

Steven Ramey
Department of Religious Studies
The University of Alabama
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Academic Work History:

University of Alabama, Department of Religious Studies
Professor, Fall 2016 – Present
Director, Asian Studies Program, Fall 2008 - Present
Associate Professor, Fall 2011 – Spring 2016
Assistant Professor, Fall 2006 – Spring 2011

University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Department of Philosophy and Religion
Assistant Professor
Fall 2004 - Spring 2006

Furman University, Department of Religion
Adjunct Instructor
Fall 2003 - Spring 2004

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies
Teaching Fellow
Summer Session II 2002 - Fall 2002

Elon University, Elon, North Carolina, Department of Religion
Adjunct Instructor
Fall 1999

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies
Teaching Assistant
Spring 1999 - Spring 2003

Degrees Earned:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ph.D., May 2004
Dissertation Title - "Defying Borders: Contemporary Sindhi Hindu Constructions of Practices and Identifications"

Emory University
M.Div. Honors, May 1997, Summa Cum Laude
Thesis Title - "Mutable Symbols: The Meanings and Functions of Sikhism's *Panj Kakke*"

Furman University
B. A., History, June 1991, Summa Cum Laude

Books:

Fabricating Difference, an edited volume. Sheffield, UK: Equinox, forthcoming 2017

Writing Religion: The Case for the Critical Study of Religion, an edited volume. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2015.

Hindu, Sufi, or Sikh: The Contested Practices and Identifications of Sindhi Hindus in India and Beyond. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

"When Acceptance Reflects Disrespect: The Methodological Contradictions of Accepting Participant Statements." *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 27:1 (2015): 59-81.

"Keeping 'Critical' Critical: A Conversation from Culture on the Edge." *Critical Research on Religion* 2:3 (2014): 299-312. (co-authored with Craig Martin, Russell McCutcheon, Monica Miller, Merinda Simmons, Leslie Dorough Smith, and Vaia Touna).

"Hindu Minorities and the Limits of Hindu Inclusiveness: Sindhi and Indo-Caribbean Hindu Communities in Atlanta." *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 15:2 (2011): 209-239.

"Challenging Definitions: Human Agency, Diverse Religious Practices and the Problems of Boundaries." *Numen* 54:1 (2007): 1-27.

"Critiquing Borders: Teaching About Religions in a Post-colonial World." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 9:4 (2006): 211-220.

Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Volumes:

"Religions Are Mutually Exclusive," *Stereotyping Religion: Critiquing Cliches*, edited by Craig Martin and Brad Stoddard. Bloomsbury, forthcoming.

Chapters in *Religion in Five Minutes*, edited by Aaron Hughes and Russell McCutcheon. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishers, forthcoming.

- "Is there a large difference between the main religions or do they just have minor variations on the same overall idea?"
- "Do all religious adherents believe in the concept of a higher power?"
- "Is Yoga Religious?"

"Nostalgia and the Discourse Concerning Nones." In *The Problem of Nostalgia: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*, edited by Vaia Touna. Equinox Publishers, forthcoming.

"The Critical Embrace: Teaching the World Religion Paradigm As Data." In *After World Religions*, edited by Christopher Cotter and David Robertson. Routledge, 2016.

"Accidental Favorites: The Implicit in the Study of Religions." In *Claiming Identity in the Study of Religion: Social and Rhetorical Techniques Examined*, edited by Monica Miller, 223-238. Equinox Publishers, 2015.

