

JONATHAN R. HERMAN

Department of Religious Studies
Georgia State University
Atlanta GA 30302-3994
(404) 413-6138

EDUCATION

- PhD 1992 Harvard University GSAS, Study of Religion
- MA 1987 Harvard University GSAS, Study of Religion
- MTS 1984 Harvard Divinity School, World Religions
- BA 1977 Grinnell College, Mathematics

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS:

Primary: Theory and Method in the Study of Religion, Comparative Study of Mysticism, Taoism, Confucianism, Chinese Intellectual History, Religion and Education

Secondary: Buddhism, Chinese Popular Religion, Japanese Religion, Indian Religion, Southeast Asian Religion, History of World Religions, Religion and Popular Culture, Comparative Religious Calendars.

BOOKS

- *From Dao to Dialogue: Martin Buber's Encounter with Laozi*, (in progress).
- *Taoism for Dummies*, (Hoboken: James Wiley & Sons, 2013).
- Associate Editor, Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion and War*, (London: Routledge, 2004).
- *I and Tao: Martin Buber's Encounter With Chuang Tzu*, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- "The Spiritual Illusion: Redux," forthcoming in *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* (currently available online).
- "The One Gave Birth to the Two: Revisiting Martin Buber's Encounters with Chinese Religion," accepted for publication, pending revisions, for *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- "Who Cares if the Qur'an is the Word of God? W. C. Smith's Charge to the Aspiring Public Intellectual," forthcoming in *Wilfred Cantwell Smith: The Scholar and His Legacy*, (Albany: SUNY Press).
- "A Picture Worth a Thousand Tears: How a Single Photograph Healed a Jewish Family," in *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* 42:1 (Winter/Spring 2014).
- "The Spiritual Illusion: Constructive Steps Toward Rectification and Redescription," in *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 26/2 (2014). (Note: online publication appeared in 2013.).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS (continued)

- “Civil Discourse or Simple Discord? Competing Visions for Religion in the Public Schools,” in Vincent Biondo, III and Andrew G. Fiala eds., *Civility, Religious Pluralism, and Education*, (London: Routledge, 2013), 147-159.
- “Religion, Character, and Education: Another Battleground in the Public Schools?” in *Religious Studies News* (October 2010).
- “The Mysterious Mr. Wang: The Search for Martin Buber’s Confucian Ghostwriter,” in *Journal of Chinese Religions* 37 (2009), 73-91
- “Talkin’ ‘Bout My Parents’ Generation: Translating Confucian Ethics and Family Values,” *Education About Asia* 8:2 (Fall 2003), 11-19.
- “Dao Unto Others,” review essay of J. J. Clarke, *The Tao of the West: Western Transformations of Taoist Thought*, (London: Routledge, 2000), in *Religious Studies Review* 28:4 (October 2002), 19-21.
- “Human Heart, Heavenly Heart: Mystical Dimensions of Chu Hsi’s Neo-Confucianism,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 69/1 (March 2001) 103-128.
- “Daoist Environmentalism in the West: Ursula K. Le Guin’s Reception and Transmission of Daoism,” in Norman Girardot, Liu Xiaogan, and James Miller, eds., *Daoism and Ecology*, (Cambridge: Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University Press, 2001), 391-406.
- “The Contextual Illusion: Comparative Mysticism and Postmodernism,” in Kimberley Patton and Benjamin Ray, ed., *A Magic Still Dwells: Comparative Religions in a Postmodern Age*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2000), 92-100.
- “To Know the Sages Better Than They Knew Themselves: Chu Hsi’s ‘Romantic’ Hermeneutics,” in Ch’ing-i Tu, ed., *Classics and Interpretations: The Hermeneutic Traditions in Chinese Culture*, (Oxford: Transaction Books, 2000), 215-226.
- “The I-Tao Relation: Models of Intimacy in Taoist Mysticism and Dialogical Philosophy,” in Marko Zlomisljic and David Goicoechea, eds., *Jen, Agape, Tao with Tu Wei-ming*, (Binghamton: Institute of Global Studies, 1999), 143-153.
- “Judaism and Chinese Religion: A Prolegomenon to Any Future Dialogue,” *Shofar* 17:3 (Spring 1999), 69-84.
- “Framing the Way: Introducing and Concluding the Chinese Religion Survey Course,” *Education About Asia* 2:1 (Spring 1997).
- “I and Tao: Buber’s *Chuang Tzu* and the Comparative Study of Mysticism,” in Maurice Friedman, editor in chief, *Martin Buber and the Human Sciences*, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996), 115-133.

