

Abigail I. MacBain, PhD

Dept. of East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University
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EDUCATION

- PhD, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University, New York, NY** Oct. 2021
Dissertation: “Precepts and Performances: Overseas Monks and the Emergence of Cosmopolitan Japan.”
Committee: Michael Como (sponsor), David Lurie, Bernard Faure, D. Max Moerman, Bryan Lowe
- MPhil, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University, New York, NY** May 2018
Examination Fields: Japanese Religion, Premodern Japanese Religion, Mainland Asian History & Religion, Themes & Theory
Committee: Michael Como, David Lurie, Bernard Faure, D. Max Moerman
- MA, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University, New York, NY.** Feb. 2015
Thesis: “Women and Oracles in the Early Hachiman Cult”
Advisor: Michael Como
- MA, Religious Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON** Nov. 2008
Thesis: “Temples and Sutra: Nara Japan’s National Defense System”
Committee: Mark Rowe, James Benn, Shayne Clarke
- BA, Religious Studies & History-Asian Studies, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY; magna cum laude with Honors in Religious Studies** May 2004
Thesis: “The Exploration of Buddhist Themes in Medieval Shintō’s Incorporation of Buddhism as Seen in the *Jinnō Shōtōki*.”
Advisor: Mark MacWilliams

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & AWARDS

- Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture Postdoctoral Research Scholar 2021
- Donald Keene Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship in Japanese Studies 2020
- Dr. Devon T. Wade Mentorship, Service, and Advocacy Award (*nominated*)
- Sen Lecture Fellow, Donald Keene Center
- Fulbright Graduate Research Fellow Extension, Fulbright Foundation 2019
- Fulbright Graduate Research Fellow, Fulbright Foundation 2018
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Short-term Postdoctoral Fellowship (*declined*)
- Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship (*alternate*)
- Lead Teaching Fellow for Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures 2017
- Blakemore Freeman Fellowship, Blakemore Foundation 2015
- Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) scholarship (*declined*)
- Weatherhead PhD Teaching Grant
- Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) scholarship 2014
- Dean’s Fellow, Columbia University 2013

- Scholarship for Japanese language study, Middlebury College 2007
- Fellowship for Japanese language study, McMaster University
- Faculty Scholar 2004
- Kathryn Frazer Mackay Endowed Prize in Religious Studies
- Omicron Delta Kappa (leadership honor society)
- Phi Alpha Theta (history honor society)
- Theta Alpha Kappa (religious studies honor society)
- Dean's List
- Scholarship for study abroad at Mukogawa Women's University 2003
- Freeman Fellowship scholarship for study in Japan
- Dean's List

PUBLICATIONS

In Process

- "The *Vinaya* Veneer: Reexamining the *Risshi Shōsei*"
- "The Multicultural Splendor of the Tōdaiji Eye-Opening Ceremony"
- "Precepts in the Peripheries: Ordination Platforms in Nara, Dazaifu, and Shimotsuke"

In Print

- "Dorothy C. Wong. Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission: The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770," reviewed in *Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University* 4 (March 2019).

LECTURES & INVITED TALKS

Invited Talks

- "Platforms of Legitimacy: Searching for a Precepts Master and Shifting Monastic Ordinations in Eighth Century Japan," Kyoto Asian Studies Group. Doshisha University. October 15, 2019.
- "Guided tour around Nara," Kyoto Symposium for Japanese Studies. October 22, 2019.
- "How Religion Helped Shape Kyoto: A Brief Tour Through Higashiyama," Fulbright International Education Administrators. June 18, 2019.

Podcast Interview

- "The Origin of Buddhism in Japan," presenter, Silver Lining: East Asia in the Pandemic podcast. June, 2021.

Guest Lecture

- "Buddhism and the Nara State," for "Japan and Korea in the Chinese Crucible" course, Salisbury University. March 1, 2021.
- "Japan and South Korea: Additional Tensions and Controversies." Lecture in "Introduction East Asian Civilizations: Korea" course, Columbia University March 28, 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Speaker

- Tōdaiji Temple's Multicultural Eye-Opening Ceremony” 「東大寺の多文化的な開眼供養」 (in English). Sounds and Colours of Japanese Rites conference, McGill University, Montreal, March 2022. (*forthcoming*)
- “Tōdaiji Temple as State Protector and Familial Temple,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference, San Antonio. Online due to COVID-19, November 2021.
- “Precepts, Platforms, and Politics: Eighth Century Japan's Precepts Master Solicitation” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference. Online due to COVID-19, March 2021.
- “The Ongoing Legacy of Ethnicity for Bodhisena, the First Indian in Japan.” Columbia University EALAC: 26th Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia. Columbia University, February 2017.
- “They Say He Came From India: the Eighth Century Brahman Bishop Bodhisena's Use in Medieval Japanese Art, Literature, and Religion” 「中世日本の美術、文学、宗教に登場する八世紀のバラモン僧正菩提僊那」 (in Japanese). Encounters & Intersections in East Asian Religions: A Columbia University Graduate Student Conference in Kyoto. Bukkyō Daigaku, June 2016.
- “Buddhist Nationalism in the Development of the Japanese State” American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Conference. McGill University, May 2008.

