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Associate Professor, Institute of Ethnology
Göttingen University
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37073 Göttingen, Germany

EDUCATION

- 1998** **Ph.D. Social Anthropology. Harvard University.**
Dissertation: *An Economy of Merit: Women and Buddhist Monasticism in Zangskar, Northwest India.*
- 1995** **M.A. Social Anthropology. Harvard University.**
- 1988** **B.A. *Magna Cum Laude*. Social Studies. Harvard University.** Undergraduate thesis: "The Relationship Between Gender, Caste, and Education in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal"

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2010-** **Associate Professor, Institute of Ethnology. Göttingen University.**
Affiliated with Center for Modern Indian Studies (CEMIS).
- 2003-** **Lecturer, Williams College, Department of Anthropology and Department of Religion,.**
Affiliated with the Women's and Gender Studies (Advisory Committee), Public Health Program (Advisory Board), Asian Studies.
- 2002-03** **Wesleyan University, Department of Religion, Visiting Assistant Professor.**
- 2000-02** **Brandeis University, Department of Anthropology, Mellon Fellow in Religious Studies.**
Developed and taught in the new Program in Religious Studies.
- 1997-2000** **Junior Fellow, Harvard University. Society of Fellows.**

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2004** ***Being a Buddhist Nun: The Struggle for Enlightenment in the Himalayas.***
Harvard University Press, 2004.
** Winner: Sharon Stephen's Book Prize, American Ethnological Society, 2005.
** Honorable Mention: Elli Köngas-Miranda Prize, Women's Section of the American Folklore Society. Reviewed in: *Times Literary Supplement*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Women's Review of Books*, *American Anthropologist*, *History of Religions*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*.

In progress *Birth: From Home to Hospital and Back Home Again.*

An ethnography that examines the globalization of both the medical and midwifery models of birth and the related shifts of birth between home to hospital in India and rural New England.

PEER REVIEWED ESSAYS

In press **The Practice of Tibetan Medicine in Zangskar: A Case of Wind Disorder.** Forthcoming in *Healing at the Periphery: Ethnographies of Tibetan Medicine in India*. Laurent Pordie, ed. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.

2010 **The Medicalization of Birth in Ladakh: An Encounter Between Biomedicine and Buddhism.** Forthcoming in *Medicine Between Science and Religion: Explorations on Tibetan Grounds*. Vincanne Adams, Mona Schrempf, and Sienna Craig, eds. London: Berghahn Press.

2009 **Monasteres de village au Zangskar.** French Translation of 'How Buddhist Renunciation Produces Difference'. In *La vie monastique au miroir de la parenté*, eds. G. Krauskopff and A. Herrou. Paris: L'Harmattan.

2006 **The Politics of Being Buddhist in Zangskar: Partition and Today.** *India Review* 5 (3–4): 470–498.

2006 [2007] How Buddhist Renunciation Produces Difference. In *Women's Renunciation in South Asia: Nuns, Yoginis, Saints, and Singers*. Meena Khandelwal, Sondra Hausner, and Ann Grodzins Gold, eds. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Reprinted in New Delhi by Zubaan/Kali for Women in 2007.

2004 **Shamans and Oracles in Ladakh.** In *Encyclopedia of Shamanism*. Mariko Walter and Eva Friedman, eds. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO. 2 volumes.

2003 **A Landscape Dissolved: Households, Fields, and Irrigation in Rinam, Northwest India.** In *Space and Territory in the Buddhist Himalaya*. Niels Gutschow, C. Ramble, and E. Steinkellner, eds. Vienna: Franz Steinkellner.

2002 [2010] The Delusion of Gender and Renunciation in Buddhist Kashmir. In *Everyday Life in South Asia*. Diane Mines and Sarah Lamb, eds. Pp. 261-274. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press. Republished in 2010 by Indiana University Press due to high demand.

2001 **Women Who Refuse to be Exchanged: Nuns in Zangskar, Northwest India.** In *Celibacy, Culture, and Society: The Anthropology of Sexual Abstinence*. Elisa Sobo and Sandra Bell, eds. Pp. 47-64. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

2001 **What Makes a Nun? Apprenticeship and Ritual Passage in Zangskar, North India.** *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 24(2): 187-216.

2000 **Novice Ordination for Nuns: The Rhetoric and Reality of Female Monasticism in Northwest India.** In *Women's Buddhism Buddhism's Women: Tradition, Revision, Renewal*. Ellison Findly, ed. Pp. 103-118. Boston: Wisdom Books.

