

# Justin Benjamin Stein

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## EDUCATION

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- 2010 – **University of Toronto**, Toronto, ON  
Doctoral Student at the Department for the Study of Religion  
Collaborative Program with the Centre for Diaspora & Transnational Studies
- 2013 – 2014 **Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies**, Yokohama  
Ten-month intensive Japanese language program
- 2007 – 2009 **University of Hawai'i – Manoa**, Honolulu, HI  
Masters of Arts in Religion (Focus: Japanese Religions)  
Thesis: *The Many Lives of Usui Mikao: Authority and Authenticity in Stories of Reiki's Founder.*
- 2003 – 2005 **CUNY – Brooklyn College**, Brooklyn, NY  
Masters of Science in Education (Focus: Childhood Education)  
Thesis: *The Value of Guided Notes in the Sixth-Grade Social Studies Classroom*
- 1997 - 2000 **Hamilton College**, Clinton, NY  
Bachelors of Arts (Major: Philosophy; Minor: Environmental Studies)  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Senior Project: *Thinking for the Sake of Dwelling: Heidegger's Writings and Environmentalism*
- 1999 **Antioch Education Abroad – Buddhist Studies**, Kyoto  
Independent Study Project: *Japanese Buddhism and Environmental Ethics*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

(references available)

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### Post-Secondary Teaching Experience

- Spring  
2016 **Course Instructor** (“Capstone Research”)  
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Spring  
2016 **Teaching Assistant** (“Introduction to American Studies”)  
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Spring  
2016 **Teaching Assistant** (“Death and Dying”)  
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

- Spring 2015 **Course Instructor** (“Special Topics: New Religious Movements”) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Spring 2015 **Teaching Assistant** (“Religion and Film”) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2012 – 2013 **Lead Teaching Assistant** (“Comparative World Traditions”) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2012 – 2013 **Teaching Assistant** (“Sociology of Religion”) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2011 – 2013 **Tutor** Accessibility Services, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2011 – 2012 **Lead Teaching Assistant** (“Comparative World Religions”) University of Toronto, Toronto ON
- 2011 – 2012 **Teaching Assistant** (“East Asian Traditions”) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Spring 2010 **Lecturer** (“Intro to Major World Religions”) Windward Community College, Kaneohe, HI
- Fall 2009 **Lecturer** (“Intro to Major World Religions”) Windward Community College, Kaneohe, HI
- Spring 2009 **Teaching Assistant** (“Intro to Major World Religions”) University of Hawaii – Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- Fall 2008 **Teaching Assistant** (“Intro to Major World Religions”) University of Hawaii – Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- Spring 2008 **Teaching Assistant** (“Intro to Major World Religions”) University of Hawaii – Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- Fall 2008 **Teaching Assistant** (“Intro to Major World Religions”) University of Hawaii – Manoa, Honolulu, HI

### Other Professional Experience

- 2002 – **Freelance Editor and Writer**  
 Editing experience includes editing book manuscripts, doctoral dissertations, journal submissions, and conference papers. Writing includes writing book proposals for professional authors and lifestyle articles for *Outdoor Japan Traveler*

- 2010 – 2013 **Research Trainee**  
Centre for the Study of Religion, Toronto, ON  
Researched and organized archival data on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Canadian liberal Protestants and “spiritual experimentalists”
- 2007 – 2011 **Educational Consultant and Research Assistant**  
Himalayan Academy, Kapaa, HI  
Worked on *The History of Hindu India: From Ancient to Modern Times* (Kapaa, HI: Himalayan Academy, 2011), a sixth-grade textbook on Hinduism, by researching, providing editorial and educational comments, writing lesson plans, and developing class materials
- 2009 – 2010 **Instructor**  
Kaplan, Inc., Honolulu, HI  
Taught and tutored test preparation for the SAT, GRE, and GMAT
- 2008 – 2010 **Instructor**  
Institute for Intensive English, Honolulu, HI  
Taught English to child and adult classes, including TOEFL
- 2003 – 2007 **Teacher**  
James Sinnott Magnet School of Health and Health Sciences, Brooklyn NY  
Taught sixth and seventh grade social studies and science
- 2005 – 2007 **Curriculum Developer and Instructor**  
Supplemental Educational Services, New York, NY  
Co-developed and implemented an after-school science program for sixth graders, focused on promoting literacy and mathematics skills
- 2006 **Curriculum Developer**  
New York City Department of Education, New York, NY  
Co-developed a science unit for seventh grade students in the iTeach/iLearn initiative and professional development sessions for teaching science teachers how to incorporate technology in their classrooms

