

Karline M. McLain

Department of Religion
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Education:

- 1999-2005 Ph.D., Asian Cultures & Languages, The University of Texas at Austin
Dissertation: “Whose Immortal Picture Stories?: *Amar Chitra Katha* and the Construction of Indian Identities”
- 1997-1999 M.A., South Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- 1992-1996 B.A., Religious Studies, University of Iowa, with honors and high distinction

Employment:

- 2005-present Assistant Professor of South Asian Religions / Hinduism
Department of Religion, Bucknell University
Courses Taught:
Gandhi: Man, Myth, Legacy (FOUN 090-11)
Media, Modernity, and Religion (FOUN 096-47)
Comics and Religion (FOUN 097-47)
Introduction to Asian Religions (RELI 115)
Islam (RELI 201)
Hinduism (RELI 202)
Hinduism and Film (RELI 203)
Epic India: Comics, Films, Texts (RELI 247)
Major Religious Thinkers: Mahatma Gandhi (RELI 255)
Theories of Religion (RELI 330)
Gandhi: Man, Myth, Legacy (CAPS 427)

Academic Awards & Honors (Select List):

- Summer 2009 Bucknell University Common Learning Agenda Grant
- 2008-2009 American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Senior Short-Term Fellowship
- Summer 2008 Bucknell University Curriculum Development Grant
- 2007 Edward Cameron Dimock Jr. Book Prize in the Indian Humanities by the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) for *India's Immortal Comic Books: Gods, Kings, & Other Heroes* (Indiana University Press)
- 2007 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend Grant
- 2006-2007 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Individual Research Grant
- 2005 University of Texas Outstanding Dissertation Award
- 2004 David Bruton, Jr. Award for academic excellence in graduate studies, Univ. of Texas
- 2002-2005 Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)
- 2001-2002 Fulbright Research Fellow, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad Program
- 2001-2002 American Institute of Indian Studies Doctoral Research Fellowship (declined)
- 2000-2001 University of Texas Continuing Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)
- 1999-2000 FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Fellowship for the study of advanced Hindi & Urdu (full tuition and stipend)
- Summer 1999 FLAS Fellowship for the study of advanced Hindi at AIIS in India
- 1997-1999 FLAS Fellowship for the study of advanced Hindi & Urdu

May 1996 Charles Schoen Interfaith Award for interfaith understanding, Univ. of Iowa
 1992-1996 University Tuition Scholarship, The University of Iowa (full tuition)

Professional Publications:

Book:

2009 *India's Immortal Comic Books: Gods, Kings, & Other Heroes* (Indiana University Press).
 The manuscript was awarded the Edward Cameron Dimock Jr. Book Prize in the Indian Humanities by the American Institute of Indian Studies.

Journal Articles:

2009 "Vivalok Comics: Celebrating All That Is Small In India." *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 11, no. 2: 26-43.
 2008 "Holy Superheroine: A Comic Book Interpretation of the Hindu *Devi Mahatmya* Scripture," *Bulletin of the School for Oriental and African Studies*, special volume on scripture and religion, vol. 71, no. 2: 297-322. (Refereed)
 2007 "Who Shot the Mahatma: Representing Gandhian Politics in Indian Comic Books," *South Asia Research*, vol. 27, no. 1: 57-77. (Refereed)
 2005 "Lifting the Mountain: Debating the Place of Science and Faith in the Creation of a *Krishna* Comic Book," *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, vol. 13, no. 2: 22-37. (Refereed)
 2001 "The Fantastic as Frontier: Realism, the Fantastic, and Transgression in Mid-Twentieth Century Urdu Fiction," *The Annual of Urdu Studies* 16.1: 139-165. (Refereed)
 2001 "Sita and Shrupanakha: Symbols of the Nation in Amar Chitra Katha," *Manushi: A Journal about Women and Society*, vol. 122 (Jan.-Feb.): 32-39.

Book Chapters:

2009 "Gods, Kings, and Local Telugu Guys: Competing Visions of the Heroic in Indian Comic Books," in *Popular Culture in a Globalised India*, ed. by K. Moti Gokulsing and Wimal Dissanayake (New York: Routledge): 157-173.

Translations:

2005 "'Eve's Sin': A Translation of the Urdu Short Story by Wajeda Tabassum," in *Primavera: A Women's Literary Magazine*, vol. 27/28: 100-108. (Refereed)
 2003 "'Hawwa ka Gunah': Introduction and Translation," in *SAGAR: South Asia Graduate Research Journal*, vol. 11: 59-70.

