

**APRIL D. HUGHES**

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

**Assistant Professor, Boston University**, Department of Religion, 2016 – present.

**Assistant Professor, Gonzaga University**, Department of Religious Studies, 2014 – 2016.

**EDUCATION**

**Princeton University, Ph.D. Department of Religion**, 2008 – 2014.

Dissertation: “Waiting for Darkness: Judgment, Salvation, and Apocalyptic Eschatology in Medieval China.” Advised by Stephen F. Teiser. Awarded September 2014.

**University of California, Berkeley, M.A. Asian Studies**, 2006 – 2008.

Thesis: “Sengqie: A Case Study in Medieval Chinese Hagiography.” Advised by Robert H. Sharf.

**University of California, Los Angeles, M.A. East Asian Studies**, 2001 – 2004.

**California State University, Northridge, B.A. Religious Studies**, 1997 – 2000.

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

Graduate Fellow, Princeton University McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. 2013 – 2014.

Conducted classroom observations and offered peer mentoring for graduate student and postdoctoral instructors.

Teaching Certification, Princeton University McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. Spring 2013.

“Messianism— Jewish and Christian Perspectives.” Two-week course, Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. July 2010.

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies Summer Program in Yokohama, Japan. June – August 2008.

Peking University in Beijing, China. Chinese Language. September 2004 – June 2005.

Humanistic Buddhist Monastic Life Program: Fo Guang Shan Temple, Taiwan. July – August 2004.

**LANGUAGES**

Classical Chinese, Modern Chinese, Japanese, French

## **PUBLICATIONS – MONOGRAPHS**

*Worldly Saviors and Imperial Authority in Medieval Chinese Buddhism*. Accepted and in press with University of Hawai'i Press, publication March 2021.

## **PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES**

“Re-examining the *Zhengming jing*: The Social and Political Life of an Apocryphal Maitreya Scripture.” *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 45:1, May 2017, pp. 1-18.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITION**

Individual Research Grant Award for “Proscribing Practice: Local Rituals and Buddhist Practice in Medieval Dunhuang,” American Academy of Religion. 2018 – 2019.

Junior Faculty Fellowship (one semester research leave), Boston University Center for the Humanities. Spring 2019.

Boston University East Asia Career Development Professorship. 2018-2021.

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. 2013 – 2014.

Graduate Fellow, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. Weekly interdisciplinary workshop. 2013 – 2014.

Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies (CHIBS) Fellowship for Graduate Students. 2013.

Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Princeton University Department of Religion. 2012.

Graduate Fellow, Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion, Weekly interdisciplinary Religion and Culture Workshop. 2011 – 2012.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Editor and Translator on the “Lo Archive Dunhuang Project,” Princeton University’s P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art. May 2012 – February 2013.

Visiting Research Associate, Dunhuang Academy, Gansu Province, China. January – June 2011.

Research Assistant, University of California, Berkeley Group in Buddhist Studies. Fall 2006.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Boston University, Department of Religion**, Fall 2016 – present. Courses taught: “Chinese Religion,” “Gender, Sexuality, and Buddhism,” “Sex, Death, and the Buddha,” “Religions of Asia,” “Art, Media, and Buddhism.”

**Gonzaga University, Department of Religious Studies**, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016. Courses taught: “Religions of China,” “Buddhism and Gender,” “Visions of the Buddha: From Ancient India to Modern America [Buddhist Visual Culture]”

## INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Yale University, “**Buddhist Apocalyptic Saviors and Imperial Authority during the Reign of Empress Wu Zetian (690-705CE).**” February 27, 2020.

Harvard University, China Humanities Seminar. “**Apocalyptic Saviors, Terrestrial Utopias, and Imperial Authority: The Reign of Empress Wu Zetian (690-705CE).**” November 4, 2019.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, “Critical Terms for the Study of Chinese Religious Studies Conference.” “**The Dao.**” June 21, 2019.

Harvard University, “Mediating Religion: Text and Object in Chinese Religion.” “**Envisioning Paradise: Maitreya’s Utopia in Medieval Mural Paintings at Dunhuang.**” December 8, 2017.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and University of California, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, “International Conference on Empires and Religions in Comparison: The Graeco-Roman World and Early China.” “**Mother, Savior, Ruler: Apocalyptic Scriptures and Empress Wu.**” September 15, 2016.

