

## **Juli L. Gittinger**

Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies  
Georgia College      CBX 111, Beeson 341      Milledgeville, GA 31061  
juli.gittinger@gcsu.edu      (478) 445-8618  
jgitting.wordpress.com

### **EDUCATION**

- 2010-2015      PhD, Religious Studies (Hinduism)  
McGill University, Montreal  
Dissertation: *Contesting Hinduism in the electronic public sphere*  
Supervisor: Davesh Soneji
- 2006-2008      MA, Indian Religions  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Thesis: *Hindutva from Savarkar to Ayodhya: phantasmic identity of Hindu Nationalism*  
Supervisor: Loriliai Biernacki
- 2004-2005      MA, Indian Religions  
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), United Kingdom  
Dissertation: *From Priestess to Prostitute—Reclaiming the history of the Devadasi tradition in India*  
Supervisor: Sîan Hawthorne
- 2002-2004      BA (Honors), Religious Studies  
Webster University, St. Louis MO  
Thesis: *Gender Jihad: A struggle for women's equality in Islam*  
Supervisor: Dennis Klass
- 1987-1992      BFA, Printmaking (Intaglio) and Film making  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2018-present    Program Coordinator for Religion  
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2020-present    Assistant Professor, South Asian Religions and Islam  
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2015-2020      Lecturer, South Asian Religions and Islam  
Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA
- 2014-2015      Visiting Assistant Professor, Asian Religions  
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro GA
- 2011-2014      Teaching Fellow, Religion and Globalization  
McGill University, Montreal QC

## BOOKS

- 2019 *Personhood in Science Fiction: religious and philosophical considerations.* Palgrave-Macmillan.
- 2018 *Hinduism and Hindu Nationalism Online.* Routledge.

## EDITED VOLUMES

- 2020 *Theology and Westworld.* Co-edited with Shayna Sheinfeld. Lexington Press.

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- (in progress) “Not Quite Utopia: Autism and Neurodivergence in Star Trek.” In *Representation of Neurodiversity on Television.* Eds. Curt Hersey and Julie D. O’Reilly. McFarland, forthcoming.
- (in progress) “Can you rape a robot? Dehumanization, personhood, and gender.” In *Ethics, Robotics, and AI in Fiction.* Eds. Brook Rudow and George Dunn. Forthcoming.
- 2019 “Hijabi Cosplay: Negotiating Spheres of Cultural, Religious, and Fan Identities,” in Cusak, Carole and John Morehead, eds. *The Sacred in Fantastic Fandom.* McFarland.
- 2019 “Mediating Hindu Identities: cultural regrouping online,” in Zeiler, Xenia, ed. *Digital Hinduism.* Routledge.

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (last ten years)

- 2022 “The New Gods: Free Will, Determinism, and AI in *Westworld* and *DEVS*.” *Journal of Popular Culture.* June.
- 2021 “Liberal Prepping as Apocalyptic Eco-Religion.” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture.* December.
- 2018 “Hijabi Cosplay: performances of culture, religion, and fandom,” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture.* 30.2 (Summer 2018): 87-105.
- 2017 “The Rhetoric of Violence, Religion, and Purity in India’s Cow Protection Movement,” *Journal of Religion and Violence.* May 2017: 131-149.
- 2015 “Hindu diaspora as ‘virtual community’: digital neighborhoods, electronic transnationalism,” *Symposia* Volume VII, University of Toronto. 2015: 1-16.
- 2015 “Modi-era Nationalism and the Rise of Cyber-Activism.” *Exemplar* 3.1. Special Issue: The Meaning of Modi. 3:1 Spring 2015: 9-17.
- 2014 “Is there such a thing as ‘cyberimperialism?’” *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* 28.3 May 2014: 1-11.
- 2011 “Saffron Terror: Splinter or Symptom?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol XLVI no 37, 10 Sept 2011: 22-25.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2022 *The Dreamer and the Dream: Afrofuturism and Black Religious Thought* by Roger Sneed. *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*.
- 2022 *Holy Science: The Biopolitics of Hindu Nationalism* by Banu Subramaniam. *International Journal for Hindu Studies* 26.
- 2017 *Heathen, Hindoo, Hindu: American Representations of India, 1721-1893* by Michael J. Altman. *JAAR/ReadingReligion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/heathen-hindoo-hindu>
- 2016 *The Value of Comparison* by Peter van der Veer. *JAAR/ReadingReligion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/value-comparison>
- 2016 *Digital Methodologies in the Sociology of Religion* edited by Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor and Suha Shakkour. *JAAR/ReadingReligion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/digital-methodologies-sociology-religion>

## ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- 2021 Updated “Digital Hinduism” entry in *Oxford Bibliographies in Hinduism*.
- 2020 Jerryson, Michael, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Violence*. Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO. Twenty-five entries (approx. 29,000 words) on various topics on Hinduism and violence.
- 2017 “Digital Hinduism.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Hinduism*. Ed. Tracy Coleman. New York: Oxford University Press. <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195399318/obo-9780195399318-0178.xml>
- 2011 Kaminsky, Arnold P. and Roger D. Long, eds., *India Today [Two Volumes]: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*. Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO. Five entries (approx. 8,000 words) on topics of Hindu nationalism.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 *Whose Utopia? Personhood, ability, exclusion, and belonging*. American Academy of Religions. Religion and Media Workshop, November 2. San Diego, CA.
- 2019 *Science fiction/science future: How sci-fi helps us dream, cope, and critique our reality*. Oconee Regional Library. Young Adult Summer Program, June 10. Dublin, GA
- 2019 Panel: “Mediated Hindutva.” U.S. State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research. March 18. Washington DC.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (last ten years)

- 2022 *Borders and Thresholds – a response to panel papers for Buffy the Vampire Slayer 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary* (respondent). American Academy of Religion (AAR) national conference, Denver, CO. November.
- 2022 *Whose Utopia? Disability in Science Fiction*. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), virtual conference, April.
- 2021 *Diving Deeper Into DEVS*. Christianity and Science Fiction, virtual conference, October.
- 2021 *The New Gods: Free Will, Determinism, and AI in Westworld and DEVS*. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), virtual conference, June.
- 2020 *Science Fiction, Immigration, and the ‘Alien Other’*. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA). Philadelphia, PA. April.  
\*Cancelled due to Covid19
- 2020 *The New Apocalyptic Eco-Religion of Prepping*. Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR). Athens, GA. February.
- 2020 *India’s ‘Sacred’ Cow: colonial and post-colonial shifts*. British Colonial and Postcolonial Studies (BCPS) Annual Conference. Savannah, GA. February.
- 2018 *Counter-colonialism and the Afrofuturist utopia in Black Panther*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. Denver, CO, November.
- 2018 *A “Proper” Hindu woman: Hindu nationalism vs. feminist activism on social media*. International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture (ISMRC). Boulder, CO, August.
- 2018 *(Re)telling History: The fiction of idealized Hindu nationhood*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2017 *Techno-orientalism: representations of South Asia on the Web*. Association for Global South Studies (AGSS). Marrakesh, Morocco. December.
- 2017 *Personhood in HBO’s Westworld*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. Boston, MA. November.
- 2017 *Secularism, plurality, and majority: “Religious freedom” in India*. SECSOR (Southeast regional AAR), Raleigh, NC. March.
- 2017 *Dalit suicides and post-colonial hangovers*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2016 *Rhetoric of violence, religion, and purity in India’s Cow Protection movement*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. November.
- 2016 *Secularism vs Sickularism: The post-colonial legacy of communalism in India*. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA, February.
- 2016 *Trans...something? Labelling alternate sexual identities in Indian vs US media*. Center for Media, Religion, and Culture (CMRC) Annual Conference. Boulder CO, January.

2012 *Talking about Saffron Terror in 'Secular' India*, Association of Asian Studies (AAS) National Conference, Toronto March. [Panel organizer and presenter]

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

2021 Best Faculty Paper Award, PCA/ACA 2021  
2016 Faculty Research Grant, Georgia College.  
2013 Eugene McBurney Foundation Fellowship, McGill University.  
2013 SSHRC Award for Research Assistance on *Polyphonic Thinking and the Divine* (Rodopi 2013).  
2012, 2013 Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University.  
2012 Eugene McBurney Foundation Fellowship, McGill University.  
2010-2011 President's Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University.  
2010-2011 Provost's Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University.

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2017-2018 Book Review Editor, *Journal of Religion and Violence*  
2011-2014 Project Assistant, Faith and Globalization Initiative (in conjunction with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation), McGill University  
2011-2013 Proofing, copy editing, formatting (various faculty member publications)

### **SERVICE**

2021-present Honors Faculty Council  
2020-present Digital Humanities Initiative  
2020-2021 Diversity Leadership Team  
2015-2021 Dean's Advisory Committee (AY 2017/18 as Chair)  
2018, 2020 Newell Scholar search committee  
2017-2019 Faculty Development Awards subcommittee  
2017-2020 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Awards subcommittee  
2017-present Web Advisory Committee and webmaster for departmental website

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Introduction to World Religions	Religion, Media, and Culture
South Asian Religions	Religion and Science Fiction
Asian Religions	Hindu Nationalism
Hindu Traditions	Religion and Human Rights
Islam and the Modern World	Thinking Through Religions
Religion and the Body	Mystical, Magical, and Ecstatic Religions
Women and Society	Religion and Technology

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Modern Hinduism

Secularism

Technology and Religion

Hindu Nationalism

Apocalypse

Religion and Popular Culture

**LANGUAGES**

Reading/writing/translation proficiency in Hindi and French