

MARK L. BLUM

Education

- 1990 Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley: Buddhist Studies (Departments of South & Southeast Asian Languages and Oriental Languages)
- 1976 M.A. University of California, Los Angeles: Japanese Language & Literature
- 1973 B.A. University of California, Santa Barbara: Religious Studies & Asian Studies (double major)

Employment

- 2002– Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, University at Albany – State University of New York, Dept. of East Asian Studies
- 1999–2002 Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, University at Albany – State University of New York, Dept. of East Asian Studies.
- 1993–1996 Florida Atlantic University, Dept. of Languages & Linguistics, Assistant Professor & Director of Japanese Studies
- 1990–1993 University of Hong Kong, School of Continuing Education.
Lecturer in Buddhist Studies
- 1989 Dharmasthiti Institute, Hong Kong. Lecturer in Buddhist Studies

Research Affiliations

- 2008–present Research Associate, Shinran Buddhist Center, Tokyo
- 2005–present Visiting Professor, Tokyo University (Buddhist Studies; summer months only), Tokyo
- 2004–present Research Associate, Jodo Shu Research Institute, Tokyo
- 2001–2003 Research Associate, Bukkyō University (Comprehensive Research Institute), Kyoto
- 2000–present Research Associate, Harvard University (Reischauer Institute)
- 1996–present Research Associate, Ōtani University, Kyoto

Professional Service

- 2008–present Advisory Board, The Eastern Buddhist Society, Kyoto
- 2007–present Steering Committee, International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies
- 2006–present Steering Committee, Buddhism Section, American Academy of Religion
- 2006–present Associate editor, Source Book in Japanese Philosophy, Nanzan Univ., Nagoya
- 2003–present Senior Editor, Handbooks of Oriental Studies-Japan section, E.J. Brill, Leiden

Awards and Grants

- 2003–2009 Research funding from the Jōdoshū Research Institute, Zōjōji for joint research in Tokyo.
- 2003 One year research leave from SUNY Albany.

- 2000 Japan Foundation Library Assistance Grant, Category B, for the SUNY Albany. ¥2,000,000 (\$19,230) for Japanese language reference materials.
- 2000 Faculty Research Assistance Program grant, SUNY
- 1997–1999 Post-doctoral research fellowship, nominated by the Social Science Research Council (New York) and awarded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, a division of the Ministry of Education; based at Bukkyō Univ. (Kyoto)
- 1996 Association for Asian Studies Grant for research travel within the USA
- 1995 Florida Atlantic University research grant
- 1994 Japan Foundation Grant for Japanese Teaching Materials
- 1993 Japan Foundation Library Assistance Grant for Florida Atlantic University
- 1987 Gankai Research Fellowship, Ōtani University, Kyoto
- 1984–1986 Fulbright–Hays Graduate Research Fellowship at Ōtani University
- 1976–1978 Japanese Education Ministry (Mombushō) Fellowship for graduate study at Kyoto University

Publications

Books

- contracted for 2010 *Think Buddha, Say Buddha: A History of Nenbutsu*. Oxford University Press
- forthcoming 2010 *Cultivating Spirituality: A Seishinshugi Anthology*. State University of New York Press. Co-editor of volume, author or translator of five chapters.
- forthcoming 2010 *Nirvana Sutra volume 1*. Translation of fascicles 1-10 of Dharmakṣema's Chinese text with Introduction. Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research (Berkeley & Tokyo). First of four volumes.
- 2006 *Rennyō and the Roots of Modern Japanese Buddhism*. Oxford University Press. Co-editor of volume and author or translator of five chapters.
- 2002 *The Origins and Development of Pure Land Buddhism: A Study and Translation of Gyōnen's Jōdo Homon Genrushō*. Oxford University Press.

