

JULIA CASSANITI

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tsc4wg@virginia.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor 2024-
Department of Religious Studies
Department of Anthropology (Affiliated Faculty)
University of Virginia

Associate Professor 2018-
Assistant Professor 2012-2018
Department of Anthropology
Asia Program (Affiliated Faculty)
Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Affiliated Faculty)
Washington State University

Graduate Faculty Member, Department of Religious Studies, 2023-
Duke University

Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies, 2019
Cornell University

Culture and Mind Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, 2010-2012
Stanford University

Visiting Lecturer, Psychological Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, 2009-2010
University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

2009 Ph.D, The University of Chicago
Department of Comparative Human Development
Committee: Dr. Richard Shweder, Dr. Tanya Luhmann, Dr. Richard Taub, Dr. Steven Collins
Dissertation: "*Control in a World of Change: Emotion and Morality in a Northern Thai Town.*"

1999 B.A., Smith College, Cognitive and Social Psychology (*with honors*)

RESEARCH FOCI

Anthropology, Religious Studies, Cognition, Culture, Perception, Affect, Emotion, Agency, Embodiment,
Gender, Sexuality, Health, Environment, Buddhism in Thailand, Japan, Transnational South-East Asia

PUBLICATIONSBOOKS

- Cassaniti, Julia. 2018. *Remembering the Present: Mindfulness in Buddhist Asia*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Cassaniti, Julia and Usha Menon, eds. 2017. *Universalism Without Uniformity: Explorations in Mind and Culture*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2015. *Living Buddhism: Mind, Self, and Emotion in a Thai Community*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Cassaniti, Julia. 2024. "A Burning Issue: The Spirits of Land and Capital in Thailand's Agricultural Haze Crisis." *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*. 4-27.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2024. "Silent Suasions: Interpersonal Mediation in Thai Meditation." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)*. 30: 61-76 Part of a Special Issue on Religious Suasion, Sam Victor and Danny Cardoza, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2024. "Will Work, Won't Work? Getting things done in Buddhist Thailand." *Ethnos*. 1-13.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2023. "The Precarious Spaces Between Us: The Exchange of Food and Merit in Thailand's Affective Moral Economy during the COVID Pandemic." *Journal of Religious Ethics*. Part of a Special Issue on Buddhist Moral Emotions, Sara Swenson & Jessica Starling, eds. 1-24.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2023. "The Sounds of Silence: Meditation for Personal and Social Change." *American Anthropologist*. 125(4), 888-891. Part of a Special Issue on Silent Reverberations: Potentialities of Attuned Listening, Ana Dragojlovic and Annemarie Samuels, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia and Michael Chladek. 2022. "Aimless Agency: Precarity and Uncertainty among Buddhist Novice Monks in Thailand." *Ethos, the Journal of Psychological Anthropology*, 50(3):315-331
- Cook, Joanna and Julia Cassaniti. 2022. "Mindfulness and Culture: The Future of the Mindfulness Movement and the Promise of Anthropology." *Anthropology Today*, 38(2), 1-3. Guest Editor in a Special Issue on Cultures of Mindfulness, Julia Cassaniti and Jo Cook, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2022. "Memory, Ghosts, and the Good Life: *Sati* in Theravāda Cultural Contexts." *Anthropology Today*, 38(2), 4-8. In a Special Issue on Cultures of Mindfulness, Julia Cassaniti and Joanna Cook, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2021. "Mindfulness or *Sati*? The Cultural Diversity of a Global Concept for Resilience and Mental Health." In *Journal of Global Buddhism*. Part of a Special Issue on Buddhism and Resilience, Nalika Gajaweera and Darcie DeAngelo, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2019. "Keeping It Together: Idioms of Resilience and Distress in Thai Buddhist Mindlessness." *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 56(4), 697-719. Part of a Special Issue on Idioms of Distress, Lesley Weaver and Bonnie Kaiser, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2015. "Asanha Bucha Day: Boring, Subversive, or Subversively Boring?" *The Journal of Contemporary Buddhism*, 16(1): 224-243.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2015. "Intersubjective Affect and Embodied Emotion: Feeling the Supernatural in Thailand." *The Anthropology of Consciousness*, 26(2): 132-142
- Cassaniti, Julia and Tanya Luhrmann. 2014. "The Cultural Kindling of Spiritual Experiences." *Current Anthropology*. v.55(10): 333-343. (Also published in German, as: "Die kulturelle Erweckung spiritueller Erfahrung." *Zeitschrift für Anomalistik*, 16:85-114. (2016))
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2014. "Moralizing Emotion: A Breakdown in Thailand." *Anthropological Theory*. Vol. 14(3) 280–300. Part of a Special Issue on the Anthropology of Morality, Julia Cassaniti and Jacob

