

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 & Southeast Asian Studies
Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)

British Museum, London, UK

May 2016-February 2017

Post-Doctoral Researcher
European Research Council (ERC) Synergy Project *Asia Beyond Boundaries: Religion, Language, Politics and the State*

EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, RI

Ph.D. in Asian Religions & Sanskrit – 2016

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

Supervisors: James L. Fitzgerald, Hans T. Bakker, Nancy Khalek

Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, India

Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Archeology and Ancient History—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
- Sanskrit Epigraphy
- Sanskrit Language & Literary Culture
- Material and Visual Cultures of South & Southeast Asia
- History of South & Southeast Asia
- Spatial Humanities
- Gender Studies
- Religion & Ecology

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mapping the Pāśupata Landscape: Narrative, Place, and the Śaiva Imaginary in Early Medieval North India. Leiden: Brill, 2020. (Open Access)

Edited Volumes

Primary Sources and Asian Pasts. Co-editor with Peter C. Bisschop. Beyond Boundaries Series no. 8. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021. (Open Access)

Framing Intellectual and Lived Spaces in Early South Asia: Sources and Boundaries. Co-editor with Lucas den Boer. Beyond Boundaries Series no. 2. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020. (Open Access)

Refereed Articles & Chapters

(*forthcoming*). "Building Belonging: Śaiva Temple Communities in South & Southeast Asia," in *Routledge Handbook of the Hindu Temple: Materiality, Social History and Practice*, ed. H.P. Ray. London: Routledge.

(*forthcoming*). "Śaiva Epigraphy," in *Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, ed. Knut A. Jacobsen. Leiden: Brill.

(*forthcoming*). "Adorning the Lord with a Garland: Liṅga Worship in the Kushan Period," co-authored with Laxshmi Greaves in *The Kushan World*, ed. Joe Cribb. London: Routledge.

(*forthcoming*). "Jayati Bhagavān Jinendraḥ! Jainism and Royal Representation in the Kadamba Copper Plates from Palāśika," co-authored with Peter C. Bisschop. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.

"Kāma at the Kadamba Court: The Guḍnāpur Pillar Inscription of Ravivarman as a Text-Monument," co-authored with Mekhola Gomes, *Indo-Iranian Journal* 64 (2021): 10-50.

"Innovation and Idiom in the 'Gupta Period': Revisiting Eran and Sondhni," *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 58/1 (2021): 29-71

"A Natural Wonder: From Liṅga Mountain to 'Prosperous Lord' at Vat Phu," in Peter C. Bisschop, & Elizabeth A. Cecil (Eds.), *Primary Sources and Asian Pasts* (pp. 341-383). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

“Primary Sources and Asian Pasts: Beyond the Boundaries of the Gupta Period,” in Peter C. Bisschop, & Elizabeth A. Cecil (Eds.), *Primary Sources and Asian Pasts* (pp. 1-17). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

“Kāman & Kāmyakeśvara: Aspirational Art in a Medieval Frontier Boomtown,” in Laxshmi Rose Greaves, & Adam Hardy (Eds.), *Bridging Heaven and Earth: Art and Architecture in South Asia* (pp. 18-36). New Delhi: Dev Publishers, 2020.

“Architecture of Intimidation: Political Ecology and Landscape Manipulation in Early Hindu Southeast Asia,” in N. Staring, H. Twiston Davies, and L. Weiss (Eds.), *Perspectives on Lived Religion: Practices – Transmission – Landscape* (pp. 225-242). Leiden: Slidestone Press, 2019

“Columns in Context: Venerable Monuments and Landscapes of Memory in Early India,” co-authored with Peter C. Bisschop, *History of Religions* 58.4 (2019): 355-403.

“Mapping the Pāsupata Landscape: Narrative, Tradition, and the Geographic Imaginary,” *The Journal of Hindu Studies*, 11.3 (2018): 282-303.

“Scenes of Love or Violence? The Abduction of Rukmiṇī in the Rijksmuseum’s Miniatures,” *Aziatische Kunst* 48.1 (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),” in Lucas den Boer & Daniele Cuneo (Eds.), *Puṣpikā: Tracing Ancient India through Texts and Traditions, Contributions to Current Research in Indology Vol IV* (pp. 213-231). Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2017.

“Seeking the ‘Lord with a Club’: Locating Lakuliśa in the Early History of Pāsupata Śaivism (6th- 9th century CE),” *South Asian Studies* 30.2 (2014): 142-158.