ENCYCLOPEDIA CHAPTERS AND MISCELLANEOUS ENTRIES

- “Why Get a Degree in Religious Studies?” in *The 2011 Atlanta High School Graduate* (on-line source).
- “Confucianism, Classical,” in Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion and War*, (London: Routledge, 2004).
- “Daoism, Classical,” in Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion and War*, (London: Routledge, 2004).

ENCYCLOPEDIA CHAPTERS AND MISCELLANEOUS ENTRIES (continued)

- “Zhu Xi,” in Robert Arrington, ed., *The World’s Great Philosophers*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 2003),

351-356.

- “Han Fei Tzu,” in Robert Arrington, ed., *A Companion to the Philosophers*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999), 61-63.
- “Yang Chu,” in Robert Arrington, ed., *A Companion to the Philosophers*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999), 98-100.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Jane Geaney, *On the Epistemology of the Senses in Early Chinese Thought*, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002), *Journal of Religion* 84:1 (January 2004), 126-127.
- Livia Kohn and Michael LaFargue, ed., *Lao-tzu and the Tao-te-ching*, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), *Philosophy East & West* 50:4 (October 2000), 625-627.
- Roger T. Ames, *Wandering at Ease in the Zhuangzi*, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 68:2 (Summer 2000), 383-386.
- *Lao Tzu - Tao Te Ching*, translated by Ursula K. Le Guin, (Boston: Shambhala, 1997), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 66:3 (Fall 1998), 686-689.
- *Wandering on the Way: Early Taoist Tales and Parables of Chuang Tzu*, translated with a commentary by Victor H. Mair, (New York: Bantam Books, 1994), *Journal of Chinese Religions* 24 (1996), 217-219.
- Martin Buber, *Chinese Tales*, translated by Alex Page with an Introduction by Irene Eber, (Atlantic Highlands: Humanities Press International, 1991), *Taoist Resources* 5:2 (December 1994), 79-82.

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

- “What is Daoism? Who is Laozi?” presented for the Berry College Cultural Events Series, Mt. Berry, GA (January 2015).
- “Daoism: It’s not Just for Dummies,” presented at Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA (February 2014).
- “Dumbing Down the Dao: The Paradox of Domesticating an Esoteric Tradition,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD (November 2013).
- “Dumbing Down the Dao: The Paradox of Domesticating an Esoteric Tradition,” presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Greenville, NC (March 2013).
- “Cramped Scholars and Creative Misinterpretations: Revisiting Martin Buber’s Encounters with Chinese Religion,” presented at the Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought, Bloomington, IN (April 2012).
- “The One Gave Birth to the Two: Martin Buber’s Encounters with Chinese Thought,” presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA (March 2012).

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM PAPERS (continued)