Peer Reviewed Articles

- in press 2009 “Collaborative action research: Building authentic literate practices into a foreign language program,” co-authored with Theresa Austin, *Colombian Journal of Applied Linguistics*
- in press 2009 “Standing Alone in the Faith of Non-Obedience: Suzuki Daisetsu's View of Pure Land Buddhism” in *The Eastern Buddhist*, 39/2
- 2007 “Biography as Scripture: Ōjōden in India, China, and Japan,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 34/2, pp. 329-350.
- 2006 “Pure Lands in Japanese Religion,” introductory article and special edition co-editor, *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 33/2, pp. 217-221.
- 2005 「レヴィナスと清沢満之：宗教哲学における「倫理」の位置」(The Position of Ethics in the Religious Philosophies of Emmanuel Levinas and Kiyozawa Manshi), *Shinran Kyōgaku 親鸞教学* No. 84, 45-61. (in Japanese)
- 2004 “Kōsai and the Paradox of *Ichinengi*: Be Careful of What You Preach” in *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, third series No. 6, pp. 57-87.
- 2003 “Truth in Need: Kiyozawa Manshi and Søren Kierkegaard” in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXXV, No. 1-2, pp. 57-101.

- 2001 “Stand By Your Founder: Honganji’s Struggle with Funeral Orthodoxy,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 27:3–4 (Fall), 179–212.
- 1999 「凝然の歴史観について」 (Gyōnen's (1240-1311) Perspective on History) in *Indogaku Bukkyōgaku Kenkyū*, No. 94, 47-2, 232-236.
- 1997 「蓮如教学に於ける一念義」 (Single-Nenbutsu Doctrine in Rennyō’s Thought) in *Indogaku Bukkyōgaku Kenkyū*, 46.1 (December).
- 1994 “Pure Land Buddhism as an Alternative Mārga” in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXVI:2 (Spring)
- 1988 “Kiyozawa Manshi and the Meaning of Buddhist Ethics,” in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXI:1 (Spring).
- 1980 “The Meaning of 'shinjin' in Shinran's *Kyōgyōshinshō*” in the *Journal of Asian Culture*, IV, 48–81.

Invited Articles

- 2008 「鈴木大拙訳『教行信証』の特徴及びその意義」 (Characteristics and Significance of the Suzuki Daisetsu translation of Shinran's *Kyōgyōshinshō*) in 『現代と親鸞』 (The Present Age and Shinran), no. 16. (in Japanese)
- 2005 “Baptizing Nature: Environmentalism, Buddhism, and Transcendentalism” in *Bukkyō to Shizen* (Buddhism and Nature), 133-163. Kyoto: Research Institute of Bukkyo University, pp.133-163.
- 2004 「浄土教典籍の英訳再考」 (A Reexamination of the English Translation of Pure Land Scriptures) in *Bukkyō Daigaku Sōgō Kenkyūjo Kiyō* 佛教大学総合研究所紀要第11号. (in Japanese), pp. 303-312.
- 2003 「他力の倫理と他者の倫理：清沢満之とレビナス」 (The Ethics of the Other Power and the Ethics of the Other) in the *Geppō* 月報, vol. 4, of the rev. ed. of *Kiyozawa Manshi zenshū* 清沢満之全集. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, vol. 4, pp. 6-10. (in Japanese)
- 2003 Six articles for the *Encyclopedia of Buddhism* from Macmillan & Co., ed. by Robert Buswell. Article titles: Death in Buddhism, *Mahāparinirvāṇa-sūtra*, *Sukhāvātīvyūha-sūtra*, Daosheng, Huiyuan, Gyōnen.

Peer Reviewed Chapters in books

- in press 2009 “The Transcendentalist Ghost in ecoBuddhism” in *Trans-Buddhism: the Transmission, Translation, and Transformation of Buddhism*, ed. by Jay Garfield, Abraham Zablocki, and Nalini Bhushan, Univ. of Massachusetts Press (Amherst).
- 2009 “Scholarship on Chinese Pure Land Buddhism Since Mochizuki: Japanese Sources,” chapter appended to *Pure Land Buddhism in China: A Doctrinal History* by Mochizuki Shinkō, ed. by Richard Payne.
- 2008 “Collective Suicide at the Funeral of Jitsunyo: Mimesis or Solidarity?” in *Death Rituals and the Afterlife in Japanese Buddhism: A Historical Perspective*, ed. by Jacqueline Stone & Mariko Walters, Univ. of Hawaii Press, pp. 137-174.
- 2008 “Never Die Alone: *Shonen* as Intersubjective Experience,” chapter in *Never Die Alone: Ōjō and Death in Pure Land Buddhism*, Jōdo Shu Research

- Institute, Tokyo.
 2006 “The *sangoku-mappō* construct: buddhism, nationalism, and history in medieval Japan,” chapter in *Discourse and Ideology in Medieval Japanese Buddhism*, ed. Richard Payne and Dan Leighton. Routledge (London and New York), pp. 31-51.

