



# Michael J. Slouber

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*Professor, South Asian Studies  
Global Humanities and Religions  
Western Washington University*

## Academic Appointments

- 2023– **Professor**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham
- 2017– **Affiliate Faculty, Honors College**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham
- 2014– **Affiliate Faculty, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham
- 2018–2023 **Associate Professor**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham
- 2014–2018 **Assistant Professor**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham
- 2013–2014 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham
- 2012–2013 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, *St. Mary's College of Maryland*, St. Mary's City
- 2011–2012 **Visiting Instructor**, *Brown University*, Providence
- 2005–2009 **Graduate Student Instructor**, *University of California*, Berkeley

## Education

- 2007–2012 **PhD**, *University of California*, Berkeley
  - Area: South and Southeast Asian Studies
  - Advisors: Robert Goldman, Alexander Rospatt
  - Dissertation: *Gāruḍa Medicine: A History of Snakebite and Religious Healing in South Asia*
- 2009–2011 **MA**, *Universität Hamburg*, Hamburg
  - Area: Kultur und Geschichte Indiens
  - Advisor: Harunaga Isaacson
  - Thesis: Śāṅkuka's *Samhitāsāra*
- 2005–2007 **MA**, *University of California*, Berkeley
  - Area: South and Southeast Asian Studies
  - Advisor: Somadeva Vasudeva
  - Thesis: *The Cult of Khaḍgarāvaṇa*

2001–2005 **BA**, *University of California, Davis, with highest honors*  
Area: Religious Studies  
Advisor: Naomi Janowitz  
Thesis: *The Politics of Gender in the Mahābhārata*

## Awards, Honors, and Grants

2020–2022 **WWU Professional Leave**, 3 quarters awarded  
2018 **WWU Study Abroad Pilot Grant**, *Cosmopolitan South India*  
2017 **WWU Grant-in-Aid for Book Project**, *A Garland of Forgotten Goddesses*  
2016 **WWU Mini-grant for Research Travel**, *Visited archives in India*  
2015 **DK Award**, *Best Sanskrit Dissertation Globally from 2012–2014*  
2015 **IASS**, *Honorary Lifetime Member of the International Institute of Sanskrit Studies*  
2011–2012 **Fulbright-Hays Replacement Grant**, *for fieldwork*, (declined)  
2010–2011 **Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship**, *University of California, Berkeley*  
2009–2011 **DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service**, *Universität Hamburg*  
2005–2009 **FLAS Fellowships for Sanskrit, Hindi, and Nepali**, *University of California*

## Research and Publications

### Works in Progress

Slouber, Michael. *Fierce Protectors: Possession and Exorcism in Early Tantra*. Monograph in preparation; Research leaves 2021–22 was dedicated to this project.

Slouber, Michael. Digital transcription of the *Vidyānuśāsana*, a medieval Jaina Tantric work totalling over 1,000 pages in print.

### Edited Volumes

2021 Slouber, Michael (ed.). *A Garland of Forgotten Goddesses*. Oakland: University of California Press.

Reviewed in:

*Asian Affairs* (2023)

*Reading Religion* (2022)

*Religion* (2021)

### Monographs

2017 Slouber, Michael. *Early Tantric Medicine*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Reviewed in:

*Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* (2023)

*Journal of the American Oriental Society* (2020)

*The Journal of Asian Studies* (2019)

*Religious Studies Review* (2018)

*Asian Medicine* (2018)

516 High Street | MS-9064 – Bellingham, WA 98225-9064

☎ 360.650.7649 • ✉ sloubem@wwu.edu • ⓘ 0000-0001-6755-9202

*International Journal of Hindu Studies* (2018)  
*Choice* (2017)