- Hickman, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia and Jacob Hickman. 2014. "New Directions in the Anthropology of Morality." *Anthropological Theory*, 14(3) 251–262. Part of a Special Issue on the Anthropology of Morality, Julia Cassaniti and Jacob Hickman, eds.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2014. "Meditation and the Mind: Neurological and Clinical Implications of Buddhist Practice." In *Panitan: Chiang Mai University's Journal of Philosophy and Religion*. p.7-30.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2012. "Agency and the Other: The Role of Agency for the Importance of Belief in Buddhist and Christian Traditions." *Ethos: The Journal of Psychological Anthropology*. 40(3): 297–316.
- Cassaniti, Julia and Tanya M. Luhrmann. 2011. "Encountering the Supernatural: A Phenomenological Account of Mind." *Religion and Society*, 2: 37-53.
- Cassaniti, Julia, Joel Robbins and T.M. Luhrmann. 2011. "The Constitution of Mind: What's in a Mind? Interiority and Boundedness. Calling in the Souls: The *kor khwan* Ritual in Thai Spiritual Encounters." *Suomen Antropologi, The Finnish Anthropological Society*, 36 (4): 15-20.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2006. "Toward a Cultural Psychology of Impermanence in Thailand." *Ethos: The Journal of Psychological Anthropology*. 34: 58-88. (Recipient of the 2005 Condon Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay in Psychological Anthropology, American Anthropological Association)
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2002. Meditation at the Mall. *Seeds of Peace: Journal of Engaged Buddhism and Asian Issues*, 18(2): 25-26. Sathirakoses-Nagapradeepa Foundation.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Cassaniti, Julia. *In Press*. "Affect, Emotion, and Medicine in Anthropological Approaches to Religion." For *The Oxford Handbook of the Anthropology of Religion*. Simon Coleman and Joel Robbins, eds. London: Oxford University Press.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2022. "Encountering Impermanence, Crafting Change: A Case Study of Alcoholism and Attachment." In *Impermanence: Exploring Continuous Change Across Cultures*. Cameron Warner, Ton Otto, and Haidy Geismar eds. UCL Press.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2021. "Up in Smoke: Cosmopolitical Ecologies and the Disappearing Spirits of The Land in the Haze Crisis of Southeast Asia" In *Cosmopolitical Ecologies Across Asia: Places of Power in Changing Environments*. Riam Kuyakanon, Hildegard Diemberger, and David Sneath, eds. Routledge. 62-80.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2017. "Wherever You Go, There You... Aren't?" In *Meditation, Buddhism, and Science*. David McMahan and Erik Braun eds. London: Oxford University Press. 131-152.
- Menon, Usha and Julia Cassaniti. 2017. "Introduction: Universalism without Uniformity." In *Universalism without Uniformity: Explorations in Mind and Culture*. Cassaniti and Menon, eds. Chicago: The U. of Chicago Press. 1-22.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2017. "Unsettling Basic States: New Directions in the Cross-Cultural Study of Emotion." In *Universalism Without Uniformity: Explorations in Mind and Culture*. Cassaniti and Menon, eds. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 101-114.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2016. "Return to Baseline: A Woman with Chronic Acute Onset, Non-Affective Remitting Psychosis in Thailand." *Our Most Troubling Madness: Case Studies in Schizophrenia across Cultures*. T.M. Luhrmann and Jocelyn Marrow, eds. U. California Press. 167-179.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2014. "Buddhism and Positive Psychology." *Positive Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Across Cultures*. Chu Kim-Presto, ed. Springer. 101-124.
- Cassaniti, Julia. 2013. "The Rural Radio DJ." In *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*. Joshua Barker, Erik Harms, and Johan Lindquist, eds. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press. p.123-125.

BOOK REVIEW ESSAYS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- Cassaniti, L. Julia. *In Press*. “A Chance Encounter: Making Meaning from Coincidence.” Review of Michael Jackson’s *Coincidence: Synchronicity, Verissimilitude, and Storytelling*. In *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)*.
- Cassaniti, L. Julia and Braidynn Harchis. 2023. “Cassaniti and Harchis on Schedneck Religious Tourism in Northern Thailand: Encounters with Monks. In *H-Buddhism: H-Net’s Network for the Study of Buddhism*.
- Cassaniti, L. Julia. 2018. “The Mind.” *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Hilary Callan, ed. Oxford: John Wiley and Sons, Ltd. 1-3,
- Cassaniti, L. Julia. 2017. “The Politics of Space: *Siege of the Spirits: Community and Polity in Bangkok*.” *Current Anthropology*, 58(2). 309-311. Review of Michael Herzfeld’s *Siege of the Spirits*.
- Cassaniti, L. Julia. 2013. “Melford Spiro: Psychological Anthropologist in Southeast Asian Society.” McGee and Warmes, eds. *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology*. LA: SAGE. p. 808-810.

PODCASTS AND PUBLIC MEDIA EVENTS

- “Mindfulness as a Historical and Cultural Phenomenon”
Public Speaking Engagement at Malmö University, Sweden (May 14, 2024)
<https://mau.se/en/research/mindfulness/>
- “What is Contemplation? An Interview with Julia Cassaniti”
Interview for the Center for Contemplative Studies Blog, University of Virginia (Jan 15, 2024)
<https://contemplativejournal.org/interviews/what-is-contemplation-julia-cassaniti/>
- “Living Buddhism, Making Ethnography: An Interview with Julia Cassaniti”
Continuing Education Program for Anthropology 101, Brigham Young University (Nov 10, 2023)
- “Mindfulness in Buddhist Asia” New Books in Southeast Asian Studies (Aug 19, 2019)
<https://www.nysean.org/blog/2019/8/19/new-books-podcast-mindfulness-in-buddhist-asia-7j7ly?rq=cassaniti>
- “Religion, Pain, and Selfhood: Buddhist Studies and Anthropology in Conversation.”
Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University (Oct 2, 2020)
<https://buddhiststudies.stanford.edu/news/video-available-religion-pain-and-selfhood-buddhist-studies-and-anthropology-conversation>
- “You Know How It Is...’: A Response to the #MeToo Movement” (2019)
Cornell University Press Blog <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/you-know-how-it-is/>