The Dunhuang Academy, the China Academy of Culture, and the Wooden Fish Foundation, Dunhuang, China, “Dunhuang Conference on Sutra Transmission and Translation.” “**Maitreya and Prince Moonlight Scriptures Discovered at Dunhuang.**” June 16, 2016.

International Liaison Committee for Dunhuang Studies, Princeton University, “Prospects for the Study of Dunhuang Manuscripts: The Next 20 Years.” “**Chinese Visions of the End: An Examination of Three Dunhuang Scriptures.**” September 7, 2014.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston. “Empowering Rulership: Politics of Legitimation in Asian Religions” Panel. “**Rebels, Rulers, and Buddhas: Worldly Saviors and Political Legitimation in Medieval China.**” March 20, 2020.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego. “The Ambivalence of Buddhist Kingship,” Panel in the Buddhism Group. “**Wu Zhao (r. 690-705): Buddha, Emperor, Earthly Savior.**” November 24, 2019.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego. “Disaster and Calamity in Chinese Religions from the Medieval to the Modern Era,” Panel in the Chinese Religions Group. “**Disaster and Calamity in Medieval China.**” November 23, 2019.

Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver. “De-Centering Buddhist Kingship” Panel. “**Ideal Ruler: The Wheel-Turning King in the Maitreya Buddha Murals at Dunhuang.**” March 23, 2019.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio. “Envisioning Salvation: Eschatology and Utopias in Medieval China,” Panel in the Chinese Religions Group. “**Imagining Utopia in the Canonical and Apocryphal Maitreya Scriptures.**” November 19, 2016.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta. “Politics, Imperial Institutions, and Religion in Imperial China,” Panel in the Chinese Religions Group. “**Shifting Conceptions of Kingship in Medieval China: A Reexamination of the Canonical and Apocryphal Maitreya Scriptures.**” November 22, 2015.

University of California, Los Angeles, “Empire and Media of Religion: A Workshop on Comparative Approaches to the Study of Religion in the Greco-Roman Imperial Era and Early China.” “**The Role of Apocalyptic Concepts in Imperial Legitimation in Medieval China.**” May 22, 2015.

The University of Chicago, “Refiguring East Asian Religious Art: Buddhist Devotion and Funerary Practice.” “**Visions of Earthly Paradise: Maitreya Mural Paintings at Dunhuang.**” May 25, 2014.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, “Millennialism, Eschatology, and the Latter Day of the Dharma,” Panel in the Buddhism Group. “**Saviors from Chaos and Destruction: Maitreya Buddha and Prince Moonlight in Dunhuang Manuscripts.**” November 24, 2013.

## LECTURES AND PANELS AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Boston University, Core Curriculum, Lecture on the *Daodejing*. February 11, 2020; February 12, 2019; February 13, 2018; February 14, 2017.

Boston University “Tertulia” Junior Faculty Colloquium Series, “**Maitreya’s Paradise: Terrestrial Buddhist Utopias in Scriptures and Paintings in Medieval China.**” November 8, 2017.

Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion, “**Apocalypticism and Messianism in China.**” March 15, 2017.

Boston University Graduate Division of Religious Studies, Teaching Fellow Seminar “Composing A Statement of Teaching Philosophy.” February 23, 2017.

Boston University Center for the Study of Asia, East Asian Archeology Forum, “**Maitreya’s Terrestrial Paradise: Medieval Mural Paintings at Dunhuang.**” October 20, 2016.

Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies, Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, and the Center for the Study of Asia, “Chinese Buddhist Charity in Comparative Perspective.” Panelist. September 9, 2016.

## **SERVICE**

Member, Humanities Curriculum Committee, Boston University. Fall 2017-Spring 2018. Fall 2019-present.

Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor Position in Chinese Art and Architecture, Boston University, Department of History of Art and Architecture. Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

Member, Faculty Annual Review Evaluation Committee, Boston University, Religion Department. Spring 2017.

Member, Global Studies Taskforce, Gonzaga University College of Arts and Sciences. Fall 2015 – May 2016.

Member, Speaker’s Series Committee, Gonzaga University. Fall 2015 – May 2016.

Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor Position in Islam, Gonzaga University, Religious Studies Department. Fall 2015 – Spring 2016.

Committee Chair, World or Comparative Religions Core Curriculum Committee, Gonzaga University. Spring 2015 – May 2016.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion

Association of Asian Studies

Early China Medieval Group

Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

T’ang Studies Society