

J. BARTON SCOTT
Department for the Study of Religion
University of Toronto
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EDUCATION

- 2009 Ph. D. Duke University, Religion
- 2001 B. A. Swarthmore College, Religion and English Literature, High Honors

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2015- Assistant Professor, Department of Historical Studies and Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2010-2015 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
- 2010 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA (spring semester)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2016 *Spiritual Despots: Modern Hinduism and the Genealogies of Self-Rule* (University of Chicago Press)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2015 "How to Defame a God: Public Selfhood in the Maharaj Libel Case," in "Imagining the Public in Modern India," eds. Brannon Ingram, J. Barton Scott, and SherAli Tareen, special issue of *South Asia: The Journal of South Asian Studies* 38.3 (September): forthcoming.
- 2015 "What is a Public? Some Notes from South Asia" co-authored with Brannon Ingram, in "Imagining the Public in Modern India," eds. Brannon Ingram, J. Barton Scott, and SherAli Tareen, special issue of *South Asia: The Journal of South Asian Studies* 38.3 (September): forthcoming.
- 2015 "Aryas Unbound: Print Hinduism and the Cultural Regulation of Religious Offense," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 35.2 (August): forthcoming.
- 2015 "Luther in the Tropics: Karsandas Mulji and the Colonial 'Reformation' of Hinduism," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 83.1 (March): 181-209.
- 2014 "Unsaintly Virtue: Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Modern Hindu Hagiography," *Journal of Hindu Studies* 7.3: 371-391.
- 2010 "Comic Book Karma: Visual Mythologies of the Hindu Modern," in "Inscriptions," eds. Jeremy Stolow and Lisa Gitelman, special issue of *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds* 4.2: 177-197.
- 2009 "Miracle Publics: Theosophy, Christianity, and the Coulomb Affair," *History of Religions* 49.2: 172- 196.

Special Issues

2015 “Imagining ‘the Public’ in Modern India,” special issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, co-edited with Brannon Ingram and SherAli Tareen (forthcoming, September 2015)

Other Publications

2015 “Philosophy and Anticolonialism,” in “Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies,” eds. Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay and Matthew R. Dasti, special issue of *American Philosophical Association Newsletter* 14.2 (Spring): 19-21.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2013-2014 Mellon-Humboldt SIAS Summer Institute, National Humanities Center and
Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
2013 Scholarship and Creativity Grant, Montana State University
2012 Scholarship and Creativity Grant, Montana State University
2009 Sponsored Participant, Cornell University School of Criticism and Theory
2008-2009 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship (Hindi)
2008-2009 Franklin Humanities Institute Seminar, Duke University (declined)
2007-2008 American Institute of Indian Studies, Junior Fellowship
2007-2008 American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Research Fellowship
2007-2008 Fulbright-Hays Fellowship (declined)
2007-2008 Fulbright (IIE) Fellowship (declined)
2007 Duke University Summer Research Grant
2005-2006 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship (Hindi)
2005 FLAS Summer Fellowship (Urdu) (AIIS-Lucknow)
2004-2005 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship (Hindi)
2004 FLAS Summer Fellowship (Hindi) (SASLI)
2003-2007 James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University
2003-2004 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Humanistic Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion, Media, and Public Culture; Theory and Method in Religious Studies; Cultural History of the Study of Religion; Colonial and Postcolonial Studies; Critical Secular Studies; Nineteenth-Century Religion; Modern Hinduism; Religion in South Asia

INVITED LECTURES

2015 “M. K. Gandhi and the Global Travels of Nonviolence.” University of Montana. Missoula, MT. 2 March.
2014 “Reading the Saint, Renouncing the Self: Print Culture and Arya Samaji Hagiography.” Department of Religious Studies, Macalester College. St. Paul, MN. 6 April.
2013 “Unsaintly Virtue: Why Arya Samajis Shouldn’t Write Hagiographies (But Do Anyway).” Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin. Madison, WI. December 5.
2009 “India Authentic: Deepak Chopra Rewrites a Comic Book Nation.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pre-Conference Workshop on Religion and Media. Montreal, Canada. 6 November.