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) and Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) Grant
- 2022 Transitions Grant, NSF ADVANCE Program for Women in Science, WSU
- 2020 Research Extension Grant, Humanities Center, Washington State University
- 2020 Templeton Foundation, “Spiritual Curiosity and Theory of mind” (Project Advisor)
\$2.8M grant, in collaboration with Tanya Luhrmann at Stanford University (2016-2020)
- 2019 Clare Hall Fellow, Department of Anthropology Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge.
- 2018 Humanities Center Fellowship, “The Phenomenology of Meaning in Thai Buddhist Meditation: Meditative Training of Attention,” Washington State University. (2018)

- 2017 National Science Foundation (NSF), ADVANCE Program External Mentor Pilot Extension Grant.
- 2016 Visiting Fellow, Southeast Asia Program (SEAP), Cornell University
- 2016 Book Prize: Stirling Prize for Best Published Book in Psychological Anthropology, awarded by the American Anthropological Association, for *Living Buddhism: Mind, Self and Emotion in a Thai Community*.
- 2014 Department of Religion and Philosophy, Visiting Fellow, Chiang Mai University
- 2014 New Faculty Seed Grant, Washington State University
- 2014 Department of Religion and Philosophy, Visiting Fellow, Chiang Mai University
- 2013 National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE Mentor Award, Washington State U.
- 2011-2008 Culture and Mind Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University (2009-2011)
- 2008 Mellon/ACLS Foundation, Social Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2008 Committee on Southern Asian Studies, Dissertation Fellowship, The U. of Chicago
- 2007 Neugarten Prize Lectureship in the Social Sciences, The U. of Chicago (for a course on “The Experience of Religion in Asia”, cross listed in Human Development and the Divinity School)
- 2006 Century Fellowship (Top Rated Graduate Fellowship, The U. of Chicago (2002-2006))
- 2005 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship
- 2005 Fulbright IIE Fellowship and the Department of Education (*declined*)
- 2005 Doolittle-Harris Grant, for presenting at the American Ethnographical Society and Society for Psychological Anthropology joint biennial meetings
- 2004 Condon Prize, Best Student Essay in Psychological Anthropology, AAA Society for Psychological Anthropology
- 2004 Fulbright Grant for Language Training, Advanced Study of Thai, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

CONSULTANCIES AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- “Spiritual Curiosity and Theory of Mind” Project, at Stanford University (advisor)
Psychiatry and Mental Health for Patients with Psychosis in Chiang Mai, Thailand (\$2.8M grant, Templeton Foundation) (2016-2018)
- Collaborator on Culture and Buddhist Practice Project with Aj. Somwang Kaewsufong,
Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Chiang Mai University (2012 –)

SELECTED REVIEWS OF PUBLISHED WORK

- Cangia Flavia. 2018. “Universalism without Uniformity: Explorations in Mind and Culture.” *American Ethnologist*, 45(4): 569-571.
- Cook, Joanna. 2017. “Living Buddhism: Mind, Self, and Emotion in a Thai Community” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.
- Chladek, Michael. 2017. “Chladek on Cassaniti: ‘Living Buddhism: Mind, Self, and Emotion in a Thai Community’.” H-Net.
- Helerman, Ira. 2018. “Meditation, Buddhism, and Science.” *Global Buddhism*, 19: 133-141.
- Patton, Thomas. 2018. “Living Buddhism: Mind, Self, and Emotion in a Thai Community.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 49(3): 252-253.
- Terwiel, Barend Jan. 2017. “Living Buddhism: Mind, Self, and Emotion in a Thai Community.” *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, 32(1): 179-182.

TEACHING**Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia**

2024 RELB: Buddhism and Gender (2024)

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Washington State University

2024 ANTH 507 "Advanced Studies in Culture Theory"
 2023 ANTH 591 "Gender and Sexuality in Buddhist Practices of Southeast Asia"
 2023 DIV/ANTH 203 "Global Cultural Diversity" (2022, 2021, 2020, 2018, 2015)
 2022 ANTH 591 "Religion, Mind and Body: Buddhism in Practice" (also in 2018, 2016, 2013)
 2022 ANTH 390 "History of Anthropological Thought" (2021, 2020, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)
 2018 ANTH 490 "Integrative Themes in Anthropology" (2017, 2016, 2015)
 2017 ANTH 554 "Field Methods in Anthropology"
 2017 ANTH 303 "The Anthropology of Religious Experience" (2021, 2017)
 2016 ANTH 591 "Culture and Mind" (2021, 2015, 2014)
 2015 ANTH 330 "Gods, Spirits, Witchcraft and Possession"
 2012 ANTH 302 "Childhood and Culture"

Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University

2019 ASIAN 4494/6604 "Topics in SE Asian Studies: Karma, Causation, and Mental Health in Asia."

Invited Guest Lecturer, Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

2011 "Culture and Madness" (*Dept. of Anthropology Graduate seminar*)
 2011 "The Cultural Shaping of Emotion" (*Dept. of Psychology*)
 2010 "The Anthropology of Religion" (*Dept. of Anthropology Graduate seminar*)
 2010 "Anthropology of the Imagination" (*Dept. of Anthropology*)

Visiting Lecturer, Sociocultural Anthropology, University of California, San Diego

2010 ANSC 128 "Culture and Emotion"
 2009 ANSC 129 "Meaning and Healing"
 2009 ANSC 167 "Rituals and Celebrations"
 2009 ANSC 121 "Psychological Anthropology"
 2009 ANSC 126 "The Anthropology of Childhood and Adolescence"

Course Lecturer and Teaching Assistant, The University of Chicago

CHDV/DIV "The Experience of Religion in Asia" (*Neugarten Prize Lectureship*) (2007)
 2009 CHDV "Introduction to Human Development: Lives in Context" (*T.A. to Bertram Cohler*)
 2004 CHDV "Cultural Psychology" (*T.A. to Richard Shweder*)

