

# Rachelle M. Scott

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## EDUCATION

Northwestern University Ph.D. Religion 2002

Dissertation Title: Nirvana for Sale?: Buddhism, Wealth, and Modernity in Contemporary Thailand

Areas of Specialization: Theravada Buddhist history, Religion and Culture in Thailand, Anthropological Studies of Religion, Theory and Method in Religious Studies.

Arizona State University M.A. Religious Studies 1994

Areas of Specialization: Theravada Buddhist history, Southeast Asian Studies, Gender and Religion, Religion and Modernity.

Lawrence University B.A. Religious Studies 1992

Areas of Specialization: South Asian Religions, Biographies of Jain and Buddhist Nuns, Hinduism in Maharashtra.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, 2003 – present

Instructor, University of Tennessee, 2002

Instructor, Northwestern University, 2001

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 1997, 1999-2001

Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University, 1992-1994

## AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Buddhist Philosophy and Religion, Religion and Culture in South and Southeast Asia, Theravāda Buddhism, Modern Hinduism and South Asian Islam, Gender and Religion, Buddhism in the Contemporary World, World Religions in History, Theories and Methods in the Academic Study of Religion.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

New Religious Movements in South and Southeast Asia, Buddhist Authority and Identity, Merit and Buddhist Religiosity, Modern Buddhist Saints, Theravāda Buddhist Nuns, Meditation, and Miraculous Powers, Religion and Media, Religion and Globalization.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“Buddhism, Miraculous Powers, and Sacred Biographies: Re-thinking the Stories of Theravāda Nuns,” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, forthcoming, Spring 2010.

*Nirvana for Sale?: Buddhism, Wealth, and the Dhammakāya Temple in Contemporary Thailand*, Albany: State University of New York Press, September 2009.

“World Peace Through Inner Peace: The Discourses and Technologies of Dhammakāya Proselytization,” *Proselytization Re-visited*, edited by Rosalind Hackett, London: Equinox Publishing, October 2008.

“A New Buddhist Sect?: The Dhammakāya Temple and the Politics of Religious Difference,” *Religion*, December 2006.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“David Beckham as the New Face of Thai Buddhism? Consumption, Consumerism, and Debates over Thai Buddhist Identity,” article.

“Buddhism, Mediation, and Modernity,” article.

## **PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

“The Miraculous Powers of Extraordinary Women: Goddesses, Queens, and Nuns in Southeast Asia,” International Association of the History of Religions regional conference on Southeast Asia, Bali, June 6-9, 2009.

“Meditation, Miracles, and Superhuman Powers: A Case Study of Two Remarkable Thai Nuns,” paper presented at the International Association of Buddhist Studies conference, Atlanta, June 25, 2008.

“Dharma Beyond the Temple: Buddhist Monks and New Media in Thailand,” paper presented at Association of Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 23, 2007.

“Contemporary Thai Nuns: Have We Forgotten Someone?,” paper presented at the International Association of Asian Studies, Baton Rouge, LA, February 14, 2006.

“David Beckham as the New Face of Thai Buddhism? Consumption, Consumerism, and Debates over Thai Buddhist Identity,” paper presented at the Global Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, May 13, 2005.

“World Peach Through Inner Peace,” paper presented at the International Association of the History of Religions Congress, Tokyo, Japan, March 26, 2005.

“Nikai Mai?: The Dhammakaya Temple and the Politics of Religious Difference,” paper presented at the Crossroads of Faith: Religious Resurgence and New Religious Movements in Southeast Asia Conference, Ohio University, March 4, 2005.

“First Among Disciples – Second to None: Khun Yay and the Re-envisioning of Buddhist Nuns in Thailand.” University of Tennessee Inaugural Lecture. February, 2004.

“Commissioning the Titanium Buddha,” South Asia Conference, Madison, WI, paper presented, 2002.

“The Dhammakaya Controversy,” presentation at the Social Science Research Council Workshop for Fellows, Washington DC, 1999.

“Issues of Wealth in the Dhammakaya Controversy,” presentation at the Social Science Research Council Workshop for Fellows, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1999.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

National Endowment of the Humanities – Summer Research Grant, 2004  
 Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University - Research Grant Recipient 1998, 2000  
 Social Science Research Council - Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 1998-1999  
 Northwestern University Tuition Fellowship, 1997- 2002  
 Northwestern University Fellow, 1996-1997  
 Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) Fellow, 1994  
 Arizona State University - Teaching Excellence Award, 1994  
 Phi Beta Kappa

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Dean’s Advisory Council  
 Member, Department of Religious Studies, Graduate Committee  
 Member, Department of Religious Studies, Undergraduate Committee  
 Member, Asian Studies Committee  
 Member, Global Studies Committee  
 Departmental Advising  
 Arts and Science Advising  
 Faculty Advisor, Religious Studies Association  
 Member, Humanities Curriculum Committee  
 Member, Social Sciences Curriculum Committee

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
Association of Asian Studies  
International Association of Buddhist Studies