

Philip R. Deslippe

Department of Religious Studies
University of California at Santa Barbara
4001 Humanities and Social Sciences Building
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9670
pdeslippe@ucsb.edu
www.philipdeslippe.com

EDUCATION

2012-Current Ph.D. Candidate, University of California, Santa Barbara, Religious Studies

Comprehensive Exams:

American Religious History	David Walker
New Religious Movements	Ann Taves
Asian Religions & Yoga in Modern America	Paul Spickard and David G. White

2010 M.A., University of Iowa, American Religious Culture

2000 B.A., University of Connecticut, English with Minor in American Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Academic Journals

- 2023 "Rinzai Monks of the Rosy Cross: The Buddhist Ordinations, Secret Order, and Global Journeys of Francis Ormsby and Lewis Colburn," *Japanese Religions*, Special Issue: In Memory of Yoshinaga Shin'ichi (45: 1 & 2, 77-102)
- "Doctorji the Divorcé: Understanding Bhagat Singh Thind Through His Marriage to Inez Buelen," *Ethnic Studies Review*, Special Issue: One Century After Thind (46: 1 & 2, 52-68)
- 2021 "Past the Pejorative: Understanding the Word 'Cult' Through Its Use in American Newspapers During the Nineties," *Implicit Religion*, Special Issue: The Return of the Cult: Bad Religion in the Age of Trump and COVID (24: 2, 195-217)
- "Bunko Bishop: Swami Mazziniananda, the Udana Karana Order, and the Buddhist Mission of North America," *Japanese Religions* (44: 1 & 2, 33-64)
- 2018 "The Swami Circuit: Mapping the Terrain of Early American Yoga," *Journal of Yoga Studies* (01: 5-44)
- 2016 "Rishis and Rebels: The Punjabi Sikh Presence in Early American Yoga," *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies* (23:01-02, 93-129)
- 2014 "The Hindu in Hoodoo: Fake Yogis, Pseudo-Swamis, and the Construction of African American Folk Magic," *Amerasia* (40:01, 35-56)
- 2013 "Brooklyn Bhikkhu: How Salvatore Cioffi Became the Venerable Lokanatha," *Contemporary Buddhism* (14:01, 169-186)
- 2012 "From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga," *Sikh Formations* (08:03, 369-387)

Edited Volumes

- 2011 William Walker Atkinson, *The Kybalion: The Definitive Edition*, edited and with an Introduction by Philip Deslippe (Tarcher/Penguin)

Book Chapters

- 2021 "Fakir: How a Word from India Moved Through American Popular Culture for Nearly a Century," in *The United States and South Asia from The Age of Empire To Decolonization: A History of Entanglements*, Harald Fischer-Tiné and Nico Slate (eds.) (Leiden: Leiden University Pres) 69-81.
- 2020 "Anglophone Yoga and Meditation (co-authored with Suzanne Newcombe)" in the *Routledge Handbook of Yoga and Meditation*, Suzanne Newcombe and Karen O'Brien-Kop (eds.) (London: Routledge) 350-365.
- 2019 "U.S. v. Bhagat Singh Thind, 1923," in *25 Events That Shaped Asian American History*, Lan Dong (ed.) (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO) 157-172.

Book Reviews and Review Essays

- 2019 "Rebecca Barrett-Fox, *God Hates: Westboro Baptist Church, American Nationalism, and the Religious Right*, Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2016" for *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* (23:02, 131-133).
- 2018 "Mythical Posturing: Hagiography and History in Recent Works on Modern Yoga and Hinduism in America" (Review essay of *Gurus of Modern Yoga, Homegrown Gurus, Hinduism and the 1960s*, and *The Healing Gods*) for *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* (21:03, 103-109).
- 2015 "Mitch Horowitz, *One Simple Idea: How Positive Thinking Reshaped Modern Life*, New York: Crown, 2014" for *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* (19:01, 124-125).
- 2014 "Egil Asprem and Kennet Granholm (eds.), *Contemporary Esotericism*, Sheffield: Equinox, 2013" for *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* (14:02, 253-6).

Encyclopedia and Textbook Entries

- Forthcoming "Green Hornet (750)," "Guru (1500)," and "Siracha (750)" for *Race in American Popular Culture* (ABC-CLIO).
- 2021 "Rishi Singh Grewal (1000)" for *Our Stories: An Introduction to South Asian America* (South Asian American Digital Archive).
- 2015 "Fate Magazine (700)," "New Age (1500)," and "Ouija Board (1000)" entries for *Ghosts, Spirits, and Psychics- The Paranormal from Alchemy to Zombies* (ABC-CLIO).

- 2014 "New Thought (250)" and "Necedah Apparitions (700)" for *Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Supernatural Events* (ABC-CLIO).
 "Bob Larson (1000)" for *Encyclopedia of Exorcism and Possession* (ABC-CLIO).
- 2012 "Botánicas (700)" for *The Encyclopedia of Latino Folklore* (ABC-CLIO).

Public Writing: Longform Articles and Features

- 2023 "When Misseeing Is Believing: The Self-Reflected Image and Kundalini Yoga," for *The Revealer* (February) <https://therevealer.org/when-misseeing-is-believing-the-self-reflected-image-kundalini-yoga-and-cognitive-dissonance/>
 "Between Mother India and Jim Crow: Yoga in the United States during the Interwar Decades," for *The Immanent Frame*, Asian American Religions: Everywhere, All at Once, <https://tif.ssrc.org/2023/04/26/between-mother-india-and-jim-crow-yoga-in-the-united-states-during-the-interwar-decades/>
- 2022 "How 'Siri Singh Sahib' Yogi Bhajan Created an Empire," for *Baaz News* (Co-authored with Stacie Stukin) <https://www.baaznews.org/p/yogi-bhajan-siri-singh-sahib-expose>
- 2021 "How the Model of Money Laundering Can Help Us Understand Abuse within 3HO," for *Sacred Matters Magazine* (<https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/how-the-model-of-money-laundering-can-help-us-understand-abuse-within-3ho/>).
- 2020 "Yogi Bhajan, yoga guru and founder of 3HO, 'more likely than not' sexually abused followers, says report" for *Religion News Service* (co-authored with Stacie Stukin) (<https://religionnews.com/2020/08/18/yogi-bhajan-yoga-guru-and-founder-of-3ho-more-likely-than-not-sexually-abused-followers-says-report/>)
- 2019 "The Hidden Sage: William Walker Atkinson and His Legacy," *New Dawn* (Special Issue 13: 05, 63-70).
 "Yoga Landed in the U.S. Way Earlier Than You'd Think—And Fitness Was Not the Point," *History.com* (<https://www.history.com/news/yoga-vivekananda-america>).
 "The Many Lives of Mohan Singh, a Pioneering Aviator who Conned America as a Yoga Guru," *Scroll.in* (<https://scroll.in/magazine/914011/the-many-lives-of-mohan-singh-a-pioneering-aviator-who-conned-america-as-a-yoga-guru>)
- 2018 "Bhagat Singh Thind in Jail," *Tides*, The Magazine of the South Asian American Digital Archive (<https://www.saada.org/tides/article/bhagat-singh-thind-in-jail>).

- 2017 “From Catholic to Chemist to Buddhist Missionary: The Story of How an Italian Immigrant from Brooklyn Helped to Bring the Dharma Back to India,” *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review* (Winter 27:02, 46-49, 102).
- 2015 "The American Yoga Scare of 1927: How Traveling Yogis Toppled the Oklahoma State Government," *Tides*, The Magazine of the South Asian American Digital Archive (<https://www.saada.org/tides/article/20150910-4457>).
- "Why A Glass-eating Yogi Fled to India Just When He Had Hollywood on the Mat," *Scroll.in* (<http://scroll.in/article/746102/why-a-glass-eating-yogi-fled-to-india-just-when-he-had-hollywood-on-the-yoga-mat>).

