

JACOB P. DALTON
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Department of Religious Studies
Yale University
451 College Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-0836
jacob.dalton@yale.edu

Education

- *University of Michigan*, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies, April 2002. Dissertation: *Uses of the Dgongs pa 'dus pa'i mdo in the Development of the Rnying-ma School*
M.A. in Buddhist Studies, April 1995
- *Marlboro College*, Marlboro, VT
B.A. with highest honors in Religious Studies, May 1992

Present Appointment

- *Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Specializing in Tibetan Buddhism*,
Department of Religious Studies, Yale University, 7/05—present.

Previous Appointments

- *Assistant Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism*, Department of Religious Studies,
McMaster University, 1/05—6/05.
- *Post-Doctoral Research Fellow*, International Dunhuang Project, The British Library, 8/02—1/05.
Three year Art and Humanities Research Board (AHRB)-funded project to create a fully descriptive analytic catalogue of the Tibetan Buddhist manuscripts discovered at Dunhuang.
- *Visiting Lecturer*, Department of the Study of Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 9/03-12/03.
- *Research Associate*, Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University, 2000-2001.
- *Instructor*, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan,
Summer 1997.
- *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Winter 1995
Introduction to Asian Religions. Introductory level undergraduate course covering the Asian religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto and modern Japanese religions.

Publications

- *Tibetan Tantric Manuscripts from Dunhuang: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Stein Collection at the British Library*. Co-authored with Sam van Schaik. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- “Beyond Anonymity: Paleographic Analyses of the Dunhuang Manuscripts.” Co-authored with Tom Davis and Sam van Schaik. In *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, no.3 (forthcoming).
- “Recreating the Rnying ma School: The *Mdo dbang* Tradition of Smin grol gling.” In Bryan Cuevas and Kurtis Schaeffer, eds., *Power, Politics, and the Reinvention of Tradition in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Tibet*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- “A Crisis of Doxography: How Tibetans Organized Tantra during the 8th-12th Centuries.” In *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 28.1 (2005): 115-181.
- “The Early Development of the Padmasambhava Legend in Tibet.” In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124.4 (2004): 759-772.
- “The Development of Perfection: The Interiorization of Buddhist Ritual in the Eighth and Ninth Centuries.” In *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 32.1 (2004): 1-30.
- “Where Chan and Tantra Meet: Buddhist Syncretism in Dunhuang.” Co-authored with Sam van Schaik. In Susan Whitfield, ed., *The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith*. Chicago: Serindia Publications, 2004, pp. 63-71.
- “Lighting the Lamp: An Examination of the Structure of the *Bsam gtan mig sgron*.” Co-authored with Sam van Schaik. In *Acta Orientalia*, vol. 64 (2003): 153-175.
- “Nyingma,” “Dakini,” “Longchenpa,” “Padmasambhava,” “Samye,” “Samye Debate.” In *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*, New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003.

Book-Length Works in Progress

- *Sacrifice of Demons: Violence and the Creation of a Buddhist Tibet*. A book exploring the theme of tantric violence in early Tibetan myth, ritual, and history. To be completed in 2007.
- *Through the Eyes of the Compendium of Intentions: An Alternative History of the Rnying ma School*. A history of the *Bka' ma* teachings, tracing the vicissitudes of a single text from its ninth century origins to the present day. To be completed in 2008.
- *A Ritual History of Tantric Buddhism*. A study of the development of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist ritual during the early medieval period, as seen through the lens of the Dunhuang manuscripts.

Invited Papers and Conference Presentations

- “New Insights into the Shape and Significance of the Tibetan Collection from Dunhuang,” Dunhuang Manuscripts and Paintings, An International Symposium Honoring James and Lucy Lo, Princeton University, September 28th, 2007.
- “Reflections on an Anomalous Mahāyoga Ritual among the Dunhuang Manuscripts,” The Theory and Practice of Tibetan Ritual, Conference at UC Santa Barbara, May 11th-12th, 2007.
- “The Tibetan *Sarvatathāgata-tattvasaṃgraha* at Dunhuang,” Exploring Esoteric Rituals in Early East Asian Buddhism, Workshop at UC Berkeley, April 27th, 2007.
- “Ritual Origins: Tantric Buddhism through the Lens of the Dunhuang Collection,” Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY, March 14th, 2007.

