

J. BARTON SCOTT
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EDUCATION

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

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)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion in Modern South Asia	Secularism, Law, and Religion
Cultural History of the Study of Religion	Religion, Media, and Popular Culture
Comparative Political Theory	Postcolonial Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Slandering the Sacred: Law, Media, and Religious Affect in Colonial India (book manuscript in progress)

Spiritual Despots: Modern Hinduism and the Genealogies of Self-Rule. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016; Delhi: Primus Books, 2018. Part of the series "South Asia Across the Disciplines." Runner Up for the Harry Levin Prize for a Best First Book from the American Comparative Literature Association (2018)

Edited Books

Imagining the Public in Modern South Asia. Co-edited with Brannon Ingram and SherAli Tareen. London: Routledge, 2016 (paperback, 2019)

Journal Articles

"Only Connect: Three Reflections on the Sociality of Secularism," *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 6, no. 1 (January 2019): 48-69.

"Translated Liberties: Karsandas Mulji's *Travels in England* and the Anthropology of the Victorian Self," *Modern Intellectual History*. Web version available December 2017 with print version forthcoming.

- “How to Defame a God: Public Selfhood in the Maharaj Libel Case.” In “Imagining the Public in Modern South Asia,” ed. Brannon Ingram, J. Barton Scott, and SherAli Tareen, special issue of *South Asia: The Journal of South Asian Studies* 38, no. 3 (2015): 387-402.
- “What is a Public? Notes from South Asia.” Co-written with Brannon Ingram. In “Imagining the Public in Modern South Asia,” ed. Brannon D. Ingram, J. Barton Scott, and SherAli Tareen, special issue of *South Asia: The Journal of South Asian Studies* 38, no. 3 (2015): 357-370.
- “Aryas Unbound: Print Hinduism and the Cultural Regulation of Religious Offense.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 35, no. 2 (2015): 294-309.
- “Luther in the Tropics: Karsandas Mulji and the Colonial ‘Reformation’ of Hinduism.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 83, no. 1 (2015): 181-209.
- “Unsaintly Virtue: Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Modern Hindu Hagiography.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 7, no. 3 (2014): 371-391.
- “Miracle Publics: Theosophy, Christianity, and the Coulomb Affair.” *History of Religions* 49, no. 2 (2009): 172- 196.
- “Comic Book Karma: Visual Mythologies of the Hindu Modern.” In “Inscriptions,” ed. Jeremy Stolow and Lisa Gitelman, special issue of *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds* 4, no. 2 (2008): 177-197.

Special Issues Edited

- “Imagining ‘the Public’ in Modern South Asia.” Co-edited with Brannon Ingram and SherAli Tareen. Special issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 38, no. 3 (2015).

Book Chapters

- “Hinduism and the Concept of the Reformation,” in Bart Wallet, ed., *From Reformation to Reformations: On Analogies, Ideals, and Ideas* (under review)
- “Rammohun’s Remains: Death, Empire, and the Many Afterlives of Victorian Britain’s Most Beloved Bengali.” In *Sites of Memory*, ed., Pamela Klassen, manuscript in preparation.
- “A Commonwealth of Affection: Modern Hinduism and the Cultural History of the Study of Religion.” In *Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion: Literary, Historical, and Religious Studies in Dialogue*, eds., Joshua King and Winter Jade Werner. “Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies.” Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2019.
- “The Supernatural and Colonialism.” In *Super Religion*, ed. Jeffrey J. Kripal, *Religion: Sources, Perspectives, Methodologies*, Vol. 9, 277-91. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Other Academic Publications

- Review of *Reason (Vivek)* (dir. Anand Patwardhan, 2018), “Toronto International Film Festival Reviews,” *Journal of Religion & Film* 22, no. 2 (October 2018).
- Review of *Ad Vitam* (dir. Thomas Calley, 2018), “Toronto International Film Festival Reviews,” *Journal of Religion & Film* 22, no. 2 (October 2018).
- Review of Timothy Dobe, *Hindu Christian Faqir: Modern Monks, Global Christianity, and Indian Sainthood* (Oxford, 2015). *History of Religions* 57, no. 2 (November 2017), pp. 225-227.

