

Eric Haruki Swanson
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor (tenure track), Loyola Marymount University, Department of Theological Studies,
August 2019-present

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Harvard University, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2019**
Dissertation: “The Restoration of Peace Through the Pacification of Vengeful Spirits: Jien (1155-1225) and the Construction of Buddhist Orthodoxy”
Primary advisor: Ryūichi Abé; Readers: Helen Hardacre and James Robson
- M.A. Koyasan University, Buddhist Studies, 2009**
Thesis: “The Three Modes of Discourse in Annen’s *Treatise on the Teachings and Notion of Time in the Shingon School*” (In Japanese)
- B.A. Indiana University Bloomington, Religious Studies, 2004**

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2013 “The Three Modes of Discourse seen in Annen’s *Shingonshū-kyōjigi*.”
Mikkyō Bunka, Vol. 228: 1-25. (In Japanese)

Translations

- 2018 Kurita Hidehiko “The Notion of *Shūyō* and Conceptualizing the Future of Religion at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” *Religion in Japan*, Vol. 4: 65-90. (Japanese to English)
- 2013 Inoue Hiroshi “Issues in the Research of Medieval Shrine History: A critical acceptance and further development of the *kenmitsu taisei ron*.” Kokugakuin University Digital Museum Articles in Translation website, <http://k-amc.kokugakuin.ac.jp/DM/>. (Japanese to English)

Book Reviews

- 2014 “Pamela D. Winfield, *Icons and Iconoclasm in Japanese Buddhism: Kūkai and Dōgen on the Art of Enlightenment*.” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 41/2: 412-415.
- 2011 “Shingen Takagi and Thomas Eijo Dreitlein, *Kukai on the Philosophy of Language*.” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol 66/2: 341-344.
- 2010 “Review of Cynthia J. Bogel, *With a Single Glance: Buddhist Icon and Early Mikkyō Vision*.” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 37/2: 380-383.

Other Publications

- 2018 “Subjugation of Evil in Japanese Esoteric Buddhism” *Tricycle Magazine Buddhist Review*. Fall Issue (2018), pp. 83-85, 110-112.

TEACHING AREAS

Religions of East Asia: Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism
Artistic Traditions of East Asia: Performance, Music, and Visual Art
Religious Traditions of Japan: Buddhism, Shinto, and New Religious Movements
Pre-modern Japanese Literature: Mythologies, Histories, and Hagiographies
Spirituality and Religion in Media: Japanese Religions in Anime, Manga, and Film

INVITED LECTURES

- 2019 “Buddhism in Contemporary Japan: Ritual, Spectacle, and Sites of Leisure.” Japan Foundation Lecture Series at University of North Georgia, April 8, 2019
- 2019 “Esoteric Buddhist Responses to Social Disorder in Heian Japan.” Workshop on Shingon Buddhism at University of South California Shinto Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, March 17, 2019

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2020 “Examining the Scholarly Guilds of Shingon Buddhism in Medieval Japan.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21-24, 2020
- 2018 “Conceptualizations of Buddhist Ritual Space Across East Asia.” Annual Meeting of Association for Asian Studies, March 28, 2018
- 2017 “The Reweaving of Mantra: Esoteric Buddhism in Japan after Kūkai (774–835).” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2017
- 2017 “Imagining Evil: Buddhist Visions of Suffering and Transcendence.” Annual Conference of the New England Association for Asian Studies, January 29, 2017

Papers (Accepted and Presented)

- 2020 “The Study and Practice of Tendai Buddhist Doctrine in Saichō and Jien.” Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures International Symposium, December 5, 2020 (postponed)
- 2020 “The Construction of Esoteric Buddhist Identities Through Commentaries on Mahāyāna Faith” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21-24, 2020 (accepted)
- 2020 “Addressing the Spirits of the Heian Capital Through Buddhist Doctrines and Rituals of Salvation.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21-24, 2020 (accepted)
- 2020 “Wondrous Sounds of Infinite Praise: Jien and the Integration of Music and Exoteric-Esoteric Buddhist Ritual.” Premodern Japanese Studies International Conference: The Sounds and Colours of Japanese Rites at McGill University, October 22-23, 2020. (accepted and postponed)
- 2020 “Jien’s Negotiation of Buddhist Soteriology and the Ritual Pacification of Vengeful Spirits” Paris Tendai Workshop on Scholar-Monk Jien at Collège de France, June 10-11, 2020. (accepted and postponed)
- 2020 “The Façade of Order at Daigoji Temple and Negotiations of Imperial Authority at the turn of the 14th century: A Re-assessment of the Depiction of Buddhist Ritual Performances in the *Seven Tengu Scrolls*.” Daigoji