- “The Limits of Demonic Laughter: Translating Humor in the Buddhist Tantras,” Does Humor Belong in Buddhism?, Conference at UC Berkeley, February 9th-10th, 2007.
- “Scribal Practice and HTML: Adapting Forensic Handwriting Analysis for Use in the Dunhuang Collections,” Annual Meeting of the AAR, Washington, D.C. November 20, 2006.
- “The Opening of Tantric Vision: Seeing Mandalas in Eleventh Century Tibet,” Senses of Religion, Conference at Yale University, October 27th-29th, 2006.
- “Evidence from Dunhuang: The Role of Ritual Manuals in the Early Development of Tantric Buddhism,” East Asia Center Lecture Series, University of Virginia, September 15th, 2006.
- “Historicizing the Ahistorical: Ritual Manuals as Historical Sources for the Seventeenth Century,” Tibetan Religion and State in the 17th and 18th Centuries, Conference at UC Berkeley, May 5th-7th, 2006.
- “Relocating India's Demons: The Formation of Buddhist Landscape during Tibet's 'Dark Age,’” Sand, Stones, and Stars: Nature in the Religious Imagination, Conference at Yale University, April 21st-23rd, 2006.
- “Beyond Anonymity: Paleographic Analyses of the Dunhuang Manuscripts,” Buddhism at Dunhuang, Conference at UC Berkeley, March 18th, 2006.
- “Spirits Under the Ground: The Tibetan Assimilation of Buddhism and the Notion of the 'Dark Period.’” Annual Meeting of the AAR, Philadelphia, PA, November 19th, 2005.
- “How to Organize the Tantras: Remarks on Two New Doxographical Works from the Dunhuang Collections.” XIVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, London, England, September 2005.
- “A Rite of Human Sacrifice in Tibetan Buddhism: Religious vs. Secular Perspectives.” Annual Meeting of the AAR, San Antonio, TX, November 23rd, 2004.
- “Observations on *Dhāraṇī* Ritual Practice in the Tibetan Dunhuang Manuscripts.” Annual Meeting of the AAR, San Antonio, TX, November 21st, 2004.
- “Tantric Buddhism on the Silk Road: New Discoveries from the Caves of Dunhuang.” Invited lecture at the Berkeley-Stanford Buddhist Studies Colloquium, Berkeley University, March 30th, 2004.
- “The Tantric Conversion of Tibet and the Early Development of the Padmasambhava Cult.” Invited lecture at the Committee on Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, Harvard University, December 2nd, 2003.
- “Tantric Ritual Manuals from Dunhuang.” Invited lecture at the Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, December 1st, 2003.
- “Lineage Construction in Tibet.” Panel convener and participant, Annual Meeting of the AAR, Atlanta, GA, November 22nd, 2003.
- “Mahāyoga in Post-Tibetan Occupation Dunhuang.” Annual Meeting of the AAR, Atlanta, GA, November 23rd, 2003.
- “Recreating the Rnying ma School: The *Mdo dbang* Tradition of Smin grol gling.” Tenth Meeting of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Oxford University, September 6th-12th, 2003.
- “Magic and Politics in Seventeenth Century Tibet.” Annual Meeting of the AAR, Toronto, November 23rd, 2002.
- “Vimalakirti’s Commentary on the *Six Spaces*.” 3rd Conference on Early Tibetan Literature, Amherst, MA, March 1998.

Fellowships and Awards

- *ACLS Fellowship*, American Council of Learned Societies, 2007-2008
for one year's research leave
- *Morse Fellowship*, Yale University, 2007-2008
for one year's research leave
- *Franklin Research Grant*, American Philosophical Society, 2005
- *AAR Research Grant*, American Academy of Religion, 2005
- *Spalding Research Grant*, Spalding Trust, 2004
for research trip to Nepal
- *Research Grant*, British Academy, 2003
for two research trips to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris
- *Rackham Dissertation Writing Grant*, University of Michigan, 2001-2002
- *Research Grant*, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 2001
for three-month research project in Sichuan Province, China
- *Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship*, University of Michigan, 2000-2001
- *Fulbright-Hays Fellowship*, U.S. Department. of Education, 1999-2000
for doctoral research conducted in India
- *Radcliffe and Ramsdell Fellowships*, University of Michigan, 1998
- *Buddhist Studies Predissertation Fellowship*, Rocky Foundation, 1997 and 1998
- *John D'Arms Scholar*, University of Michigan, 1995
- *Regents' Fellowship*, University of Michigan, 1993-1998
four-year tuition & stipend for M.A. and Ph.D. coursework
- *Whitehill Book Prize*, for best B.A. thesis in the humanities, Marlboro College, 1992

Courses Taught

- *Death, Dreams, and Visions in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism*, Yale University, Spring 2007.
Undergraduate seminar.
- *Religious Histories of Tibet*, Yale University, Spring 2007. Graduate seminar.
- *Buddhism in Tibet*, Yale University, Fall 2006. Undergraduate lecture on Tibetan Buddhism.
- *Mahāvairocana-abhisambodhi Sūtra: The Scripture and its Commentaries in Chinese and Tibetan*, Yale University, Fall 2006. Graduate seminar co-taught with Koichi Shinohara.
- *Introduction to Classical Tibetan Texts*, Yale University, Fall 2006. Seminar open to undergraduate and graduate students.
- *Buddhist Tantras Across Traditions*, Yale University, Spring 2006. Graduate seminar on the rise and early development of the tantras in India and beyond.
- *Introduction to Buddhism*, Yale University, Spring 2006. Undergraduate lecture on the development of Buddhism in India, Tibet, China, and Japan.
- *Readings in Classical Tibetan*, Yale University, Spring 2006. Graduate seminar covering readings in classical Tibetan.
- *Buddhist Ritual in Tibetan Sources*, Yale University, Fall 2005. Graduate seminar.

- *Studies in Indian Buddhism*, McMaster University, Winter 2005. Graduate seminar covering recent western scholarship on the history of Buddhism in India.
- *Readings in Classical Tibetan*, McMaster University, Winter 2005. Graduate seminar covering selected readings on Tibetan Buddhism.
- *Indian Buddhism*, McMaster University, Winter 2005. Third-year undergraduate course on Buddhism in India.
- *Buddhism in Tibet*, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Autumn 2003. Undergraduate lecture on Tibetan Buddhism.
- *Tibetan Buddhism*, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Autumn 2003. Graduate seminar on methodological issues relating to the history of Tibet.
- *Buddhist Approaches to Death*, University of Michigan, Summer 1997. Senior level undergraduate seminar covering Indian and Tibetan Buddhist theories and practices related to death and dying.

Professional Activities

- *Steering Committee Member*, Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, 2005-present.