Public Writing: Magazine Articles and Academic Blog Posts

- 2022 "Pinback Button of Swami Bhagwan Bissessar," *American Religion*, Object Lessons, <https://www.american-religion.org/object-lessons/pinback-button>
- 2018 “Yoga’s Popularity in the United States Long Predates Hippies and Bead-wearing Hipsters,” *Scroll.in* (<https://scroll.in/magazine/878928/yogas-popularity-in-the-united-states-long-predates-hippies-and-mala-bead-wearing-hipsters>).
- “Beyond Apu: An Interview with Hari Kondabolu,” *Tides*, The Magazine of the South Asian American Digital Archive (<https://www.saada.org/tides/interview/hari-kondabolu-beyond-apu>).
- 2017 “Stretching Good Faith: A Response to Candy Gunther Brown,” for *The Religious Studies Project* (<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/2017/06/29/stretching-good-faith-a-response-to-candy-gunther-brown-philip-deslippe/>).
- “Framing, Observing, and Exhibiting Yoga: A Response to Bruce Sullivan” for *The Religious Studies Project* (<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/2017/03/24/framing-observing-and-exhibiting-yoga-a-response-to-bruce-sullivan/>).
- “5 Things We’d Put In Our Yoga Museum If We Had One—& What They Can Tell Us About Yoga History,” *Yoga Journal* (<https://www.yogajournal.com/yoga-101/5-pieces-of-yoga-pop-culture-yoga-history-in-america>).
- “Technology Isn’t Actually New to Yoga: A History of Multimedia & the Practice in America,” *Yoga Journal* (<https://www.yogajournal.com/yoga-101/a-history-of-multimedia-yoga-practice-in-america>).
- "Reincarnation Road Trip: The Cross-country Journey of Sadhu Balwant Singh Grewal and the Gill Brothers," *Tides*, The Magazine of the South Asian American Digital Archive (<https://www.saada.org/tides/article/reincarnation-road-trip>).

"7 Forgotten Early Yoga Teachers in America with Stories You'll Want to Hear," *Yoga Journal* (<https://www.yogajournal.com/yoga-101/7-forgotten-early-yoga-teachers-in-america>).

"In 1912, Mohan Singh Was Billed as "The Only Hindu Flyer in the World": The Strange Tale of a Barnstormer Turned Yoga Master," *Air & Space Smithsonian Magazine* (<http://www.airspacemag.com/daily-planet/mohan-singh-aviator-of-mystery-180962015/>).

"Omens in the Sky: An Occult History of Celestial Events in America"

"Coin of the (Magickal) Realm: Lucky Coins and Pocket Pieces"

"In Your Dreams: A History of Lucky Number Dream Books"

"Who Is Zolar? Meet the Dean of American Astrology"

"Stars Among Us: The Occult Magick of Old Hollywood"

"Magick Fights Fascism: The Psychic Battles Against Hitler"

"American Grimoire: An Introduction to the Long Lost Friend" for *Sanctuary.com*.

2016 "Good Vibrations: Meet the Vintage Thought Wave King of Los Angeles"

"Out of Order: The World of Wandering Bishops"

"The Hidden History of Highway Memorials"

"Divination by the Book: A Glimpse into Bibliomancy" for *Sanctuary.com*.

2015 "(Buddhist) Mission to Burma: Dhammaloka, Lokanatha, and Early Western Converts to Buddhism" for *The Religious Studies Project*

(<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/2015/09/19/buddhist-mission-to-burma-dhammaloka-lokanatha-and-early-western-converts-to-buddhism/>)

.2013 "William Walker Atkinson and the First Issue of New Thought Magazine," *New Thought Magazine* (Winter/96:04, 22-23).

2012 "The Swami of Baltimore: The Life and Legacy of William Walker Atkinson," *Maryland Life Magazine* (April, 41-42).

Works in Translation

2020 "De Maharaj à Mahân Tantrique: La construction du Kundalini Yoga de Yogi Bhajan" (From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga), French translation by Sophie Marie L. Available online.

"Fra Maharaj til Mahan Tantric: Konstruktionen af Yogi Bhajans Kundalini Yoga" (From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga), Danish translation by Parmone V. A. Luccicaileo. Available online.

"De Maharaj A Tántrico Mahan: La construcción del Kundalini Yoga de Yogi Bhajan" (From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga), Spanish translation by Javi Gobinde. Available online.

"Dal Maharaj Al Mahan Tantrico: La costruzione del Kundalini Yoga di Yogi Bhajan" (From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga), Italian translation by Stefania J. Marino and Paolo Ricci. Available online.

- 2019 "ウィリアム・ウォーカー・アトキンソン—別名、ヨギ・ラマチャラカ (William Walker Atkinson—aka Yogi Ramacharaka)," in 近現代日本の民間精神療法 不可視な(オカルト)エネルギーの諸相 (Japanese Modern Psychiatric Therapy: Invisible Occult Energy Aspects), edited by Hidehiko Kurita, Hotaka Tsukada, and Shinichi Yoshinaga, Kokusho Publishing Co. (Tokyo). (Japanese Translation by Kiyoko Sato.): 79-108.

O Caibalion: Filosofia Hermética, Portuguese edition by Marcador, Barcarena, Portugal.

"Od Maharadża Do Mahan Tantryka: Budowanie Jogi Kundalini Yogi Bhadžana" (From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga), Polish translation by Zbigniew Becker. Available online.

- 2018 *O Caibalion*, Portuguese edition by Editora Pensamento-Cultrix Ltda., São Paulo.

"От Махараджа до Махан Тантрика: Йоги Бхаджан и формирование Кундалини-йоги" (From Maharaj to Mahan Tantric: The Construction of Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga), Russian translation by Dmitry Danilov. Available online.

- 2016 "William Walker Atkinson alias Yogi Ramacharaka: Cultura fizică, Tradiția metafizică și Influența culturală" In *Reiki: o Energie a Echilibrului* (Reiki: An Energy of Balance), Mihai Albu (ed), Bucharest: Meditative Arts. (Romanian Translation by Paula Ramasescu)

"ヨーガとニューソート—松ヶ岡文庫未整理資料より発見されたパラティの手紙をめぐって (Yoga and New Thought: An Essay on a letter by Premananda Baba Bharati Unearthed in Matsugaoka Bunko)," *The Annual Report of Researches of the Public Interest, Matsugaoka Bunko Foundation* (30: 93-117), co-authored with and translated into Japanese by Professor Shin'ichi Yoshinaga.

- 2014 *Kybalion: Cunoașterea Ezoterică a Lumii* (Kybalion: Esoteric Knowledge of the World), Romanian edition by Lifestyle Publishing, Brașov.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2021 Naropa University, Master of Arts Program in Yoga Studies
Courses: Yoga and Globalization (RES530)
- 2018, 2021 California Lutheran University, Religion Department
Courses: Religion, Identity & Vocation (RLTH-100, 3 Sections)
American Religious Experience (RLTH-334)
- 2017-2020 University of California Santa Barbara, Department of Asian American Studies
Courses: Asian American Popular Culture (ASAM118)
Asian American Religions (ASAM161, 3Quarters)
- 2016-2019 University of California Santa Barbara, Department of Religious Studies
Courses: Introduction to American Religion (RGST7, 3 Quarters)
New Religious Movements (RGST101)
- 2008-2010 University of Iowa, Department of English
Courses: Interpretation of Literature (8G-1, 5 Sections over 3 Semesters)
American Lives: Religious Cults (8G-9)

Teaching Assistant

- 2014-2019 University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Asian American Studies
Courses: American Migration Since 1965 (ASAM2, 8 Quarters)
Introduction to Asian American Literature (ASAM5, 3 Quarters)
Asian American Popular Culture (ASAM5)
- 2013-2014 University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Religious Studies
Courses: Introduction to Asian-American Religion (RGST71)
Zen Buddhism (RGST21)
Modern Iran (RGST81)

Lecturer

- 2019, 2022 Yogic Studies, A History of Modern Yoga in the West (4-Module Online Course)
- 2013-2019 Avalon Yoga Studio (Palo Alto, California), Teacher Training Program
Course: History of Yoga in America (13 lectures)
- 2014-2016 Religion in the United States: Pluralism and Public Presence Summer Institute,
Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, University of California, Santa
Barbara (4 lectures over 3 years)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2018 Chair's Distinguished Service Award, Department of Religious Studies,
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 Ajeet Singh Matharu Memorial Prize for Excellent Paper at Sikholars Conference,
Stanford University
- Graduate Advisor's Exceptional Service Award, Department of Religious Studies,
University of California, Santa Barbara
- Catholic Studies Travel Research Award, Department of Religious Studies,
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2014 Catherine L. Albanese Award for Academic Achievement in American Religious
History, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2012-2015 J.F. Rowny Research Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara,
Department of Religious Studies
- 2010 Research Travel Grant, The Bakken Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2009 Kern Travel Fellowship, American Studies Department, University of Iowa
Travel Fellowships from International Programs and the Graduate Student
Senate, University of Iowa
- 2000 Grants from Honors Program, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department
of Modern & Classical Languages, University of Connecticut
- Frontiers in Undergraduate Research in Arts, Science and the Humanities Award,
University of Connecticut
- Inducted into *Phi Alpha Theta*, National History Honors Society
- 1999 New England Scholar Award, University of Connecticut