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Book Chapters

- 「白井靈氣療法からレイキヘートランス・パシフィックによる変化、1936-1986年」 (“From Usui Reiki Ryôhō to Reiki—Trans-Pacific Transformations, 1936-1986”), 精神療法アンソロジー、吉永進一、平野直子編集 (*Spiritual Therapies Anthology*, edited by Shin’ichi Yoshinaga and Naoko Hirano), under review.

**“Alternative Medicine: I. Social History,”** in *Bioethics, 4th Edition, Vol. 1*, edited by Bruce Jennings (Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2014), 163-172. With Robert C. Fuller.

## Journal Articles

**“The Japanese New Religious Practices of *jōrei* and *okiyome* in the Context of Asian Spiritual Healing Traditions,”** *Japanese Religions* 37:1/2 (2012).

**“Reiki Balances the Chakras’: A Japanese Healing Practice in New Age India,”** in *Chao Center for Asian Studies 2011 Transnational Asia Graduate Student Conference Working Papers* (Houston: Chao Center for Asian Studies, 2012).

## Translations from Japanese

**“Two Articles from the March 4, 1928 *Sunday Mainichi*” and “Selected Articles from the *Hawaii Hōchi*,”** in Robert Fueston, *Reiki: Transmissions of Light* (New York: O Books, 2015 forthcoming).

## Book Reviews

**“Jeremy Stolow, editor, ‘Deus in Machina: Religion, Technology, and the Things in Between’ (Book Review),”** *Symposia* 5 (2013).

**“Erica Baffelli, Ian Reader, and Birgit Staemmler, editors, ‘Japanese Religions on the Internet’ (Book Review),”** *Symposia* 4 (2012).

**“Thomas J. Csordas, ‘Transnational Transcendence’ (Book Review),”** *Symposia* 3 (2011).

## Paper Presentations (Invited)

「臼井靈氣療法からレイキヘートランス・パシフィックによる変化」  
**(“From Usui Reiki Ryōhō to Reiki: Trans-Pacific Transformations”)**, Nippon Foundation Study Group, Yokohama, Japan, April 23, 2014.

**“The Trans-Pacific Production of ‘Universal Energy,’”** joint meeting of the Theosophical Society Research Group and the Buddhism and Modernity Research Group, Kyoto, Japan, February 1, 2014.

**“Reiki in and Beyond the Japanese Diaspora: The Trans-Pacific Development of a Healing Practice, 1926-1976,”** Munk School for Global Affairs, Toronto, ON, October 31, 2012.

**“From 靈氣療法 to レイキ: The Transnational Development, Circulation, and ‘Re-importation’ of a Spiritual Healing Practice,”** Yokohama National University, Yokohama, Japan, January 17, 2012.

**“Global Flows’ of ‘Universal Energy’?: Reiki and Transnational Movement,”**

Mapping Religionwissenschaft as a Cultural Flow across Continents: New Perspectives from Toronto and Heidelberg, Universität Heidelberg, Germany, February 24, 2011.

**“The Many Lives of Usui Mikao: Authority and Authenticity in the Stories of Reiki's Founder,”**

University of Hawai'i – Manoa, Center for Biographical Research, Honolulu, HI, October 15, 2009.

**Paper Presentations & Roundtable Panel Discussions (Selected by Committee)**

「白井靈気療法とレイキ：20世紀日本に於けるスピリチュアル・ヒーリングについての言説空間」(“**Reiki Ryôhō and Reiki: The Discursive Space of Spiritual Healing in Twentieth Century Japan**”), Nanzan Seminar 2015, Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan, May 31, 2015.

**“Pre-War U.S. Buddhist Organizations, Social Leisure, and the Birth of Japanese American Buddhist Identity,”** American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 24, 2014.

**“Reiki Healing, Social Networks, and Hawaii’s Nikkeijin: 1937-1954,”** Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA, March 24, 2013.