- "Introduction: Writing, Riting, and Righting in the Critical Study of Religion." In *Writing Religion: The Case for the Critical Study of Religion*, edited by Steven Ramey, 1-13. University of Alabama Press, 2015.
- "Liminal Hindus: Disputed Boundaries and Their Impacts on Sindhi Hindus." In *Lines in Water: Religious Boundaries in South Asia*, edited by Tazim Kassam and Eliza Kent, 159-183. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2013.
- "Sindhi Hindus." In *Contemporary Hinduism*, edited by P. Pratap Kumar, 114-125. Durham, UK; Bristol, CT: Acumen Publishing, 2013.
- "Recreating Sindh: Formations of Sindhi Hindu Guru Movements in New Contexts." In *Interpreting the Sindhi World: Essays on Society and History*, edited by Michel Boivin and Matthew A. Cook, 75-107. Karachi, Pakistan: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- "Temples and Beyond: Varieties of Hindu Experiences in the South." In *Religion in the Contemporary South: Changes, Continuities, and Contexts*, edited by Corrie Norman and Don Armentrout, 207-224. Knoxville: U. of Tennessee Press, 2005.

Peer Reviewed Essays

- "Authorizing Identifications, Disciplining Techniques: The Affinities of Public Authority." In *Claiming Identity in the Study of Religion: Social and Rhetorical Techniques Examined*, edited by Monica Miller, 162-168. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishers, 2015.
- "Textbooks, Assumptions, and Us: Commentary on Jimmy Emanuelsson's 'Islam and the Sui-generis Discourse: Representations of Islam in Textbooks Used in Introductory Courses of Religious Studies in Sweden'" - *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 26 (2014): 108-110.

Book Reviews, Encyclopedia Articles, and Other Publications:

- Book review – *Hindu Rituals at the Margins: Innovations, Transformations, Reconsiderations*, edited by Linda Penkower and Tracy Pintchman, *Religions in South Asia*, forthcoming.
- "Patricide and the Nation." In *Fabricating Origins*, edited by Russell McCutcheon, 42-44. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing, 2015.
- Book review - *Confucianism as a World Religion: Contested Histories and Contemporary Realities*, Anna Sun, *Religion* (2014).
- Invited essay - "Responding to the Wendy Doniger Controversy: The Problems and Possibilities in the Academic Study of Religion," *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 43:2 (2014): 37-39.
- Book review - *Engaging South Asian Religions Boundaries Appropriations and Resistances*, Peter Gottschalk and Matthew Schmalz, eds., *Journal of Hindu Studies* 5:1 (2012): 127-129.
- Book review – *Notes from the Fortune-Telling Parrot: Islam and the Struggle for Religious Pluralism in Pakistan*, David Pinnault, *Religion* 40 (2010): 223-225.
- "Hinduism in America." *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. Congressional Quarterly Press, 2010, 973-978.

Book review - *Religion and Public Memory: A Cultural History of Saint Namdev in India*, Christian Lee Novetzke, *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 25:1 (2009): 162-163.

"Hinduism." *World Book Encyclopedia 2010*. Chicago: World Book, 2009.

"Mahabharata." *World Book Encyclopedia 2010*. Chicago: World Book, 2009.

Book review - *In Amma's Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India*, Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 22:3 (2007): 430-432.

"Islam in the South." *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Vol. 1 Religion*. Edited by Samuel S. Hill. Chapel Hill: University of Chapel Hill Press, 2006.

"Hinduism." *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South*. Edited by Samuel S. Hill, Charles Lippy, and Charles Reagan Wilson. 2nd edition. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2005. 375-376.

Book review - *America's Alternative Religions*, Timothy Miller, editor, *Religious Studies Review* - April 1997.

"Not Solomon's Temple: Uses of Cathedrals in the Middle Ages." *Furman Humanities Review* 4 (1991): 33-49.

Online Publications

Huffington Post blog contributor

"How Do We Describe People Who Commit Violence and Their Victims?" February 13, 2015

"Meaningless Surveys: The Faulty 'Mathematics' of the Nones" November 7, 2013 (co-written with Monica Miller)

"Constitutional Freedoms and Defining Religion." June 24, 2013,

"What Happens When We Name the Nones" February 21 2013,

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-ramey/>

Blog contributor – *Culture on the Edge*, June 2013 – present, <http://edge.ua.edu>

Blog contributor – *Studying Religion in Culture*, May 2012 – present, <http://as.ua.edu/rel/blog/>

Blog contributor - *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, April 2012 - present

<http://www.equinoxpub.com/blog/category/steven-ramey/>

"Connections Across Borders: Further Impressions of a UA Professor." *Pravasi Herald*. July 2010.

