

ELIZABETH A. CECIL

Assistant Professor - Department of Religion
Florida State University, 641 University Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1520

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

August 2018 – present

Assistant Professor – Religions of South & Southeast Asia
Department of Religion

Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands

February 2017 – August 2018

Lecturer & Researcher – South and Southeast Asian Studies
Leiden Institute for Area Studies (*LIAS*)

British Museum, London, UK

May 2016-February 2017

Post-Doctoral Researcher – Cultural History of India
ERC Synergy Project *Asia Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Language, Politics and the State*

EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, RI

Ph.D. in South Asian Religions – 2016

Dissertation: *Mapping the Pāśupata Landscape: The Skandapurāṇa, Lakulīśa, and the Śaiva Imaginary*
(c. 6th-10th century CE)

Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, India

Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Archeology—2013-2014

University of Groningen, the Netherlands

Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Indian Studies—2011-2013

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

M.A. in Religious Studies – 2008

Hastings College, NE

B.A. with High Distinction in Philosophy and Religion – 2005

RESEARCH AREAS

- Religions of South & Southeast Asia
- History of Pre-Modern South & Southeast Asia
- Sanskrit Epigraphy
- Sanskrit Narrative Literature
- Art & Architecture of Early South & Southeast Asia
- Pilgrimage and Place-Making
- Gender Studies
- Environmental History

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mapping the Pāśupata Landscape: Narrative, Place, and the Śaiva Imaginary in Early India
(forthcoming Leiden: Brill, 2019)

Framing Intellectual and Lived Spaces in Early South Asia: Sources and Boundaries
Co-editor with Lucas den Boer (forthcoming Berlin: DeGruyter, 2018)

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters

‘Columns in Context: Venerable Monuments and Landscapes of Memory in Early India,’ co-authored with Peter C. Bisschop, *History of Religions* (expected Issue 58.04, May 2019)

‘Religion and Place-Making in a Medieval Frontier Boomtown: Kāman & Kāmyakeśvara’ forthcoming in the *Proceedings of the 2016 Conference of the European Association of South Asian Art & Architecture*, Adam Hardy & Laxshmi Greaves eds. (New Delhi: Dev Press, 2018).

‘Mapping the Pāśupata Landscape: Narrative, Tradition, and the Geographic Imaginary,’ forthcoming in *The Journal of Hindu Studies*, 2018 [advance online publication: <https://academic.oup.com/jhs/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/jhs/hiy002/5039695>]

‘Scenes of Love or Violence? The Abduction of Rukmiṇī in the Rijksmuseum’s Miniatures.’ *Aziatische Kunst* 48, no. 1 (2018): 64-70.

‘Medieval Temple as Material Archive: Historical Preservation and the Production of Knowledge at Mt. Harṣa in Rajasthan’ *Archive Journal* (August 2017) <http://www.archivejournal.net/essays/the-medieval-temple-as-material-archive/>

‘Power and Piety in ‘Emplaced Polities’: Temple Patronage and Donative Practice under the North Konkan Śilāhāras (9th-12th CE) *Puṣpikā: Tracing Ancient India through Texts and Traditions, Contributions to Current Research in Indology Vol IV* (pp. 213-231). Lucas den Boer & Daniele Cuneo eds. (Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2017).

‘Seeking the ‘Lord with a Club’: Locating Lakulīśa in the Early History of Pāśupata Śaivism (6th- 9th century CE)’ *South Asian Studies* 30, no. 2 (2014): 142-158.

