

Curriculum Vitae September 2021
Marko A. Geslani
Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina
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Education

- 2011 Ph.D., Religious Studies (Asian Religions), Yale University (with distinction)
Dissertation title: “The Ritual Culture of Appeasement: Śānti Rites in Post-Vedic Sources”
Committee: Phyllis Granoff, Koichi Shinohara, Gérard Colas (CNRS, Paris)
- 2009 M.A./M.Phil., Religious Studies (Asian Religions), Yale University
- 2005 B. Arts. Sc. Hon. Religious Studies, McMaster University (summa cum laude)

Employment

- 2021-present Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina
- 2018-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina
- 2013-2018 Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Emory University
- 2012-2013 Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, Occidental College
- 2011-2012 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Asian Studies, University of British Columbia
- Spring 2011 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Wesleyan University

Publications

Book Projects

In progress, *Astral Persons, Astral Publics: Jyotiḥśāstra and Religion in Early Medieval India*

In progress, *Orientalism for all the Orientals! Hindu studies and the Future of Asian Antiquity*

In progress, *Disinterring Geertz: A Cultural Critique of Ritual Studies*, co-authored with Tulasi Srinivas (Emerson College)

2018 *Rites of the God-King: Śānti and Ritual Change in Early Hinduism*, Oxford University Press (Oxford Ritual Studies), 322 pp.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Forthcoming (2023), "Divination and Danger in Indra's Banner Festival," *International Journal of Hindu Studies*.

2021 "Resentment and Retrenchment: Rereading Doniger on Comparison and Edward Said," *Religion Compass*.

2019 "A Comparative Survey of the Indradhvaja Ceremony (Gārgīyajyotiṣa 45)" *History of Science in South Asia* 7: 82-95.

2017 "Garga and Early Astral Science in India," with Bill Mak, Michio Yano, and Kenneth Zysk, *History of Science in South Asia* 5.1:151-91.

2016 "Astrological Vedism: Varāhamihira's Contribution to Early-Medieval Ritual," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 136.2: 305-323.

2012 "Śānti in the Development of Purāṇic Rājyābhiṣeka," *Indo-Iranian Journal* 55.4: 321-77.

2011 "Appeasement and Atonement in the *Mahādānas*," *Journal Asiatique* 299.1: 133-92.

Peer-Reviewed Chapters

2020 "Omens in Late-Vedic Ritual" Festschrift for Kenneth Zysk, Leiden: Brill

2017 "Pratiṣṭhā as Apotropaic Consecration," in *Consecration Rituals in South Asia*, edited by Istvan Keul. Numen Book Series. Studies in the History of Religions. Vol. 155. Leiden: Brill. Pp. 17-44.

Invited Chapters

2020 "From Fire Sacrifice to Image Worship," in *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Religions*, ed. by Knut Jacobsen, Routledge.

2019 "Social Organization and Everyday Norms," in *A Cultural History of Hinduism in the Pre-Classical Age*, ed. by Jarrod L. Whitaker, Bloomsbury Press.

Online Publications

2017 "The Skull that Begs," "Is this all there is?" Essay Series, *The Immanent Frame*, <https://tif.ssrc.org/category/is-this-all-there-is/>

Invited Book Reviews

Forthcoming, "The Snake and the Mongoose: The Emergence of Identity in Early Indian Religion by Nathan McGovern," *The Journal of Religion*.

Forthcoming, "The History of the Arthaśāstra: Sovereignty and Sacred Law in Ancient India by Mark McClish," *English Historical Review*.

2018 "Ultimate Ambiguities: Investigating Death and Liminality, ed. by Peter Berger and Justin Kroesen," *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 24: 404-405.

2017 "Śaiva Rites of Expiation: A First Edition and Translation of Trilocanaśiva's Twelfth-century Prāyaścittasamucaya (with a Transcription of Hṛdayaśiva's Prāyaścittasamuccaya), ed. and tr. by R. Sathyanarayanan, with Intro. by Dominic Goodall," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 137.1: 179-80.

2017 "A Million and One Gods: The Persistence of Polytheism, by Page Dubois," *Journal of Religion* 97.1: 110-12.

2016 "Homo Ritualis: Hindu Ritual and its Significance for Ritual Theory, by Axel Michaels," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 84.4: 1155-58.

Book Reviews

2016 "The Indian System of Human Marks (2 vols), by Kenneth G. Zysk," *Asian Medicine* 11.1-2: 265-67.