"Beyond the Bible Belt: The Expansion of Indian-American Communities in Alabama." *Pravasi Herald*. May 2010.

"Ganesha." *World Book Online Reference Center*. 2008.

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/Article?id=ar753049>.

Publications in Development

"Forging Identities: The Challenges and Broader Implications of Representing Sindhi Communities"

Contesting Categories: Towards a Transcultural Paradigm, a single authored volume

Conference Presentations:

- 2016 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting – Invited panelist “The Power of the General: Applying Critical Questions from Religious Studies Broadly”
- 2014 Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion - Panelist “What Will You Do With That? A Workshop on Encouraging Majors and Enrollments”
- 2013 AAR Annual Meeting – Panelist “Discussing the ‘Nones’: What They Say about the Category of Religion and American Society”
- 2013 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - Presidential Plenary “Accidental Favorites: Analyzing the Implicit in the Study of Religions”
- 2011 AAR Annual Meeting – Respondent to session *Constructions of Hindu Selves and Hindu Others in North America*
- 2010 AAR Annual Meeting – “Global, Regional, and Local Connections in the Formation of Indian-American Communities in Atlanta”
- 2010 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting – “Connecting Traditions: Indian-American Networks of Practices across the Southeast”
- 2008 AAR Annual Meeting - “Staying Regional, Turning Global: Dynamics of Globalization in a Contemporary Sindhi Hindu Guru Movement”
- 2007 AAR Annual Meeting - “Sustaining Minority Hinduisms: Sindhi and Indo-Caribbean Hindu Communities in Atlanta.”
- 2007 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - invited panelist - “Best Teaching Practices for World Religions Survey Courses”
- 34th Annual Conference on South Asia, U of Wisconsin - Madison - “Recreating Sindh: Formations of Sindhi Hindu Saint Movements in New Contexts”
- 2004 AAR Annual Meeting - “Critiquing Borders: Teaching a Post-Colonial World Religions Survey”
- 2004 AAR Annual Meeting - “‘We are Hindu!’ Secularism, Tolerance, and the Marginalization of Sindhi Hindus”
- 2003 AAR Annual Meeting - “Hindu, Sikh, and Sufi: Recreating a Regional Heritage in the Context of Atlanta”
- 31st Annual Conference on South Asia, U of Wisconsin - Madison - “Defying Boundaries: Constructions of Identity and Practices in a Contemporary Sindhi Hindu Sant Movement”

2001 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - "Alternative Constructions: Analyzing Participation in Multiple Ritual Traditions"

2000 NCRSA Annual Meeting - "Which Hinduism? The Development of Hindu Traditions in the Southeastern United States"

1999 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - "Beyond Conflict and Cooperation: Theologies of Festival Participation in South Asia"

1991 National Conference for Undergraduate Research - "Not Solomon's Temple: Uses of Cathedrals in the Middle Ages"

Invited presentations:

Workshop co-leader, "*...But What Do You Study?": A NAASR Workshop on Theory & Method in the Job Market*", NAASR Annual meeting, Atlanta Georgia, 22 November 2015

"Are They Really Hindu: Debates and Consequences of Identifications," upcoming invited lecture, Columbus State University, 15 October 2015

"Hindus in Metro Atlanta: Year of India Symposium," invited lecture and panel participant, Reinhardt University, 10 April 2015

"Identity Wars and the Battle for Authenticity," discussion participant via Skype with upper-level seminar, Lehigh University, 18 February 2015

"Forging Identities: The Challenges and Broader Implications of Representing Sindhi Communities," invited lecture, South Asia Program, Cornell University, 29 September 2014

"But We Are Hindu! The Power of the Discourse of Religions to Force Conformity," guest lecture, Furman University, 27 November 2012

"Representations of Islam" *Religions, Politics, and Cultures of the Middle East* course guest lecture, University of Alabama 8 March 2011

"Undergraduate Research Roundtable" panelist, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Alabama, 4 February 2011.