- Temple Symposium at *Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California Berkeley*, April 10, 2020. (accepted, postponed)
- 2020 “Behind a Façade of Order: A Visual Analysis of the Tōji Scroll Scenes in the *Seven Tengu Scrolls*.” Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Premodern Japanese Buddhism Workshop at Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, March 19, 2020. (accepted, canceled)
- 2020 “The Shingon Temple in the Medieval Imagination: A Re-assessment of the Depiction of Performance and the Institutional Role of Daigo-ji in the *Shichi tengu e*.” International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) Panel: Daigo Temple and the Shingon Contributions to Japan’s Religious Culture.’ Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, August 16-21, 2020. (accepted, postponed)
- 2020 “Basking in the Elegance of Performance in Times of Disorder: A Re-assessment of the *Seven Tengu Scrolls*.” Annual Meeting of Association for Asian Studies, March 19, 2020 (accepted, canceled)
- 2019 “Jien’s Negotiation of Tendai Ritual Practice and the Pacification of Vengeful Spirits.” Pre-modern Japan Conference at McGill University, October 11, 2019
- 2018 “Dance and Laughter in the Face of Corruption: Re-assessing the *Sakura-e* Dharma Assembly in the *Tengu Scrolls*.” Buddhism and Ritual Performance in Pre-modern Japan Conference at McGill University, September 28, 2018
- 2018 “Mending the Sacred Canopy and the Power of Court Music: A re-assessment of the *Shichi tengu e* with a focus on the Tōji Scroll” 聖なる天蓋の修繕と雅楽の力—『七天狗絵』東寺巻の再考察を中心に. (In Japanese) Nagoya University Japanese Religion Workshop, June 22, 2018
- 2018 “From the Demon Gate to the Capital: Jien and the Restructuring of Tendai Ritual Space.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, March 23, 2018
- 2017 “Majestic Methods to Vanquish Evil: Negotiating the Power of Subjugation in Tendai Esoteric Commentaries.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2017
- 2017 “How to Face your Inner Demons: the Problem of Evil and Salvation in Esoteric Buddhist Commentaries in 9th-10th Century Japan.” New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, January 29, 2017
- 2015 “The Subjugation of Original Hindrance in Esoteric Buddhist Ritual: Myōō and the function of subjugation in the writings of Godaiin Annen.” (In Japanese) Nanzan Seminar for the Study of Japanese Religions, May 30, 2015
- 2010 “The Three Modes of Discourse seen in Annen’s *Shingonshū-kyōjigi*.” (In Japanese) Esoteric Buddhism and Culture Conference, July 2010
- Discussant/Chair**
- 2017 Chair for “Clear Serenity, Quiet Insight (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2017): Reflecting on Zhiyi’s Masterwork and Paul Swanson’s English Translation.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19, 2017

2017 Respondent at “Pre-Modern Japanese Buddhism Workshop: The Pure Land in the Nara Schools.” McGill University, September 29, 2017

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND RESEARCH GROUPS

2021 Organizer of “Daigoji Symposium at Berkeley.” Spring 2021.
2020 Co-organizer of “LMU Medieval Monasticism Study Group.” May 2020-current
2020 Instructor at “USC Shinnyo-en Summer Seminar 2020 on Esoteric Buddhism.” May 18-22 2020
2018 Interpreter (Japanese-English) at “New Horizons in Research on the Contents Inside of East Asian Statues International Workshop at Kanazawa Bunko.” June 23-24 2018
2018 Participant at “Digital Humanities Workshop for Graduate Students in East Asian Religions.” McMaster University, May 26-27 2018
2017-2018 Organizer of “Japanese Religions Reading and Research Group.” Center for the Study of World Religions, September 2017-May 2018
2017 Organizer of “Re-examining the History of Shinto: In Conversation with Scholars from Kokugakuin University.” Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, September 1 2017
2015-2016 Organizer of “Conceptualizations of Language in Esoteric Buddhism and National Learning (*Kokugaku*).” Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, December 2015-March 2014
2013-2014 Organizer of “Medieval Japanese Shinto-Buddhist *Kirigami* Reading Group.” Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, October 2013-March 2014
2013 Interpreter (Japanese-English) at “Conference on 3.11 Japan Disaster Digital Archive,” Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, January 24-25
2012 Assistant for “Beyond Sectarianism: New Horizons for Interdisciplinary Studies in Japanese Buddhism” Symposium. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, May 17-18

