

TIMOTHY STEPHEN DOBE

1120 PARK ST.
GRINNELL COLLEGE
GRINNELL, IA 50112
dobetimo@grinnell.edu
(641) 269-3228

ACADEMIC POSITION

Associate Professor of South Asian Religions (Asst. 2005-2011, Assoc. 2012-present), Grinnell College

Chair of Religious Studies Department, 2015-2017, Grinnell College

ACADEMIC DEGREES AND TRAINING

Th. D.	Comparative Religion	Harvard Divinity School	2007
	South Asia Regional Studies	University of Pennsylvania Exchange Scholar	2001-2002
M. Div.	Church History	Princeton Theological Seminary	1997
B.A.	English and Studio Art	University of New Hampshire	1994

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND COURSE OFFERINGS

Senior Seminar: Comparing Saints • Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies • MLK and Gandhi • Living Indian Religions in London • Gods of Bollywood • Nonviolence for Social and Religious Change • British Identity and Religious Pluralism • Religious Traditions of India • Traditions of Islam • Mystics and Politics in Islam • Global Christianities

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Hindu Christian Faqir: Modern Monks, Global Christianity and Indian Sainthood (Oxford University Press, AAR/OUP series in Religion, Culture and History, 2015).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

and Aaron Sinift, "Transnational Homespun, Citizen-Art and Hindu-Muslim Gandhi Ashrams: A Conversation on and against Spirituality," *South Asian Popular Culture*, (forthcoming).

"Cosmopolitan Monks and Global Hinduism," in *Hinduism in the Modern World*, ed. Brian Hatcher (New York: Routledge Press, 2015).

"Vernacular Vedānta: Rāma Tīrtha's Diglossic Indo-Islamic Mysticism," *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 18, 2 (2014): 181-219.

"Saffron Saint of the Most Spiritual Race: Sundar Singh and the Western Oriental Christ" in *Sainthood and Race: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh*, eds. William Vincent Lloyd and Molly Bassett (New York: Routledge Press, 2014).

“Dayānanda Sarasvatī as Irascible *R̥ṣi*: The Personal and Performed Authority of a Text,” *The Journal of Hindu Studies* 4 (2011): 79-100.

“Flaunting the Secret: Lineage Tales of Christian *Sannyasis* and Missionaries,” *History of Religions* 49/3 (2010): 254 -99.

“Qoheleth and the Lao-Tzu: An Experiment with Wisdom,” *Ching Feng: A Journal on Christianity and Chinese Religion and Culture* 40 (July 1997): 129-148.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Tamil Folk Music as Dalit Liberation*, Zoe C Sherinian (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2014), (forthcoming in *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies*).

Review of *Punjab Reconsidered: History, Culture and Practice*, Anshu Malhotra and Farina Mir, eds. (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012), *Journal of Asian Studies* 74: 2 (May 2015): 514-516.

Review of *Moral Languages from Colonial Punjab: The Singh Sabha, Arya Samaj and Ahmadiyahs*, Bob van der Linden, *Journal of Asian Studies* 69:4 (2010): 1285-1286.

Review of *Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires*, William Pinch, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75 (2007): 432-436.

Review of *Tantra: Sex, Secrecy, Politics, and Power in the Study of Religion*, Hugh B. Urban, *Religious Studies Review* 32/3 (2007): 207.

Review of *One Lifetime, Many Lives: The Experience of Modern Hindu Hagiography*, Robin Rinehart, *The Journal of Religious Studies* 34/1&2 (Spring-Autumn 2003): 194-198.

Review of *Suffering Religion*, Robert Gibbs and Elliot Wolfson, eds. *The Journal of Religious Studies* 34/1&2 (Spring-Autumn 2003): 170-173.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & LECTURES

Transnational Homespun, Citizen-Art and Hindu-Muslim Gandhi Ashrams: A Conversation on and against Spirituality, Paper Presentation, Hinduism Group, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Nov. 2017.

Ashrams in Space: The Spatial Turn in Hindu-Christian Studies, Panel Organizer and Respondent, Hindu-Christian Studies Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, Nov. 2017

Hindu Myth, Politics, and Gandhi at the Movies, Invited “Scholar for a Day” class lecture, Eckerd College, February, 2017.

The Muslim Gandhi: Between Silence and a Postsecular History, Paper Presentation, Midwest Conference for British Studies, Iowa State University, September, 2016.

Constructive Critique and Postcolonial Comparisons: Rethinking Continuity, Practice and Heterogeneity with Richard King in and beyond Punjab, Paper Presentation for Postcolonial Studies in Religion, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2014.

The Yogic History of Indian Christianity and The Western Oriental Christ, Jawarharlal Nehru University, April 2014.

Gandhian Revolution, Alumni Lecturer, Grinnell College, 2013.

Rama Tirtha’s Vernacular Vedanta, Presenter and Co-organizer for Hinduism Group panel, A Tradition of Change in Hinduism?, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2012.

Saints of the Most Spiritual Race: Protestant Hindus and Christian Gurus in Shades of Saffron, Invited Presenter, The Racial Saint Workshop, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, December, 2011.

Religious Encounters in Colonial South Asia, Invited Panel Respondent, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2011.

Public Monks: Modern Sadhus, Pre-modern Models and Performance, Yale Modern South Asia Workshop, New Haven, CT, April, 2010.

Monks and Mystics at Work in the World: Dayananda Saraswati as Irascible Rishi, Jamia Milia University, Center for Comparative Religion, New Delhi, February, 2010.

Multiply Modern: On the Persistence and Practice of Religiously Plural Identities in the Colony, Invited Lecture, Religious Studies Department, University of Virginia, March 2009.
Faqirs in the Colony, Invited Lecture, South Asian Studies Seminar, University of Iowa, April 2008.
Becoming Martin Luther in Punjab: The Rhetoric of Reform in Dayananda Saraswati's Satyārtha Prakasha, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, Annual Meeting, 2006.
Lokas and Locations: The Transformative Power of Travel to Sacred Worlds, Panel Respondent, American Oriental Society, Annual Meeting, 2005.
Founded by Viswamitra: The Secret Sannyasi Mission and the Missionary Church, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, Annual Meeting, 2004.
This Morning of Light, translation of Shahida Hasan's poem, *Yah Subah-i Roshan*, Workshop on Contemporary Hindi and Urdu Women Poets, University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Studies Program, 2004.
Sainthood in the Punjab: Progress Report on Research, UCSB-Columbia Punjab Studies Program, Chandigarh, India, 2003.

LANGUAGES

Hindi/Urdu	3 ½ years classroom study; resided in India for two years; reading, writing, speaking
Punjabi	2 summers of formal study in India; reading, writing, speaking
Sanskrit	High Pass Harvard Language Exam, reading ability with dictionary
French	High Pass Harvard Language Exam, reading ability with dictionary
German	High Pass Harvard Language Exam, reading ability with dictionary

INTERNATIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research, Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban, South Africa, Summer, 2017
Grinnell-in-London, Teaching for Off-Campus Study Program, Fall 2014
Research, India Office Library, London, Grinnell-funded, August, 2014
Invited Lectures, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Spring 2014
Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2009-2010
Punjabi Program, American Institute of Indian Studies, Patiala, Punjab, India, Summer 2003
Fulbright Research Scholar, Punjabi University, Department of Religious Studies, Punjab, India, 2002-03
UCSB-Columbia Punjab Studies Program, Chandigarh, Punjab, India, Summer 2001
International School of Tanganyika, English Teacher, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 1997-1999
Research Trip to South India, Union Theological Seminary, Bangalore, India, Oct. 1998
Lacoste School of Art, Summer Painting Program, Lacoste, France, Summer, 1993

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Summer 2018	External Reviewer for article on Gandhi's ashrams for <i>Utopian Studies</i>
Spring 2018	Co-Teacher, "Nonviolence for Social and Religious Change," with Srdja Popovic, CANVAS (www.canvasopedia.org)
Spring 2018	Davis Prizes for Peace, Selection Committee, Peace and Conflict Studies Committee
Fall 2017-pres.	Associate Editor, <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
2014-present	Peace and Conflict Studies Committee Member and Concentration Advisor (starting 2017)
2014-2018	Co-chair, Hinduism Group Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion
Fall 2017-pres.	Core Organizer, "26 Days of Action," Gun reform activism
Fall 2017	"Between Art, History, and Trauma: Gandhian Reflections on Indigenous Indian Art," Lecture, Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College
Fall 2017	Invited Discussion Leader, "Morally Reprehensibility and Grinnell Today," Student-organized Divestment Teach-In