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 Respondent, "Genealogies of Religion and Affect." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Cultural History of the Study of Religion and Religion, Affect, and Emotion Groups). Atlanta, GA. 21 November.
- 2015 "Practical Asceticism: On Theosophy's Astral Ethics." Leverhulme Trust Conference on "Theosophy and the Arts: Texts and Contexts of Modern Enchantment" at Columbia University. New York, NY. 10 October.
- 2014 "Rethinking 'Mystic Hinduism': Orientalism, Religion, and the Historicity of Critique." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Group). San Diego, CA. 24 November.
- 2014 "Bureaucratizing Religious Sentiment." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Hinduism Group). San Diego, CA. 23 November.
- 2014 "Convertible Christianity: The Spiritual Hermeneutics of Keshub Chunder Sen." Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. 17 October.
- 2013 "Soul Force: Gandhi, Theosophy, and the Politics of Affect." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Religion, Affect, and Emotion Group). Baltimore, MD. 25 November.
- 2013 "Secularism Hurts: Law and Religious 'Feeling' in Late Colonial India." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Law, Religion, and Culture Group). Baltimore, MD. 24 November.
- 2012 "Genealogies of Self-Rule: Liberalism and Protestantism in Karsandas Mulji's Reform Writings." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Hinduism Group). Chicago, IL. 18 November.
- 2012 "Puranic Technics: Rethinking Religious Mediation in the *Satyarth Prakash*." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Studies in Religion Section). Chicago, IL. 20 November.
- 2012 "Injured Publics: The Sindh *Satyarth Prakash* Ban and the Political Affects of Religion." Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. 12 October.
- 2012 "L.A., City of Gurus: Isherwood and Adorno on Religious Obedience." Crossroads in Cultural Studies. Paris, France. 3 July.
- 2011 "Libeled Subjects: Religious Selfhood in the Maharaj Libel Case." Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. 21 October.
- 2011 "Comic Book Mysticism: Deepak Chopra Re-Envisions Spiritual India." Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association. Chicago, IL. 25 March.
- 2010 "Priestly Nation: Religion, Empire, and Quaker Dissent." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group). Atlanta, GA. 31 October.
- 2010 "Bad Publicity: The *Satyarth Prakash* and the Law of Tolerance in Late Colonial India." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Religion and Colonialism Consultation). Atlanta, GA. 31 October.
- 2010 "The Light of Truth and the Law of Tolerance in Late Colonial India." Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. 16 October.
- 2010 "Crossing Religion: Polemical Heterodoxies in Colonial Bombay." Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. Philadelphia, PA. 25 March.
- 2009 "Libeling Religion: Heterodoxy and Secularism in Colonial Bombay." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Law, Religion, and Culture Group). Montreal, Canada. 8 November.
- 2009 "Pope-Lila: Religious Fraud in Dayanand Saraswati's *Satyarth Prakash*." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Religion in South Asia Section). Montreal, Canada. 7 November.

- 2009 “Taming the Terrorist: British Responses to the Hur Uprisings in Sindh, 1930-1946.” Annual Conference of the American Historical Association. New York, NY. 5 January.
- 2008 “Comic Book Karma: Myth, Gender, and the Hindu Modern in Shekhar Kapur’s *Devi*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Religion, Media, and Culture Group). Chicago, IL. 1 November.
- 2008 “Confessions of a Terrorist: H. T. Lambrick and the Literary Afterlife of the Hurs.” Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. 18 October.

COURSES TAUGHT:

University of Toronto

Undergraduate:

Reel Religion (RLG 332)

Things, Objects, and Material Religion (RLG 388)

Graduate:

Religion, Secularism, and the Public Sphere

Montana State University

Introduction to Religion (RLST 100)

Islam (RLST 201)

Hinduism (RLST 202)

Religion and Literature (RLST 325)

Guru Culture (RLST 326-1)

Gandhi’s Modernity (RLST 326-2)

Religion, Media, and Technology (RLST 326-3)

Philosophy of Religion (RLST 370/ PHL 370)

What is Religion? (RLST 410)

Seminar: Rethinking Secularism (RLST 494)

Occidental College

Globalization and Sacred Space (RELS 120)

Religion in South Asia (RELS 210)

Religion and Violence in South Asia (RELS 315)

Duke University

Media and Asian Religions (RELS 185S)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2009- Steering Committee, Annual Religion and Media Pre-Conference Workshop, American Academy of Religion (AAR). Co-chair from 2009-2012.
- 2011- Steering Committee, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group, AAR
- 2013- Steering Committee, Religion, Affect, and Emotion Group, AAR
- 2015- Associate Editor, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (published since 1971)
- 2013-2014 Diversity Committee for the Core Curriculum, Montana State University (MSU)
- 2013-2015 Stegner Foundation Committee, Department of History and Philosophy, MSU
- 2010-2015 Awards Committee, Department of History and Philosophy, MSU.
- 2011-2015 Library Liaison, Department of History and Philosophy, MSU

- 2012-2015 Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee, Department of History and Philosophy,
MSU
- 2014-2015 Faculty Sponsor, Religious Studies Club, MSU

LANGUAGES

Hindi-Urdu: advanced speaking, reading, and writing
Gujarati, French, German: reading knowledge
Sanskrit: basic

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies