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Department of History, and Religious Studies Program  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
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**Employment:**

Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Tenure-track dual appointment, Department of History and Religious Studies  
Program, since Fall 2011

**Education:**

University of Virginia, Department of Religious Studies  
PhD, History of Religions, May 2011  
Advisor: Kurtis Schaeffer  
Dissertation title: *Subversive Sainthood and Tantric Fundamentalism: An Historical  
Study of Tibet's "Holy Madmen"*

M.A., Religious Studies, May 2005

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT  
B.A., English, May 2003

**Teaching and Research Interests:**

Buddhism, Tibetan history and culture, Tibetan language and literature, tantra, Indian  
religions, theories of religion, methodology for the study of religion, the nature of  
sainthood, ascetic traditions, long-term meditative retreat

**Publications:**

*The Life of the Madman of Ü*. Book-length translation of the *yogin's* biography, written in  
two parts, in 1494 and 1537. Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 2016

*The Holy Madmen of Tibet*. Oxford University Press, 2015

"Re-animating the Great Yogin: On the Composition of the Hagiographies of the  
Madman of Tsang." *Revue D'Etudes Tibétaines* 30 (April 2015): 25-49

Review of *Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism: History, Semiology, and Transgression in the  
Indian Traditions*, by Christian K. Wedemeyer. *Religions of South Asia* 9 (2015)

Review of *Theos Bernard, The White Lama: Tibet, Yoga, and American Religious Life*, by Paul Hackett. *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 20 (2013): 654-61

"Buddhism and Hinduism," entry for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Culture and Intellectual History*, 2013

"Chasing Tibet's Demons: A Review," which discusses five recent Tibetological books. *Religious Studies Review* 38.2 (2012): 61-8

### **Courses Taught:**

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, 2011-present

Undergraduate:

Theories of Religion  
Saints and Saintliness  
Buddhism Across Asia  
Tibetan Buddhism

Graduate:

Marx and Religion in Tibet

### **Invited Lectures:**

"Tibetan 'Madmen' in the Marketplace" (short version), February 2013, Leipzig University, international conference titled *Challenging Consensus: Religious Non-conformism and Cultural Dynamics*

"Tibetan 'Madmen' in the Marketplace," October 2012, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for South Asia lecture series; April 2011, Rubin Museum of Art/Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center, New York

"China and Tibet: A History of Exploitation," October 2011, Greater Milwaukee United Nations Association

"*grub thob smyon pa'i skor* [On Holy Madmen]," lecture given in Tibetan to the Advanced Tibetan Studies Seminar, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala, India, June 2009; and to the annual Intensive Translation Training Workshop, August 2009

### **Academic Presentations:**

Response to Christian K. Wedemeyer's *Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism*, as part of a panel discussion of the book, at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2014

"How to Become a *Siddha* in Tibet: A Case Study," paper given at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, November 2013

“Who was Drukpa Künlé?” paper given at the Thirteenth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, July 2013

“‘Holy Madness’ as Self-Representation: Tsangnyön Heruka and Chögyam Trungpa,” paper given at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, October 2010

“The Mad Saint of Tsang (1452-1507): A Tibetan Iconoclast and Icon,” paper given at the Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue, Jefferson Scholars Foundation, University of Virginia, September 2010

“The Madman of Tsang (1452-1507): Eater of Brains, Fundamentalist, Saint,” paper given at the Twelfth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Vancouver, August 2010

“A New Direction in the Study of Tibet’s Holy Madmen,” paper given at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2008

**Fieldwork:**

Tibet, India, Nepal, Mongolia: 23 months total

**Languages:**

Modern Tibetan - fluent, able to teach

Classical Tibetan - advanced reading and translation abilities, able to teach

Sanskrit - reading ability, ability to teach at the introductory level

French - reading ability

**Honors and Awards:**

Graduate School Research Committee Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2013  
For summer research in Nepal and Mongolia

Dissertation Acceleration Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2010

Presidential Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2003-2004, 2006-2008, 2010  
For doctoral coursework

Junior Fellowship, American Institute for Indian Studies, 2009  
For dissertation fieldwork in India

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant, 2003, 2004-2006  
For Tibetan and Sanskrit language study at the University of Virginia, the University of Chicago, and Tibet University

**Professional Affiliations:**

American Academy of Religion  
Association for Asian Studies  
International Association of Tibetan Studies

**Service:**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Chair, Religious Studies Steering Committee, 2014-2015 academic year  
Religious Studies Steering Committee, Fall 2011 to present  
Peace Studies Advisory Committee, 2013 to present  
History Department, Graduate Affairs Committee, 2013 to present  
History Department, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, 2012-2013 academic year  
History Department, Faculty Affairs Committee, 2011-2012 academic year

Co-organized with John Nemeč a panel discussion of Christian Wedemeyer's *Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism: History, Semiology, and Transgression in the Indian Traditions* at the 2014 meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, sponsored by the Buddhism Section, Tantric Studies Group, Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group, and Yoga in Theory and Practice Group. Other participants include Wedemeyer, Gudrun Bühnemann, David Gordon White, and Ronald Davidson.

Presentation, "Buddhism: Its Rise and Basic Tenets," given at Saint John's on the Lake, a retirement community in Milwaukee, August, 2013

Presentation, "Pedagogy and Course Design," given to Professor Weisner-Hanks' History 716: Professional and Pedagogical Issues in History course, April, 2013

Presentation, "The Tibetan Language," given to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Linguistics Club, April, 2013

Organized panel titled "'Holy Madmen' (*grub thob smyon pa*) from a Variety of Perspectives" at the Twelfth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Vancouver, August 2010