

# LAURA MALIA DUNN, PH.D.

## EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion (focus: Hinduism), Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
- 2026 MA Indigenous Education, Arizona State University
- 2016 MA, Religious Studies, University of Hawai‘i Mānoa, Honolulu, HI
- 2012 BA, Religion, University of Hawai‘i Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Sanskrit—intermediate proficiency (reading, writing, speaking, translation)
- Hindi—beginning proficiency (listening, reading, speaking)

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Theological Union Berkeley, CA

#### **2018-present, Adjunct Faculty**

primary courses taught and developed: Tantric Shaivism (graduate), Tantra, Woman, and Goddess (graduate), Yoga Foundations (required graduate)

#### **2019-present, Core Faculty for the Interreligious Certificate Program**

primary courses taught and developed: Interreligious Dimensions of Hinduism (required graduate)

### Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, Berkeley, CA

#### **2019- Present, Academic Yearly Adjunct Lecturer**

Primary courses taught and developed

<b>Course</b>	<b>Times Taught</b>
Proseminar I –research methods (required graduate)	1
Proseminar II – thesis (required graduate)	2
Research Design	2
Methodology	4
Introduction to academic theology	2
Critical Summary and Critical Analysis	3
Constructing an Argument	1
Using Sources	1

### Naropa University, Boulder, CO

**2022, Adjunct Faculty—course taught and co-developed:** Yoga & Globalization (required graduate)

### Windward Community College, Kane‘ohe, HI

**2019-2022, Adjunct Faculty —courses taught:** Religion 150: Introduction to World Religions (required undergraduate)

University of Hawaii Manoa, Honolulu, HI

**2014-2016, Graduate Assistant in the Religion Department:** Religion 150: Introduction to World Religions (required undergraduate)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION TEACHING

Sanghawai, Tokyo, JP

2022, course taught and developed: Sanskrit for yoga

Open Space Yoga, Honolulu, HI

2018-2022, courses taught and developed:

- The History of Modern Yoga, Paṭañjali & Sāṃkhya Yoga
- Haṭha Yoga and the Tantric Body: Freedom & Embodiment
- Modern Yoga: transmission lineages, interpretations, appropriations
- Shakti, Devī, and Yoginī
- The Ten Great Wisdom Goddesses of Shaktism (two-part series)
- The Devī Mahātmya (four-part series)

Aloha Yoga Kula, Kailua, HI

2012, course taught and developed: Yoga Philosophy

Sanghawai, Honolulu, HI

2011, co-facilitator: 200-hour RYT teacher training

## LEADERSHIP & ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Open for Antiracism, OE Global, Concord, MA

**January 2024-present, Co-Director**

Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, Berkeley, CA

**Aug. 2022-present, Director of Programs and Assessment**

*Program Management & Leadership*

- Coordinates MTS program initiatives, guiding 15+ students and directing thesis papers and projects.
- Helms the MTS Proseminar, providing guidance on contextual theology, academic research methodologies, and writing skills.
- Oversees assessment procedures and data interpretation, advising on educational outcomes.
- Leads curriculum alignment revisions, fostering stakeholder consensus on learning objectives and outcomes.
- Initiated innovation of assessment data collection tools, increasing operational efficiency.

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- Reaffirmation of accreditation in 2023

### **Aug. 2020-present, Writing Program Director**

#### *Program Development and Organizational Leadership*

- Manages academic writing program to boost student retention and success.
- Develops writing workshops, improving student writing abilities.
- Established robust online tutoring program for remote learning needs.
- Created and maintains extensive online resources for student support.
- Recruits, onboards, and retains coaches with a focus on DEI.
- Curriculum development

#### *Academic Advising*

- Provides personalized advisory support and mentorship to nurture student growth and academic pursuits.
- Mentors and advises students on academic writing

#### *Teaching and Tutoring*

- Teaches courses on academic writing and research methods in religious studies and theology
- Tutors students on academic writing

### *Learning Unlimited, Honolulu, HI*

#### **May 2016-Dec. 2019, Assistant Director**

- Orchestrated talent acquisition, training, and retention strategies for educators.
- Spearheaded operational management and teacher development.
- Oversaw marketing initiatives, increasing student enrollments and brand recognition.
- Counseled on strategic matters, contributing to organizational growth and success.
- Orchestrated comprehensive student preparation programs.
- Celebrated student achievements and led performance improvement initiatives.

