

Eric Steinschneider

Ithaca College
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Rothschild Place 139
953 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

116 1st Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
telephone: (617) 519-5443
email: esteinschneider@ithaca.edu

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., Religion, University of Toronto
2009 M.T.S., Harvard Divinity School
2005 B.A., *magna cum laude*, Religion and Japanese, University of Rochester

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2020–present Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Ithaca College
2018–2020 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Ithaca College
2016–2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies and Classics, University of Arizona

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

“Meat Matters: *Kolaimaruttal* and the Genealogy of Caiva Vegetarianism,” *New Explorations in South Asia Research*, manuscript in preparation
2020 “Ceṭṭiyār Vedānta: Fashioning Hindu Selves in Colonial South India,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 48.1: 101–118.
2017 “Subversion, Authenticity, and Religious Creativity in Late-Medieval South India: Kaṇṇuṭaiya Vaḷḷal’s *Oḷiviloṭukkam*,” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 10.2: 241–271
“Arguing the Taste of Fresh Butter: Īcūr Caccitāṇanta Cuvāmikaḷ’s Advaitic Interpretation of Tamil Śaiva Theology,” *International Journal of Hindu Studies*. 21.3: 299–318
2016 “The Song of Non-Contradiction: Vīraśaivas in Late-Precolonial Tamil South India,” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 9.3: 298–328

Book Chapters

“Non-dualism in Tamil Literature,” manuscript in preparation
“Colonial Tamil Religious Literature,” *The Oxford Handbook of Hindu Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, under review
“The Vaidika’s Limits: Candraśekharendra Sarasvatī Svāmī (1894-1994) and Tamil Brahmin Guru-ship,” forthcoming in István Keul and Srilata Raman (eds.) *Genealogies of the Guru in South Asia*, Routledge.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2018 “Comacuntara Nayakar.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, Helene Basu, Angelika Malinar, and Vasudha Narayanan. Brill Online.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2212-5019_beh_COM_1010069029

Book Reviews

- Expected 2022 Review of James Staples, *Sacred Cows and Chicken Manchurian: The Everyday Politics of Eating Meat in India*, forthcoming in *The Journal of Asian Studies*
- Expected 2021 Review of Gil Ben-Herut, *Siva’s Saints: The Origins of Devotion in Kannada according to Harihara’s Ragalegalu*, forthcoming in *The Journal of Religion*
- 2020 Review of Richard S. Weiss, *The Emergence of Modern Hinduism: Religion on the Margins of Colonialism*, in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 88.3: 911–914.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2020 American Institute of Indian Studies, Senior Short-term Fellowship
- 2019 Interfaith Youth Core Curriculum Development Grant
- 2015–2016 Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto
- 2013 Faculty of Arts and Science Award for Study Elsewhere of Less Commonly Taught Languages, University of Toronto, awarded for Advanced Tamil School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant, University of Toronto
- 2012–2013 Fulbright-Nehru Research Scholarship
 School of Graduate Studies Research Travel Grant, University of Toronto (declined)
- 2012 Recognition of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, University of Toronto
- 2011 India-Canada Association Scholarship, University of Toronto
 Faculty of Arts and Science Award for Study Elsewhere of Less Commonly Taught Languages, University of Toronto, awarded for Advanced Tamil
- 2010 India-Canada Association Scholarship, University of Toronto
 Asian Institute Graduate Student Support Grant, University of Toronto
- 2009 Avi Bennett Award, University of Toronto
- 2008 American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship, awarded for Advanced Sanskrit

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Expected 2022 “Women and Vedānta in Colonial South India: On the Early History of the *Kaivalliya Mātar Caṅkam*”, paper to be presented at the Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Online Conference, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
- Expected 2021 “Scholastic Conventions and Terms of Choice: On the Exegesis of the *Ñāṇavāciṭṭam*,” paper to be presented at the International Workshop on