### Book Chapters and Related Contributions

- forthcoming Slouber, Michael. “Ferocity and Violence in the Bhūta Tantras.” In *Transgression and Encounters with the Terrible in Buddhist and Śaiva Tantras* edited by Olga Serbaeva.
- forthcoming Slouber, Michael. Dictionary entries in *Tāntrikābhīdhānakośa IV*, edited by Dominic Goodall and Marion Rastelli. Wien: VÖAW.  
*karnapiśāca, kaśmala, trailokyamohana, bālatantra, brahmarākṣasa, brahmānanda, brahmāstra, bhūta, bhūtatantra, bhūtatantrika, bhūtasamaya, bhūtāveśa, bhogahasta, bhairavavrata, mantragraha, mantrapīṇḍa, mantramūrti, mantravicāra, mantravedha, mantrāveśa, markatī, mānasa, māraṇa, māraṇādi, muṇḍa, muṇḍabhanḡi, muṇḍānta, moha, mohana, yakṣakardama, yakṣāṃśa, yāgabhūmi, rakṣā, rakṣograha, rasa, rasasiddhi, rasāyana, rasāyanasiddhi, and lākinī.*
- 2024 Slouber, Michael. “The Goddesses of Jaina Tantra.” In the *Oxford Handbook on Tantric Studies* edited by Richard Payne and Glen Hayes. New York: Oxford University Press. 507–530.
- 2023 Slouber, Michael. “Shamans and Bhūta Tantrikas: A Shared Genealogy?” In Paolo Rosati and Andrea Acri (eds.) *Tantra, Magic, and Vernacular Religions in Monsoon Asia: Texts, Practices, and Practitioners from the Margins*. London: Routledge. 60–77.
- 2022 Slouber, Michael. “Vulnerability and Protection in the Śaiva Tantras.” In Goodall, Dominic and J. Filliozat (eds.) *Mélanges tantriques à la mémoire d’N.R. Bhatt*. Collection Indologie n° 152. Pondichéry: EFEO. 53–67.
- 2021 Slouber, Michael. “Tvaritā: The Swift Goddess” in *A Garland of Forgotten Goddesses: Tales of the Feminine Divine from India and Beyond* edited by Michael Slouber. Oakland: University of California Press. 244–261.
- 2017 Slouber, Michael. “The Buddha’s Past Life as a Snakebite Doctor (Visavantajā-taka)” in Salguero, Pierce (ed.) *Buddhism and Medicine: An Anthology of Premodern Sources*. New York: Columbia University Press. 180–183.
- 2017 Slouber, Michael. “Tantric Medicine in a Buddhist Proto-Tantra (Mañjuśrīyamūlakalpa 40)” in Salguero, Pierce (ed.) *Buddhism and Medicine: An Anthology of Premodern Sources*. New York: Columbia University Press. 286–291.
- 2016 Slouber, Michael. “The Herbal Arsenal and Fetid Foods: The Power of Plants in Early Tantric Exorcism Rituals” in Ferrari, F. and Dahnhardt, T. *Roots of Wisdom, Branches of Devotion: Plant Life in South Asian Religions and Culture*. London: Equinox. 145–164.
- 2015 Slouber, Michael. “Snakebite Goddesses in the Śākta Traditions: Roots and Incorporations of Tvaritā, Kurukullā, and Bheruṇḍā” in Olesen (ed.) *Goddesses in Tantric Hinduism: History, Doctrine, and Practice*. London: Routledge. 74–95.

- 2015 Slouber, Michael. “The Venomous Virgin: Fact or Fantasy?” in Wexler, P. (ed.) *History of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Volume II: Toxicology in Antiquity*. Waltham, MA: Elsevier. 98–103.
- 2013 Slouber, Michael. “The Power of Garuda” in Winkel, K. (ed.) *Venom: Fear, Fascination and Discovery*. University of Melbourne. 33–35.

### Articles

- 2012 Slouber, Michael “Carrying God: Merely a Mount or Independent Deity?” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*. Vol. 21, No.1 (Fall): 109–122.
- 2007 Slouber, Michael. “The Manuscripts of the Kriyākālaguṇottara.” *Newsletter of the Nepal German Manuscript Cataloguing Project*, Number 5, (October to November). 9–16.