Invited Chapters in Books

- 2008 “When the Dharma Comes: Contextualizing the Initial Transmission of Buddhism to Japan,” chapter in *Hōryūji Revisited*, ed. by Dorothy Wong, Cambridge Scholars Press (Cambridge, England), pp. 193-235.
 2002 「清沢満之とキェルケゴール：倫理を超える宗教論」(Kiyozawa Manshi and Kierkegaard: Religion Beyond Ethics) in Fujita Masakatsu 藤田正勝, Yasutomi Shinya 安富信哉, eds. *Kiyozawa Manshi, so hito to shisō* 『清沢満之—その人と思』. Hōzōkan (Kyoto), pp. 96-118. (in Japanese)
 2001 “Mental Cultivation,” “Mahayana Buddhism,” “Chan and Zen,” “Assembling the Dharma,” and “Mahayana Scriptures” (5 chapters) in *Buddhism, the Illustrated Guide*, ed. by Kevin Trainor. Oxford University Press (Oxford, New York, etc.)
 2000 “Samādhi in Hōnen’s Hermeneutic of Faith and Practice” in *Wisdom, Compassion and the Search for Understanding: The Buddhist Studies Legacy of Gadjin M. Nagao*. University of Michigan Buddhist Studies Series. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i, pp. 61-94.

Encyclopedia Articles

- 2004 Six essays for the *Encyclopedia of Buddhism* from Macmillan & Co. on Death in Buddhism, *Mahāparinirvāṇa-sūtra*, *Sukhāvātīvyūha-sūtra*, Daosheng, Huiyuan, Gyōnen.
 1999 Four essays for *Companion to the Philosophers* from Blackwell on Kūkai, Hōnen, Nichiren and Hakuin.

Invited Translations of Modern Works

- 2001 “Why Do Buddhists Lack Self-Respect” by Kiyozawa Manshi (1863–1903), in *An Anthology of Modern Shin Buddhist Writings*, ed. by Shinya Yasutomi, Ōtani University, Kyoto, 9–17.
 2001 With introduction: “Discourse on Religious Morality and Common Morality” by Kiyozawa Manshi (revised version of article published in 1989 listed below), in *An Anthology of Modern Shin Buddhist Writings*, 19–34.
 2001 With introduction: “The Nature of My Faith” by Kiyozawa Manshi, in *An Anthology of Modern Shin Buddhist Writings*, 35–41
 1999 “Eschatology and Supernatural Events in the *Lotus Sutra*” by Yuichi Kajiyama, in *The Journal of Oriental Philosophy*, 15-37.
 1996 With introduction: “The Problem of Anjin in Zen” by Nishitani Keiji, in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXVIII:1 (Spring)
 1991 “The Buddha’s Life as Parable for Later Buddhist Thought” by Nagao Gadjin, in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXIV:2. (Autumn).

- 1989 With introduction: “The Relationship between Religious Morality and Ordinary Morality, Kiyozawa Manshi,” in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXII:1 (Spring).
- 1987 “The Life of the Buddha: An Interpretation” by Nagao Gadjin, in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XX:2 (Autumn).

