina-Wilmington.</b>
2018-2019	Lecturer, Global Humanities and Religions College of Humanities and Sciences, <b>University of Montana Liberal Arts.</b>
2014-2016	Lecturer, Department of Religion, <b>Rice University.</b>
2012-2013	Department of Religious Studies, <b>University of Houston.</b>

2005-2007 Department of International Studies, **Dalian Neusoft University of Information**, P.R. China.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2024 Co-written, *The Serpent's Tale: Kuṇḍalinī and the History of an Experience*, University of Columbia Press, forthcoming.
- 2024 Co-edited volume, *Transforming the Classroom: Embodied Pedagogies in the Study of Religion*, Routledge, forthcoming.
- 2023 Co-edited volume, *Religious Responses to Pandemic & Crises: Isolation, Survival, and #Covidchaos*, Routledge, forthcoming.
- 2023 Co-edited volume, *Living Folk Religions*, Routledge, forthcoming.
- 2023 Book Chapter, "From the Fringes to the Center Stage: *Hijrās* and Fertility Rituals in Kāmākhya," in *The Oxford Handbook of Tantric Studies*, OUP.
- 2023 Book Chapter, "WhatsApp Bagalāmukhī: Experiences Deemed Religious" *The Ethnography of Tantra: Textures and Contexts of Living Tantric Traditions*, SUNY, forthcoming.
- 2022 Co-editor for the special issue *Digital Tantra, International Journal of Hindu Studies* (Springer Link).
- 2021 Book Chapter, "The Yogic Body in Global Transmission," in *The Handbook of Yoga and Meditation Studies*, Routledge.
- 2020 Book Chapter, "Taming Hindu Śakta Tantra on the Internet: Online Pūjās for the Goddess Tripurasundarī," in *Digital Hinduism*, Routledge.
- 2019 Editor for the special issue *Out for Blood: Sacrifice, Tantra, and Normative Hinduism, International Journal of Hindu Studies* (Springer Link), 21 June 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11407-019-09256-1>.
- "Red: An Ethnographic Study of Cross-Pollination between the Vedic and the Tantric," *International Journal of Hindu Studies* (Springer Link), 21 June 2019, [10.1007/s11407-019-09258-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11407-019-09258-z).
- 2018 "The Dead Speak: A Case Study from the Tiwa Tribe Highlighting the Hybrid World of Śakta Tantra in Assam." *Religions* 2017, 8, 221; doi:10.3390/rel8100221.

“Menstruation: Pollutant to Potent,” *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions: Hinduism and Tribal Religions*, ed. Arvind Sharma, Springer; 10.1007/978-94-024-1036-5\_481-1.

2015 “The Ancient Elusive Serpent in Modern Times: The Practice of Kuṇḍalinī in Kāmākhya,” *International Journal of Dharma Studies*; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8589-1871>

Book review of Steven Lindquist ed., *Religion, and Identity in South Asia and Beyond: Essays in Honor of Patrick Olivelle*, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 19 (3).

Book review of Jeaneane Fowler, *Hinduism Beliefs & Practice: Major Deities and Social Structures*, Vol. I, in *Journal of Hindu Studies* 8 (7).

2014 “Hinduism,” for accompanying website for Jeffrey J. Kripal, with Ata Anzali, Andrea Jain, and Erin Prophet, *Comparing Religions: Coming to Terms*, (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell), 2014.

Book Review of Christopher Partridge, ed., *Introduction to World Religions*, in *Religious Studies Review* 40 (2).

Book Review of Jeffrey Brodd, Layne Little, Bradley Nystrom, Robert Platzner, Richard Shek and Erin Stiles, *Invitation to World Religions*, in *Religious Studies Review* 40 (2).

#### WORKS IN PROGRESS

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2024-25 *Divinized Divas: Superwomen, Wives, Hijrās in Hindu Śākta Tantra*

#### AWARDS

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2023- Research Associate, Transcendence and Transformation, Harvard University.

2022-2023 Post Doctoral Fellow, Transcendence and Transformation, Harvard University.

2020-2022 Teaching Fellowship, Hindu Traditions, Harvard University.  
2021 Recognition for making a difference in students' lives, University of North Carolina Wilmington (Spring as well as fall semester).

2017 Teaching Fellowship, Asian Religions, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS. (Declined due to personal reasons).

2017 United Nations Human Rights Commission, Geneva, in the role  
Witchcraft and Human Rights Expert focused on religion and sacrifice  
in Assam, India.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Hindi (native speaker & fluent reading)  
Assamese and Bengali (native speaker & basic reading)  
Sanskrit (advanced reading)  
French and German (basic reading)

## SERVICE

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2020- Board of Trustees (elected), Esalen Institute.  
2015-2022 Co-Chair (elected), Yoga in Theory and Practice, Section of the  
American Academy of Religion.  
2015-2022 Member of the Steering Committee (elected), Tantric Studies Group,  
Section of the American Academy of Religion.

## CORPORATE EXPERIENCE

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2003-2005 Head Customer Service, Manhattan Cards, Standard Chartered Bank,  
India.  
2000-2003 Manager, Corporate Human Resource Development, Wipro Limited,  
India.  
1998 - 2000 Assistant Manager, Corporate Human Resources and Training, GE  
Capital International, India.  
1995 - 1998 Gender Training Institute, India