Volunteer Instructor for Thai and Immigrant Communities, United States and Thailand

2010 English for Thai Immigrants, Wat Buddhajakramongkolratana Thai Temple, Escondido, CA
 2006 Social Science Course for Novice Monks, Pah Ded Temple, Mae Chaem, Thailand
 2006 Researcher and Community Development, Raks Thai Foundation, Mae Chaem, Thailand
 2001 Workshop Leader on Social Activism for Buddhist Monastics, Sathirakoses-Nagapradeepa Foundation, Nakorn Nayok, Thailand
 1999 Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Certificate Program, Northampton, MA

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

PhD Level Supervision as Committee Chair

- Anna Jordan “Life after Lockup: Moral Conflict and Subjectivity in the Shadow of the California Penal System” (PhD 2023)
- Daphne Weber “Gendered Relations: Female Monastics Healing at the Margins” (PhD 2024)
“Good Feelings and the Buddha: Affective Politics of Thai *Bhikkuni*” (M.A. 2018)

MA Level Supervision as Committee Chair

- Braidynn Harchiss “*Pañḍaka* Monks and the Social Politics of Sexuality in Thai Monasteries” (b. 2023)
- Jason Chung “Images of the ideal self with whoonga addiction in South Africa” (2016)
- Miranda Woonton “Cognitive Behavioral Therapies Urban Thai and US Settings”
- Xinyi Zhao “Psychosis in Southeast Asia: Metaphors of Psychiatry” (2017)
- Piyawit Moonkham “Mythscape: An Ethnohistorical Archeology of Space and Narrative of the *Naga* at the Thai/Laos Border” (2017)
- Chia Hinchliff “A Thread of Continuity: Spiritual Journey Through Yarn in Honor of Wixarika Ancestors” (2017)
- Jessica McCauley “The Embodiment of Knowledge: Djinn Healing in Mali” (2015)

Select Current and Past PhD and MA Level Committee Supervision

- Mesganaw, Mihiret “Imagined Placemaking: Tizita, “Place-Based Nostalgia” and the Creation Of Immigrant Selves Among Amhara Ethiopians in Minnesota, USA” (Ph.D 2020)
“Theories of Personhood for Jewish Ethiopian Immigrants” (M.A. 2014)
- Anna Jordan “Memory and Personhood in Elder Care” (M.A. 2016)
- Mathew Newsom “The Politics of Dreaming: Collective Memories, Emotion, and Imaginaries in Berlin, Germany” (Ph.D 2020)
“Psychobilly Music and Pretend Play Violence in Berlin” (M.A. 2014)
- Emily Casillas “La Manta and La Clinica: Children in a Limeno Migrant Community (Ph.D 2020)
“Mothering Practices in Peru” (M.A. 2012)
- Brooke Ann Coco “Cultural Consonance among Ecuadorian Migrants” (M.A. 2018)
- Francisco de la Torres “Sociocultural Status and Educational Achievement” (M.A. 2014)
- Chaise Jung “Dreams and Migration in the Tonga” (M.A. 2018)
- Roxanna King “Witchcraft Beliefs in Southeastern Cameroon” (M.A. 2012)

External Committee Supervision and External Evaluation

- Perry Sweitzer “The Talk of Silent Meditation” (*Department of Religious Studies, Duke University*)
- Alpha Cooper “Technologies of Attention: Meditation, Wellness, and Cell Phone Use in a Southern California Community” (*Stanford University*)
- Darcie De Angelo “To love a rat: Shadow Stories and Interspecies Relations in a Cambodian Minefield” (*McGill University*)(Ph.D 2017)
- Raissa Graumans “Stories, Symbols, and Selves: Female Conversion Experiences in Contemporary Tibetan Buddhist Monasticism” (*University of Saskatchewan*) (Ph.D 2016)
- Chaitut ROUNGCHAI “More than English: Karen Thai/Burmese Refugees Negotiating their Lifestyle in a Cosmopolitan City” (*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*) (PhD 2013)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND PUBLIC MEDIA EVENTS

- 2024 “The Mind in Mindfulness: A Cultural Exploration of *sati* in Theravāda Buddhist Contexts of Southeast Asia.” Mindfulness Symposium, Malmö University, Sweden (May 14)
- 2024 “The Wildness and the Mind: A Case Study on the Phenomenology of Schizophrenia for Patients at a Psychiatric Hospital in Thailand.”
Invited Speaker, Stanford Humanities Center Workshop, Stanford University, CA (Jan 31)
<https://shc.stanford.edu/stanford-humanities-center/events/julia-cassaniti-wildness-and-mind>
- 2023 “Attention and Perception: Cultural Variation in Biases of Frequency.”
Invited Workshop talk, “The Anthropology of Attention,” *LSE (Virtual)* (Nov 30)
- 2023 “Problematic Particles: Pollution, Cosmology, and the Social Life of Haze in Southeast Asia”
Panel on “Alternatives to the Neoliberal Self.”
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, *Toronto, Canada* (November 19)
- 2023 “From Spirits to Capital in Thailand’s Changing Agricultural Religious Landscape.”
Society for Psychological Anthropology, University of San Diego, *San Diego, CA* (April 27)
- 2022 “The Development of Consciousness in Buddhist Meditative Practices of Southeast Asia.”
University of Vienna, Austria (October 20)
- 2022 “The Burning Issue: Cosmopolitical Ecologies and the Spirits of the Land in Southeast Asia.”
Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan (October 14)
- 2022 “Training the Mind: Global Variation in Attention and Cultures of Perception.”
Anthropology of Attention Workshop, London School of Economics, *Virtual* (September 14)
- 2021 “Silent Persuasions: Silent Protest as Political Action.”
In a panel on “The Ethics and Politics of Religious Suasion, and the Problem of Coercion”
Society for the Anthropology of Religion, *Virtual* (May 16)
- 2021 “Humans vs. Ghosts: The Battle for Humanity in Thai Buddhist Theories of Mind.”
And “Toward an Anthropology of Compassion and Empathy”
Society for Psychological Anthropology, *Virtual* (April 13&15)
- 2020 “A Thai Medicine Buddha? Buddhism and Health in Practice.”
Invited Lecture, Pain, Suffering, and Ethnography Ho Center Workshop
Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University, *Virtual* (October 3)
- 2020 “Cognitive Bias and Perceptual Influences of Asian Contemplative Traditions.”
Fairness and Partiality: A Virtual Symposium; London School of Economics (LSE), (May 8)
- 2019 “Mentality and Mental Health in Buddhist Communities of Asia”
Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, *Kyoto, Japan* (October 31)
- 2019 “Mind, Medicine, and Culture: Conducting Transnational Comparative Research.”
Mindful by Nature course taught by Tim Drake, School of Environmental Sciences
Ithaca College, *Ithaca, NY* (October 22)