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

2019 “Addressing the Specters of the Japanese Medieval Capital Through Buddhist Doctrines of Salvation” THST Faculty Colloquia at Loyola Marymount University, October 31, 2019
2019 “Contextualizing Bashō’s Journey to the Deep North.” Lecture at Loyola Marymount University, September 23, 2019
2018 “Memorializing Jien (1155-1225): the Priest of Compassionate Pacification.” EALC First Fridays Lunch Talk Series at Harvard University, November 2, 2018
2016 “The Economic Potentials of Japanese Popular Culture and Virtual Interactions with the Supernatural.” Lecture at Harvard University, November 17, 2016
2016 “Esoteric Buddhism and Onmyōdō: Religious technologies for the subjugation of evil spirits in pre-modern Japan.” Lecture at Harvard University, October 20, 2016
2016 “The Popularization of the Occult and Spiritual Realm in 1970s-80s Japan.” Lecture at Harvard University, October 18, 2016
2016 “*Aizen Myōō* as the Subjugator of all Obstructions and its function in the Shōtoku Taishi Statue.” Invited lecture at Harvard University,

	October 11, 2016	
2016	“Buddhist Religiosity and Spirituality in Contemporary Japan.” Lecture at Harvard University, September 15, 2016	
2016	“Edo Period Shinto Thought.” Lecture at Harvard University, March 30, 2016	
2015	“The Pacification of Vengeful Spirits: Ritual Technologies of Esoteric Buddhism and Onmyōdō in Pre-modern Japan.” Lecture at Harvard University, October 15, 2015	
2015	“1980s Occult Boom and the Re-imagining of East Asian Religions through Popular Culture.” Lecture at Harvard University, October 13, 2015	
2015	“Pilgrimages to Sacred Sites: Cute <i>Kami</i> , <i>Otaku</i> Communities, and <i>Anime</i> as Soft Power.” Lecture at Harvard University, October 8, 2015	
2014	“Recent Trends in the Study of Japanese Buddhism.” Invited lecture at Ryukoku University, May 2014	
2010	“Introduction to the History of Esoteric Buddhism in Japan.” Invited lecture for Antioch Education Abroad Buddhist Studies Program, September 2010	
2010	“The Practice of Shingon Buddhism in Contemporary Japan.” Invited lecture for Antioch Education Abroad Buddhist Studies Program, September 2010	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Loyola Marymount University

“The Buddhist Tradition Across Time and Place” Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Harvard University

“Introduction to the Study of East Asian Religions” Spring 2015, 2018

Teaching Fellow (with Professor James Robson)

“Animated Spirituality: Japanese Religion in Anime, Manga, and Film” Fall 2015, 2016, 2017

Teaching Fellow (with Professor Helen Hardacre)

“Buddhism and Japanese Culture” Spring 2014, 2016, 2017

Teaching Fellow (with Professor Ryūichi Abé)

“Classical Chinese Ethical and Political Theory” Fall 2014

Teaching Fellow (with Professor Michael Puett)

Harvard Extension School

“Buddhism and Japanese Artistic Traditions” Spring 2016, 2017, 2018

Teaching Fellow (with Professor Ryūichi Abé)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2018 Spring	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, “Introduction to the Study of East Asian Religions”
2017 Fall	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, “Animated Spirituality: Japanese Religion in Anime, Manga, and Film”
2016 Fall	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, “Animated Spirituality: Japanese Religion in Anime, Manga, and Film”
2016 Spring	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, “Buddhism and

	Japanese Culture”
2015 Fall	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, “Animated Spirituality: Japanese Religion in Anime, Manga, and Film”
2015 Spring	Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, “Introduction to the Study of East Asian Religions”

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020	BCLA Summer Research and Writing Grant
2018	Harvard University GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2012-17	Reischauer Institute Summer Research Grant (received six times)
2017	Harvard University East Asian Languages and Civilizations Conference Travel Grant
2012-15	Satoh Artcraft Research Foundation and Tsuchiya Foundation Merit Scholarship (awarded three times)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2014-2018	Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, Graduate Student Associate
2009-2010	Institute of Esoteric Buddhist Culture at Koyasan University, Researcher

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Japanese (native)
Mandarin (basic proficiency)
Classical Japanese (advanced reading)
Sino-Japanese (advanced reading)