Book Reviews

- 2008 *Japanese Temple Buddhism* by Stephen Covell in *Monumenta Nipponica* 63:1, pp. 14-18.
- 2001 *Renegade Monk* by Soho Machida, in *Monumenta Nipponica* 56:1 (Spring), 110–113
- 1994 *Index to the Mahāyāna sūtrālaṃkāra* by Nagao Gadjin, in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXVI:2 (Spring).
- 1991 *The Dawn of Chinese Pure Land Buddhist Doctrine* by Kenneth Tanaka, in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XXIV:2. (Autumn).
- 1988 *The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way: A Translation of Shinran's Kyōgyōshinshō* by Hongwanji International Center, ed. Ueda Yoshifumi, in *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, XV:1
- 1985 *The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life* tr. by the Ryūkoku University Translation Center, ed. Yamada Meiji, in *The Eastern Buddhist*, XVIII:2. (Autumn)

Peer Reviewed Conference Talks

- 2009 “Reassessing “Evil” in Shinran: Reading the *Tannishō* through the *Nirvana Sutra*” at the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies, Kyoto, June.
- 2008 “The Pounding of the Modern: Twisting Two-Truth Theory for Political Survival” at the International Association for Buddhist Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, June.
- 2006 “Jodoshinshu’s Two-Truth Theory and the Politics of Religion in Meiji Japan” at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington D.C., November.
- 2006 “Japanese Buddhism as *Mappō* Buddhism” given at the national meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Francisco, April.
- 2006 “The Relevance of Pure Land Deathbed Practices and Other Buddhist Deathbed Practices for Contemporary Society” given at the symposium entitled “*Ōjō* and Death: Japanese Buddhism and Contemporary Society, at by the Jōdo-shū Research Institute, Zōjōji, Tokyo, January.
- 2005 “Historical Consciousness in Shin Buddhist thought, Medieval and Modern” given at the XIVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Univ. of London, the British Library, and the British Museum.
- 2005 “On the impact in Japanese Pure Land Buddhism of intermediate state doctrine as expressed in the *Anatarābhava-sūtra*” given at the conference of the European Association of Japanese Studies held at the University of Vienna.

- 2005 “Redefining Death in Mahayana Buddhism: the providence and impact of the *Anatarābhava Sūtra*” at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Philadelphia, November
- 2005 “Biography as Scripture: The Role of Ōjōden in Legitimizing the Pure Land Teaching” at the International Association for the History of Religions, Tokyo, March.
- 2004 “Shunjō and the Import of Song Buddhist Culture to Japan” at the national meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, March
- 2003 “When the Stoics Visited Shinran: Kiyozawa Manshi and the Modernization of Shin Buddhism” the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November
- 2002 “The Rhetoric of Inclusion: The Salvation of Women in Kamakura Buddhism” the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Nov.
- 2002 Respondent to “Discourse and Rhetoric in Medieval Japanese Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion panel, Toronto, November.
- 2001 “The Sangoku-Mappō Construct—Buddhism, Nationalism, and History in Medieval Japan” at the Institute of Buddhist Studies Conference on Language and Discourse in the Trans-formation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism, San Francisco Zen Center, September
- 2000 “Buddhism and Japanese Funerals” given as respondent at the National meeting of the American Academ of Religion, Nashville, November
- 2000 “On Cultural Assumptions and Japanese Pedagogy,” at the annual meeting of the Northeast Council of Teachers of Japanese, Japan Society, New York, October
- 2000 “Which Canon is the Dharma?” given as respondent at the meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, San Diego, March
- 2000 “Myth Map of Japan” at the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium, University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University, January
- 1999 “Gyōnen’s Historical Consciousness—non-exclusive sectarianism and ethnocentrism” at the American Academy of Religion, Boston, November.
- 1999 “The *Antarābhavasūtra*” at the meeting of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Lausanne, August,
- 1999 “Kōsai and the *ichinengi* controversy” at the meeting of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Lausanne, August
- 1998 “A Tale of Appropriation: Jōdoshinshū Funerals in the 16th and 17th Centuries” at the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, November
- 1997 “Tokugawa Religion I: Buddhist Scholars of the Jōdo-shū and the Kokugaku Movement—the dialog of *kōshōgaku*” at the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, November
- 1997 “蓮如教学に於ける一念義について” (On the Significance of Ichinen in Rennyo's Thought) at the national conference of the *Indogaku bukkyōgaku kenkyūkai* (Association of Indological and Buddhist Studies), Otani Univ., Japan. June
- 1996 Respondent to Japanese Linguistics Panel at the Southern Japan Seminar, Panama City, Florida, October.
- 1996 “Teacher Certification and Issues in Articulation” *National Council of Secondary Teachers of Japanese*, San Francisco, February