- 2000** **Yeshe's Tibetan Pilgrimage and the Founding of a Himalayan Nunnery.** In *Innovative Buddhist Women: Swimming Against the Stream*. Karma Lekshe Tsomo, ed. Pp. 212-228. London: Curzon Press.
- 1997** **Un-focused Merit-Making in Zangskar: A Socio-Economic Account of Karsha Nunnery.** *The Tibet Journal* 22(2): 30-58.
- 1995** **The Power of Compassion or The Power of Rhetoric?: A Report on Sakyadhita's 4th International Conference on Buddhist Women.** *Himal* 8(6): 18-21.

OTHER CHAPTERS or ESSAYS

- 2001** **Dry Winters, Dry Summers: Water Shortages in Zangskar.** Co-authored with Seb Mankelov. *Ladakh Studies* Vol. 15: 28-32.
- 1999** **The *Smyung Gnas* Fast in Zangskar, Northwest India: How Liminality Depends on Structure.** In *Ladakh: Culture, History, and Development Between Himalaya and Karakorum*. Martijn van Beek and Kristoffer Bertelsen, eds. Pp. 153-173. Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.
- 1998** **Hydrologic in the Western Himalaya: Several Case Studies From Zangskar.** In *Culture Area Karakorum Studies. Karakorum-Hindukush-Himalaya: Dynamics of Change*. Irmtraud Stellrecht, ed. Pp. 443-473. Köln: Rudiger Köppe Verlag.
- 1997** **A Case of Madness or 'Wind Disorder' in Zangskar.** In *Recent Research on Ladakh* 7. Thierry Dodin and Heinz Räther, eds. Pp. 177-202. Ulm: Ulmerkultur- Anthropologische Schriften, Band 9.
- 1997** **Lords of the Fort, Lords of the Water, and No Lords at All: A Comparison of Irrigation in Three Tibetan Societies.** In *Recent Research on Ladakh* 6. Henry Osmaston and Ngawang Tsering, eds. Pp. 105-116. Bristol: University of Bristol Press.
- 1995** **Kinship in Zangskar: Idiom and Practice.** In *Recent Research on Ladakh* 4 & 5. Henry Osmaston and Phillip Denwood, eds. Pp. 337-349. London: School of African and Oriental Studies.
- 1994** **Reflections From a Nunnery Rooftop.** *Ladags Melong*. 1(1): 21-23. Reprinted in *Sakyadhita* 6(2): 9-11, Fall 1995.

GRANTS & HONORS

- 2008** **Humboldt Fellowship. Heidelberg University, Germany.**
18 month grant to research and write a book on the flow of birth from home to hospital and between medical and midwifery models in the Indian Himalaya and the US.
- 2008** **Faculty Center For Media Technologies. Williams College.**
Archive Z- Phase II. Grant to update Archive Z to 7500 images and attach metadata as well as

launch a pilot of the ethnographic database from India, Nepal, Pakistan.

- 2006 Faculty Center for Media Technologies. Williams College.**
Archive Z-Phase I. Grant to digitize 6500 ethnographic images spanning 19 years of fieldwork on religion, society, and culture in Indian Himalaya, Nepal, and Pakistan.
- 1997-00 Junior Fellow, Harvard University Society of Fellows.** A fellowship to study how biomedicine and Buddhism relate to reproduction and the political economy in Ladakh.
- 2000 Wenner-Gren Research Grant.** To study the social and political dynamics of water allocation in Himalayan Jammu and Kashmir. This project was a finalist for the **MacArthur Foundation's Writing and Research Grants.**
- 1999 Milton Fund, Harvard University.** To research social conflict and power around water and land resources in Ladakh using colonial archives, cartography, and ethnographic methods.
- 1996-97 N.I.H. Predoctoral Research Grant.** To research the relationship between Buddhism, biomedicine, and Tibetan medicine around reproductive health in Ladakh.
- 1996, 1994 Derek Bok Teaching Awards, Harvard University.** For teaching in the Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies Departments.
- 1995 German Research Council Grant.** To study ritual and social practices relating to land, water, power, and the environment in Zangskar.
- 1990-94 Jacob Javits Award.** Sponsored four years of Ph.D. studies at Harvard and research on Buddhist monasticism, gender, and religious identity.
- 1993 Harvard Anthropology Department Research Grant.** To study the relationship between Buddhist rites and monastic authority in Zangskar.
- 1992, 91 Mellon Foundation Research Grants.** To study the Buddhist economy of merit, monasticism, and Tibetan medicine in Zangskar and Ladakh.
- 1988-90 Sheldon Traveling Fellowship.** Two-year study of how refugee culture shapes oral history among Khmer, Laotian, and Vietnamese in Thai camps and Tibetans in Nepal and India.
- 1988 Phi Beta Kappa Award, Harvard University.**
- 1987 Harvard Institute For International Development Summer Research Grant.** Supported fieldwork on gender and education an internship at Winrock International in Nepal.
- 1987 Radcliffe Phi Beta Kappa Summer Research Grant.** Supported three months fieldwork in the Kathmandu Valley on gender, caste, and modernity in Nepal.
- 1984, 85 National Council for Arab-American Relationship Fellowship ('84) and Internship ('85).** Funded study of Arabic language and society at the American University in Cairo.