- “Civil Discourse or Simple Discourse? Competing Visions for Religion in the Public Schools,” presented at the Conference on Ethics, Religion, and Civil Discourse,” Fresno, CA (October 2011).
- “Penises are Religious, Vaginas are Spiritual,” presented at the World Congress of the International Association for the Study of Religion, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (August 2010).
- “Who Cares if the Qur’an is the Word of God?” at the McGill University Symposium on the Legacy of W.C. Smith (October 2009).
- “The Mysterious Mr. Wang: The Search for Martin Buber’s Confucian Ghostwriter,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Quebec (October 2009).
- “The One Gave Birth to the Two: Martin Buber’s Dialogical Transformation of the *Daodejing*,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC (November 2006).
- “Mysticism: Theory and Practice,” presented at the Georgia Perimeter College Lawrenceville Campus Religion and Culture Symposium, Lawrenceville, GA, (April 2004).
- “The Sacred and the Scholarly: The Trouble with Religion,” presented at the Georgia State University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, Atlanta, GA, January 2002.
- “The Dao of The Tao of the West: A Critical Appraisal of J. J. Clarke’s *The Tao of the West, Western Transformations of Taoist Thought* (Routledge, 2000),” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO (November 2001).
- “The Mystical and the Mundane: The Strange Case of Confucian Mysticism,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO (November 2001).
- “The Sacred and the Scholarly: The Trouble with Religion,” presented at the Grinnell College Religious Studies Symposium, Grinnell, IA (April 2001).
- “The Mystical and the Mundane: The Case of Neo-Confucian Mysticism,” presented at the University of Georgia Department of Religion Graduate Student Colloquium, Athens, GA (April 2001).
- “Talkin’ ‘Bout My Parents’ Generation: Confucian Ethics and Family Values,” presented at the Georgia Perimeter College Spring Symposium,” Dunwoody, GA (April 2001).
- Discussant: “Appropriating Confucianism: Comparative and Legitimizing Projects,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, TN (November 2000).
- “A Deconstruction of Zen, a Meditation on Postmodernism,” presented at the Emory University ‘Traces of Dogen’ Conference, Atlanta, GA (October 2000)
- “To Know the Sages Better Than They Knew Themselves: Chu Hsi’s ‘Romantic’ Hermeneutics,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, FL (November 1998).
- “Taoist Environmentalism in the West: Ursula K. Le Guin’s Transmission of Taoism,” presented at the Center for the Study of World Religions Conference on Taoism and Ecology, Cambridge, MA (June 1998).
- “Taoist and Western Mysticism: Can We Compare?” presented at the Grinnell College Chinese Studies Series, Grinnell, IA (April 1998).
- “Roots and Branches: Rethinking Priorities in the Chinese Religion Survey Course,” presented at the annual meeting of American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA (November 1997).

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM PAPERS (continued)

- “Can There be a Comparative Study of Mysticism,” presented at the University of Georgia Department of Religion Graduate Student Colloquium, Athens, GA (November 1997).
- “The I-Tao Relation: Models of Intimacy in Taoist Mysticism and Dialogical Philosophy,” presented at the Brock Philosophical Society Conference on Jen-Agape-Tao, St. Catherine’s, Ontario, Canada, (February 1997).
- “Framing the Way: Introducing and Concluding the Survey Course,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (Southeast Conference), Savannah, GA (January 1997).
- “To Know the Sages Better Than They Knew Themselves: Chu Hsi’s ‘Romantic’ Hermeneutics,” presented at the Conference on the Hermeneutic Traditions in Chinese Culture, New Brunswick, NJ (October 1996).
- “The Contextual Illusion: Comparative Mysticism and Postmodernism,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, (November 1995).
- “I and Tao: A Buberian Reading of Chuang Tzu,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC (April 1995).
- “The Narcotic of Deconstruction: Illness or Cure?” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (New England - Maritime Region), Worcester, MA (March 1994).
- “Swing It! Musical Catharsis in the Columbia Shorts,” presented at the annual meeting of the Popular and American Culture Associations, New Orleans, LA (April 1993).
- “A. C. Graham’s *Chuang Tzu* and Its Implications for Chinese Textual Hermeneutics,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA (November 1992).
- “Primitive Religion in American Culture: The Sacred, the Profane, and the Stoogical,” presented at the annual meeting of the Popular and American Culture Associations, San Antonio, TX (March 1992).
- “Martin Buber as Sinological Scholar, the I-Thou Relation as Taoist Mysticism,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Kansas City, MO (November 1991).
- “The Significance of Buber’s *Chuang Tzu* for the Comparative Study of Mysticism,” presented at the Interdisciplinary Conference on Martin Buber’s Impact on the Human Sciences, San Diego, CA (October 1991).
- Discussant: Asian Religions Section (on Lao Tzu’s *Tao Te Ching*) at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (New England - Maritime Region), Worcester, MA (March 1989).

MISCELLANEOUS PRESENTATIONS

- Discussant: “Theory and Application: Testing Categories in the Academic Study of Religion,” presented at the Georgia State University Religious Studies Student Symposium, Atlanta, GA, (March 2010)
- Discussant: “Sketches of Ancient China: Controversies in Classical Confucianism and Daoism,” presented at the Georgia State University Religious Studies Student Symposium, Atlanta, GA (April 2007).