- 1996 “Burial and Sanctity in Medieval Japan” at the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, November
- 1996 “Japanese Discourse Between Natives and Nonnatives: Negotiating Authentic Communication Across Cultures” at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Philadelphia, November
- 1996 Respondent to paper on “Nishitani Keiji and modern Jōdo Shinshū” by Takeda Ryūsei at the International Conference on Buddhist–Christian Studies, Chicago, August
- 1996 Respondent to paper on “Aum Shinrikyo and Modern Japanese Religion” by John Tucker at the Southern Japan Seminar, Atlanta, May.
- 1996 “Ryukan’s View of Hōnen” at the *Association of Asian Studies*, Hawaii, April
- 1995 “Burial Practices and Religious Nationalism in Premodern Japan” at the Southern Japan Seminar, Panama City Florida, October
- 1995 “Issues in Japanese Language Teaching in the State of Florida” *Association of Teachers of Japanese Conference*, Georgetown University, April
- 1986 “浄土四部經について” (On the Four–fold Pure Land Sūtras), Nihon Bukkyōshi Gakkai (Japanese Association for the Study of Buddhist History), Bukkyō University, Kyoto. (in Japanese)

Invited Keynote Addresses

- 2009 “Beyond the *Tannishō*: The Many Faces of *Aku* in Pure Land Thought” at the 2009 Ministers’ Summer Seminar of the Buddhist Churches of America, entitled “Karmic Evil Today” held at the Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, August.
- 2007 “Religious Values that Define a Tradition—Rennyō's Voice in Premodern, Modern, and Postmodern Shinshū,” at the International Association for Shin Buddhist Studies, Calgary, August.
- 2006 「アメリカでの宗教現状と浄土教」 (Current Trends in American Religion and Pure Land Buddhism) at the 58th monastic retreat for the Jōdo sect, Nagano region, Zenkōji, Japan. August. (in Japanese)
- 2006 「念仏の多面性」 (The Multidimensionality of Nenbutsu) at the monastic retreat (*ango* 安居) of the Jōdo Buddhist sect at its main training center Chion’in, Kyoto. January. (in Japanese)
- 2004 “Critically Thinking: the Three Faces of the University,” at the forum 大学は社会に何を発信するか—21世紀の大学と社(What Does a University Send to Society? — Universities and Society in the 21st Century), held to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of Musashino Woman’s University, at Musashino University, Tokyo. October. (in Japanese)

Invited Talks

- 2009 “Karma and Dharma” at the Center for Buddhist Education, Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, August
- 2009 Panel participant in “Issues in Translation (Lexicography, Authorial Voice, etc.) at *Sutra Translation Council* at Hsi Lai Temple, Los Angeles, June
- 2009 “Shakyamuni Buddha and the Land of Pure Bliss” at the Adrienne Theater, Philadelphia, May