### *University Laboratory School, Honolulu, HI*

#### **2011-2012, Paraprofessional Tutor & Skills Trainer**

- Tutored K-5 students in various academic skills.
- Collaborated with faculty to teach self-regulation skills.
- Assisted students with written and verbal communication.
- Worked with children with autism and other developmental disorders.

## **PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)**

*Visualizing Power: The Image of Śakti in Modern Day Nondual Tantra*, (London: Bloomsbury) 2024 (forthcoming).

“Decolonizing Yoga: Indigenous & Ally Perspectives,” *Race & Yoga* (University of California Berkeley), December 2024 (forthcoming).

Dunn, Laura M. “Śaivism in North America.” In *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2024 (forthcoming).

Special Issue on Yoga & Sāṃkhya, co-editor, *Journal of Dharma Studies*, 6, no. 3, December 2023 (forthcoming, December 2024).

“Tulasi Srinivas, The Cow in the Elevator: An Anthropology of Wonder” (book review), *Asian Ethnology*, 79/1 (2020).

Dunn, Laura, and Graham M. Schweig, editors. “Special Issue on Contemporary Yoga Studies: Philosophy, Practice, Ethics, & Applications.” *Journal of Dharma Studies* 4, no. 1 (Spring 2020).

“Yoginī-s in the Flesh: Power, Praxis, and the Embodied Divine Feminine,” *Journal of Dharma Studies* (Springer International), Fall 2018, Berkeley, CA.

“The Self-Emptying God(dess): Death and Salvation in the Iconographies of the Crucifixion and Chinnamastā,” *Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology* (Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley), 4, no. 2, 2018.

## **PUBLICATIONS (LAY)**

“The Eye of the Beholder: Contemplation of the Tantric Goddess, Chinnamastā,” *Parabola Magazine*, Volume 41; Issue 1, Spring 2016: The Divine Feminine.

“The Shadow Side of Yoga,” ed. Carolyn Costin, Joe Kelly, in *Yoga and Eating Disorders: Ancient Healing for a Modern Illness* (New York: Routledge, 2016).

“The Alchemical Fire”: *Parabola Magazine*, Volume 37; Issue 1, Spring 2012: The Burning World.

“Grace is Here! An Interview with Ram Dass”: *Parabola Magazine*, Volume 38; Issue 1, Spring 2013 Spirit in the World

## **LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS (INVITED)**

- 2023 Decolonizing Yoga: Indigenous & Ally Perspectives, with Dr. Tria Blu Wakpa, Haley Laughter, and Laura Toyofuku-Aki, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
- 2020 “Embodied Hermeneutics of Tantric *Sādhana*,” Brown Bag Lunch Series, Brown Bag Lunch Series, Center For Arts And Religion: Doug Adams Gallery, Berkeley
- 2020 Virtual Sacred Spaces, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
- 2018 “Kālī: From British India To Modern-Day Laguna Beach, California” Brown Bag Lunch Series, Brown Bag Lunch Series, Center For Arts And Religion: Doug Adams Gallery, Berkeley
- 2016 “The Iconic Image Of Chinnamastā: Mediating The Gap Between Text And Experience” Violent Borders Book Launch, Center For South Asian Studies, Honolulu
- 2010 “Yoga as an Adjunct To Psychotherapy,” with Dr. Thomas Cummings, Dr. Richard Rothschiller, and Bridgette Snyder, Hawaii Psychological Association Conference, Honolulu

## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

- 2023 (respondent) “Contemplative Studies & Jainism: Meditation, Prayer, and Veneration” (Routledge, 2023), DANAM/American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX
- 2019 “Reenchanting The Body: Asceticism Of Transnational Ashtanga Yoga” American Academy Of Religion, San Diego
- 2018 “Yoginī-s In The Flesh: The Embodied Divine Feminine” American Academy Of Religion, Annual Meeting, Denver
- 2018 “Presence And Absence: The Eternal And Ephemeral Image Of Dakshinakālī” Symposium On Semiotics And Hermeneutics In Indian Thought, Center For Dharma Studies, GTU, Berkeley
- 2018 “Yoginīs in the Flesh: The Embodied Divine Feminine,” Persistent Voices, Women’s Studies in Religion Student Conference, GTU, Berkeley
- 2018 “Yoginīs in the Flesh: The Embodied Divine Feminine,” Religion & Ritual: Poetics & Performance of the Ineffable, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Hawaii Mānoa, Honolulu
- 2017 (Respondent) “Hinduism & Sustainability” Religion And Kindness, American Academy Of Religion Western Regional Conference, Institute Of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley

## PROJECTS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2023— Sustainability and Contemplative Civilization: The Integral Vision of Sri Aurobindo Conference, JDS co-sponsor with California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco
- 2022-Present—Shared Sacred Story Project, Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2021-Present—*Visualizing Power*, Association for Asian Studies Publication Grant, National Endowment of Humanities
- 2021— *Journal of Dharma Studies*, Editorial Newhall Fellowship, GTU, Berkeley
- 2019—Yoga for Healing Sexual Trauma, Interreligious Collaborative Research Fellowship, GTU, Berkeley
- 2016-2018, 2020—Presidential Scholar, GTU, Berkeley
- 2018—Newhall Fellow, GTU, Berkeley
- 2018 & 2019—Center for Arts & Religion Field Research Grant, Berkeley
- 2015—“A Cross-Cultural Inquiry Into Religious Understanding Theory And Practice Of Kataphatic and Apophatic Discourse,” Templeton, Marlboro, Vermont

## SERVICE & SCHOLARSHIP

### ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

*Journal of Dharma Studies (Springer), Berkeley, CA*

#### 2022-present, Editor in Chief

- Steers the journal's vision, driving quality and consistency
- Develops and plans conferences and special issues

- Expands the journal's interdisciplinary scope
- Develops strong stakeholder relationships
- Leads publishing efforts and editorial management
- Marketing and public relations

### **2018 – 2021, Editorial Administration Manager**

- Streamlined editorial processes and increased efficiency
- Managed the peer review and revision process
- Implemented quality control measures

### Ad Hoc Reviewer

- *Journal of Dharma Studies* (2018-present)
- *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2018-present)

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS**

### Scholarly

- Steering Committee, Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM) (2021 – Present)
- Advisory Board Member, Berkeley Art And Interfaith Pilgrimage Project (2021 – Present)
- Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion: Asceticism Unit (2018 – 2020)
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### University Affiliated

#### **Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University**

- Admissions Committee (Fall 2023-present)
- Academic Council (Fall 2023-present)
- Statutes and Curriculum Committee (Fall 2023-present)

#### **Santa Clara University**

- Assessment Committee (Fall 2023-present)
- Research Committee (Fall 2023-present)

#### **Graduate Theological Union**

- Doctoral Council (2019-2021)

### Community

- State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, Hawaii State Art Museum (2014-2015)

## **CERTIFICATES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **INDEPENDENT**

- Academic Career Coaching, 2023-present
- Writing Coaching, 2022
- Public Speaking Coaching, “Nail That Talk,” 2023
- “The Four Directions: Indigenous Ways of Knowing,” Ken Paul, MSW, 2023
- Trauma Informed Yoga Training, 2019

## **SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY**

- Artificial Intelligence for Teaching, 2023
- Student Mental Health Training, 2023
- Inclusive Course Design, 2023
- The Courage to Lead, 2022-present
- Safe Spaces Training, 2021

## **HARVARD**

- Religious Literacy Summer Institute, Dianne Moore, Ph.D., 2020 (certificate)

## **GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION**

- Digital Technology and Teaching Training, 2020 and 2021
- Teaching Technology, 2019
- Trauma Informed Pedagogy, 2019
- Trauma Informed Pastoral Care, 2019
- Syllabus Building, 2018
- Developing a Teaching Philosophy, 2018

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Academy of Religion (2017-present)
- South Asian Religions, formerly Religions of South Asia (2016-present)

## **AWARDS**

- 2020—Borsch-Rast Dissertation Award, GTU, Berkeley
- 2017—Chan Essay Award, GTU, Berkeley
- 2016—Francis Powers Writing Award, Honolulu