- 2019 “Mindfulness and the Anthropology of Mentality in Southeast Asia.”
Two class talks as part of Cornell’s Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) Outreach Program
Monroe Community College, *Rochester, NY* (October 7)
- 2019 “Remembering the Present: Mindfulness Practices of South and Southeast Asia.”
Sponsored by the Society for the Humanities, Cornell University Press, South Asia Program,
Dept. of Human Development, Southeast Asia Program, and Department of Anthropology.
Cornell University, *Ithaca, NY* (October 1)
- 2019 “The Burning Issue: Perceptions and Finger-Pointing in Upland Fires of Mainland Southeast
Asia.” Center for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH)
Cambridge University, *Cambridge, UK* (June 20)
- 2019 “Consciousness Fled: Cultural Embodiment in the Training of Attention.”
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA (February 11)
- 2018 “Wandering Minds: Consciousness at a Cross-Roads.”
Interdisciplinary Seminar on Consciousness Studies,
Max Planck Institute of Human Development, *Berlin, Germany* (December 14)
- 2018 “Ellen Degeneres Interviews the Cave-Rescued Thai Soccer Team! Mindfulness’s Potencies in
Global Discourse.” In a panel on “Buddhism and Resilience: Transnational Buddhist conceptions
of the good” (co-organizer). American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Conference
San Jose, CA (November 16)
- 2018 “Phenomenological Considerations in the Subjective Feeling of Religious Experience and
Cultural Theory of Mind.” Spiritual Curiosities Project, Stanford University, *CA* (April 22)
- 2018 “Out of Time: Temporality and Mindfulness in Buddhist Southeast Asia.”
Invited Speaker for the Numata Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada, (January 26)
- 2018 “Living Buddhism: Mind, Self and Emotion in a Thai Community.”
Invited Speaker, Numata Lecture Series in Buddhist Studies, McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (January 25)
- 2017 “Registers of Calmness through Political and Social Action.”
10th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) Annual Conference
Chiang Mai, Thailand (July 21)
- 2017 “Wherever you go, there you... *Aren't?* Theories of the Person in Thai Mindfulness.”
13th International Conference on Thai Studies (ICTS), Faculty of Social Sciences,
Chiang Mai University *Chiang Mai, Thailand* (July 17)
- 2017 “Reconciling Psychological and Anthropological Approaches to Human Behavior.”
Seminar on Human Social Behavior, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard
University *Cambridge, MA* (June 11)
- 2017 “Theravāda Approaches to Buddhist Mindfulness in Thailand, Burma, and Sri Lanka.”
Theravāda Civilizations Project. *Springfield, MI* (June 1)

- 2017 “Theories of mind in Christian and Buddhist Thai Religious Practice.”
Spiritual Curiosity and Theory of Mind Project, Stanford University
Stanford, CA (May 21)
- 2017 “Ghostly Affects: Emotion and Subjectivity in Contemporary Thai Buddhist Mindfulness.”
Contemplative Sciences Center, the East Asia Center, and the UVA
School of Medicine, The University of Virginia, *Charlottesville, VA* (April 28)
- 2017 “Registers of Acceptance: Affecting Equanimity in Buddhist Thailand.”
Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, *Toronto, Canada* (March 18)
- 2017 “The Psychological Anthropology of Mental Health and Political Resistance:
A Thai Case Study.” Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Biennial Meetings
New Orleans, LA (March 10)
- 2017 “Psychiatric and Monastic Perspectives on Mindfulness in Contemporary Asia.”
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.
Ann Arbor, MI (February 13)
- 2017 “Remembering the Present: Monasteries, Markets, and Mental Health in Today's Theravāda
Buddhist Mindfulness.” Anthropology Colloquium, Washington State University.
Pullman, WA (February 9)
- 2017 “Mentality and Mental Health in Southeast Asia.”
Center for Southeast Asian Studies Friday Forum, The University of Wisconsin –
Madison. *Madison, WI* (January 27)
- 2016 “Idioms of Weight: Categories of Lightness and Heaviness in Thai Spiritual Phenomenology.”
American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meetings
Minneapolis, MN (November 18)
- 2016 “The Psychology of Mindfulness Practices of Theravāda Buddhist Asia.”
Psychology Seminar, The University of Saskatchewan.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (October 16)
- 2016 “Collaborating on Categories of Religious Experience.”
Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA) Annual Meeting. *Ithaca, NY* (May 13)
- 2016 “Ethnographies of Affect in Buddhist Communities.”
Buddhism, Humanities and Ethnographic Methods, University of Vermont
Burlington, VT (April 30)
- 2016 “Living Buddhism: Mind, Self, and Emotion in a Thai Community.”
Buddhist studies and International Relations Program, U. Washington, *Seattle, WA* (April 18)
- 2016 “The Heart of Change: Acting Through Impermanence in Modern Buddhist Thailand.”
Thai Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
Cambridge, MA (March 7)