- 2009 “Up Close and Intimate: Ryōchū’s 13th Century Record on How Monks Should Assist the Dying” at the symposium, *Buddhists at the End of Life*, held at the University of California, Santa Cruz, May
- 2009 “Shasei’ha & Kōmyōkai: the Samādhi Tradition in Jōdoshū” at the Conference “Buddhist Training in Japan” held at Univ. of Toronto, April
- 2009 “Democratic Authority Realized: Nenbutsu as the Defining Ritual of Japanese Religion” Bard College, March
- 2008 “Expressions of Humor in the Buddhist Canon” at the symposium *The Last Laugh: Buddhism and Humor* sponsored by the New York Buddhist Church, New York, held at New York University, November.
- 2008 “Uncovering the Sanskrit *varṇamālā* in the *Nirvana Sutra*: Report on the Stanford *Nirvana Sutra* Workshop”, at the Four Seasons Hotel, Palo Alto, July
- 2008 「悪人正機と『涅槃経』」 (The doctrine of evil person as the object of salvation and the *Nirvana Sutra*), at Matsugaoka Bunko Research Institute, Kamakura, Japan, June. (in Japanese)
- 2008 “Environmentalism, Buddhism, and Transcendentalism” at the Buddhist Studies Seminar, Columbia Univ., New York, April.
- 2008 “Think Buddha, Say Buddha: A History of Nenbutsu Practice,” at the Faculty of Religion, McGill University, Montreal, March.
- 2008 “A Modern Take on the Theodicy Conundrum: Comparing Kiyozawa Manshi and Søren Kierkegaard on *Akunin Shōki*,” at the Shin Buddhist Thought and Issues in Contemporary Philosophy Symposium, sponsored by the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Portland, February.
- 2008 “Are We Not Good? -- Evil as a Universal in the *Mahāparinirvāṇasūtra*,” at Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University, February.
- 2007 “Think Buddha: Nenbutsu as Praxis and Performance,” at the East Asia & Religious Studies Programs, Cornell University. October.
- 2007 「鈴木大拙訳『教行信証』の評価」 (Evaluating Suzuki Daisetsu’s translation of Shinran’s *Kyōgyōshinshō*), at the Shinran Buddhist Center, Tokyo, June. (in Japanese)
- 2007 「日本における死の伝統的慣習：仏教と臨終」 (Traditional Customs of Dying in Japan: Buddhism and the End of Life), at the symposium “Shi e no junbi” (Preparing for Death), at Zōjōji, Tokyo, June. (in Japanese)
- 2007 “Redefining Self by Redefining Death: *pudgalavāda* in the *Antarābhavasūtra*” at the Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, March
- 2006 “Modernization of Buddhist Monastic Education in Asia” at Viet Nam Buddhist University, Saigon, Hue, and Hanoi, Vietnam. October
- 2006 “Nenbutsu: From Mantra to Manzai” as part of the series “Spiritual Matters: Material Culture and Japanese Religion” presented by the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture, Columbia University, New York. October.
- 2006 “Redefining Death for East Asia: Karma and the Afterlife in the *Antarābhava sūtra*” at the East Asia Center, University of Virginia, September.
- 2006 “Never Die Alone: Interpreting Deathbed scenes in Hōnen’s Pictorial Biography” given at the Jōdo-shū Sōgō Gakujutsu Taikai (Comprehensive Academic Meeting of the Jōdo-shū), Bukkyo University, Kyoto, September.
- 2006 “Japanese Buddhism as *Mappō* Buddhism” given at the national meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Francisco, April.

- 2006 「『中陰經』に見る死の再定義—正量部の大乘への貢献」 (A New Look at Death as seen in the *Anatarābhava Sūtra*: A Contribution of the Sammitīya School to Mahāyāna Buddhism) at the Buddhist Studies Seminar at Tokyo University, Tokyo, January.
- 2006 “The Fundamentalist Critique of the European Enlightenment: Religion and Identity in the Postmodern Era” at the Memorial Lecture Series Celebrating 60 Years of the Nichibei Kaiwa Gakuin, sponsored by the International Education Center and the United States Embassy, Tokyo, January.
- 2006 “The Relevance of Pure Land Deathbed Practices and Other Buddhist Deathbed Practices for Contemporary Society” at the symposium entitled “*Ōjō* and Death: Japanese Buddhism and Contemporary Society, at by the Jōdo-shū Research Institute, Zōjōji, Tokyo, January.
- 2005 “From Mantra to Manzai: A Typology of Nenbutsu” at the Center for Japanese Studies, UCLA, March.
- 2004 “Dividing Bones for the Common Dead: The Role of Buddhism in the Formation of Japan’s Civil Society” at the conference “Buddhism In (and Out of) Place,” UCLA, October.
- 2004 “Redefining Death in Mahayana Buddhism: *The Anatarābhava Sūtra* and the Deconstruction of Karma” at the Berkeley-Stanford Buddhist Studies Colloquium, UC Berkeley, September.
- 2004 “Illuminated Myogo: Bridging the Verbal and Visual in Medieval Shinshū” Numata Lecture Series, at the Institute for Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, March.
- 2003 「浄土宗経典英訳：誤解と訂正」 (Misunderstandings and Corrections of English Translations of Pure Land Scriptures), given at the Jōdoshū International Research Institute, Zōjōji, Tokyo, November
- 2003 「清沢とレビナス」 (Kiyozawa Manshi and Emmanuel Levinas) given at the Shinshū Gakkai Taikai 真宗学会大会, Ōtani University, Kyoto, October
- 2003 “Visual Piety in Jōdoshinshū” at The Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, April.
- 2003 「日本仏教の普遍性」 (The Universality of Japanese Buddhism) at Bukkyo University Research Institute Symposium, Kyoto, February.
- 2002 “日本佛教の英訳困難：「本」と「歸」の多重性” (Translation Issues in Japanese Buddhism: the multivalent nature of *hon* and *ki*), Bukkyō University, November.
- 2002 “仏教とディープ・エコロジー（２）：エコソフィとしての仏教 (Buddhism and Deep Ecology II: Buddhism as Ecosophy),” given as part of the colloquium, “*Loka*: 佛教と大自然” at Bukkyō University, Kyoto, June. (in Japanese)
- 2002 “清沢満之とキェルケゴール：共通点と相違点” (Kiyozawa Manshi and Kierkegaard: Commonalities and Differences), special lecture at Ōtani University, Kyoto, July. (in Japanese)
- 2002 “The Presence of the Sacred: Go-honzon in the Shinshu Tradition,” given at the Buddhist Study Center, Honolulu, June 24
- 2001 “Illuminated Honzon —Ekphrasis and Intermediality in Medieval Jōdoshinshū” given at the Conference on the Lotus Sutra and Pure Land Buddhism, Tokyo, July