COLLOQUIA AND INVITED TALKS

- 2023 “A Century after United States vs. Thind: Race, Religion, and the Beginnings of Yoga in America,” Presented to the Religious Studies Research Seminar series at King’s College, London.
- “Researching the Early History of Yoga in the United States,” Presented to Centre of Yoga Studies at the Schools of Oriental and African Studies, London.
- “Yogi Ramacharaka and the History of Latin American Yoga,” Presented to the “Orientalisms in/from Argentina” research project at the Universidad Nacional del Chaco Austral, Argentina (Virtual).
- 2020 “The Past History and Present Management of Abuse within Yogi Bhajan’s 3HO,” Presented to the Centre for Religion and Public Life, University of Leeds, UK (Virtual).
- “The Reconstruction of Yogi Bhajan’s Kundalini Yoga,” Presented to Centre of Yoga Studies at the Schools of Oriental and African Studies, London.
- 2018 “Turbaned Profits and Yoga in Early-Twentieth Century America,” Presented to the M.A. Program in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University.
- 2015 “The Lost Early History of American Yoga,” Presented to the Philosophy Department’s “Theisms” Public Lecture Series at California Polytechnic State University.
- “How Mental Healing Birthed Yoga in America, Brought it to Japan and Russia, and Back Again,” Presented at the University of California, Santa Barbara for the Departments of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies and Religious Studies.
- 2014 “Fakirs and Fakers: How the Specter of Indian Yogis Shaped Sales and Medicine in Modern America,” for the Religions in North America Group, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2013 “Mapping the Terrain of Early American Yoga: Hindu Lecturers, Yogi Cults, and Swami Rackets,” Presented to the South Asian Religions and Cultures Research Focus Group, University of California Santa Barbara.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 "Always the Turban Remains': Dress and the Staging of Early American Yoga," and "Third Presidential Plenary Panel- One Century after Thind," for the annual conference of the Association for Asian American Studies, Long Beach, California.
- "Remembering 3HO as a New Religious Movement," for the panel Sikh Dharma International and Gora Sikh-Punjabi Sikh Relations: Fifty Years On, at the Sikh Studies Conference, University of California, Riverside.
- 2022 "Reappraising the Reappraisal of Yogi Bhañan's Kundalini Yoga," as part of the panel "Sikhi and Yoga" for the Sikh Studies Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver.
- "Cults, Fakirs, Swamis, Gurus, and Amanda Montell," as part of the panel "The New Wave of Cult-Talk: Academic Perspectives on Amanda Montell's Cultish" for the New Religious Movements Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver.
- "The Circulation of the Yogi Ramacharaka Books in Latin America," for *Latin American Yoga in Dialogue, A Proyecto YoLA Symposium*, El Colegio de México, Mexico City.
- "A Janus-Faced Jatha: 3HO's Engagement with Punjabi Sikh and General American Audiences," co-presented with Stacie Stukin for the annual conference of the British Association for the Study of Religions, The Open University, London (Virtual).
- "Yoga Under Arrest: Law Enforcement and the Teaching of Yoga in the United States During the Interwar Period," for Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative annual conference, University of Southern California.
- "Mezzanine Swamis: The Role of Hotels in the Early History of Yoga in the United States," for *Space, Stuff and Sacrality: Everyday Engagements with Religion in Society*, virtually hosted by the University of Leeds (UK).
- "Yoga Against the Raj: Early American Yoga and the Fight for Indian Independence," for *Yoga Darsana Yoga Sadhana*, Jagiellonian University Institute for the Study of Religions and the Modern Yoga Research Group, Krakow, Poland (Virtual).
- "The Sole of Abuse: How the Organizational Structure of Yogi Bhañan's 3HO Facilitated Exploitation and Abuse," co-presented with Stacie Stukin for the Religion and Sexual Abuse Conference, University of California, Riverside.