"Hinduism and Buddhism" *Spirituality and Social Work* course guest lecture, University of Alabama, 20 September 2010.

"Being Sindhi Outside Sindh: The Development of Sindhi Hindu Religious Practices Around the Globe" and "Can Hindus Worship Guru Nanak? The Religious Identity of Sindhi Hindus and Their Relation to Sikhism." Young Sindhi Adults Retreat VIII, Chicago, Illinois, 4 July 2009.

"Hindu God or Muslim Saint? Creating a Public Identity with a Contested Figure in India." Religion *in Culture* Lecture Series, Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, 1 April 2009.

"Conflicting Representations of Hinduism and World Religions." Tuscaloosa Book Club, Tuscaloosa, AL, 10 November 2008.

"Basics of Islam." *Religion, Politics, and Cultures of the Middle East* course guest lecture, University of Alabama, 2 September 2008.

"Hinduism." *Introduction to the Study of Religion* course guest lecture, University of Alabama, November 2007.

"Introduction to Hinduism." Teacher training session at Yoga Bliss Studio, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. 9 November 2007.

Respondent to "Political Religion? Deploying the Sacred in Hitler's Germany" by George Williamson. *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Religion and Conflict*, University of Alabama Symposium, 28 September 2007.

"Basics of Islam" and "Islam and the Variety of Religions in the Region." *The Middle East in the Twenty-First Century* School and University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER) Teacher Institute, sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, 26, 27 June 2007.

"Hindus in Atlanta." *Religions of Atlanta* course guest lecture. Agnes Scott College, 3 April 2007

"Hindu, Sikh, and Sufi: Recreating Sindhi Hindu Practices in North America." *Religion in Culture* Lunch Series, Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, 28 February 2007.

Asian religions at "Culture and Conflict: The Impact of Religion on World History and Geography." Teacher's workshop, Huntsville, Alabama, 23 February 2007.

"Why Do They Believe That?" University of Alabama Crossroads Community Center, 8 November 2006

"Liminal Hindus: Sindhi Hindus and the Tensions Between Strict Religious Borders and Inclusive Practices." 2004 Religious Synergies Symposium, co-sponsored by Syracuse University and Cornell University

Undergraduate Research Mentoring (Presentation by Undergraduate Researcher)

"Naif Al-Mutawa's *The 99* and Roland Barthes's Theory on Myth and Semiotics" Presented at REL Undergraduate Research Symposium and University of Alabama Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity conference, March 2017
Received 2017 Asian Studies Research Award

"And the Beat Goes On: Imaginings and Retellings of Han Shan by Gary Snyder and Jack Kerouac" Presented at 2016 SECSOR undergraduate panel and 2016 REL Honors Research Symposium.

"Shakti Pithas: Sacred Tools for Not So Sacred Ends" Presented at REL Honors Research Symposium, March 2015.

"Myth as Illusion" Presented at University of Alabama Second Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, April 2014, International Focus winner.

“The Dilemma of Religious Terrorism” Presented at AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting, March 2012.

“Taming the Monkey: An Analysis of Contemporary Uses of the Monkey King”
Presented at University of Alabama Second Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, April 2009.

“The Rise of Islamism in Nigeria” – McNair Scholars Program
Presented at McNair Scholars Symposium, University of California at Berkeley, August 2008.