### Book Reviews

- 2024 *Coronāsūr: Asian Religions in the Covidian Age*, edited by Emily Zoe Hertzman, Natalie Lang, Erica M. Larson, and Carola E. Lorea. Reviewed for *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity*. Forthcoming.
- 2022 *Daemons are Forever: Contacts And Exchanges In The Eurasian Pandemonium* by David Gordon White. *Reading Religion* (AAR Book Reviews Website).
- 2021 *Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions: Essays in Honour of Alexis G.J.S. Sanderson* edited by Dominic Goodall, Shaman Hatley, Harunaga Isaacson, and Srilata Raman. In *Indo-Iranian Journal* 64: 75–87.
- 2019 *Language of the Snakes: Prakrit, Sanskrit, and the Language Order of Premodern India* by Andrew Ollett. In *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 23, 3: 348–350.
- 2018 *Lethal Spots, Vital Secrets: Medicine and Martial Arts in South India* by Roman Sieler. In *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 22, 3: 544–546.
- 2018 *Toxic Histories: Poison and Pollution in Modern India* by David Arnold. In *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity* 13: 345–347.
- 2017 *Well-mannered Medicine* by Dagmar Wujastyk. In *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 21, 1: 138–139.
- 2015 *Lord Śiva’s Song* by Andrew Nicholson. In *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 19, 3: 352–354.

### Ettexts (typed in and lightly edited Sanskrit sources)

- 2022 Rāvaṇa’s *Kumāratantram* with *Bhāṣāṭīkā* by Ravidatta
- 2022 Kalyāṇavaidya’s *Bālatantram*
- 2012 *Bhairavapadmāvatīkalpa*
- 2011 *Viṣavaidyasārasamuccaya*
- 2011 *Garuḍapañcāśat*
- 2011 *Garuḍadaṇḍakam*
- 2009 *Nārāyaṇya Tantrasārasaṃgraha*

2008 *Kāśyapīya/Gārudapañcāksarīkalpa*

### Invited Lectures and Workshops

- 2024 *Tāntrikābhīdhānaśo* Workshop, Vienna, Austria, May 27–31, 2024.
- 2023 Distinguished lecture at International Seminar on Tantric Religion, Pondicherry University, India, September 25–29, 2023: “Bāla Tantras: Origin, State of Scholarship, and Influence” (delivered remotely). Chaired by Dr. Dominic Goodall.
- 2023 *Tāntrikābhīdhānaśo* Workshop, Vienna, Austria, May 15–17, 2023.
- 2022 UC Berkeley Conference in Honor of Robert and Sally Goldman: “Coming Full Circle” March 29–30, 2022.
- 2020 UCR Jain Studies Symposium: “Illness, Medicine, and Healing in the Jain Tradition” June 6–7, 2020 (cancelled).
- 2019 Haṭha Yoga Project Workshop on the *Yogabīja* and *Vivekamārtaṇḍa*, Portland. September 16–25, 2019. Invited participant in Sanskrit reading workshop.
- 2019 Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Bengaluru Campus, India: Three-day Workshop on Tantric Traditions in India. August 2–4, 2019. Delivered three 90-minute sessions via Skype on Śāktism and Traditional Medicine, Early Śaiva Tantric Medicine, and Jaina Tantra.
- 2018 Sanchi University (Madhya Pradesh, India): “International Conference on Historical, Sociological, Philosophical and Spiritual Significance of Shakta Tantra with Special reference to Shrividyā Tradition” from 17–19, December, 2018. (declined).
- 2018 Department of Sanskrit Literature (Sāhitya), Sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kālady, Kerala. September 14, 2018. Delivered lecture on “Goddess Narratives in the Purāṇas and Tantras.”
- 2016 Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University. August 29, 2016. Delivered lecture on “Gāruḍa Śāstra at the Boundaries: Religion, Medicine, Tradition, Modernity.”
- 2016 “Sacred Cures: Situating Medicine and Religion in Asia, May 2–4, 2016.” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin). Delivered paper on “The Categories Religion, Medicine, and Magic in the Study of Traditional Indian Medicine (up to 1800).”
- 2015 17th Jaina Studies Workshop at SOAS, London, March 19, 2015. Delivered paper: “Mundane Matters: Sex and Violence in Early Medieval Jain Tantra.” (revised and expanded from earlier version)
- 2014 “History of Śaivism: Readings in Inscriptions and Early Manuscripts,” Paris, March 2014. Led reading session: “On the Classification and Treatment of Fever in the *Kriyākālaguṇottara*.”

### Conference Papers

- 2023 World Sanskrit Conference, Canberra, Australia (held virtually, January 8–13). Presentation titled “Iron and Exorcism.”