Awards

- 2016-2017 Emory PERS Grant, "The Ritualization of Astrology in Early India," Manuscript workshop at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York
- 2012-2013 Two-Year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Religious Studies, Occidental College
- 2011-2012 Post-Doctoral Teaching and Research Fellowship, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia
- 2010-2011 *Suisman Fellowship*, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University
- April 2010 *Nani Prova Deb Memorial Prize*, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University
- 2005-2009 *Doctoral Fellowship*, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- June 2005 *Valedictorian*, Humanities and Arts & Sciences convocation, McMaster University
- June 2005 *Religious Studies Prize*, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University
- June 2005 *Religious Studies Honours Essay Prize*, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University

Teaching Experience

2018-present University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Courses taught

2021, 2020 *Theories of Religion*
2021 *Introduction to Hinduism*
2021 *A History of Sacrifice*
2021, 2020, 2018 *Religion and the Arts: Idolatry in Comparative Perspective*
2020 *Orientalism: Race and Religion*
2018 *Introduction to Religion*

2013-2018 Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Courses taught

2017 *Arts of a Hindu Epic* (developed with Ellen Gough at the Carlos Museum)
2017 *Religion & Gender: Hindu Women, Rituals, and Goddesses* (with Joyce Flueckiger)
2016, 2017 *Religion NOW* (developed the course)
2016, 2014 *Freshman Seminar: Tourism and Pilgrimage* (developed the course)
2016 *Karma, Cures, Misfortune* (developed the course)
2016 *Topics in Religion* (graduate level; co-taught with Jill Robbins)
2016 *Directed Study on Karma* (graduate level)
2015 *Ritual Studies* (graduate level; developed the course)
2015, 2014 *Advanced Sanskrit* (graduate level)
2015, 2014 *Hindu Traditions* (developed the course)
2015, 2014, 2013 *Intermediate Sanskrit* (graduate level)

Graduate Student Committees

Thesis Committees: Jenn Ortegren (Completed: Thesis Defense in Aug 2015); Deeksha Sivakumar (Completed: Thesis Defense in May 2017); Anandi Salinas (Prospectus Defense in April 2016);
Comprehensive Exam Committees: Ved Patel (history of the Indian state) Alex Yiannopoulos (tantra); Tenzin Buchung (Hinduism)

2012-2013 Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Courses taught

Introduction to the Study of Hinduism
Pilgrimage in Asian Religions
Hindu Ritual in Theory and Practice

2011-2012 University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Courses taught

Intermediate Sanskrit I
Advanced Sanskrit
Introduction to South Asian Religions
Intermediate Sanskrit II

Advanced Seminar: Ritual Studies and Indian Ritual

2011 Wesleyan University, Middletown Connecticut
Visiting Assistant Professor: Department of Religion

Talks/Research Presentations

Invited Talks

- 2021 “Minding the Matter: Hindu Processions at the Ends of Ritual,” South Asia Seminar, South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin
- 2021 “Orientalism for (All) the Orientals! Studying Asian Religions in the Era of Neoliberal Multiculturalism,” Multicultural Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2020 “King’s Body, Nature’s Sign: Gender and Ornament in the Astral State,” Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University
- 2020 “These Beautiful End-Times: Omens and Aesthetics in the Medieval State,” Center for Asian Studies, University of Georgia
- 2019 Untitled. Method and Theory 2.0., Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2019 “For He Gladdens the Earth: Consent and Conjugality in the Astral State,” Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2019 “Cold War Orientalism and Model Minoritization in U.S. Hindu Studies,” The Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline (University of Regina), San Diego
- 2019 “The Ritualization of Jyotiḥśāstra in Purāṇic Rājadharmā” Conference: *Interplay Between the Traditions of Jyotiḥśāstra and the Purāṇas*, Department of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen.
- 2019 “End-Times on the Wind: Prophecy and Omenology in Early Brahmanism and Vaiṣṇavism,” Conference: *Figuring the Future: Visions and Techniques in the World’s Religions*, Yale University.
- 2019 “From Weber to Varāha: Toward an Astrological Hinduism,” Divinity School, University of Chicago.
- 2017 “Toward an Astrological Hinduism,” Yale Seminar in Religion, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University.
- 2017 “Omens in Late-Vedic Rituals: Early Evidence,” Conference: *Cosmos East and West*, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.