Under Review

'Iconic Biographies: Lakulīṣa Images in the Temples of Karvan, Chittorgarh, and Mt. Harṣa' under review for publication in *Indo-Iranian Journal*

Other Articles & Reviews

'Sanskrit: Across Asia and Beyond' in *The Newsletter of the International Institute of Asian Studies* 77 (2017): 46-47. <https://iias.asia/the-newsletter/article/sanskrit-across-asia-beyond>

Review of *Religion and Identity in South Asia and Beyond: Essays in Honor of Patrick Olivelle* ed. Steven E. Lindquist, *Journal of Religions of South Asia* 9, no. 2 (2015): 243-245.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2017 – 2018	Leiden Global Interactions Institute (LGI), <i>Global Asia Research Fellowship</i>
2017	Scaliger Institute, Leiden University, <i>Brill Fellowship for Research in Special Collections</i>
2016	Gonda Foundation/International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), <i>Gonda Indological Research Fellowship</i>
2015 – 2016	American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), <i>Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i>
2015 – 2016	Brown International Graduate Colloquium Fund (GICF), for the conference <i>Materializing Sanctity, Enacting Authority: Text, Image, and Performance in India and China</i>
2015	École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Paris, <i>Summer Fieldwork Grant</i>
2015	Brown University Center for Contemporary South Asia, <i>Graduate Research Fellowship</i>
2014	International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), <i>Mellon Summer Workshop Grant: 'Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge, and Power in the Global Ecumene'</i>
2013 – 2014	Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), <i>Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources</i>
2013 – 2014	Social Science Research Council (SSRC), <i>Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship</i>
2013	American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), <i>Dissertation Research Fellowship (declined)</i>

2013 American Councils for Overseas Education, *Critical Language Scholarship for the study of Hindi in India*

2012 Association of Asian Studies (AAS) – Social Science Research Council (SSRC), *Dissertation Proposal Development Award*

FIELD & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

[December 2018 – January 2019]	Fieldwork and archival research in Java, Indonesia
Summer 2018	Fieldwork at temple and archeological sites of Champa in Vietnam and Pre-Angkorian sites in Laos—in cooperation with the <i>World Heritage Site Office</i> , Champasak
December 2016 – February 2017	Fieldwork in architecture and epigraphy of the Gupta and Cālukya rulers in Central and South India—in cooperation with the ERC Synergy Project <i>Asia Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Region, Language and the State</i>
Summer 2016	Study of Cambodian epigraphy—in cooperation with the Mellon Initiative <i>Visible Words: Digital Contextual Epigraphy</i> and the <i>École française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO)</i> , Phnom Penh
January – February 2016	Fieldwork at temple and archeological sites in northwest India—in cooperation with the ERC Synergy Project <i>Asia Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Region, Language and the State</i>
December 2015 – January 2016	Fieldwork at Angkorian and pre-Angkorian temple and archeological sites in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos— <i>ACLS Fellow's Research Fund</i>
Summer 2015	Fieldwork at medieval temple sites associated with the Muttaraiyar, Irukkevēḷ, and Paḷuvēṭṭaraiyar dynasties in Tamil Nadu, India—in cooperation with the <i>École française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO)</i> , Pondicherry
August 2013 – January 2015	Dissertation fieldwork and research in archives, manuscript libraries, museums, and early medieval temple sites in the Indian states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh
August 2014	Fieldwork and training in lost-wax casting techniques in Chiang Mai, Thailand—in cooperation with the <i>Center for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD)</i> , Chiang Mai University

January 2014	Study of early medieval Śaiva temples and epigraphy in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.
February – March 2012	Archeological survey at Vākāṭaka imperial and cult sites in Maharashtra, India.
December 2011 – January 2012	Survey and study of early medieval Śaiva temples in Northeast India—in cooperation with the <i>International Skandapurāṇa Research Team</i>

LANGUAGES

Sanskrit – Highly proficient in reading and translating
Hindi – Advanced Intermediate proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing
German – Academic reading proficiency
French – Academic reading proficiency

ORGANIZATION & LEADERSHIP

[2019]	Panel Co-organizer – ‘Designing Landscapes: Encounter, Reception, and Aleatory Effects of Monuments,’ <i>College Art Association Annual Conference</i> , New York, NY
2018	Panel Co-organizer – ‘When People Met Monuments: Encounter, Reception, and Transformation of Landscapes in South Asia,’ 47 th <i>Annual Conference on South Asia</i> , Madison, WI
2017 – 2018	Co-conveyor of the International Conference <i>Asia Beyond Boundaries: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Primary Sources from the Premodern World</i> , Leiden University, the Netherlands
2017 – 2018	Co-organizer of the <i>Public Knowledge Lecture Series (Studium Generale)</i> Leiden University, the Netherlands
2017	Colloquium Organizer – <i>Innovative Epigraphy: New Perspectives & Digital Methods in the Study of Inscriptions</i> , Leiden Institute of Area Studies, the Netherlands
2016 – 2018	Co-organizer of <i>Canonical Cultures: Workshop and Colloquium Series</i> , Leiden University, the Netherlands
2017	Curator of the Exhibition <i>Sanskrit – Across Asia and Beyond</i> Leiden University Asia Library, the Netherlands