- 2021 European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR), Pisa, Italy, 31 August, 2021. Delivered paper virtually: “Shamans and Bhūtātāntrikas: A Shared Genealogy?” on panel “Tantra, Shamanism, and Magic: Experiences, Practices, and Practitioners at the ‘Margins’ of the Indic World.”
- 2020 22nd World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Otago, New Zealand, 2020 (cancelled).
- 2019 American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego. Presented two papers: “Philology in Goddess Studies” and “Situating the Jain Tantric *Guide to Spells* (*Vidyānuśāsana*).”
- 2018 American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Denver. Delivered paper “Exorcism Mantras in the Bhūta Tantras.”
- 2017 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 26–29, 2017. Delivered paper: “Is the Tantric Exorcist a Shaman?”
- 2017 19th SACPAN Conference, Seattle, February 11, 2017. Presented a paper: “Fierce Protectors of the Bhūta Tantras.”
- 2015 16th World Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, June 2015. Delivered two papers: “Gāruḍam in the Mañjuśrīyamūlakalpa” and “Early Tantric Medicine and its Relationship with Classical Ayurveda.”
- 2015 17th SACPAN Conference, Vancouver, B.C., March 7 2015. Delivered paper: “Mundane Matters: Sex and Violence in Early Medieval Jain Tantra.”
- 2013 American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Baltimore. Delivered two papers: “Tantra in the Doctor’s Eye: Tantric Influence on Ayurvedic Medicine” and “Love, Violence, and Healing in Jain Tantra: Anecdotes and Analysis.”
- 2013 American Oriental Society, Annual Meeting, Portland. Delivered paper: “Tantra in the Poet’s Eye: Śaṅkuka’s Vision of Gāruḍa Śāstra.”
- 2012 Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Toronto. Organized Panel on “Religion and Medicine” and delivered paper: “Religion, Authority, and Possession: Unraveling the Concept of Health in South Asian Snakebite Medicine.”
- 2012 15th World Sanskrit Conference, New Delhi. Delivered paper: “Vulnerability and Protection in the Śaiva Tantras.”
- 2011 Shakta Traditions Conference, Oxford. Delivered paper: “Snakebite Goddesses in the Śākta Traditions: Roots and Incorporations of Tvaritā, Kurukullā, and Bheruṇḍā.”
- 2010 DAAD Stipendiatentreffen, Rostock. Delivered presentation to seventy scholarship holders entitled “Snakebite and Traditional Medicine in India.”
- 2008 First International Workshop on Early Tantra, Kathmandu. Delivered presentation: “The Earliest Sources for the Bhūta and Gāruḍa Tantras.”
- 2007 Center for South Asia’s Annual Conference, Berkeley. Delivered paper: “The Cult of Khaḍgarāvaṇa.”
- 2006 Center for South Asia’s Annual Conference, Berkeley. Delivered paper: “Reading Between the Lines: Developing a Critical Approach to Sanskrit Texts.”

## Other Conference/Workshop Participation

- 2023 World Sanskrit Conference, Canberra, Australia (held virtually, January 8–13). Served as convenor of Tantra Studies section and chair of two panels.
- 2018 17th World Sanskrit Conference, Vancouver, B.C., July, 2018. Served as section convener and official moderator for two panels.
- 2016 American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Antonio. Organized and presided over panel: Garland of Forgotten Goddesses.
- 2015 American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 2015. Respondent to panel: “Theorizing Spirit Possession.”

## Teaching

### Western Washington University

- HNRS 220: India: Politics, Passion, and Disenchantment
- HUMA 271: Humanities of India
- HUMA 300: Independent Study Projects
- HUMA 300: Hindi Language Tutoring
- HUMA 302: Methods of Interdisciplinary Study: *The Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki*
- HUMA 337: Cosmopolitan South India (study abroad, canceled)
- HUMA 400: Sanskrit Language Tutoring
- HUMA 421: Traditional Indian Medicine
- HUMA 437: Study Abroad program to Nepal (canceled, earthquake)
- REL 231: Intro to the Study of Religion
- REL 303: Methods in the Study of Religion
- REL 345/WGSS 320: Fierce Goddesses of India
- REL 378: Religions and Society in India
- REL 490: Pilgrimage and Healing
- REL 498–499: Advisor for six and second reader for five senior thesis projects