- 2021 "Uses and Applications of the Word 'Cult' in American Newspapers in the 1990s," for *'Cult' Rhetoric in 21st Century*, virtually hosted by the Information Network on Religious Movements (INFORM), London.
- "Demographics and Demonization: Women in the Early History of Yoga in America," for the Esotericism, Gender, and Sexuality (ESOGEN) Symposium, virtually hosted by the University of Amsterdam.
- "Robes, Turbans, and Jewels: Theorizing Religion and Dress through Early Twentieth Century Swamis and Yogis in the United States," for the Religion, Attire, and Adornment Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Virtual).
- "Asian Religions in the United States and Transnational Movements for Indian Independence, Through Gadar and Gandhi," for the Transnational Religious Expression: Between Asia and North American Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Virtual).
- 2020 "Yogis and Swamis in American Popular Culture," for *The United States and South Asia: from the Age of Empire to Decolonization*, ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
- "Bob Roberts Singh Khalsa: Understanding Abuse within the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization of Yogi Bhajan Through Money Laundering," for *Abuse in Yoga and Beyond: Cultural Logics and Pathways for the Future*, virtually hosted by Loyola Marymount University Graduate Yoga Studies.
- "Sexual Abuse within the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization of Yogi Bhajan," for *Religion and Abuse*, Graduate Student Conference at Indiana University (Virtual).
- 2019 "The Use of the Term 'Cult' in Popular Media During the Nineties and Beyond," for *New Religions at the Graduate Theological Union: Theories, Practices, Peoples*, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2018 "Occult Currents and Mediums Between the United States and South Asia," for the *Occult South Asia Workshop*, University of Vienna, Austria.
- "Food and the Yoga Body in Early Twentieth Century America," for the Religion and Food Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver.
- "Dissimulation in Early American Yoga," at the Conference on the Study of Religions of India, University of California, Davis.
- "Portraits of Bhagat Singh Thind in Omaha, Nebraska," at Sikholars: Sikh Graduate Student Conference, Stanford University.

- 2017 “Yoga, Race, and the Place of “Hindus” in Early Twentieth-Century America,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston.
- “Polemics Against Yoga in Early Twentieth Century America,” at the Bi-Annual International Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, Erfurt, Germany.
- “American Metaphysical Religion and the Blurring of Boundaries of Race,” at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference, San Francisco State University, California.
- “Yoga and the Racial Formation of South Asians in the United States,” at the Western Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, University of the West, Rosemead, California.
- “Mohan Singh: Flying Hindoo, Chauffeur, Citizen, and Levitating Yogi” at Sikholars: Sikh Graduate Student Conference, Stanford University.
- 2016 “Dissimulation and Demonstration Rooms: How Hotels Gave Rise to Early American Yoga,” at the Sixth International Conference of the Association for the Study of Esotericism, University of California, Davis.
- “The Myth of Spiritualist Yoga in Early Twentieth Century America,” at Tenth Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech.
- “The Demography of Early Modern Yoga in the United States,” for *Yoga Darsana Yoga Sadhana*, Jagiellonian University Institute for the Study of Religions and the Modern Yoga Research Group, Krakow, Poland.
- “The Politics of Early American Yoga: Immigration, Citizenship, and Indian Nationalism,” at Sixteenth Biennial Maple Leaf & Eagle Conference, University of Helsinki, Finland.
- “Shape-Shifting Swamis: Metaphysical Asia on American Soil in the Early Twentieth Century,” at Shape Shifters: Journeys across Terrains of Race and Identity, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- “Reconciling the Multiple Histories of Sikh Dharma of the Western Hemisphere,” at Sikholars: Sikh Graduate Student Conference, Stanford University.
- 2015 “Yogi Ramacharaka: Physical Culture, Metaphysical Tradition, and Cultural Influence,” *Modernization and Spiritual, Mental, and Physical Practices: From Yoga to Reiki*, Kyoto University, Japan.
- “The Fortuneteller and the Freemason: Two Western Buddhists Converts and Their Influence on the Buddhist Churches of America in the Early Twentieth

Century,” for the Buddhism in the West Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta.

"The Interpretive Fiction of 1965: Constructing Conventional Wisdom about Asian-influenced Metaphysical Religious Traditions in the United States," for the "Enter the State: Revisiting the Making of Post-1965 Asian American Religion" Panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta.

“Yogi Ramacharaka and the Transnational Diffusion of Modern Yoga,” Presented on the panel “Healing Practices and Modern Esoteric Currents between Japan and the U.S.” at International Association for the History of Religion World Congress, Erfurt, Germany.

“From Most Wanted Man to India’s Master Mind: Religious Studies, Asian American Studies, and the Case of Bhagwan Singh Gyane,” Asian American Studies at a Crossroads: Twentieth Anniversary of the Department of Asian American Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.

2014 “The Punjabi Sikh Presence in Early American Yoga,” Sikh Studies in the Twenty-First Century, University of California, Santa Barbara.