- 2016 “The Passage of Time and the Cultural Psychology of Mental Health in Buddhist Thailand.” Center for Southeast Asian Studies, International Institute. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor *Ann Arbor, MI* (February 19)
- 2016 “The ‘Affects’ of Change: Psychological Anthropology of Emotion, Morality, and Mental Health in Buddhist Thailand.” Department of Anthropology, Boston University *Boston, MA* (January 22)
- 2015 “Minding the Supernatural: Northern Thai Perspectives of the Mind in Contemporary and Historical Buddhist Thought.” Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia, The University of Kyoto *Kyoto, Japan* (December 12)
- 2015 “Meditating on Unusual Religious Experiences in Buddhist Thailand.” Part of a panel on “The Strange Self: Exploration of Mind in Buddhism and Christianity” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meetings *Denver, CO* (Nov 19)
- 2015 “Smiling at Death: *Anichang, Ploy Wang*, and the Cultural Psychology of Emotion in Contemporary Thailand.” SEAP Brown Bag Lecture Series. Cornell University *Ithaca, NY* (October 15)
- 2015 “Emotion in Contemporary Buddhism and the Medical Anthropology of Mental Health in Today’s Thailand.” Department of Anthropology and the Southeast Asia Program, University of Washington *Seattle, WA* (September 15)
- 2015 “Empowering subjectivity in culture.” For a panel on “Untethering Self and Person: New Directions in Psychological Anthropology.” Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Biennial Meetings *Boston, MA* (April 9)
- 2015 “Emotion and the Anthropological Study of Morality: A Breakdown in Thailand.” For a panel on “Religion and Moral Sentiments.” Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR) Biennial Meetings. *San Diego, CA* (April 20)
- 2015 “The Future of Cultural Affective Science.” Society for Affective Science Annual Conference, *Chicago, IL* (March 19)
- 2015 “Not about Religion, Not about Culture”?: (Re)Constructing Buddhist Mindfulness in Southeast Asia." Anthropology Seminar, Brigham Young University *Provo, UT* (January 23)
- 2014 “The Sting of a Flood in Northern Thailand: Buddhism and the Cultural Psychology of Emotion.” For a panel on “Universalism without the Uniformity: Emotion, Health, and Identity.” (Co-organized with Usha Menon) American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meetings. *Washington, DC* (December 5)
- 2014 “(Re)-Constructing Buddhist Mindfulness in Thai Psychiatry.” International Conference on Thai Studies. Sponsored by the University of Sydney *Sydney, Australia* (April 23)
- 2014 “An Anthropological Investigation of Buddhism in Practice.” Intensity Institute, Mandalay. *Mandalay, Burma* (March 22)

- 2014 “Thai Health Care Reform and the Practice of Mindfulness.”
Part of a panel on “Health Beliefs and Practices.” Asia Pacific Sociological Association (APSA) *Chiang Mai, Thailand* (February 16)
- 2013 “Minding Medicine: One Man’s Struggles Through a Changing Health Care Landscape in Thailand.” In a panel on “The Dynamics of Body, Place, and Subjectivity in the Study of Religion.” American Anthropological Association (AAA). *Chicago, IL* (November 22)
- 2013 “Minding Medicine: Buddhist Mindfulness, Class, and Practice.”
Medical Anthropology Seminar, The University of California, San Diego, *CA* (April 10)
- 2013 “Affecting the Supernatural: Thai Supernatural Encounters and Affect Theories.”
Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Biennial Meetings, *San Diego, CA* (April 5)
- 2013 “Mental Health and Medicine in Thailand.” Anthropology and Sociology Colloquium,
Bucknell University, *Lewisburg, PA* (March 8)
- 2013 “Medicine and Madness: A Case study from Thailand.”
Conference on “Religion Inside Medicine. Epistemology, Law, Everyday Experience and Practice.” Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität,
Berlin, Germany (February 15)
- 2012 “Buddhism and the Ghostly Emotions of today’s Thailand.”
Part of a panel on “Steps Toward an Anthropology of Affect.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meetings *San Francisco, CA* (November 16)
- 2012 “Buddhism and Positive Psychology.” Psychology Department Culture Co-Lab,
Stanford University, *Stanford, CA* (November 14)
- 2011 “Compassion in Buddhist Northern Thailand.”
Part of a panel on “Emotion and Inter-subjectivity” (Co-organized with Allen Tran)
American Anthropological Association Annual (AAA) Annual Meetings
New Orleans, LA (November 16)
- 2011 “Feeling the Immaterial: Minds, Ghosts, and Relations in Buddhist Thailand.”
Culture Workshop, Human Development, The University of Chicago, *Chicago, IL* (October 4)
- 2011 “Buddhism(s) and the Modern Creation of Northern Thai Identity. “
International Conference on Thai Studies. Sponsored by Mahidol University,
Bangkok, Thailand (July 26)
- 2011 “Buddhism in Mind: the Psychology of Buddhism in Contemporary Thai Society.”
Psychology Department Culture Co-Lab, Stanford University, *Stanford, CA* (May 24)
- 2011 “Emotional worlds of change: Psychology and Impermanence.”
Department of Anthropology Psychodynamic Seminar, UCSD. *San Diego, CA* (May 6)
- 2011 “Even the Table is Moving!” Ritual Practices and Embodied Experience of Impermanence in a Buddhist Community” Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR) Biennial
Santa Fe, NM (April 30)

