

CATHERINE BENTON

E-Mail Address: benton@lfc.edu

Home Address:
212 W. Scranton Avenue
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Home Phone:
847-295-7086
Office Phone:
847-735-5174

Office Address:
Religion Department
Lake Forest College
Lake Forest, IL 60045

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph. D., Columbia University, New York, New York. South Asian Religion, 1991.

Major Area: Hinduism, Indian Mythology
Dissertation topic: *The Indian Story of Desire: tales of Kamadeva, the god of desire whose flower arrows excite passion in all beings*

M. Phil., Columbia University, New York, New York, South Asian Religion, 1980.

M. A., Columbia University, New York, New York, South Asian Religion and Mythology, 1978.

M. I. A., School for International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont International Administration and Cross-cultural Education, 1974.

Certification for TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language), 1973.

B. A., Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois. Philosophy/Government/Secondary Education, 1973.

Secondary Education Teaching Certification, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois. (NCATE), Social Studies, 1972.

LANGUAGES

Research languages: Sanskrit, Hindi, French
Additional languages studied: Farsi, Tamil, Swahili

TRAVEL FOR EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH

Europe: March to June 1971

Tanzania: 1973-74

India: 1975-76, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003

China: 2002

Israel: Summers 1980-82

Turkey: 1995

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND POSITIONS

2002-2003 ASIANetwork Freeman Faculty-Student Research Award. Research in Maharashtra, India, on the devotional practices of a Hindu Jyotirlinga Temple and a Sufi Shrine.

National Endowment for the Humanities 1999 Summer Seminar, *Literature of Islamic Mysticism*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Lake Forest College Summer Research Award, 1988-1992. Research and translation of Sanskrit story literature texts gathered in India.

Graduate Study Awards and Positions:

Research Associate, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University, 1983 to 1986.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Religion, Columbia University, 1980-1984.

National Defense Foreign Language Award (Hindi-Urdu), 1978-79 and 1979-80.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASIANetwork Board of Directors 1997-2000, Development Team 2000-2004

American Academy of Religion, 1987 - Present

Association for Asian Studies. 1987 - Present

COLLEGE-LEVEL TEACHING

South Asian Religion, Comparative Religion, and Cross-cultural Studies

LAKE FOREST COLLEGE, 1987 to present. Lecturer. Asian Religious Traditions and Literatures: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Daoism.

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST India Studies Program, 2001 and 1993. Faculty Director. Undergraduate study abroad program based in Pune, India.

BELOIT COLLEGE, 1995-2000. Visiting Assistant Professor in Asian Religions.

BARAT COLLEGE, 1996-2000. Visiting Lecturer in Asian Religions.

BARNARD COLLEGE, 1981-1984. Assisted Professor Theodore H. Gaster in teaching classes in Mythology and Folklore.

LEHMAN COLLEGE, City University of New York, 1981 to 1987. Lecturer. Undergraduate classes in writing skills and advanced English as a Second Language.

HUNTER COLLEGE, CUNY, 1982. Adjunct Lecturer. Undergraduate study of World Religions.

SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, Ahmedabad, India, 1982. Academic Director. Helped students develop intercultural communications skills and independent study projects in conjunction with Indian university advisors.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, AMERICAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM, 1980-82. Adjunct Lecturer, English as a Second Language (ESL) at beginning and advanced levels.

LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUNY, 1978-79. Taught ESL with an emphasis on grammatical conversation skills.

ADULT AND HIGH SCHOOL-LEVEL TEACHING **English, Social Studies, Philosophy**

CUSHING ACADEMY, Summer ESL Program for secondary school students, 1978. Taught advanced English as college preparation; students from the Middle East, Japan, and Latin America.

UNITED MIGRANT OPPORTUNITY SERVICE, Madison, Wisconsin, 1977. Developed an educational program for Mexican farmworkers and taught language skills.

TANZANIAN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE, Dodoma, Tanzania, 1973-74. Devised curriculum and materials for teaching advanced English to Tanzanian adults.