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* 9.2 (2015): 243-245.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Major Fellowships & Grants

2020 – 2021	Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) & National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), <i>Senior Research Fellowship</i>
2019 – 2020	Getty Foundation & American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), <i>Postdoctoral Fellowship for the History of Art</i>
2017 – 2018	Leiden Global Interactions Institute (LGI), <i>Global Asia Research Fellowship</i>
2016 – 2017	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>
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, <i>Critical Language Scholarship for the study of Hindi in India</i>

Internal Awards (FSU)

2021 – 2022	College of Arts and Sciences, <i>Stephen Risley Family Fellowship</i>
2021	Florida State University, <i>Committee on Faculty Research Support Grant</i>
2019	Florida State University, <i>First Year Assistant Professor Award</i>
2019	Bradley Library Research Grant

Other External Awards

2017	Scaliger Institute, Leiden University, <i>Brill Fellowship for Research in Special Collections</i>
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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>
2012	Association of Asian Studies (AAS) & Social Science Research Council (SSRC), <i>Dissertation Development Award</i>

FIELD & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

September 2019 – March 2020	Study of architecture, iconography, and epigraphy at early Hindu temple sites in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Java—Getty/ACLS Fellowship for the History of Art
Summer 2019	Fieldwork at Gupta period temple sites in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, India. Archival research at State Museum Lucknow, Allahabad Museum, and India Museum in Kolkata
Winter 2019	Fieldwork in Laos—in cooperation with the <i>World Heritage Site Office</i> , Champasak and the <i>École française d'Extrême Orient</i> (EFEO), Vientiane; Archival research at the Bangkok National Museum
Summer 2018	Fieldwork at temple and archeological sites of Champa in Vietnam and Pre-Angkorian period sites in Laos—in cooperation with the <i>World Heritage Site Office</i> , Champasak
December 2016 – February 2017	Study of 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 Sanskrit epigraphy in Cambodia—in cooperation with the Mellon Initiative <i>Visible Words: Digital Contextual Epigraphy</i> and the <i>École française d'Extrême Orient</i> (EFEO), Phnom Penh

January – February 2016	Fieldwork at early medieval 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—ACLS Fellow's Research Fund
Summer 2015	Fieldwork and study of medieval temple sites and inscriptions 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 Project</i> .

LANGUAGES

Sanskrit – Highly proficient in reading and translating
Hindi– Advanced proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing
Old Khmer – Beginning experience in epigraphic reading
German – Academic reading proficiency; conversational speaking
Dutch – Academic reading proficiency; conversational speaking
French – Academic reading proficiency; conversational speaking

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

- Religions of South and Southeast Asia
- Sanskrit Language & Literary Culture
- Cultural History of South & Southeast Asia
- Gender and Religion
- Material Culture of South & Southeast Asia
- Pilgrimage and Place-Making in South & Southeast Asia
- Religion & Ecology

COURSES TAUGHT

2018 – present

Florida State University

Religions of South Asia

Place, Space, and Religion (M.A./Ph.D. Seminar)

Sanskrit Language & Literary Culture

Readings in Sanskrit Texts (Ph.D. Directed Study)

Pilgrimage in Asia (M.A./Ph.D. Seminar)

Yoga Traditions & Guru Movements (Ph.D. Directed Study)

Religion & Ecology

Goddesses, Women, Power

Introduction to Śaiva Traditions (Ph.D. Directed Study)

Summer 2019

Leiden University

Sanskrit Epigraphy in South and Southeast Asia (delivered at the Leiden Summer School for Language and Linguistics)

2016 – 2018

Leiden University

Introduction to Hinduism

Classical Cultures of South and Southeast Asia

Religious Architecture in Asia: Temple, Stupa, and Mosque (Advanced BA/MA Seminar)

Sanskrit II

Canon & Culture: Authority, Authenticity, and the Production of Knowledge (M.A./Ph.D. Seminar)

Cultural Dynamics of South and Southeast Asia

Academic Skills in Area Studies

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

University of Groningen – 2012 *Sanskrit I: Introduction to Grammar, Syntax, and Literature*

ORGANIZATION & LEADERSHIP

- 2021 Co-organizer of the *Third Annual Indian Epigraphy Workshop*, University of Pennsylvania (Online)
- 2019 Panel Co-organizer – ‘Designing Landscapes: Encounter, Reception, and Aleatory Effects of Monuments,’ *College Art Association Annual Conference*, New York, NY
- 2018 Panel Organizer – ‘When People Met Monuments: Encounter, Reception, and Transformation of Landscapes in South Asia,’ *47th Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, WI
- 2017 – 2018 Co-conveyor of the International Conference *Asia Beyond Boundaries: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Primary Sources from the Premodern World*, Leiden University
- 2017 – 2018 Co-organizer of the *Public Knowledge Lecture Series (Studium Generale)* Leiden University
- 2017 Colloquium Organizer – *Innovative Epigraphy: New Perspectives & Digital Methods in the Study of Inscriptions*, Leiden Institute of Area Studies, the Netherlands
- 2016 – 2018 Co-organizer of *Canonical Cultures: Workshop and Colloquium Series*, Leiden University
- 2017 Co-organizer and curator of the Exhibition *Sanskrit – Across Asia and Beyond* Leiden University Asia Library
- 2016 Panel Organizer – ‘Material Matters: Icons, Objects, and Religion in Pre-modern South Asia,’ *7th Annual International Asian Studies Symposium*, Leiden University
- 2016 Conference Organizer – *Materializing Sanctity, Enacting Authority: Text, Image, and Performance in India and China*, Brown University
- 2015 Workshop Leader – *Brown Religious Literacy Project*, Brown University
- 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