- 2016 Panel Organizer – ‘Material Matters: Icons, Objects, and Religion in Pre-modern South Asia,’ 7th *Annual International Asian Studies Symposium*, Leiden University, the Netherlands
- 2016 Conference Organizer – *Materializing Sanctity, Enacting Authority: Text, Image, and Performance in India and China*, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2015 Workshop Leader – *Brown Religious Literacy Project*, Brown University, USA
- 2013 Panel Organizer – ‘Exploring the Place of Merchants, Traders, and Economic Institutions in Indian Religions,’ 42nd *Annual Conference on South Asia* – Madison, WI

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- November 2018 ‘Tracing the Arc of the Sun: Sūrya Worship in the Borderlands of Early South and Southeast Asia,’ *Interdisciplinary Conference on Cultural Geography*, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden, the Netherlands
- October 2018 ‘Monuments Misunderstood? Inscribed Columns as Venerable Objects in Early South Asia,’ 47th *Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, WI
- August 2018 ‘Architectures of Intimidation: Manipulating Landscapes and Manufacturing Awe in Early South and Southeast Asia’ *Asia Beyond Boundaries: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Primary Sources in the Premodern World* – Leiden University, the Netherlands
- July 2018 ‘The Triumphal Act: Self-Garlanding and Self-Coronation in Early Śaiva Iconography,’ Paper presented with Dr. Laxshmi Greaves at the *2018 Conference of the European Association of South Asian Art & Architecture* – Naples, Italy
- April 2018 ‘Adorning the Lord with Garlands: Liṅga Worship as Lived Religious Practice’ *Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions* – Durham University, UK
- March 2018 ‘Seeing Double in Daśapura: New Perspectives on the Twin Inscribed Columns of Yaśodharman,’ 228th *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – Pittsburgh, PA
- March 2017 ‘An ‘Arm of the Earth’, an ‘Eagle Banner’, and a ‘Spear of Dharma’: Inscribed Columns and Civic Religion in Early Medieval India,’ *South Asia Institute/ERC Workshop Series* – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) London, UK

December 2016	'The Sondhni Monuments: Traces of Sovereignty & The Temporality of Landscape,' <i>International Conference and Workshop: Breakdowns & Ruptures in Temple Life</i> – École française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO) Pondicherry, India
September 2016	'Epigraphic Encounters: Inscriptions, Monuments, and Museums in South and South East Asia,' 7 th <i>Annual International Asian Studies Symposium</i> – Leiden University, the Netherlands
September 2016	'Gods Imprisoned: Theft, Heritage, and the Value of the Past in Rajasthan,' <i>The Past Before Us: Heritage and History in South Asia</i> – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Centenary, London, UK
July 2016	'Community, Collective & Competition: Materializing Religions Life in Medieval Kāmyaka,' 23 rd <i>Meeting of the European Association for South Asian Archeology & Art</i> – Cardiff University, UK
June 2016	'Meeting Places: The Interactions and Intersections of Vaiṣṇava and Śaiva Religiosity in Northwest India (4 th -7 th century CE),' 2 nd <i>Zurich International Conference on Indian Literature and Philosophy, The Nārāyaṇīya: Reconsidering an Epic Text and its Contexts</i> —University of Zurich, Switzerland
March 2016	'Kāman, Kāmyaka & Kāmyakeśvara: Piety and Polity in Early Medieval Rajasthan,' <i>Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society</i> – Boston, MA
October 2015	'Power and Piety in 'Emplaced Polities': Patronage and Donative Practices in the Early Medieval North Konkan (9 th -12 th century),' <i>International Indological Graduate Research Symposium</i> – Leiden University, the Netherlands
August 2015	'Local Powers, Local Patrons: Patronage and Donative Practice under the Cāhamānas of Śākambharī and the North Konkan Śīlāhāras (9 th -12 th century),' <i>Archeology of Bhakti: The Bhakti of Minor Dynasties</i> – École française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO) Pondicherry, India
June 2015	(Together with Prof. Hans T. Bakker), 'Trade of All Sorts: The Spread of Early Śaivism along an Ancient Caravan Route,' <i>ERC Synergy Seminar: Asia Beyond Boundaries</i> – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) London, UK
March 2015	'Śiva and Salt: Religious Life around the Salt Lakes of Northern Rajasthan (7 th -10 th century),' <i>Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society</i> – New Orleans, LA
August 2014	'Temple and Museum: Conservation, Memory, and the Value of the Past in Rajasthan,' <i>Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge, and Power in the Global Ecumene</i> , Chiang Mai University and International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) – Chiang Mai, Thailand