### St. Mary's College of Maryland

- Religions and Cultures of India
- Theory and Method of Religious Studies
- World Religions
- Introduction to Hinduism

### Brown University

- Hindu Traditions
- Religions of South Asia
- Independent Study (Sikhism)

### University of California, Berkeley



Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion: Discussion section instructor for Ann Burlein

Religion and Its Monsters: Discussion section instructor for Ann Burlein

Great Books of India

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## Service

### Service to Department

- 2023– Minor Advisor: South and Southeast Asian Studies and Digital Humanities
- 2023–2024 Interim Major Advisor: Religion and Culture BA
  - 2023 Panelist for GHR Graduate School Information Session
  - 2023 Wrote professional leave letter as Chair pro tempore for colleague
  - 2022 Panelist for GHR Graduate School Information Session
  - 2022 Departmental Summer Advising (dates divided with Daniel Picus)
- 2021–2022 Yoga Sutra Lecture Series with Dr. K.S. Balasubramanian (April 2022): organization, promotion, host, closed-captioning editing
- 2019–2020 Global Learning Program to South India: curriculum planning, budgeting, negotiation, approval process, advertising, recruitment, and retention of applicants
- 2018–2020 Major Advisor: Religion and Culture BA
  - 2019 Mentor to new GHR faculty Mike Jones
  - 2019 Drafted proposal for Indigenous Religions hire (with Canadian-American Studies)
- 2016–2019 UFWW Department Steward
- 2018–2019 ANE Biblical Religion Search committee
  - 2018 Committee member for DCA hire
  - 2018 Volunteer for PAMLA conference
  - 2018 Liberal Studies Annual Lecture Series – Invited Philip Lutgendorf
  - 2015 Liberal Studies Annual Lecture Series – Invited Robert Goldman
  - 2015 Liberal Studies Chair Search Committee
- 2014–2015 Global Learning Program to Nepal: curriculum planning, budgeting, negotiation, approval process, advertising, recruitment, and retention of applicants
- 2014– Independent studies and thesis courses (listed above under teaching)

### Service to College/University

- 2024–2025 Faculty Senate President
  - 2024 Research and Creative Activities Council (substitute for Andrea Gogrof, Spring)
- 2023–2024 Faculty Senate Vice President and President Elect
  - 2023– Faculty Senate Executive Committee
  - 2023– Faculty Senator representing Global Humanities and Religions and Philosophy
- 2022–2023 Co-chair of Professional Leave Committee



- 2021–2023 Professional Leave Committee
  - 2022 Development of new minor in South and Southeast Asian Studies
  - 2021 Committee on Undergraduate Education (substitute for Andrea Gogrof, Fall)
  - 2020 FAC emergency ad-hoc budget advisory committee (Summer)
- 2018–2020 Secretary for CHSS Faculty Affairs Council
- 2016–2020 CHSS Faculty Affairs Council (Fall 2016, Fall 2017–Spring 2020)
- 2018–2019 South Asian History Search committee
- 2017–2018 Advisor for Summerstart and Transitions
- 2014–2018 Liberal Studies Advisor for Summerstart and Transitions students
  - 2018 Department Advisor for Fall Discovery Days (shared with Maureen Christman)
  - 2016 CHSS Faculty Affairs Council (substitute for Rob Stoops, Fall)
- 2015–2016 WWU Faculty Senate Academic Technology Committee