“Printed Matter and the Development of Modern Transnational Yoga,” Global Studies Conference, University of California Santa Barbara.

“Heathen Invasions and Christ Consciousness: Christianity and Early American Yoga,” American Society of Church History, Winter Meeting, Washington, DC

2013 “Early American Yoga: Quantifying, Mapping, and Narrating Vague Concepts,” Study of Religion as an Analytic Discipline (SORAAD) Pre-Conference Workshop at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore.

“The Udana Karana Order of Buddhists,” Texas Asia Annual Conference, University of Texas, Austin.

2012 “Selling Yoga as Magic in Early Twentieth-Century America,” Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago.

“Gora Sikhs at the Golden Temple: Understanding 3HO’s First Shift toward Sikhism,” for Sikh Studies Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago.

"Brooklyn Bhikkhu: How Salvatore Cioffi Became the Venerable Lokanatha," Pioneer European Buddhists and Asian Buddhist Networks, University College, Cork, Ireland.

"Fear of an Oklahoma Gone Rosicrucian: The Impeachment of Henry Johnston," and "New Thought and Yoga in Early Twentieth Century America," Midwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

- 2010 "Modern America's Most Influential Occult Text: A History of the Kybalion from the Cosmic Lodge to the Supreme Court," Craft Critique Culture, University of Iowa.
- 2009 "Cooking Karma: The Restaurants of Religious Sects in America," Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK. (Also presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Food and Society, Penn State University.)
- 2000 "Chaos and Control: The Literary Response to the New York City Grid System," The Sublime and The City, University College, Cork, Ireland.

PUBLIC TALKS

- 2021 "The Further Adventures of Bhagat Singh Thind" for the United Kingdom Punjab Heritage Association Virtual Book Club
- 2020 "Punjabi Sikh Yoga Teachers in Early-Twentieth Century America" for the United Kingdom Punjab Heritage Association Virtual Book Club
- "A History of Yogi Bajan & the 3HO: Parts One and Two" for the United Kingdom Punjab Heritage Association Virtual Book Club
- 2019 "A Center for the Margins: Nontraditional Religious Movements in Los Angeles and the American Religions Collection at UCSB," Present at the L.A. As Subject Archives Bazaar at the University of Southern California.
- 2018 "The Kybalion of William Walker Atkinson," Presented to the East Denver Masonic Lodge #160.
- 2017 "The Kybalion of William Walker Atkinson," Presented at Santa Barbara Masonic Lodge #192.
- "Theosophy and The Kybalion," Presented to the Theosophical Society in England, London.
- "The Kybalion of William Walker Atkinson," Presented for the Illumination Lecture Series at the South Pasadena Masonic Lodge #290.
- 2015 "The Early History of Yoga in the United States: 1880-1950," Presented to the UCSB Affiliates Program at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, California.

2014 “Doris Duke and her Glass-Eating Yoga Teacher,” Presented at Durham Public Library, Durham, NC.

2011 Booktalks for *The Kybalion: The Definitive Edition* at the Philosophical Research Society and the Bodhi Tree Bookstore, Los Angeles, California.

GUEST LECTURES FOR COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

2022 “Early American Yoga,” for Contemporary Religious Thought (RS356), California State University, Northridge, Vikas Malhotra

2021 “Early American Yoga” for Global South Asia, Duke University, Jessica Namakkal.

2020 “The Practice and Experience of Face-Gazing in Yogi Bhajan's Kundalini Yoga” for the Experiments with Experience project at the Institute for the Science of Religion at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

"The Swami Circuit: Mapping the Terrain of Early American Yoga," for ASIA 4499 Asian Religions in North America, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, Justin Stein.

2019 “Archival Research and Academic Publishing,” for RS104 Problems in the Study of Religion (Research Seminar), University of California Santa Barbara, David Walker.

2018 “The Conjoined Histories of Racial Citizenship and Yoga in Early-20th Century America,” for RS71 Introduction to Asian American Religions, University of California Santa Barbara, Rudy Busto.

2017 “Martians, Metaphysics, and Mutiny: South Asian Migration Before the 1965 Immigration Act,” for HIST 164IB American Immigration, 1924-Present, University of California Santa Barbara, Laura Hooton.

“Early American Yoga: 1880s to 1950s,” for RS152 Religion in America Today, University of California Santa Barbara, Joseph Blankholm.