- 2011 “Creating Neoliberal Subjectivities in Thailand: A Story of Love and Ambivalence.” Part of a panel on “Neoliberal Subjectivity.” Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Meetings *Los Angeles, CA* (April 1)
- 2011 “Why Yelling Doesn’t Work in Thailand: A Psychological Anthropological Account of Emotion.” Anthropology Brown Bag Lecture Series, Stanford U. *Stanford, CA* (Jan 10)
- 2010 “Are there Moral Emotions?” Part of a panel titled “Toward an Anthropology of Morality” (Co-organized with Jacob Hickman) American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meetings *Philadelphia, PA* (December 5)
- 2010 “Culture and Psychology in Northern Thailand: Methodological Issues of the Mind in Context.” Michael Cole’s Lab of Comparative Human Cognition, The University of California, San Diego, *San Diego, CA* (April 13)
- 2010 “The Problem with Pan: Cultural Psychology of Illness, Emotion, Morality and Agency in a Northern Thai family.” Anthropology Brown Bag Lecture Series, Stanford University. *Stanford, CA* (January 25)
- 2009 “Control and Agency: Bridging the Disciplines of Psychology and Anthropology.” Anthropology Brown Bag Lecture Series, Stanford University, *Stanford, CA* (April 20)
- 2009 “Constructing Personal Agency Through Perpetual Loss: Buddhist Ramifications of Impermanence in Northern Thailand.” Part of a panel on “Crisis, Suffering, Resistance, and Escape” (Panel Organizer) The Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) and Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR) *Asilomar, California* (March 27)
- 2009 “*Tham jai*: Acceptance in Buddhist Northern Thailand as Acts of Resistance.” Psychodynamic Seminar, University of California, San Diego, *San Diego, CA* (March 15)
- 2008 “‘Cool it!’ The Work of Emotion in a Buddhist Thai Community.” Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) Graduate Student Conference, Cornell University *Ithaca, NY* (October 24)
- 2008 “Negotiating Emotion and Agency in a World of Change.” Theory and Practice in Southern Asia, The University of Chicago, *Chicago, IL* (October 2)
- 2008 “Doing Social Science Research on Buddhism in Practice: Methods and Theory.” Graduate Program in Buddhist Studies, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. Wat Suan Dok *Chiang Mai, Thailand* (June 15)
- 2008 “Development of identity and agency in Senegalese and American Jewish youth.” 15th Annual Human Development Graduate Conference, U. Chicago *Chicago, IL* (April 25)
- 2008 “Karma in Action: Notes from a Northern Thai village.” Tenth International Conference on Thai Studies. Sponsored by Thammasat University *Bangkok, Thailand* (January 9)
- 2007 “Buddhist philosophy in practice: an ethnographic study of Amphur Mae Chaem.” Chiang Mai University Philosophy Symposium. Chiang Mai University, *Chiang Mai, Thailand* (November 4)

- 2007 “Christianity among the Karen of Northern Thailand.”
SEAP Outreach Workshop on Karen Culture, Cornell University *Ithaca, NY* (October 20)
- 2007 “Mental health and the cultural saliency of emotion: A case study from Thailand.”
Clinical Ethnography Workshop, The University of Chicago, *Chicago, IL* (October 19)
- 2007 “Influences of religion in everyday life: A comparative study of Karen Christians and Thai Buddhists in Northern Thailand.” International Conference on Religion and Culture, Payap University. *Chiang Mai, Thailand* (June 21)
- 2005 “Anthropology of Religion in Theravada Southeast Asia.”
Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) 10th Anniversary
Chiang Mai, Thailand (December 8)
- 2005 “Socially perceived differences between genders in Thai culture.” (Presented in Thai)
Advanced Study of Thai graduate conference. Chiang Mai University
Chiang Mai, Thailand (August 21)
- 2005 “Impermanence in Everyday Life: An Ethnographic Report.”
Culture, Life Course, and Mental Health (CLCMH) Workshop, The University of Chicago,
Chicago, IL (April 14)
- 2005 “Toward a Cultural Psychology of Buddhist impermanence in Thailand.”
Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Biennial, *San Diego, California* (April 9)
- 2005 “Buddhist impermanence and the psychology of causal attribution in Northern Thailand.”
Ninth International Conference on Thai Studies. Sponsored by Northern Illinois University,
DeKalb, IL (April 3)
- 2004 “Local *Kham Muang* Knowledge: Interviews from Mae Chaem, Thailand.”
Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (SEASSI) Student Conference,
The University of Wisconsin. *Madison, WA* (July 24)
- 2004 “What Makes a Buddhist? Impermanence in Everyday Life.”
Committee on Human Development Annual Graduate Student Conference,
The University of Chicago. *Chicago, IL* (May 15)
- 2004 “Challenges to the Ethnography of Religion: Thai constructions.”
American Ethnological Society (AES) Annual Meetings *Atlanta, Georgia* (April 24)
- 2004 “Cultural Psychology of Buddhism in Thailand.”
Department of Psychology Cross-Cultural Laboratory,
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. *Ann Arbor, MI* (March 10)
- 2004 “The Personal Construction of Buddhism in Thailand.”
Conference on Culture and Religion, Northwestern University *Chicago, IL* (February 21)
- 2003 “Beyond Duality: What a Northern Thai village can tell us about Cultural Psychology.”
Poster Presentation at the University of Michigan Psychology Department’s Self, Cognition, and Emotion Conference: Toward the Future of Psychological Research *Ann Arbor, MI* (Dec 6)