- 2001 “Buddhist Ecology in the United States” given at the Research Institute of Bukkyo University, Kyoto, July
- 1999 “浄土思想の英訳問題：用語英訳の困難性” (The Problematic of Translating Technical Terms in Pure Land Buddhism), public lecture at Bukkyō University, Kyoto, June. (in Japanese)
- 1998 “A Tale of Appropriation: Jōdoshinshū Funerals in the 16th and 17th Centuries” at the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, November
- 1997 “Tokugawa Religion I: Buddhist Scholars of the Jōdo–shū and the Kokugaku Movement—the dialog of *kōshōgaku*” at the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, November
- 1997 “清沢満之著作の翻訳における諸問題：『哲学骸骨』について” (Translation issues surrounding Kiyozawa Manshi: on his *Philosophical Skeleton*) at Otani University, Kyoto, August
- 1996 “スターク著『キリスト教の初期成長』にある方法論と15–16世紀の浄土真宗” (The methodology in Rodney Stark’s *The Rise of Christianity* and its implications for the study of 15th and 16th century Jōdo Shinshu) at Otani University, Kyoto, June. (in Japanese)
- 1996 Panelist at *Symposium on the Life and Thought of Hōnin Shōnin*, Bukkyo University Los Angeles Campus, November
- 1995 “The Antecedents of the Aum Shinrikyo Religion” at the Japan Club, University of Florida, November,
- 1995 “Reconstructing a Praxis Deconstructed: Reading Kōsai to Understand Shinran” at *A Cross–Cultural Study of Pan–Pure Land Buddhist Practices: Roots of the Japanese Amida Tradition*. Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley CA, June
- 1994 “Issues in Articulation and Certification: How to Approach a Standardized Curriculum—Japanese Pedagogy for Florida” at Association of Florida Teachers of Japanese, Boca Raton, Florida, April
- 1993 “Japanese Buddhism other than Zen”, Philosophical Issues, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida
- 1992 The Historical Meaning of Hōnen’s Sammai Hottokki”, IInd International Conference of Buddhist Culture, Kyoto, May. (in Japanese)
- 1990 “The Meaning of Buddhism for Chinese Society Today” given at the Dharmasthiti Institute, Hong Kong.
- 1983 “On the Irrelevance of Practice in East Asian Buddhism”, Berkeley–Stanford Buddhist Studies Colloquium,

Manuscripts in Progress under Contract

Monograph: *Think Buddha/Say Buddha: A History of Nenbutsu*. Under contract with Oxford University Press (mentioned above). Historical overview of the concept of *nianfo/nenbutsu* in East Asian Buddhism, a popular form of recitation practice and meditation. Will include discussions on the linguistic origins of the term as silent meditation, visualization, and oral recitation, how *nenbutsu* itself became a salvific icon imbued with the power to transform karma, its use as a symbolic motif in the visual arts, dance, and theatre (including Kabuki) and community-based rituals.