MISCELLANEOUS PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- Discussant: “Religious Interaction and Interpenetration: Historical and Theoretical Issues,” presented at the Georgia State University Religious Studies Student Symposium, Atlanta, GA (April 2006).
- Discussant: “Faith, Pluralism, and Fundamentalism: Rethinking Universal Categories in the Comparative Study of Religion,” presented at the Georgia State University Religious Studies Student Symposium, Atlanta, GA (April 2005).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgia State University, Associate Professor, 2001- , Assistant Professor, 1996-2001:

- World Religions
- Confucianism and Taoism
- Zen and Shinto
- Buddhism
- Classical Chinese Philosophy
- The Comparative Study of Mysticism
- Graduate Seminar on Theory and Method
- Martin Buber: His Thought and Influence
- Perspectives on Comparative Culture: Comparative Religious Traditions
- Honors Freshman Seminar: Of Monkeys and Men
- Religion and Popular Culture
- Eastern Religion and Philosophy
- Eastern Religion and Philosophy I
- Eastern Religion and Philosophy II
- Women and Religion
- Theories of Religion
- Independent Research
- Directed Readings
- Research in Religious Studies

St. Lawrence University, Assistant Professor, 1992-1996:

- The Religious Life of China.
- The Religious Life of Japan.
- The Buddhist Religious Tradition.
- The Hundred Schools of Classical China.
- Mystical Experience, Eastern and Western.
- Feminist Issues in the Study of Religion
- Religious Studies Majors Seminar
- Personal Stories of Faith and Doubt.
- Conceptions of Self and Other (Interdisciplinary Program).
- The Human Search for Meaning (Interdisciplinary Program).
- Metaphors of the Self in Fantasy and Science Fiction (Interdisciplinary Program).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

Lewis and Clark College, Visiting Assistant Professor, 1991-1992:

- Religions and Culture of East Asia.
- Buddhism: Theory, Culture, and Practice.
- Religion and Culture of Hindu India.
- Seminar: Methods in the Study of Religion.
- Seminar in World Religions: The Comparative Study of Mysticism.
- Women and Religion: Western

Boston College, Visiting Lecturer, 1989:

- Introduction to Asian Religions: Their Origins and Development.

Tufts University, Visiting Lecturer, 1988-1989:

- Confucianism, Taoism, and the “Hundred Schools” of Ancient China.

University of Vermont, Visiting Instructor, 1988:

- Introduction to the Study of Religion: Asian Traditions.
- Religion in China.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Teaching Fellow, 1987:

- East Asian History: China.

Harvard University, Teaching Fellow, 1985-1990:

- Belief, Experience and Symbol: The Interpretation of Religion.
- Scriptures and Classics.
- Pilgrimage: A Thematic Introduction to Religion.
- Introduction to the Phenomenology of Religion.
- World Religions: Diversity and Dialogue.
- Junior Tutorial in Chinese Religion: The “Hundred Schools” Period.
- Junior Tutorial in Comparative Religion: Readings in Sacred Texts.
- Tradition and Transformation in East Asian Civilization: China.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion.
 - AAR Public Understanding of Religion Committee 2009-2012
 - AAR Chinese Religions Group Steering Committee Member, 1999-2005
 - AAR Daoist Studies Group Steering Committee Member, 2005-2008
 - AAR Daoist Studies Group Co-chair, 2006-2008
- Northern American Association for the Study of Religion
- Association for Asian Studies.
- Society for the Study of Chinese Religions.
 - SSCR Treasurer, 1999-2011
 - SSCR Secretary, 2001-2011

LANGUAGES

- Literary Chinese.
- Modern Chinese.

- French.
- German.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Georgia State University Program in Jewish Studies Course Development Grant, for new course on Martin Buber (2006)
- American Academy of Religion Collaborative Research Initiation Grant, for research on collaborative book project (Summer 2004).
- Georgia State University Research Initiation Grant, for research on collaborative book project (Spring 2003).
- St. Lawrence University Faculty Research Grant, for travel to San Diego, CA (March 1995).
- St. Lawrence University Faculty Research Grant, for travel to the People's Republic of China (August 1993).
- Lewis and Clark College Faculty Research Grant, for travel and dissertation research (December 1991).
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (1987).
- Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (1985-1987).
- Harvard Divinity School Grant, for study of German and Literary Chinese (1985-1986).
- Harvard University Scholarship (1984-1985).