- March 2021 'A Natural Wonder: From Liṅga Mountain to Prosperous Lord at Vat Phu,' *South & East Asian Online Series (SEASONS)* – University of Virginia, Arlington
- July 2019 'Transposing Landscapes: Epigraphic Terrain and Political Geography in Early Southeast Asia (c. 5th - 10th century CE),' *Monumentality and Transposition of Writing in Inscriptions*, Oxford University Center for Manuscript and Text Cultures – Oxford, UK.
- May 2019 'Innovation and Idiom in the Gupta Period: Revisiting Eran and Sondhni,' Invited Lecture, University of Chicago Delhi Center – New Delhi, India
- March 2019 'No Roosters and Dogs in the Ashrama: Jayavarman's Gentrifying Mission at Vat Phu,' *American Oriental Society Annual Meeting* – Chicago, IL
- February 2019 'Building Hinduism in the Land of the Khmer: From Liṅga Mountain to Prosperous Lord,' Invited Lecture, University of Chicago Divinity School – Chicago, IL
- February 2019 'Multivalent Monuments: Inscribed Columns as Venerable Objects in Gupta North India,' *College Art Association Annual Meeting* – New York, NY
- 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,' *International Conference and Workshop: Breakdowns & Ruptures in Temple Life* – École française d'Extrême Orient (EFEO) Pondicherry, India
- September 2016 'Epigraphic Encounters: Inscriptions, Monuments, and Museums in South and South East Asia,' 7th *Annual International Asian Studies Symposium* – Leiden University, the Netherlands
- September 2016 'Gods Imprisoned: Theft, Heritage, and the Value of the Past in Rajasthan,' *The Past Before Us: Heritage and History in South Asia* – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Centenary, London, UK
- July 2016 'Community, Collective & Competition: Materializing Religions Life in Medieval Kāmyaka,' 23rd *Meeting of the European Association for South Asian Archeology & Art* – Cardiff University, UK
- June 2016 'Meeting Places: The Interactions and Intersections of Vaiṣṇava and Śaiva Religiosity in Northwest India (4th-7th century CE),' 2nd *Zurich International Conference on Indian Literature and Philosophy, The Nārāyaṇīya: Reconsidering an Epic Text and its Contexts*—University of Zurich, Switzerland
- March 2016 'Kāman, Kāmyaka & Kāmyakeśvara: Piety and Polity in Early Medieval Rajasthan,' *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – Boston, MA
- October 2015 'Power and Piety in 'Emplaced Polities': Patronage and Donative Practices in the Early Medieval North Konkan (9th-12th century),' *International Indological Graduate Research Symposium* – Leiden University, the Netherlands
- August 2015 'Local Powers, Local Patrons: Patronage and Donative Practice under the Cāhamānas of Śākambharī and the North Konkan Śilāhāras (9th-12th century)' *Archeology of Bhakti: The Bhakti of Minor Dynasties* – 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,' *ERC Synergy Seminar: Asia Beyond Boundaries* – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) London, UK
- March 2015 'Śiva and Salt: Religious Life around the Salt Lakes of Northern Rajasthan (7th-10th century),' *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – New Orleans, LA

- August 2014 'Temple and Museum: Conservation, Memory, and the Value of the Past in Rajasthan,' *Reading Craft: Itineraries of Culture, Knowledge, and Power in the Global Ecumene*, 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,' *International Conference: Meaningful Destruction, Contingent Preservation* – Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
- January 2014 'Śiva in the City: The Politics of Preservation in Mumbai's Urban Landscape,' *Conference on Cultural Heritage: Environment, Ecology and Inter-Asian Interactions*, Nalanda University and International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) – Rajgir, India
- October 2013 'Merchants and Pāsupatas: Rethinking the History of the North Konkan Śaiva Caves,' *Annual Conference on South Asia* – Madison, WI
- April 2013 'Lakuliśa in the Early History of Pāsupata Śaivism,' *Empires of Faith: Seminar on Politics, Ritual, and State Formation in Early India* – Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- March 2013 'Merchants, Women, and Pāsupatas: Investigating the Śaiva Landscape of Mandasor,' *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – Portland, OR
- September 2012 'Religious Competition and Political Rivalry in the Pāsupata Landscape,' *International Indological Graduate Research Symposium* – University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- March 2011 'Childless Mothers and Rejected Wives: A New Perspective on the Mātṛs' *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society* – Chicago, IL

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion
 American Oriental Society
 American Council of Southern Asian Art
 European Association of South Asian Art and Architecture
 College Art Association