Review of *Les Affamés* (dir. Robin Aubert, 2017), “Toronto International Film Festival Reviews,” *Journal of Religion & Film* 21, no. 2 (October 2017).

“Keeping Up with Culture: Response to Benjamin Berger’s *Law’s Religion*. Invited contribution to *The Immanent Frame* (blogs.ssrc.org/tif). 20 July 2016.

“Philosophy and Anticolonialism.” In “Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies,” ed. Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay and Matthew R. Dasti. Special issue of *American Philosophical Association Newsletter* 14, no. 2 (2015): 19-21.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2019-2020 Visiting Scholar, Center for Religion and Media, New York University
- 2018 University of Toronto-Mississauga Annual Research Prize in the Humanities (one of three research awards, per three divisions of the faculty, awarded annually)
- 2018 Harry Levin Prize, Honorable Mention: Runner Up for the Best First Book Award from the American Comparative Literature Association
- 2016-2018 Connaught New Researcher Award
- 2016-2017 University of Toronto-Mississauga Research and Scholarly Activity Fund Grant
- 2013-2014 Mellon-Humboldt SIAS Summer Institute, National Humanities Center and Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
- 2012-2013 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

INVITED LECTURES

- 2019 “Was the Arya Samaj Secular?,” University of Victoria, workshop on “Indian Secularisms,” Victoria, BC. 13-15 March.
- 2019 “From Insult to Injury: Hinduism and Religious Offense Before 1927,” Columbia University, South Asia Institute Colloquium Series. New York, NY. 28 January.
- 2017 “The Hunt for the Hindu Luther: Re-imagining the Reformation in Colonial India.” Amsterdam Centre for Religious History workshop, “From Reformation to Reformations: On Analogies, Ideals and Ideas.” Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. 21-22 September.
- 2017 “Translated Freedoms: Karsandas Mulji’s *Travels in England* and the Anthropology of the Victorian Self.” University of Michigan—Fritz Thyssen Foundation workshop on “Shifting Borders, Blurred Boundaries: Global Cultural Encounters Between the Material and the Immaterial.” Ann Arbor, MI. 3-4 August.
- 2017 “Religion, Colonialism, and South Asia.” University of Göttingen forum on “The Making and Unmaking of the Religious.” Göttingen, Germany. 22 June.
- 2017 “The Case of the Purloined Papers, or, How to Get Away with Libel.” Yale University workshop on “Entanglements of Law and Religion in South Asia.” New Haven, CT. 29 April.
- 2017 “Reading *Spiritual Despots: A Conversation*.” Tufts University Department of Religion. Medford, MA. 5 April.
- 2016 “What is a Public?” University of Chicago Divinity School workshop on “Public Religion.” Chicago, IL. 4 October.
- 2016 “Rammohun’s Remains.” Jackman Humanities Institute—University of Tübingen workshop on “Sites of Memory.” University of Toronto. Toronto, ON. 16 September.
- 2016 “Printed Asceticism: Reading the Self in Modern Hindu Hagiography.” Keynote Lecture at “From Reinforcement to Resistance: Books as (De)Colonial Agents,” Book History and Print Culture Graduate Colloquium. University of Toronto. 5 Mar.
- 2016 Roundtable respondent to Benjamin Berger, *Law’s Religion: Religious Difference and the Claims of Constitutionalism*. Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto. 25 Feb.
- 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

- 2017 “The Victorian Luther: How the British in India Reimagined the Reformation.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Society for Hindu-Christian Studies). Boston, MA. 17 November.