- the *Mokṣopāya* and the Many *Yogavāsiṣṭhas*, Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literature, Mainz, Germany
- 2019 “The *Ñāṇavāciṭṭam* and the Making of Tamil Advaita Vedānta,” paper presented at the *Yogavāsiṣṭha* Workshop, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2018 “Scholarly Networks and the Spread of Tamil Śaivite Non-Dualism: Some Notes on the Reception of the *Niṭṭāṇupūti*,” paper presented at the 10th NETamil Workshop: Tracing School Formations and Scholarly Networks, École française d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, India
- 2011 “Taming the Tantras: The Order of Texts in Early Eighteenth-Century Śrīvidyā,” paper presented at the École française d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, India

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2019 “Race, Religion, and the Politics of Healing in America,” Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal
- 2016 “Rivers, Religion, and Power in South and Southeast Asia,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio
- 2015 “Textual Commentary in Colonial South Asia: Innovations, Adaptations, Continuities,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta
- “South Asian Religions in the Age of Print,” 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison

Papers Presented

- Expected 2021 “The Commentator as Translator: Exegetical Practice and the Fashioning of Tamil Monism,” paper to be presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio
- “The Case Against Meat: Anti-Christian Polemics in Early Modern South India,” paper to be presented at the Association for Asian Studies, Boston
- 2019 “Something We Can All Agree Upon: Didactic Literature and Renunciation in Late-Precolonial South India,” paper to be presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Diego
- 2017 “Advaita Vedānta in a Tamil Key: Caste and Canon at the Kōvilūr Ātīṇam,” paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison
- “The Religion Without a Name: Contextualizing the Vaidika in Twentieth-Century Tamil Smartism,” paper presented at the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto
- 2016 “Claiming the Golden River: Water, Religion, and Power in Tamil South India,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio
- 2015 “The Child-Saint and the False Philosopher: Cōmacuntara Nāyakar, the *Periyapurāṇam*, and ‘Tamil Religion,’” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta
- “An Elusive Sage in the *Accukkūṭam*: Print and the Question of the Tamil

- Religious Canon,” paper presented at the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison
- 2014 “True Religion in an Uncertain Age: Cōmacuntara Nāyakar and Nineteenth-Century Śaiva Hermeneutics,” paper presented at the 21st World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany
- “The Politics of Equivalence: Translating Advaita Vedānta in a Nineteenth-Century Tamil Commentary,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Diego
- “Not Another Sectarian Text: The *Avirōta-v-untiyār* and Eclecticism in Early Modern Tamil Śaivism,” paper presented at the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison
- “Śaivas Against Śaivism: Theological Polemics in Nineteenth-Century Tamil Advaita Vedānta,” paper presented at the 224th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Phoenix
- 2013 “When One Flavor has Two Tastes: Tāyumāṅavar in Late Nineteenth-Century South India,” paper presented at the 2nd Conference on South Asian Religions, University of Toronto
- “What Tāyumāṅavar Really Meant: Critique and Canon in Late Nineteenth Century South India,” paper presented at the 42nd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison
- “Experiencing Śiva in Colonial South India: Tamil *attuvaitam* Literature and the Making of Modern Śaivism,” paper presented at the South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference, Cochin, India
- 2012 “Claiming the Mantle of Mīmāṃsā: Notes on a Two-Faced Tantric Verse,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, Chicago

Departmental Talks

- 2019 “Money, Monasteries, and Monism: Fashioning Hindu Selves in Colonial South India,” paper presented at Ithaca College
- 2018 “Claiming Tāyumāṅavar: Polemics and Religious Appropriation in Nineteenth-Century South India,” paper presented at a Departmental Symposium entitled “Mapping the Religious Landscape of South Asia”, University of Arizona

COURSES TAUGHT

Ithaca College

- “Religion Matters” (Fall 2021)
- “The Nature of Nature” (Spring 2021)
- “Death, Dying, and Immortality” (Spring 2021)
- “Tantric Buddhism” (Independent Study) (Fall 2020)
- “Community: A Shared Intellectual Experience” (Ithaca Summer Seminar, Summer 2020, Summer 2021)
- “What Is Belief?” (Fall 2019)
- “Religion and Literature” (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)