Monograph: *Redefining Death: The Antarābhava-sūtra and the Evolution of Buddhist Doctrinal Discourse on Death and Salvation*. An analysis of the evolution of Buddhists concepts of death, with particular attention to doctrine of the intermediate state between death and rebirth (Skt. *antarābhava*) and its relationship to the so-called heretical position affirming a self known as *pudgalavāda* in the Sāmmitīya school of Indian Buddhism. Will include discussion of changes in Buddhist notions of death as the religion moved eastward to China and Japan, and how this is reflected in Buddhist funerary practices. Includes an annotated translation of the late fourth century Chinese text known as the *Zhongyin jing*, which I have reconstructed as the *Antarābhava-sūtra*.

Annotated translation Volumes 2–4 of the *Mahāparinirvāṇasūtra*, from the Chinese language edition, produced between 414 and 421 CE. Under contract with the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research. Continuation of *Nirvana Sutra volume 1* mentioned above as forthcoming in 2009. All four volumes expected to total 1200–1400 pages.

Other Current Research

Monograph: *Divided Bones, United Selves: Death and Buddhism in Japanese History*. Historical essays on the connections between funerary practices and Buddhism in Japan, with special attention to the establishment of Amida's Pure Land as a common postmortem goal, how memory of the common and uncommon dead as ancestors have played a central role in Japanese religious consciousness since prehistorical times, and how Buddhism was redefined as a funerary cult in the ancient and medieval periods to accommodate this need.

Monograph: *Honen: Founder of Medieval Japanese Buddhism*. Critical biography of the first major thinker in medieval Japanese Buddhism. To include essays on Honen's biography, doctrine of faith and praxis, religion as preparation for death, deconstruction of the traditional path, democratizing the sangha, political implications of Honen's movement real and imagined, and class and power in Honen's institutional legacy.

Article: “*Honzon: Iconic Centers of the Sacred*” essays on the creation and transformation of sacred Buddhist art in medieval Japan.

Article: “The Life and Times of the Tannishō.” An essay on how a semi-secret, marginal text in the Shin tradition came to define this school's thought after becoming public in the twentieth century.

Annotated Translation of the *Wago tōroku* 和語燈錄 (Writings of Hōnen in Japanese), in conjunction with the Jōdoshū Research Institute, Zōjōji, Tokyo. This is the collection of all known Japanese language writings by Hōnen.

Annotated Translation of the *Guanwuliangshoujing shu* 觀無量壽經疏 by Shandao (613-681), Taishō No. 1753; in conjunction with the Jōdo Shū Research Institute, Zōjōji, Tokyo. This is one of the defining texts of Chinese Pure Land Buddhist thought, and the most influential Chinese work for the Japanese Pure Land tradition.

Languages uses in Research:

Modern and classical Japanese, modern and classical Chinese, Sanskrit, Pāli, French, German.

Other Service to the Profession

- 2007 Interviewed in Dōbō Shinbun 同朋新聞, Japanese language newspaper of Otani branch of Jōdo Shin sect.
- 2006 Traveled to Vietnam to lecture and advise school officials at 3 Buddhist colleges on modernizing their Buddhist Studies programs
- 2006 PhD committee member, Buddhist Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2005 Convenor of Religion and History of Ideas section, 11th Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies, Vienna
- 2002 MA committee member, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
- 2001 MA committee member, Music Department, Smith College
- 1999 Interviewed in Chūgai Nippō 中外日報, Japanese language newspaper for professional Buddhist community in Japan.

Professional Affiliations

Association of Asian Studies
 American Academy of Religion
 European Association of Japanese Studies
 Hōnen Shōnin Kenkyūkai (Society for the Study of Hōnen)
 Indogaku Bukkyōgaku Kenkyūkai (Society of Indological and Buddhist Studies)
 International Association of Buddhist Studies
 International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies
 International Association for the History of Religions
 Nihon Bukkyōshi Gakkai (Society for the Study of Japanese Buddhist History)
 Reischauer Institute, Harvard University