- 2016 “Work of the Heavens: Ritual and Astrology in Early Hinduism,” Arts and Humanities Colloquium, Colgate University.
- 2014 “Ritual Manuals and Middle Range Theory: A Response to Ronald Grimes’ *The Craft of Ritual Studies*,” *Author Meets Critics Panel*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego.
- 2014 “The Dreams of the King: On the Overnight Structure of the Royal Consecration,” *The Evolution of Tantric Ritual*, UC Berkeley.
- 2013 Respondent to guest lecture by Shingo Einoo, Yale University, New Haven.
- 2013 “The Look of the Inauspicious,” *The Matter with God: Materiality and Transcendence in Asian Religions*, Yale University, New Haven.
- 2013 “Omens in the Fire: The Ritual Formation of Astrological Vedism” *Annual Junior/Senior Sanskrit Symposium: Early Hindu Ritual* with Timothy Lubin, Asian Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
- 2012 Panelist, *Conversation with Religion and the Arts Award Winner: Holland Cotter*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- 2012 “Techniques for Invocation in the *Pratiṣṭhā*,” *Consecration Rituals in South Asia*, Department of Religious Studies and Archaeology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim.
- 2012 “Enshrining Early Indian Rituals,” Sensory Cultures of Religion Research Group, Yale University, New Haven.
- 2011 “The Ritual Culture of Appeasement: Between Vedic Fires and Hindu Images” Department of Religion, Reed College.
- 2010 “The Ritual Culture of Appeasement: Between Vedic Fires and Hindu Images” Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan.
- 2010 “Appeasement and Atonement in the Great Gifts of Hinduism,” *Sin and Expiation: Perspectives from Asian Religions*, Yale University, New Haven.

National/Regional Conferences

- 2020 “Author Meets Critics: New Books in Hindu Studies,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (virtual).

- 2019 “Teaching Hinduism after Invention: Cold War Orientalism and the Model Minority Religion” American Academy of Religion, Southeast Region, Greensboro.
- 2017 "Appeasement Rituals in the Collection of Garga: Early Evidence of the Ritualization of Omenology in Ancient India," *The Ritualization of Astrology in Premodern Asia* (Panel Organizer), Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto.
- 2015 "An Omen Made to Please: Indradhvaja as an Auspicious Sign," *Proclaiming Power: The Ritual Uses of Flags in South Asia* (Panel Organizer), American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
- 2013 “Fulfilled Vratas and Failed Saṃskāras: A Hymn to Sūrya in the Vāmana Purāṇa,” *Ritual, Myth and Identity: Rethinking Sectarian Hinduism in Sanskrit Ritual and Narrative*, Madison South Asia Conference, Madison.
- 2013 “The Transfer of Sin and the Ethics of Gifting in Medieval India,” *The Ethical Subject in Pre-Colonial and Colonial India* (panel), Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego.
- 2012 “Reconsidering the Image Installation Ceremony in Early and Medieval Hinduism,” General Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston.
- 2011 “The Myth of Śiva-Sthāṇu as Tank Consecration,” North American Hindu Studies Graduate Student Conference, Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.

Invited Workshops

- 2019 Indological Workshop. *Interplay Between the Traditions of Jyotiḥśāstra and the Purāṇas*, Department of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen.
- 2017 Gargasamhitā Reading Group, *Institute for the Study of the Ancient World*, New York University.
- 2011 “Belief and Efficacy,” Yale Seminar in Religious Studies, First Annual Workshop: “What is Belief?” Department of Religious Studies, Yale University.
- 2009 “Towards a Paradigm for the Śānti Ritual in the Pariśiṣṭas of the non-*Atharvan Śākhās*,” Annual Workshop in Asian Religions, Yale University.
- 2008 “The Navagraha Śānti According to the *Atharvavedaśāntikalpa*” Annual Workshop in Asian Religions, Yale University.
- 2008 “Planetary Rites in the Domestic Sūtras and the Question of ‘Proto’-Image Worship” presented to the Society for the Study of Asian Religions, Yale University.
- 2007 “Mommy, Where Do Maruts Come From, and Why?” presented as part of a graduate

student lecture series sponsored by the Gerber Fund, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University.

International Conferences

2018 “The Formation of the Indradhvaja Ceremony, with reference to *Gargasamhitā* 45,” 17th World Sanskrit Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Service to the Profession

2022-2025 Co-Chair, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit, AAR

2018 Co-Convener, Ritual Section, World Sanskrit Conference, Vancouver Canada

2015-present Editor and Collaborator, Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion (<http://mavcor.yale.edu/>)

Emory College Service

2017-2018 Search Committee, Telugu Literature, Culture, and History, Department of Middle East and South Asian Studies

2016-2017 Search Committee, East Asian Buddhist Traditions, Department of Religion

2014-2015 Search Committee, Hindu Traditions, Department of Religion

Research Languages: Sanskrit, Pāli, Tibetan, French, German

Memberships: American Academy of Religion, American Oriental Society, Association of Asian Studies