FILMS & DIGITAL MEDIA

- 1995** **Location expert** for *Behind the Ice Wall*. Provided translation, logistical, and script support for a documentary co-produced by the Discovery Channel, Canal+, and German GEO. Film awarded **First Prize** at Telluride Mountain Film Festival, **Grand Prize** at Banff Mountain Film Festival, **Finalist** at the New York Film Festival.
- 1995** **Anthropologist** for *Rough Road to Zangskar*. Narrator for a documentary film that raised funds for Gaden Relief's Zangskar Project (see Applied Work).
- 1994** **Media Assistant and CD booklet author** for *The Singing Nuns of Chuchikjall*, a digital recording of Buddhist chants that contributes to the GRP Zangskar Project.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2010** **Institute of Ethnology, Göttingen University**
"What Ethnography Can Offer Maternal Health"
- 2009** **Five College Buddhist Studies Forum, Smith College**
"The Buddha's Mother's Death: Buddhism, Birth, and Biomedicine"
- 2009** **Max Planck Institute For the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany**
"The Global in the Local: Buddhism, Birth, and Biomedicine"
- 2008** **Social Science and Humanities Divisions Lecture Series, Williams College**
"Are Hospitals the Safest Place to Give Birth In Rural India? The Globalization of Safe Motherhood in Ladakh"
- 2005** **University of Wisconsin, South Asia Seminar**
"Being a Buddhist Nun: Practice and Theory in Buddhist Studies"
- 2005** **Auburn University, Judy Collins Smith Art Museum Lecture**
"*Being a Buddhist Nun* and Being an Anthropologist in Zangskar"
- 2003** **Williams College, Religion Department Seminar**
"Buddhist Monasticism: In Practice and Theory"
- 2003** **University of Chicago, History of Religions Seminar**
"Fasting and Feasting: Ritual and Reciprocity in Buddhist Kashmir."
- 2003** **University of California, Los Angeles. Buddhist Studies Seminar**
"Fasting and Feasting: Ritual, Resistance, and Reciprocity in Zangskar."
- 2003** **University of Vermont, Department of Anthropology Seminar**
"Fasting and Feasting: Ritual and Reciprocity in the Buddhist Himalaya"
- 2001** **Brandeis University, Inauguration of the Program in Religious Studies**
"Fasting and Feasting: Ritual and Reciprocity in the Buddhist Himalaya"
- 2001** **University of Pennsylvania, South Asian Studies Seminar**
"Women and Buddhism: A Case Study from India"
- 1998** **Harvard University, Medical Anthropology Seminar**
"The Idiom of Wind in Tibetan Medicine"
- 1998** **Skidmore College, Department of Religion Seminar**
"The Rhetoric and Reality of Novice Ordination"
- 1998** **Trinity College, Department of Religion Lecture**
"Ani Yeshe and the Founding of a Himalayan Nunnery"
- 1997** **Harvard University, Central Asian Studies Forum**

- "Buddhist Monasticism and Merit Making"
1996 West Deutsche Rundfunk Radio Interview in Cologne, Germany
"Wisdom and Compassion as Lived Practices in Zangskar"
1996 School of African and Oriental Studies, Himalayan Studies Forum
"Zangskar: Settlement and Monasticism in an Economy of Scarcity"