Book/Film Reviews and Review Essays:

2008 Film Review: "Om Shanti Om," directed by Farah Khan (2007), in *Journal of Religion and Film*, vol. 12, no. 2. (<http://www.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol12no2/Reviews/omshanti.htm>)
 2006 Review of *The Gospel According to Superheroes: Religion and Popular Culture*, ed. by B.J. Oropeza (New York: Peter Lang, 2005), in *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, vol. XIII, Summer 2006. (<http://www.usask.ca/relst/jrpc/br13-superheroes.html>)
 2003 "Mullahs on the Mainframe: A Review Essay," *India Review* 2.1: 103-115. (Refereed)
 2002 Review of *Translating Partition*, ed. by Ravikant & Tarun K. Saint, in *SAGAR: South Asia Graduate Research Journal*, vol. 8: 147-151.
 2002 Review of Shashi Tharoor's *Riot: A Love Story* in *Persimmon: Asian Literature, Arts, and Culture* 3.1.
 2001 Review of Raj Kamal Jha's *The Blue Bedspread* in *Persimmon: Asian Literature, Arts, and Culture* 1.3: 98-99.

Professional Conference Papers:

- Oct. 2009 “Shirdi Sai Baba in the City: Countering Communalism in Mumbai through Devotion.” Annual South Asia conference, University of Wisconsin.
- Oct. 2009 “Be United, Be Virtuous: The Composite Vision of Shirdi Sai Baba Devotion.” New Darshans: Seeing Southern Asian Religiosity and Visuality Across Disciplines Conference, Denison University.
- Apr. 2009 “Rethinking the Place of Gandhian Nonviolence in India through Visual Culture.” Global Nonviolence International Conference, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. [Note: Due to a personal emergency I could not attend this conference; my paper was read by the discussant of the panel.]
- Mar. 2009 “The Afterlife of Shirdi Sai Baba.” International Conference on Ecumenical Hinduism, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN.
- Oct. 2007 “‘This Isn’t Amar Chitra Katha Once More’: Vivalok Comics and Composite Culture in India Today.” Annual South Asia conference, University of Wisconsin.
- Sept. 2007 “Picnics and Pilgrims, Poses and Prayers: Sanctification, Desanctification, and Resanctification at Elephanta Island.” Conference on the Study of Religions of India, Albion College, Albion, MI.
- Nov. 2006 “Radiating a Spiritual Force: Indian Comic Books as Devotional Art.” American Academy of Religion conference (co-sponsored by the Religion in South Asia section and the Religion, Arts, and Literature section), Washington, DC.
- Nov. 2006 “Massacre and the Mahatma: Gandhian Nonviolence in Indian Popular Culture.” American Academy of Religion conference (sponsored by the Religion and Popular Culture section), Washington, DC.
- Oct. 2006 “Who Shot the Mahatma? Depicting Gandhian Nonviolence in Indian Comic Books.” Annual South Asia conference, University of Wisconsin.
- Nov. 2003 “Remembering Shivaji: Narrative and Counter-Narrative in 19th and 20th Century Maharashtra.” American Academy of Religion conference, Atlanta, GA.
- March 2003 “Freedom’s Tears: Recasting Women and the Nation in Wajeda Tabassum’s Urdu Short Stories.” Association for Asian Studies conference, New York, NY.
- Nov. 2002 “Tales of Durga: Indian Warrior Goddess and Slayer of Demons.” At the “Mythology and Folklore” conference, Outreach Asia, The University of Texas.
- Oct. 2002 “Tears of Freedom: The Urdu Short Stories of Wajeda Tabassum.” Annual South Asia conference, University of Wisconsin.
- June 2001 “Using Comic Books to Teach about India.” At the “World Cultures through the Arts” conference, Outreach Asia, University of Texas.
- Apr. 2001 “Decoding Images: Otherness and Indian Comic Books.” At the “Visual Media, Mass Communication, and Violence” conference, University of Texas.
- Feb. 2001 “The Discourses of Lesbianism in Classical and Contemporary India.” Annual Graduate Student Gender Studies conference, University of Texas.
- Oct. 2000 “Translating Story to Image” panel participant at the “One River, Many Streams: Writing from India 2000” conference, University of Texas.
- Oct. 1999 “Nationalism and the Woman Question in Indian Comic Book Literature.” Annual South Asia conference, University of Wisconsin.
- Nov. 1998 “The Construction of Ideal Gender Role Models in Indian Comic Books.” Annual South Central Modern Language Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

Conference Panels Chaired:

- April 2006 “The Politics of Youth in South Asia.” Panel Chair. Association for Asian Studies conference, San Francisco, CA.