“Lighting Muharram: Multi-perspective Analysis of Shia Muharram Rituals”
Presented at University of Alabama First Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, April 2008

“Jai Jhule Lal! A Sindhi Cultural Savior Finds a New Home in North Carolina”
Presented at AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting, March 2006
Presented at North Carolina Religious Studies Association, October 2005

Departmental and University Service:

University of Alabama Faculty Senate – April 2017 – present

Member, REL Graduate Studies Committee – Spring 2017 – present

Pedagogy Mentor for Junior Faculty/Instructors, Department of Religious Studies – Fall 2013 – present

Chair, Department of Religious Studies Grants Committee – Fall 2014 - present

Chair, Department of Religious Studies Retention Committee – Fall 2013 – Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Member, Fall 2011- Fall 2012, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant Coordinator, Department of Religious Studies – Fall 2013 – Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Member, Department of Religious Studies Search Committees – Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2011, Spring 2009. Spring 2008

Chair, College Academy for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Committee – Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Chair, Department of Religious Studies Search Committees – Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013 - Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Fall 2009

Chair, Department of Religious Studies Events Committee, Fall 2006 – Spring 2013

Member, College of Arts & Sciences Research and Technology Working Group – Fall 2011 – present

Member, College Academy for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Committee – Fall 2013 – Spring 2014, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Chair, Alabama Greece Initiative Organizing Committee, College of Arts and Sciences – Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Member, Department of Religious Studies Long Range Planning Committee – Spring 2010 – Spring 2013

Member, Department of Religious Studies Five-year Plan Committee – Fall 2008 - Fall 2009

Member, Department of Religious Studies Assessment Committee – Fall 2007

Member, Institutional Review Board committee, University of North Carolina at Pembroke - Fall 2005 - Spring 2006

Other Professional Service:

Co-Editor, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, September 2015 – present.

Co-Editor, Culture on the Edge Peer Reviewed blog, December 2016 - present

Series Editor, *Culture on the Edge: Studies in Identity Formation*, a book series with Equinox Publishers, April 2013 – present

Chair, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 2013 - March 2014

President, American Academy of Religion / Southeast, March 2012 - March 2013

Steering Committee member, North American Hinduism consultation, American Academy of Religion, 2006 - 2012

Vice President, American Academy of Religion / Southeast, March 2011 - March 2012

Vice President-elect, American Academy of Religion / Southeast, March 2010 - March 2011

At-Large Member, American Academy of Religion / Southeast, March 2009 – March 2010

Co-chair, Religions of Asia section, American Academy of Religion / Southeast, Spring 2009 – Spring 2010

Co-chair / Chair, History of Religions section, American Academy of Religion / Southeast, Spring 2005 – Spring 2009

Manuscript / Thesis Referee for Andhra University, India, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, *Practical Matters*, Longman Publishers, Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, *Politics and Religion*, *Teaching Theology and Religion*, University of California Press

Lead Scholar, *The Middle East in the Twenty-First Century* School and University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER) Teacher Institute, sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, 26, 27 June 2007.

Grants and Awards

2011 Induction, Anderson Society, University of Alabama

2008 Research Grant Committee Award, University of Alabama, funding "South Asia in Alabama: Connections and Complexity"

2001 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Dissertation Fellow

2001 David L. Boren Graduate International Fellowship (declined)

1999 University Center for International Studies Graduate Summer Research Travel Grant - UNC

1999 Perry Family Summer Research Scholarship - UNC

1997- 2000 Merit Assistantship - UNC

1994-1997 Full Tuition Scholarship - Emory University

1990 induction, Phi Beta Kappa - Furman University

Courses Taught at the University of Alabama

REL 100 – Introduction to Religious Studies

REL 102 – Introduction to Religions of the World

REL 208 - Hinduism

REL 220 – Survey of Asian Religions

REL 236 – Islam

REL 321 – Religion and Identity in South Asia

REL 322 – Tales from Asia

REL 373 - Advanced Studies in Hinduism

REL 419 – Myth, Ritual, Magic: Writing in Religion (W course)

REL 483 – Seminar in Asian Religions -

Recreating South Asia in America

Texts and Retellings: Myths from Asia in Film and Popular Culture

REL 490 – Capstone Senior Seminar in Religious Studies

FLC 101 – Engaging Asia