

DR. SRAVANA BORKATAKY-VARMA
VISITING/ PART TIME FACULTY: University of North Carolina-Wilmington
INSTRUCTOR: Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, Rice University &
The Women's Institute of Houston
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EDUCATION

2016	Rice University	Ph.D., Department of Religion “In the Tea-light of Tantra: An Ethnographic Study of <i>Kuṇḍalinī</i> Rising in Women’s Bodies.” Advisor: Jeffrey J. Kripal. Committee: William B. Parsons, Elora Shehabuddin, Hugh B. Urban
2013	Rice University	M.A., Department of Religion
2003	Symbiosis Center for Distance Learning	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

LANGUAGES

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

TEACHING

VISITING/ PART TIME FACULTY TEACHING UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Spring 2017-	Department of Philosophy and Religion University of North Carolina-Wilmington Courses: <i>Asian Religions</i> , <i>Religions from India</i> , <i>Introduction to Religions</i> , <i>Great Books of the World's Religion</i> , <i>Gurus and Spiritual but Not Religious in the USA</i> . Hybrid course format . 100, 200, 300 level courses. Class sizes are between 20-40 undergraduate students.
2018-2019	Global Humanities and Religions College of Humanities and Sciences University of Montana Liberal Arts <i>History of Yoga East and West</i> and <i>Introduction to Buddhism</i> . Hybrid course format . 200, 300 level courses. Class sizes are between 10-50 undergraduate students.

- 2014-2016 Lecturer, Department of Religion
Rice University
Courses: *Religions from India*, and TA for *Introduction to the Study of Religion*.
- 2012-2013 Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies
University of Houston
Course Taught: *Introduction to Asian Religions*.
- 2005-2007 Lecturer, Department of International Studies
DaLian Neusoft University, P.R. China
Course Taught: *Effective Communications*.

INSTRUCTOR TEACHING COURSES TO STUDENTS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Fall 2018- Instructor, The Women's Institute of Houston
The Silk Road: Seven Religions of the East, Men in Yellow Hats, Bollywood: Society, Culture and Religion.
- 2013- Instructor, Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
Rice University.
Living Hinduism: Lessons for People of all Faith, Seven Religions of the East, The Eight Limbs of Yoga: Effort and Surrender, The Dalai Lamas: Reincarnation and Buddhism, Religion and Bollywood, Seeking India: A Cultural Journey, Hindu: Goddesses, Gods, and Gurus.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 - Book Chapter, "The Yogic Body in Global Transmission," in *The Handbook of Yoga and Meditation Studies*, Routledge, forthcoming.
- Book Chapter, "Taming Hindu Śākta Tantra on the Internet: Online Pūjās for the Goddess Tripurasundarī," in *Digital Hinduism*, Routledge, forthcoming.
- 2017-18 - "The Dead Speak: A Case Study from the Tiwa Tribe Highlighting the Hybrid World of Śākta 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.
- "Red: An Ethnographic Study of Cross-Pollination between the Vedic and the Tantric," *International Journal of Hindu Studies* (Springer Link), forthcoming.

- Editor for the special issue “Out for Blood: Sacrifice, Tantra, and Normative Hinduism,” *International Journal of Hindu Studies* (Springer Link), forthcoming.
- 2015
 - “The Ancient Elusive Serpent in Modern Times: The Practice of *Kuṇḍalinī* in *Kāmākhyā*,” *International Journal of Dharma and Hindu Studies*.
 - 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).

AWARDS

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019
 - “Heads Roll: Hindu Shakta Tantra and Witch Violence,” Lancaster University, UK.
 - “Yoga, Chakras, and *Kuṇḍalinī*: A Journey from *Śākta* Temples to Streaming Services,” SOAS, London, UK.
 - WhatsApp Bagalā!,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego.
- 2018
 - “*Kāmākhyā* and *Śrī Vidyā*: Changing Landscape of *Śākta* Tantra,” Sanchi University, India.
 - “Clash of Om Hari and Om Kring! Satra and Tantra Politics in Assam,” American Academy of Religion Conference, Denver.
 - “Enchantments: Tantra, Magic, and the liminal in Assam,” South Asia Conference, Madison.
- 2017
 - “Intersection of Witchcraft and Religion in Assam,” United Nations Witchcraft and Human Rights Experts Workshop, Geneva.
 - “The Dead Speak: A Case Study from the Tiwa Tribe Highlighting the Hybrid World of *Śākta* Tantra in Assam,” South Asia Conference, Madison.

- "From Roots to More: Perspectives on James Mallinson and Mark Singleton's *Roots of Yoga* (Penguin Classics, 2017)," Round table, American Academy of Religion Conference, Boston.
- 2016
 - "The Dead Speak: A Case Study from the Tiwa Tribe Highlighting the Hybrid World of *Śākta* Tantra in Assam, Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Arizona.
 - "*Kuṇḍalinī* Yoga and Women: *Śākta* Temples to Streaming Services," International Academic Conference, *Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana: Traditions, Transmissions, Transformations*, Krakow.
- 2015
 - "Spells: Intersection of Magic with Tantra in Assam," American Academy of Religion Conference, Atlanta.
 - "Stirring the Tea Pot: Saffron vs. Red," American Academy of Religion Conference, Atlanta.
 - "Imagination in the Rising of the Serpent," Esalen Institute, California.
 - "Speaking to the Female Serpent," Esalen Institute, California.
 - "Raising the Serpent: Hatha Yoga and Kundalini," Texas Yoga Conference.
- 2014
 - "Red: An Ethnographic Study of Cross-Pollination of Vedic and Tantric in Shakta Assam," American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego.
 - "Speaking to the Female Serpent- Ethnographic Study of Kundalini Rising in Woman's Body," American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego.
- 2013
 - "Interlocutor of the Two Worlds: An Ethnographic Study of Siddhis, Mediums and Mystics," South West Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2015-present Co-Chair (elected)
Yoga in Theory and Practice, Section of the American Academy of Religion
 - Responsibilities include: Playing a leadership role by highlighting special topics, setting up sessions of invited guests, submitting the unit's call for papers to evaluation of proposals, final selection of presenters, and organizing Annual Meeting Sessions.
- 2015-present Member of the Steering Committee (nominated)
Tantric Studies Group, Section of the American Academy of Religion
 - The main responsibility of the steering committee member is to review the paper and session submissions that the group receives each spring for the AAR Annual Meeting. Steering committee members also attend the business meeting.