DODOMA SECONDARY SCHOOL, Dodoma, Tanzania, 1973-74. Developed an English

syllabus and introduced students to the works of African writers.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING

MOTOROLA UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY. Consulted on training and development programs for managers working in China, India, and Turkey. 1995-1997

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION RESOURCES. Consulted on training programs for India, China, Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. 1995 to present

Consultant for review of the Kalamazoo College Religion Department, as part of preparation for the college's North Central Review. 1992

PAPERS PRESENTED

2003

- Cultural Values, History, and Buddhist Traditions of Thailand, PAX Annual Meeting
- Hindu and Muslim Communities of Ellora, ASIANetwork Annual Meeting

2002

- Culture and History of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Morocco, PAX Annual Meeting
- Orienting Undergraduates for study in India, 2002 ASIANetwork Meeting

2001

- Buddhism in China, Lake Forest College
- Asian Cinema In Asian Studies 2001 ASIANetwork Meeting
- Understanding the Faith of Islam, Woodlands Academy

2000

- Cross-cultural Training for Study Abroad Students ASIANetwork Meeting

1999

- Going Home Again: Bringing Research in Asia into the Classroom, ASIANetwork
- Buddhism in a Troubled World, Women's Board Lecture, Lake Forest College
- The Story of the Prophet Muhammad, Lake Forest Friends Meeting

- Confucianism as a Foundation of Chinese Values, Lake Forest College

1998

- The Dalai Lama as Bodhisattva, Tulku, and Statesman, Lake Forest Friends Meeting
- An American Zen Priest Responds to 'The Way of Alan Watts', ASIANetwork

1997

- Asian Cultures and Traditions in America, North Shore Series on International Issues
Abu Kasem's Slippers and the Law of Karma, Gita Ashram of the Americas, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

1996

- Pedagogical Issues: Indian Religion through Story Literature, ASIANetwork
- Perspectives on 'Culture Shock', Lake Forest College

1995

- The Origins of the Islamic Religious Tradition, Motorola University
- History and Religions of China, International Orientation Resources
- Multiple Religious Traditions of India, International Orientation Resources

1994

- The Indian God Kamadeva: stories of lust and laughter, Carthage College

1992

- Hanumn in the Thai narration of the Rma Story, the *Ramakien*, American Academy of Religion, Religion in South Asia Group
- Indian Gurus and the Contemporary American Religious Scene, Perspectives on Global Issues Series, Lake Forest College
- Knowledge, Power, and Authority within the Indian Tradition, Lake Forest College
- Buddhist Perspectives on Death", Barat College

1991

- Concept of Atonement in the Hindu Religious Tradition, Lake Forest College
- Major Concepts in Indian Puranic and Upanisadic Texts, Barat College

1990

- Death and the Process of Dying in Buddhist Texts, Barat College

- "An Historical Glimpse of Islam", First Presbyterian Church, Highland Park

1989

- Manjusri-Vajranaga: a god of desire in Bodhisattva Clothing, American Academy of Religion, Religion in South Asia Group

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Film Reviews for Asian Educational Media Service: ¶ *Salaam Shalom: the Jews of India* ¶ , Fall 2001; ¶ *Doing Time, Doing Vipassana* ¶ , Winter 2002.

Two articles for the *Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion*, "Boundaries" and "Egg", New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1999

"Bangladeshi Business Culture: Doing Business Internationally and Regionally," Motorola University, 1997.

"Teaching Indian Buddhism with Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha* -- or Not?," *Education About Asia*, Winter 1997.

Review of *Family, Gender, and Population in the Middle East: Policies in Context* for the winter 1997 issue of *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*.

"Many Contradictions: Women and Islamists in Turkey," *The Muslim World*, April 1996, vol 86:2, pp. 106-129.

"Potential Effects of Implementing Motorola's Corporate Culture in Turkey," Motorola University, January 1995.

"The Impact of Turkish Business Culture on Technology Transfer", Motorola University, February 1996.

Book Review of: *Religions of the World*, fifth edition, by Lewis M. Hopfe. 1994.

Book Review of: Prospectus for *Guide to World Religions* by Paul Benson. 1994

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Under consideration for SUNY Press (2003): *Tales of Kamadeva: Indian Perspectives on Passion and Desire*.

Devotional rituals in Indian Sufi communities and Indian Hindu Temple communities

Intercultural communications issues in study abroad and business contexts