**“Exceeding Boundaries: Approaches to Transnationalism in North American Religions (Roundtable Discussion),”** American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 19, 2012.

**“Translating Transoceanic Transmissions, or Of Orishas and Reiki—Applying Lessons from the Afro-Atlantic to the Asian-Pacific,”** Northwestern University Graduate Student Conference in Religious Studies, Evanston, IL, October 13, 2012.

**“Reiki and the Discursive Space of ‘Spirituality’.”** Annual Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies and the International Convention of Asia Scholars, Toronto, ON, March 16, 2012.

**“Hidden Treasures: Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism in Reiki Imaginations.”** American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 18, 2011.

**“Hidden Treasures: Reiki Masters’ Appeals to Vajrayana Buddhism,”** Department of Historical Studies Prandium Lecture Series, University of Toronto – Mississauga, Mississauga, ON, October 12, 2011.

**“Deus ex machina: Parascience, Gary E. Schwartz, and American Religious Imaginations.”** Science and Religion in America Graduate Student Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, September 23, 2011.

**“The Story of the Stone: Memorializing the Benevolence of Usui-sensei, Founder of Reiki Ryoho,”** International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies,

Tallinn, Estonia, August 26, 2011.

**“Searching For Sensei: The Invention of ‘Traditional Japanese Reiki,’”** Annual Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies and the International Convention of Asia Scholars, Honolulu, HI, April 3, 2011.

**“Reiki Balances the Chakras’: A Japanese Healing Practice in New Age India,”** Transnational Asia Graduate Student Conference, Rice University, Houston, TX, February 18, 2011.

**“Searching For Sensei: The Invention of ‘Traditional Japanese Reiki,’”** Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University, New York, NY, February 4, 2011.

**“Legitimizing Reiki with Stories of the Founder: The Many Lives of Usui Mikao,”** East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia-Pacific Region, Honolulu, HI, February 14, 2009.

## DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

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**“Reiki in the *Hawaii Hôchi*, 1937-1941,”** translations of roughly fifty articles about Reiki published in a Japanese-language Honolulu newspaper. Website is under construction.

**“*The Dôbô* Digitization Project,”** digitization of the (mostly Japanese-language) newsletter of the Young Men’s Buddhist Association of Hawaii, published by the Hongwanji Mission from 1900 to 1941. Website to be hosted by the University of Hawaii.

**“Hawayo Takata Archive Project,”** preservation and digitization of the correspondence and belongings of Hawayo Takata (1900-1980).

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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**University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship** (2010-2013, 2014-2016), funds tuition

**Department for the Study of Religion Conference Grant**, funded travel to attend the annual conferences of the American Academy of Religion and the Association for Asian Studies (2010-2015)

**American Academy of Religion Travel Grant**, funded travel to attend the American Academy of Religion and waived the registration fee (2015)

**Nippon Foundation Fellowship**, provided a ten-month living stipend and funded tuition at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama (2013-2014)

**Fred and Ann Notehelfer Scholarship**, funded tuition at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama (2013-2014)

**SMBC Global Foundation Scholarship**, funded tuition at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama (2013-2014)

**University of Toronto School for Graduate Studies Research Travel Grant**, funded archival work and oral history collection in the Hawaiian Islands (2013)

**Religion and Diversity Project Graduate Research Grant**, funded oral history collection in British Columbia (2013)

**Centre for the Study of the United States Graduate Student Research Grant**, funded oral history collection in Hilo, HI (2012)

**Japan Student Services Organization Scholarship for Short-Term Study in Japan**, funded one-month academic exchange in Tokyo and Yokohama (2012)

**School of Graduate Studies Winter 2011 Conference Grant** (2011), funded travel to Tallinn, Estonia, for the European Association of Japanese Studies Conference

**Avie Bennett Scholarship**, awarded for academic excellence (2010-2011)

**University of Hawaii Graduate Fellowship**, funded tuition (2007-2009)

**AmeriCorps Service Learning Award**, education award for completing a service learning project with students (2005)

**New York City Teaching Fellowship**, financed Master's degree in exchange for two years' service at a high-needs school (2003 –2005)

**Thomas J. Watson Fellowship**, financed twelve months of international field research and travel. Project title: *From Dharma To Dollars: The Commercialization of "Universal Energy"* (2001 – 2002)