Respondent

- Transmission of Religion panel. Columbia University EALAC: 29th Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia. Columbia University, February 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer (*Instructor of Record*) Sept. 2021–May 2022
Columbia University, New York, NY *Dept. of East Asian Languages & Cultures*
Courses: Fall 2021: Intro to Major Topics: East Asia - Religious Landscapes of East Asia
Spring 2022: East Asian Religion: Women in Buddhism

Academic Mentor June–Aug. 2020
Columbia University, School of General Studies *Academic Resource Center*
Specialties: Reading & Argument Coach (East Asian Languages and Cultures); mentoring (social sciences, humanities)

Teaching Assistant Jan. 2015–Apr. 2018
Columbia University, New York, NY *Dept. of East Asian Languages & Cultures*
Courses: Spring 2018: Intro to East Asian Civilizations: Korea (Kim) - 27 students
Fall 2016: Asian Humanities: Major Texts (Como) - 22 students*
Spring 2014: Asian Humanities: Major Texts (de Bary) - 24 students*

Teaching Assistant Sept. 2006–Apr. 2008

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON *Dept. of Religious Studies*

Courses: Spring 2008: Religion and Popular Culture in Japan (Rowe) - 50 students

Fall 2007: Indian Religious Tradition (Jones) - 16 students

Spring 2007: Death and Dying: Comparative Views (Rowe) - 50 students

Fall 2006: Japanese Religion (Rowe) - 20 students*

**Indicates experiences acting as sole TA. In all other cases, worked with 1-3 additional TAs in larger seminars, but was personally responsible for the listed numbers of students.*

Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)

July 2004–July 2006

Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, Aomori, Japan

Writing Mentor

Sept. 2003–Apr. 2004

St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY

TEACHING TRAINING

Innovative Course Design Seminar (ICSD)

Oct.–Dec. 2020

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Columbia University

Supporting Hybrid & Online Learning & Teaching (SHOLT) Course

Aug.-Dec. 2020

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Columbia University

Inclusive Teaching Seminar

Spring 2018

Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL), Columbia University

Lead Teaching Fellow (LTF)

Fall 2017–Spring 2018

Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL), Columbia University

Organized Workshops:

- Spring 2018: Fellowship Applications: Another Form of Teaching
- Fall 2017: Designing Syllabi for East Asian Studies

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Guest speaker/presenter

- MA Workshop on Applying for Fellowships and Conferences 2021
- PhD Workshop on Applying for Grants and Fellowships
- Teaching Experience Workshop
- Duty Calls! Navigating the Service and Skill Side of Academia
- Navigating Grant and Fellowship Applications
- PhD Application Workshop for MA students 2020
- Online Academic Writing Retreat & Working Group
- Fellowships Application Workshop

Administrator

- GSAS Fellow in Academic Administration at Office of Academic Integrity 2020
- Dept. of East Asian Languages & Cultures Fellowships Database 2018

- Vice President of Communications for Graduate Student Advisory Council 2015–2016
- Webpage maintenance and updating, Consulate General of Japan in Miami 2009–2013
- Program Coordinator for JET Program and Monbukagakushō Scholarship

Committee Member

- C-BEAR Graduate Student Conference in Kyoto 2015-2016

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC), steering committee 2017–2018
- GSAC, departmental representative 2016–2017
- GSAC, representative to International Student Services Organization (ISSO)
- Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture, Graduate student committee member
- Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures, PhD advisory committee member
- Collegium Musicum, singer 2013–2014; 2017
- Department of Religious Studies, graduate student representative 2007–2008
- Department of Religious Studies, undergraduate student representative 2003–2004
- Laurentian Singers, singer 2000–2004

NON-TEACHING WORK HISTORY

Cultural & Educational Affairs Coordinator ; JET Program Coordinator 2009–2013
Consulate General of Japan, Miami, FL

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Japanese

Modern: advanced, all skills

Classical: advanced reading (*kobun*) and Japanese-style Classical Chinese (*kanbun*)

French

Modern: intermediate reading, listening; introductory speaking, writing

Chinese

Modern: intermediate reading; introductory speaking, writing, listening

Classical: intermediate-advanced (notably Japanese-style *kanbun*)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Steering Committee Member

- PMJS
- AAR Japan Religions Unit

Member

- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- Society for the Study of Japanese Religions (SSJR)

RECOMMENDERS

Michael Como, advisor | mc2575@columbia.edu | (212) 854-4144

- *Title:* Toshu Fukami Associate Professor of Shinto Studies
- *Departments:* Religious Studies and East Asian Language & Cultures (Columbia)
- *Address:* Department of Religion – Columbia University
80 Claremont Avenue Mail Code: 9610
New York, NY 10027

David Lurie, professor | dbl11@columbia.edu | (212) 854-5316

- *Title:* Wm. Theodore and Fanny Brett de Bary and Class of 1941 Collegiate Professor of Asian Humanities and Associate Professor of Japanese History and Literature
- *Departments:* History and East Asian Languages & Cultures (Columbia)
- *Address:* EALAC – Columbia University
1140 Amsterdam Ave. Mail Code: 3907
New York, NY 10027

D. Max Moerman, professor | dmoerman@barnard.edu | (212) 854-5540

- *Title:* Professor, Chair of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures at Barnard College
- *Departments:* Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures (Barnard); Religious Studies and East Asian Languages & Cultures (Columbia)
- *Address:* Asian & Middle Eastern Cultures – Columbia University
Milbank 303 604-606 W. 120th St (Barnard College)
New York, NY 10027

Bernard Faure, professor | bf2159@columbia.edu | (212) 854-8926

- *Title:* Kao Professor Japanese Religion
- *Departments:* Religious Studies and East Asian Languages & Cultures (Columbia)
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