Invited Lectures:

- Jan. 2010 “Heroes and Villains in Amar Chitra Katha,” lecture at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in conjunction with the exhibit “Heroes and Villains: The Battle for Good in India’s Comics.” (Invited lecture.)
- Jan. 2008 “Envisioning Hinduism: Comics and Posters that Radiate a Spiritual Force,” faculty colloquium, Bucknell University.
- Oct. 2006 “‘Immortal’ Heroines: Goddesses, Wives, and Warriors in Indian Comic Books,” faculty colloquium for the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Bucknell University.
- Sept. 2006 “The Living *Ramayana* in India’s Popular Culture,” presented for the Religion Department, Dickinson College. (Invited lecture; honorarium and expenses paid.)
- Sept. 2006 “Sufi Devotional Poetics: Premodern and Modern,” presented for the English Department, Susquehanna University. (Invited lecture.)
- May 2005 “Massacre and the Mahatma: Gandhian Politics in Indian Comics,” presented at the “Further Perspectives on Gandhi and Non-Violence” conference, Outreach Asia, The University of Texas. (Invited lecture; honorarium and expenses paid.)
- Feb. 2003 “Writing Society, Writing Self: Feminism, Activism, and the Construction of the Social Self in the Work of Three Women Writing in India since 1930,” South Asia Tea Talk, Department of Asian Studies, The University of Texas. (Invited panelist.)

Overseas Research Experience:

- Fall 2008 India: Conducted research in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore on the topic “Envisioning Hinduism: Beyond Raja Ravi Varma’s Visual Canon.” Funded by an American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Senior Short-Term Fellowship (three months).
- Summer 2007 India: Conducted research in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra on the topic “Envisioning Hinduism: Raja Ravi Varma and the Visual Canon.” Funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer stipend and an American Academy of Religion (AAR) individual research grant.
- Summer 2002 England: Fulbright Fellow under the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad Program. Based in London. Conducted research with Indians in the U.K. diaspora on the topic “*Amar Chitra Katha* and the Construction of Indian Identities.”
- 2001-2002 India: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad Fellow. Based in Mumbai, Maharashtra; affiliated with S.N.D.T. Women’s University. Conducted research on the topic “*Amar Chitra Katha* and the Construction of Indian Identities.”
- Summer 1999 India: Participant in the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Hindi Language Program in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Funded by a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship.

Academic Service:

Faculty Search Committees:

- 2009-2010 College of Arts & Sciences Dean (elected).
- 2007-2008 Physics & Astronomy Department, two Tenure-Track Professors.
- 2007-2008 Religion Department, Visiting Professor of American Religions.
- 2006-2007 Religion Department, Tenure-Track Professor of East Asian Religions.
- 2005-2006 Religion Department, Visiting Professor of East Asian Religions.

University Committees:

- 2009-present Member, Religious Life Advisory Board.
- 2008-present Member, Film/Media Studies Committee.
- 2006-present Member, Residential College Advisory Board.

- 2005-present Member, Women's and Gender Studies Coordinating Committee.
2007-2008 Member, Burma-Bucknell 150 Years Committee.
2005-2007 Member, committee to organize a Bucknell in the Eastern Mediterranean (Turkey and Greece) study-abroad program.

Other University Service:

- 2006-2008 Faculty Advisor, South Asian Student Association (SASA) student group.
2006-2008 Graduate School Advisor, Religion Department.
2006-2008 Faculty Advisor, TALK Bucknell: International Conversation Partners student group.
2006-2007 Faculty Coordinator, International Focus Year on South Asia Lecture Series. Organized the campus-wide lecture series titled "Mediating Myths: Indian Gods in Modern Times," with lectures by visiting speakers Philip Lutgendorf, Kathryn Hansen, Paula Richman, and Rachel Dwyer.

Service to the Profession:

- 2009-2010 Consulting Scholar for the Mellon-funded curatorial project, "South Asian Visual Culture and Expressions of Religious Identity, Social Construction, and Nation," led by Dr. Natalie Marsh (Denison University)
2009 Senior Faculty Participant in the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) workshop on "Transforming Your Dissertation into a Book" held in conjunction with the Annual South Asia conference at the University of Wisconsin.

Teaching Development:

- 2009-2010 Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities (July 28-Aug. 3, 2009; Jan. 21-24, 2010; and June 9-14, 2010).
2009 May Faculty Workshop on Teaching Foundation Seminars, Bucknell University.
2009 January Faculty Workshop on Civic Engagement and Service-Learning, Bucknell University.
2008 May Faculty Workshop on Digital Video, Bucknell University.
2007 Participant in the poster session on integrating teaching and research, The Teaching and Learning Center, Bucknell University (Nov. 8). Poster presentation titled "Putting Theory into Practice: the Dialectic of Teaching and Research in RELI 330—Theories of Religion."
2007 Film/Media Studies May Plan on Teaching Film Courses, Bucknell University.
2006 May Faculty Workshop on Teaching Foundation Seminars, Bucknell University.
2005 August Faculty Workshop on Teaching Writing Courses, Bucknell University.
2003 Advanced College Teaching Methods course, The University of Texas at Austin.

Languages:

- Hindi Conversational, structural, and reading knowledge
Urdu Conversational, structural, and reading knowledge
Sanskrit Reading knowledge, listening comprehension
French Reading knowledge

References: Upon request.