- 2017 “A Bourgeois Ethic for Hindu Bombay: Victorian Self-Help and the Gujarati Travelogue.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Religion in South Asia Unit). Boston, MA. 21 November.
- 2017 Presiding, “Author Meets Critic Panel: *The Myth of Disenchantment*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion and Cultural History of the Study of Religion Units). Boston, MA. 19 November.
- 2017 “Is It Time to Rethink ‘Reform and Revival?’” (Organizer and Roundtable Participant). Association for Asian Studies. Toronto, ON. 16 Mar.
- 2016 “Spiritual Affinities: How Keshub Chunder Sen Rethought the Liberal Voluntary Association.” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA). Phoenix, AZ. 2 Nov.
- 2016 “The Astral Gita: On Worldly Asceticism in Indian Theosophy.” Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. 22 Oct.
- 2016 “Conjunctive Religion, Or, How Keshub Chunder Sen Rewrote the Grammar of Modern Theology.” Conference on “The Uses of Religion in 19th Century Studies.” Waco, TX. 16 March.
- 2016 “The Aesthetics of the Unseen: On G. Willow Wilson’s Digital Islam.” Sixth International Conference of the Center for Media, Religion, and Culture. Boulder, CO. 7 January.
- 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.
- 2013 Presiding, “Conceiving Encounter, Evading Lack.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group). Baltimore, MD. 25 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto

Undergraduate:

- Fall 2018 Stranger Things: Material Religion in Theory and Practice
- Winter 2018 Introduction to Religion, Media, and Popular Culture
- Winter 2018 Insulting Religion
- Fall 2017 Method and Theory in the History of Religions

Winter 2017 Introduction to Religion, Media, and Popular Culture
 Winter 2017 Digital Religion
 Fall 2016 Method and Theory in the History of Religions
 Winter 2016 Reel Religion
 Winter 2016 Fetish, Totem, Idol: Theorizing Material Religion

Graduate:

Fall 2018 Religion, Secularism, and the Public Sphere
 Fall 2017 Religion, Media, and Culture
 Fall 2016 Religion and Liberalism
 Fall 2015 Religion, Secularism, and the Public Sphere

Montana State University

Spring 2015 Introduction to Religion
 Spring 2015 Religion, Media, and Technology
 Fall 2014 Introduction to Islam
 Fall 2014 Seminar: What is Religion?
 Spring 2014 Introduction to Religion
 Spring 2014 Seminar: Rethinking Secularism
 Fall 2013 Religion and Narrative in South Asia
 Spring 2013 Introduction to Religion
 Spring 2013 Gandhi's Modernity
 Fall 2012 Introduction to Hinduism
 Fall 2012 Philosophy of Religion
 Fall 2011 Introduction to Hinduism
 Fall 2011 Religion and Narrative in South Asia
 Spring 2011 Introduction to Religion
 Spring 2011 Guru Culture
 Fall 2010 Introduction to Hinduism
 Fall 2010 Media, Magic, and the Supernatural

Occidental College

Spring 2010 Globalization and Sacred Space
 Spring 2010 Introduction to South Asian Religions
 Spring 2010 Religion and Violence in South Asia

Duke University

Spring 2007 Media and Asian Religions

SELECT UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2015– Associate Editor, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (published since 1971).
 2015–2022 Co-Chair, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group, American Academy of Religion (AAR) (steering committee member from 2011-2015)
 2009– Steering Committee, Religion and Media Workshop, AAR (co-chair from 2009-2012)
 2013–2017 Steering Committee, Religion, Affect and Emotion Group, AAR

- 2017–2019 Chair, Research Committee, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto-Mississauga.
- 2015–2017 Undergraduate Education and Experience Committee, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto-Mississauga.
- 2016–2018 Admissions and Fellowships Committee, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto-St. George
- 2017–2019 Graduate Curriculum Committee, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto-St. George
- 2016– Religion in the Public Sphere Committee, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto-St. George

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies
South Asian Studies Association of Australia
American Institute of Pakistan Studies
American Comparative Literature Association