July 2014	'Acts of Devotion, Acts of Destruction: Revaluating Local Models of Historical Preservation in Northwest India,' <i>International Conference: Meaningful Destruction, Contingent Preservation</i> – Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
January 2014	'Śiva in the City: The Politics of Preservation in Mumbai's Urban Landscape,' <i>Conference on Cultural Heritage: Environment, Ecology and Inter-Asian Interactions</i> , Nalanda University and International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) – Rajgir, India
October 2013	'Merchants and Pāśupatas: Rethinking the History of the North Konkan Śaiva Caves,' <i>Annual Conference on South Asia</i> – Madison, WI
April 2013	'Lakuliśa in the Early History of Pāśupata Śaivism,' <i>Empires of Faith: Seminar on Politics, Ritual, and State Formation in Early India</i> – Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
March 2013	'Merchants, Women, and Pāśupatas: Investigating the Śaiva Landscape of Mandasor,' <i>Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society</i> – Portland, OR
September 2012	'Religious Competition and Political Rivalry in the Pāśupata Landscape,' <i>International Indological Graduate Research Symposium</i> – University of Edinburgh, Scotland
March 2011	'Childless Mothers and Rejected Wives: A New Perspective on the Mātṛs' <i>Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society</i> – Chicago, IL

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religions of South and Southeast Asia • Cultural History of South & Southeast Asia • Gender and Religion in South & Southeast Asia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material Culture of South & Southeast Asia • Pilgrimage and Place-Making in South & Southeast Asia • Sanskrit Language & Literary Culture |
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 – 2019

Florida State University

Religions of South Asia

Religion and Ecology

Pilgrimage and Sacred Travel

Goddesses, Women, Power

2017 – 2018

Leiden University, the Netherlands

Primary Instructor

Introduction to Hinduism

Sanskrit II

Canon & Culture: Authority, Authenticity, and the Production of Knowledge

Co-Instructor

Cultural Dynamics of South and Southeast Asia

Academic Skills in Area Studies

2016 – 2017

Leiden University, the Netherlands

Primary Instructor

Classical Cultures of South and Southeast Asia

Religious Architecture in Asia: Temple, Stupa, and Mosque

Co-Instructor

Cultural Dynamics of South and Southeast Asia

Academic Skills in Area Studies

Brown University, Providence, RI

2015 *The Shape of the Divine: Images in the Religions of India*

University of Groningen, the Netherlands

2012 *Sanskrit I: Introduction to Grammar, Syntax, and Literature*

TECHNICAL TRAINING

2016 EpiDoc & Digital Epigraphy – *Training in Digital Humanities*, Brown University, USA

2015 Summer GIS Institute – *Brown Institute for Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4)*, Brown University, USA

COMPUTING SKILLS

ArcGIS; EpiDoc, TEI; AutoCAD; Zotero; Mendeley

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

American Oriental Society

Association of Asian Studies

American Historical Association

European Association of South

Asian Art and Architecture

College Art Association