2016 “Orientalism, Race, and Popular Culture in Early American Yoga,” for ASAM4 Asian American Popular Culture, University of California Santa Barbara Sameer Pandya.

“Peddlers, Jugglers, Freemasonry, and Affordable Hotel Rooms: The Complexity of Swami Vivekananda at the Parliament of the World's Religions,” for RS151B Religion in America after 1865, University of California Santa Barbara, David Walker.

“Early American Yoga: 1880s to 1950s,” for RS152 Religion in America Today, University of California Santa Barbara, Joseph Blankholm.

- 2015 “Early American Yoga: 1880s to 1950s,” for Yoga Ancient & Modern, Stanford University, Linda Hess.
- 2014 “Los Angeles and Early American Yoga,” Presented to the Center for the Study of Religion at the University of California Los Angeles, Patrick Polk.
- “Hoodoo and Hindoo,” for RS7 Introduction to American Religion, UC Santa Barbara, David Walker.
- 2013 “Alien Religion and Brainwashing Cult: Yoga in America as a New Religious Movement,” California State University, Northridge, Claire White.
- 2000 “The Literary Response to the New York City Grid System” for Landscape Architecture Program, University of Connecticut, Kristen Schwab.

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC

- 2020 Member of the academic council for the South Asian American Digital Archive.
- 2016-2018 Member of the editorial collective for Tides: The Magazine of the South Asian American Digital Archive (<https://www.saada.org/tides>).
- 2013-Present Facilitated donations of numerous large archives (The Source Family, 3HO, Theosophical Society Lodge of Portland, Oregon, Bhagwan Singh Gyanee) to The American Religions Collection in the Special Collections Department at Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2018-2019 Undergraduate Liaison for the Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2016-2017 Graduate Student Representative for Department of Religious Studies, National Endowment for the Humanities Yearlong Workshop for “Next Generation Grant” on Alternative Academic Careers, College of Letters and Science, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2015-16 Graduate/Faculty Liaison for the Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2014 Sole Organizer for “Experience and Authority,” annual Catholic Studies Conference for Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2013 Organized film screening of documentary “The Source Family” with panel discussion at UC Santa Barbara.

CONSULTING

- 2021 20/20 ABC News
- 2017 Discovery Channel India, BBC World Service, Timeline
- 2016 *People Magazine*
- 2015 J. Paul Getty Museum (Drawings Department)
- 2014 Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

- 2023 *M*, the magazine of *Le Monde* (“Bénédictions de l’utérus, les rites lunaires des Moon Mothers”), *LAist* (“What A Popular Yoga Teacher’s Descent into Conspiracy Theories Tells Us About The ‘Wellness to QAnon Pipeline’”), *LAist* *Imperfect Paradise: Yoga’s Queen of Conspiracy Theories* (podcast), *The Shiloh Podcast* (*Abuse in Religious Contexts: The Story of Yogi Bhajan*), *The Sōch Podcast*
- 2022 *Vox* (“Sadhguru, the spiritual leader with ties to Will Smith and Modi, explained”), *Yogic Studies* (podcast), *On Religion* (podcast)
- 2021 *IndoctiNation* (podcast), *Conspirituality* (podcast)
- 2020 *The One* (podcast), *Yogic Studies* (podcast), *The Juggernaut* (“How a Cult-turned-Corporation Hijacked American Sikhism”), *Los Angeles Magazine* (“Yogi Bhajan Turned an L.A. Yoga Studio into a Juggernaut, and Left Two Generations of Followers Reeling from Alleged Abuse”)
- 2019 *BBC Asian Network* for Mobeen Azhar show on “Has Yoga Lost Its Soul?”, *SikhArchive* (podcast), *Classical Ideas* (podcast), *Forum Borealis* (podcast)
- 2018 *Chasing Enlightenment* (documentary), *The Tribune* in Chandigarh, Punjab, India (“Sikh Soldier Who Fought Racial US Laws” and “Wassan Singh — Curious Case of a Yoga Guru in US”)
- 2016 *Yogi Bhajan’s Legacy* (documentary)
- 2012 *Los Angeles Times* (“For Notorious L.A. Scam Artist, The Thoughts Counted”), *Occult of Personality* (podcast), *Healthbeat on KRUI 89.7FM University of Iowa Radio* (“Yoga and Health Culture”)
- 2011 *The Infinite and The Beyond* (podcast)

Updated October 13, 2023