SELECT DEPT, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- 2024- Editor-in-Chief, *Ethnos: The Journal of Psychological Anthropology*
- 2024- Graduate Professional Development Committee, *University of Virginia*
- 2023 Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Contemplative Studies (JCS)*
- 2020-2023 NSF ADVANCE Program for Women in Science, Program Liaison
- 2022 Culture Stream Coordinator, Department of Anthropology, *Washington State University*
- 2022 “Virtual Ethnography and Virtual Data Collection”
Guest Lecturer, Digital Anthropological Methods Lecture Series, *Washington State University*
- 2020 “Getting In to Grad School” Invited Workshop Faculty Speaker, *Washington State University*
- 2018 Anthropology Department Colloquium Chair, *Washington State University*
- 2017 Fulbright Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Grant Reviewer
- 2018- Condon Prize Committee Chair, the Society for Psychological Anthropology for Best
2015 Graduate Essay in Psychological Anthropology, *American Anthropological Association*
- 2017- CAWHPAWRG, The Cultural/Psychological Anthropology Reading/Writing Group
2013 Organizer, *Washington State University*
- 2016 Planning Committee Member for the 2017 Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial
- 2011 Anthropological Theory of Mind (AToM) Conference Co-Organizer, *Stanford University*
- 2010 Organizer of QUARG, a departmental Reading/Writing group at *University of California, San Diego*
- 2005 Colloquium Organizer for Culture, Life Course, and Mental Health Lecture Series, *U. Chicago*
- 2001 Activist Workshop Leader in Nakorn Nayok, Thailand, for Sulak Sivaraksa, *Sathirakoses-Nagapradeepa Foundation*.

FIELD RESEARCH

- 2023 Fieldwork in Kyoto, Osaka, and Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, for work on a project about impermanence, environment, and social change, sponsored by the Association of Asian Studies.
- 2023 Fieldwork in Chiang Mai, Thailand for new project interviews on hallucinations among patients with schizophrenia at the Suan Prung Psychiatric Hospital, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.
- 2022 Fieldwork in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for work on attention and perception research, interlocutor follow up study, and mental health in psychiatric hospital interviews, sponsored by the Templeton Foundation.

- 2019 Fieldwork in Kyoto, Japan for preliminary collaborative research, and Chiang Mai, Thailand for attention project interviews and *Living Buddhism* translation
- 2018 Fieldwork in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for follow-up ethnographic research and translation meetings for *Living Buddhism*, at Chiang Mai University, funded by a NSF ADVANCE Program External Mentor Pilot Extension Grant.
- 2017 Fieldwork in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and for work as Senior Advisor to the “Spiritual Curiosity Project,” sponsored by the Templeton Foundation.
- 2015 Fieldwork in Northern Thailand for follow-up work on mindfulness project, sponsored by a Meyer Award.
- 2014 Fieldwork in Chiang Mai, Thailand; Kandy, Sri Lanka; and Mandalay, Burma for New Faculty Seed Grant-sponsored research on Mindfulness in Southeast Asia, funded by a WSU New Faculty Seed Grant.
- 2013 Fieldwork in Chiang Mai for research on ghosts, politics, and madness in Thailand
- 2012 Fieldwork trip to Northern Thailand for research and language training, sponsored by Stanford University.
- 2011 Fieldwork trips to Northern Thailand for research on *Supernatural Phenomenology*, funded by a Culture and Mind Postdoctoral Fellowship at Stanford University.
- 2005-2006 Extended dissertation fieldwork to Northern Thailand, for *Control in a World of Change: Emotion and Morality in a Northern Thai Town* (The University of Chicago). Conducted ethnographic field work and 140 interviews with Northern Thai and Karen villagers in Amphur Mae Chaem (28 months total, 2005-2006 residency; 3 months a year 2007-2009). Funded with a Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship.
- 2005 Advanced Study of Thai (AST) at Chiang Mai University, supported by the Fulbright Foundation. Research project on gender and social practice at Chiang Mai University
- 2004 Thai Language Training (Second Year) at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI), University of Wisconsin, Madison, funded by a SEASSI Grant and the Southern Asian Studies Program at the University of Chicago.
- 2003 M.A.-level Research on Buddhist impermanence in Northern Thailand, funded by a Century Fellowship at the University of Chicago.

SELECTED REVIEW WORK

Grant Review Panels

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Mellon Foundation Review Panel (2022)
National Science Foundation Grant Review Panel (2019)
Fulbright Foundation DDRA Review Panel (2018)

Peer Review Journals:

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI), Contemporary Buddhism, Medical Anthropology, Current Anthropology, Journal for the Anthropology of Consciousness, Transcultural Psychiatry, Ethos: The Journal of Psychological Anthropology, Journal of Southeast Asian Studies (JSEAS)

Book Manuscript Reviews:

Cornell University Press, Oxford University Press, U. of California Press, Brox & Williams-Oberg

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Anthropological Association (AAA)
The Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR)
The Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA)
The Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA)
The Association of Asian Studies (AAS)
The Scientific Research Society (Sigma Xi)
The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

English – native proficiency
Thai – advanced proficiency
Spanish – advanced proficiency
N. Thai (*kam muang*) – intermediate proficiency
Italian – intermediate proficiency
Japanese – beginning proficiency
Pali – beginning proficiency
French – beginning proficiency
Dutch – beginning proficiency