- Spring 2017 “Building a Movement: Standing Rock and Indigenous Leadership,” Main Organizer for 5 day Workshop and Public Events, \$22,000 budget with Raphael Mimoun, Build a Movement (www.buildamovement.org)
- Spring 2017 Main Organizer, “Tipaniya and Party,” Indian Music Performance
2015-2017 Chair, Religious Studies Department
2015-2017 Curriculum Committee, Humanities Division Representative
Fall 2016 Chair, Religious Colleague, Complete Review
Fall 2016 Invited Lecture, “Taking Baseball Bats to the Dictator: Serbian Stories for Anti-racist Struggle,” Racism in Global Perspective, Humanities Center Event, Grinnell College
- May 2015 Co-organizer, “Colonial Geographies, Transnational Futures,” Grinnell College Summer Workshop
- April 2015 Co-organizer, Zoe Sherinian event, “Dalit Drumming and Christianity”
Feb 2015 Invited Grinnell Class Lecture, “Caste as Chant, as Critique and as Conversion,” Introduction to Political Science
- Fall 2015 External Reviewer for an article on Sadhu Sundar Singh, *Immigrants & Migrants*
2013-14 Search Committee Member, Gender and Asian Religions tenure-track position
Spring 2013 Selection Committee Member, Grinnell Corps: New Orleans
May 2013 “Gandhian Revolution,” Invited Lecture, Grinnell College, Alumni College
Search Committee Chair, Gender and Asian Religions tenure-track position
- 2012-2014 Hinduism Group Steering Committee (elected), American Academy of Religion
Spring 2012 Organizer and Host, Tanika Sarkar (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Grinnell Heath
Professor to teach two semester-long courses
- Spring 2012 “Michael Knight and Punk Islam,” Main Organizer, Grinnell College
Film Screening with Director, Author Reading, Panel Discussion and “The Kominas” Music Event
structured into the syllabi of four college courses
- Fall 2011 “America’s Many Gods: Hindus and Muslims in the Homeland,” Invited Lecture, Chicago
Grinnell Alumni Event
- 2011 “Nina Paley and *Sita Sings the Blues*,” Main Organizer, Grinnell College
Film Screening and Master Class event structured into the syllabi of five college courses
- 2011 “More Violence: The East, Gandhi and Religion,” Invited Respondent, Peace Studies
Lecture, Dr. David Western, “Precarious Peace, Elusive Norms,” Grinnell College
- 2010-2012 Cultural Films Committee (Chair, 2011-2012), Grinnell College
- Fall 2010-12 Hindi ALSO, Language Examiner, Grinnell College
- 2007-present Center for International Studies, “Grinnell-India Initiative,” Grinnell College resulting in faculty exchange with Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- 2006-present Faculty Adviser, South Asia Off-Campus Study Programs, Grinnell College, SITA Madurai, ACM Pune, IES New Delhi, ISLE Sri Lanka (Board Member, 2011-present)
- 2006-2011 Middle East and Islamic Studies, Committee Member, Grinnell College, resulting in tenure-t position and appointment in History and Religious Studies
- March 2009 “Kabir in Poetry, Music and Film,” Festival Organizer, Grinnell College
Linda Hess, Tipaniya and Party, and Shabnam Virmani
- 2008-11 “Hindu Asceticism,” and “*Bhagavad Gita*,” and “Bollywood,” Lecturer and Discussion
Leader, Newton Correctional Facility, Grinnell Prison Workshop
- Sept. 2009 “Gandhi and MLK,” Invited Lecture for MLK Commemoration Week, Grinnell College
2007-2009 Center for International Studies, Board Member, Grinnell College
- March 2008 Member of three-member Grinnell College Faculty Delegation, Jawaharlal Nehru Univ.,
New Delhi
- March 2008 CIS, Grinnell College, “Islam and Europe,” conference participant, Marseille, France
October 2007 Hosted and Organized Mellon 23 Conference at Grinnell College, “Middle East Studies and the Liberal Arts,” including eight Mellon institutions
- 2006-2007 Early Career Faculty Committee, Co-organizer
Feb. 2006 “Sufi Music from Pakistan,” Farid Ayaz Ensemble, Main Organizer, Grinnell College