“Yoga: Making Connections” (First-Year Seminar) (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
 “Religious Studies Capstone: Religion and Modernity” (Spring 2019)
 “Engaging Islam” (Spring 2019, Spring 2020)
 “Introduction to World Religions: Indigenous and Eastern” (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Summer 2021)
 “Religion, Race, and Social Justice” (Fall 2018)
 “Hindu Worlds” (Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

University of Arizona

“Introduction to the Study of Religion” (Spring 2018)
 “Gods, Goddesses, and Demons: Divinity in South Asia” (Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016)
 “Hindu Mythology” (Spring 2018, Spring 2017)
 “Introduction to World Religions” (Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016)
 “Religions and Cultures of India” (Fall 2017, Fall 2016)

Brandeis University

“Introduction to Hinduism” (Fall 2014)

University of Toronto

“Telling Saintly Lives: Hagiography in South Asian Religious Traditions” (with Arun Brahmbhatt, Spring 2014)
 “Religious Pluralism in Modern India” (Spring 2012)
 “Hindu Ritual” (Fall 2012)

Undergraduate Research Supervision (Ithaca College)

2020 Anton Popov, IC Summer Scholars Program, Faculty Mentor, “An Ocean of Nectar: A Practice of Tara for COVID-19”
 2019–2020 Araxie Mehrotra, “प्यार, जिनदगी, शादी, मुशिकल, अकेला: The Lost Souls of Indian Culture in Guyana”, secondary supervisor (with Jason Freitag)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2016-2018 Research Fellow for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada-funded project entitled “Colonial Calamities: Hunger, Fasting, and Feeding in Tamil South India”

ADMINISTRATIVE/SERVICE WORK

Ithaca College

2019–present member, Ithaca Seminar Steering Committee
 2021 program co-creator, B.A. in Religious Studies (with Craig Duncan, Rachel Wagner, Rebecca Lesses, and Samah Choudhury)
 member, Academic Status Appeals Committee
 member, H&S Assessment Committee
 member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Philosophy and Religion

- 2019 member, Antiracism Institute, Center for Faculty Excellence
 “Belief in the Public Sphere: Perspectives”, a two-day campus-wide event organized through the Religious Worlds Initiative, initiative founder and event co-organizer
 member, First-Year Seminar Institute, a faculty learning community focused on enhancing first-year pedagogy, Center for Faculty Excellence
 faculty chaperone for Ithaca College students participating in the Interfaith Leadership Institute, Interfaith Youth Core, Chicago
 faculty presider for Ithaca College undergraduate panel on “Race, Religion, and the Politics of in America”, Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal
 faculty sponsor for undergraduate research presented at the 22nd Annual Academic Whalen Symposium, Ithaca College
 courses created: “What Is Belief?”; “Religion and Literature”; “Yoga: Making Connections” (Ithaca Seminar); “Religion, Race, and Social Justice”; “Religion Matters”; “Religion, Gender, and Sexuality”
 faculty advisor for Philosophy-Religion majors and Religion minors
 judge, Ithaca College Mock Trial Team

University of Arizona

- 2017-2018 member, College of Humanities Awards Committee

University of Toronto

- 2015 “Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions: A Symposium in Honour of Alexis G.J.S. Sanderson,” symposium coordinator
 2013 2nd Conference on South Asian Religions, conference organizer
 2011 - 2012 Hindu Studies Colloquium coordinator
 Hindu Studies Reading Group coordinator
 Ph.D. student coursework mentor
 2011 1st Conference on South Asian Religions, cofounder and conference organizer

Other

- Peer-reviewer for *Religions*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Asian Literature and Translation*, Oxford University Press, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, University of California Press

LANGUAGES

Tamil, Sanskrit, French, German

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
 Association for Asian Studies
 American Oriental Society

REFERENCES

Srilata Raman
Associate Professor of Hinduism
Department for the Study of Religion
Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies
University of Toronto
170 St. George Street, Room 313
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2M8, Canada
(416) 978-3189
s.raman@utoronto.ca

Whitney Cox
Associate Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Chicago
Foster Hall 205
1130 East 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
(773) 834-0772
wmcox@uchicago.edu

Karen K. Seat
Chair, Department of Religious Studies and Classics
University of Arizona
1512 E. 1st Street
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 621-1689
kkseat@email.arizona.edu