### Service to Profession

- 2024– Associate Editor for journal *Asian Medicine* (ASME)
- 2019–2024 South Asia Editor for journal *Asian Medicine* (ASME)
  - 2015– Various book reviews: See above under Research and Publications
  - 2023 Reviewed book manuscript for IFP and EFEO
  - 2023 Wrote blurb for SUNY Press monograph: *I, Yantra*
- 2019–2023 Convener and Chair for the Tantra Studies Section of the World Sanskrit Conference, Canberra, Australia (held online in 2023)
  - 2022 Reviewed revised book manuscript for SUNY Press
  - 2021 Refereed book manuscript for SUNY Press
  - 2021 Wrote blurb for OUP book *Illness and Immortality: Mantra, Mandala, and Meditation in the Netra Tantra*, by Patricia Sauthoff
  - 2020 Reviewed chapter in Pierce Salguero’s *Buddhism and Medicine: A Global History*
  - 2020 Final review of 9 articles, special issue on Siddha in *Asian Medicine* (ASME)
  - 2020 Refereed article for journal *Asian Medicine* (ASME)
  - 2020 Refereed article for journal *South Asian History and Culture*
  - 2019 Refereed article for journal *History of Science in South Asia* (HSSA)
- 2016–2019 Convener and Proceedings Editor for the Tantra Studies Section of the 2018 World Sanskrit Conference, Vancouver, B.C.
- 2017–2019 AAR Hinduism Group Steering Committee
- 2016–2019 South Asia Book Review Editor for journal *Asian Medicine* (ASME)
  - 2016 Refereed article for Oxbow *Puspikā* series
  - 2018 Refereed article for *Journal of Indian Philosophy*
  - 2013 Field Reader for Fulbright-Hays DDRA competition

### Service to Community

- 2024– Assistant Scoutmaster for BSA Troop 4019
- 2024 Lecture on Cultural History of Elephants in Asia for fifth grade class visit at Carl Cozier Elementary
- 2023 Talk for Western Gallery Exhibition *Himalaya to Cascadia* by Jyoti Duwadi: “The Cultural and Religious Backgrounds of Tantric Symbols,” November 30.
- 2023 Sanskrit tutoring for local community member
- 2022 Urdu tutoring and advice for local community member
- 2022 Interview with Raj Balkaran for the New Books Network (*Early Tantric Medicine*)
- 2022 Interview with Blair Lyonev for *The Radiant Story* podcast
- 2021 Facilitated matching of speaker of Dari and Pashto with local host needing to communicate with Afghan refugee children
- 2020 Created video on Humanities for fifth grader outreach “Compass 2 Campus”
- 2020 Interview with Raj Balkaran for the New Books Network (*A Garland of Forgotten Goddesses*)
- 2018 Reel World Film Series: Introduced, screened, and led discussion of *Parched*
- 2018 Reel World Film Series: Introduced, screened, and led discussion of *Bajirao Mastani*
- 2013 Guest speaker for Lister Society of Surgeons meeting
- 2012 Guest speaker for Brown Religious Literacy course on Hinduism
- 2011 Guest speaker for Brown Chaplain’s Interfaith Supper

## Languages

English	Native speaker
Sanskrit	Advanced Reading; Beginner Speaking and Writing
Prakrit	Intermediate Reading
Pali	Intermediate Reading
Nepali	Intermediate Reading, Speaking, Writing
Hindi	Intermediate Reading, Speaking, Writing
German	Intermediate Reading, Speaking, Writing
Spanish	Beginner Reading, Speaking, Writing
French	Beginner Reading

## Computer skills

Operating Systems	BSD, Linux	Sysadmin	Mail and web servers
Technical Applications	X <sub>Y</sub> LaTeX, GREP, Hugo	General Applications	GIMP, OBS, LibreOffice, etc.

## Other Professional Development

- 2023 Intermediate Nepali (refresher) Summer Intensive, University of Washington  
2016–2017 WWU CHSS Leadership Development Program  
2015 WWU Blended/Online Learning Workshop, Levels 1–2

## References

Dr. Robert Goldman  
Professor Emeritus of Sanskrit  
South & Southeast Asian Studies  
UC Berkeley  
7233 Dwinelle Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2520  
(510) 642-4089  
rpg@berkeley.edu

Dr. Alexander von Rospatt  
Professor of Buddhist Studies  
South & Southeast Asian Studies  
UC Berkeley  
7233 Dwinelle Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2520  
(510) 642-1610  
rospatt@berkeley.edu

Dr. Kimberly Lynn  
Professor and Chair  
Global Humanities and Religions  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 650-4869  
lynnk3@wwu.edu

Dr. Harunaga Isaacson  
Professor of Classical Indology  
Universität Hamburg  
Alsterterrasse 1,  
D-20354 Hamburg  
GERMANY  
Tel.: +0049-(0)40-42838-3385  
Harunaga.Isaacson@uni-  
hamburg.de