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2009 American Anthropological Association Meetings, Philadelphia, PA**
"Buddhists Don't Cry" [Special Session on Literary Ethnography]
- 2009 Society for Medical Anthropology, 40th Anniversary Conference, Yale University**
"Global and Local: Safe Motherhood Initiatives in Ladakh"
- 2009 International Association of Ladakh Studies Conference, Ladakh, India**
"Global and Local: The Impact of Safe Motherhood Strategies in Ladakh", Co-presented with Padma Dolma, Chief Obstetrician, Leh District Hospital, Fellow, Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi.
- 2008 American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco, CA**
"Twins in Two Cultures: The Ethnography of Birth"
- 2008 Ritual Dynamic Conference, Heidelberg, Germany**
"Mothers, Midwives, and Monks: The Ritualization of Obstetrics in the Himalayas."
- 2007 International Association for Ladakh Studies Colloquium, Rome, Italy**
"From Home to Hospital: The Changing Face of Birth in Ladakh", co-presented with Padma Dolma, Chief Obstetrician, Leh District Hospital.
- 2007 International Congress on Buddhist Women's Role in the Sangha, Bhikshuni Vinaya, and Ordination Lineages (with the Dalai Lama), Hamburg, Germany**
"How Ordination Relates to Status in the Buddhist Himalaya", Co-presented with Skalzang Lhamo, President, Zangskari Nuns Association.
- 2006 Women and Buddhism Conference, Smith College**
"How to Beat Monks at Their Own Game"
- 2005 Laboratoire d'Ethnologie et de Sociologie Comparative, University of Paris, X, France**
"Natal Nuns and Village Monks: Kinship and Renunciation in Zangskar."
- 2003 International Association for Tibetan Studies Seminar, Oxford University**
"The Woeful Body in Tibetan Medicine and Buddhism"
- 2001 Buddhism and Globalization Conference, Boston University,**
"Can Monasticism Mean Modernity in Zangskar?"
- 2001 International Association for Ladakh Studies Colloquium, Oxford University**
"Being a Buddhist Nun in Ladakh" Co-authored with Ani Palmo, Head of Ladakh Nuns Association.
- 2001 American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, DC**
"The Woeful Body in Buddhist Doctrine and Tibetan Medicine"
- 2001 South Asia Meetings, Madison, Wisconsin**
"Gender and Illusion in Buddhist Monasticism."
- 1999 American Anthropological Association Meetings, Chicago**
"Women's Health and Illness Narratives in Northwest India"
- 1999 International Association for Ladakh Studies Colloquium, Ladakh, India**
"The Education of Nuns in Northwest India"
- 1999 Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, New Delhi, India**
"Tibetan Pilgrimage: Circumambulation, Purification, and Sacrality"

- 1999 Asian Studies Association Meetings, Boston**
"What Makes a Nun? Apprenticeship and Ritual Passage in the Indian Himalaya"
- 1998 Heidelberg University, Germany, Conference on Sacred Landscape**
"Rinam Dissolved: An Analysis of Sacred Space and Water in Zangskar"
- 1998 International Association for Tibetan Studies, University of Indiana, Bloomington**
"Per Ager or Through the Fields: Tibetan Pilgrimage in Sani, Zangskar"
- 1998 South Asia Meetings, Madison, Wisconsin**
"Buddhist Identity Politics: Hill Council in a Marginal Place"
- 1998 International Congress on Tibetan Medicine, Washington, D.C.**
"Tibetan Medicine and the Environment: The Prospects for Sustainability"
- 1998 International Association for Ladakh Studies Colloquium, University of Aarhus, Denmark**
"Liminality and Structure in a Buddhist Fasting Ritual"
- 1995 Karakorum and Hindu Kush Conference, Quaid-E-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan**
"Hydrologic in the Western Himalayas: Several Case Studies From Zangskar"
- 1993 International Ladakh Studies Colloquium, Ladakh, India**
"A Comparison of Irrigation in Three 'Tibetan' Societies"
- 1992 International Association for Ladakh Studies Colloquium, School of African and Oriental Studies, London University**
"Kinship in Zangskar: Idiom and Practice"

APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

- 1991- Project Coordinator, Zangskar Nuns Project, GRP.**
Coordinated the fundraising and expenditure of \$80,000 in Ladakh, India for passive solar greenhouses, classrooms, poplar plantations, water supply, and health care.
- 1988-1990 Legal Advocate for Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) in Thailand.**
Prepared asylum cases for Khmer, Lao, & Vietnamese refugees in Thailand for a joint program run by the International Rescue Committee and the U.S. State Department.
- 1987 Researcher for Winrock International, Kathmandu, Nepal.**
Evaluated changing attitudes towards gender roles and education in the Kathmandu Valley.

LANGUAGES

West Tibetan dialects, Zangskari and Ladakhi: fluent; Classical Tibetan: written translation.
German: fluent, native speaker.

ACADEMIC SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

- 2007- Honorary Editor, *Ladakh Studies Journal*. International Association for Ladakh Studies.
- 2000- American Academy of Religion. Member.
- 2001-04 Nepal and Himalayan Studies Association. Executive Council Member.
- 1998-04 International Association for Buddhist Studies. Member.
- 1995- American Anthropological Association. Member---Society for Medical Anthropology, American Ethnological Society, and Anthropology and Religion Subsections.
- 1993- International Association for Ladakh Studies. Executive Board Member.