**Phi Beta Kappa Society (Hamilton College)**, awarded for academic excellence (2001)

**Robert Leet Patterson Prize Scholarship in Philosophy**, awarded to a promising sophomore- or junior-year Hamilton philosophy student (2000)

**Robert Leet Patterson Prize Scholarship in Philosophy**, awarded to a promising sophomore- or junior-year Hamilton philosophy student (1999)

**National Merit Scholarship**, awarded for academic excellence (2000-2001)

**National Merit Scholarship**, awarded for academic excellence (1999-2000)

**National Merit Scholarship**, awarded for academic excellence (1998-1999)

**National Merit Scholarship**, awarded for academic excellence (1997-1998)

## FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2014	Japan, Arizona, O‘ahu
2012 – 2013	Hawai‘i (Big Island), O‘ahu
2008	Maui, O‘ahu
2001 – 2002	Australia, India, Japan, Thailand, United Kingdom
1999	Japan

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

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### Professional Service

2010 –	<b>Reviewer and Copy Editor</b> , <i>Symposia: The Graduate Student Journal of the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto</i> .
2015	<b>Conference Organizer and Panel Chair</b> , Divine Maps, Sacred Stories: Cartography and History in Religious Imaginations, Department for the Study of Religion Annual Symposium, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.
2015	<b>Picket Captain</b> , Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3902 Unit One.
2014 – 2015	<b>Academic Co-ordinator</b> , Department for the Study of Religion Student Association, Toronto, ON.
2013	<b>Panel Chair and Discussant</b> , “Materiality, Materialism, and Buddhist Modernism,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion – Eastern International Region, Toronto, ON.
2013	<b>Panel Organizer and Chair</b> , “Becoming Japanese Overseas: Language, Gender, Race, and Class in the Production of Japanese Identities outside of Japan,” Annual Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies and the International Convention of Asia Scholars, San Diego, CA.
2011 – 2013	<b>Volunteer</b> , The Japan Foundation, Toronto, ON.
2012 – 2013	<b>Co-Organizer and Co-Chair</b> , Religion-Anthropology-History Working Group, Jackman Humanities Institute, Toronto, ON.
2012 – 2013	<b>Division One Representative</b> , Space-Use Subcommittee, University of Toronto Graduate Student Union, Toronto, ON.
2012	<b>Panel Chair</b> , “Marginalia and the Promise of Periphery,” Department for the Study of Religion Annual Symposium, Toronto, ON.



- 2012            **Guest Lecture**, “Japan’s New Religions,” East Asian Traditions, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.
- 2012            **Panel Organizer and Chair**, “‘It’s Not a Religion’: Negotiating Religiosity in Modern Japan,” Annual Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies and the International Convention of Asia Scholars, Toronto, ON.
- 2011 – 2012    **Graduate Student Union Representative**, Department for the Study of Religion Student Association, Toronto, ON.
- 2011            **Guest Lecture**, “Reiki,” Cross-Cultural Healing, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.
- 2010 – 2011    **Secretary**, Department for the Study of Religion Student Association, Toronto, ON.
- 2010 – 2011    **Co-Chair, Communications Director, and Panel Chair**, Transnational Futures? Shifting Borders and the Dynamics of Diaspora, Centre for Transnational and Diaspora Studies Graduate Student Conference, Toronto, ON.
- 2008 – 2009    **Co-Chair**, Papers In Progress Sessions (PIPS), Department of Religion, Honolulu, HI.
- 2007 – 2008    **Discussant**, Papers In Progress Sessions (PIPS), Department of Religion, Honolulu, HI.

### **Professional Memberships**

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

European Association for Japanese Studies

Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

### **ABILITIES AND INTERESTS**

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#### **Research Interests**

Historical and Social Scientific Studies of Metaphysical Religion (Healing, Possession, New Thought, Occultism) in the Nineteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty-first Centuries

Cultural Translation and Transculturation in the Transnational Flows of Ideas and Cultural Practices

Spiritual Practices, Healthcare, and Secularism

New Religious Movements

**Languages**

**French**, moderately fluent in reading; competent in conversation

**Japanese**, moderately fluent in reading; competent in conversation