

Jason Neelis
Curriculum Vitae

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From 20 April 2009:
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Internationales Kolleg für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung (IKGF)
Gebäude SH 1/181
Universitätsstr. 150
D-44801 Bochum
Germany

EDUCATION

1992-2001, **Ph.D. Asian Languages and Literature, University of Washington**

Dissertation:

Long-distance Trade and the Transmission of Buddhism through Northern Pakistan,
Primarily based on Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī Inscriptions
(supervised by Richard Salomon)

1990-1992, **M.A. Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin**

M.A. Report: A Survey of Recently Discovered Kharoṣṭhī Inscriptions
(supervised by Gregory Schopen)

1988-1989, **University of Wisconsin-Madison College Year in India program**

Fieldwork Project: Technique in Ancient and Modern Banaras

1986-1990, **B.A. (*magna cum laude*) Classics and South Asian Studies, Brown University**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Since 2003, **Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, University of Florida**

- Introduction to Buddhism
- Indian Buddhism
- Buddhist Texts
- Buddhism Across Boundaries
- Ancient East and West
- Interpreting Asian Religions
- Religions of Asia
- Archeology of Religion
- Religions, Roads, and Trade
- Sanskrit

2002-2003, **Instructor, Beginning and Intermediate Sanskrit, University of Washington**

Fall 2001, **Adjunct Instructor, Antioch College Buddhist Studies Program in Bodh Gaya**

- History of South Asian Buddhism
- Beginning Hindi
- Assistant for Meditation Traditions
- Supervisor of Field Research

1999-2000, **Visiting Instructor, Department of Religion, Florida State University**

- Beginning / Intermediate Sanskrit
- South Asian Humanities
- Patronage, Pilgrimage, Trade, and Religious Transmission between South Asia and the Silk Routes (History of Religion seminar)
- Religious Traditions of South Asia
- Introduction to World Religions

1993-4, 1996-7, **Language Teaching Assistant for Beginning Sanskrit, University of Washington**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2009-10, **Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Internationales Kolleg für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung (IKGF)**, Research Fellowship in Indian Religious History for participating in a project on “Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe”

2004, **Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, Forschungsstelle Felsbilder und Inschriften am Karakoram Highway**

- Revised readings of Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī inscriptions from Hunza-Haldeikish and began preparing a catalog of inscriptions and petroglyphs for a projected volume in the series: *Materielien zur Archäologie der Nordgebiete Pakistans* (MANP)
- Contributed readings and analysis of Kharoṣṭhī inscriptions to *Die Felsbildstation Dadam Das* by Martin Bemann (MANP 5)

2002-3, **Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Washington / British Library Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project**

- Actively participated in weekly discussions and analysis of manuscript fragments written in the Kharoṣṭhī script and Gāndhārī language and developed specialized knowledge of Gandhāran history, epigraphy, and archaeology
- Currently preparing preliminary editions of Avadānas in a projected volume in the Gandhāran Buddhist Texts series

1995-6, **Ph.D. Dissertation Field Research in the Northern Areas of Pakistan**

- Examined inscriptions and petroglyphs at Hunza-Haldeikish and other sites in the Northern Areas of Pakistan

1994-5, **Research Assistant to Professor Richard Salomon, University of Washington**

- Assisted with research for articles on reliquary inscriptions and Indian epigraphy

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- **Research Fellowship in Indian Religious History**, “Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe,” IKGF, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, April 2009 – March 2010
- **National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Award** for the University of Washington Early Buddhist Manuscript Project (participant since 1999)
- **Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (German Academic Exchange) Research Visit award**, May - June 2004
- **University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund** for “Early Buddhist Manuscripts and Epigraphic Records from South Asia” Summer 2004

- **University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanities Travel Grants**, 2004-5
- Scholarship to attend “**On the Cusp of an Era: Art in the Pre-Kushan World**” Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, 2000
- Nomination for **University Excellence in Teaching Award**, Florida State University, 1999
- **Turrell V. Wylie Scholarship**, University of Washington, 1999
- **National Security Education Program** dissertation fellowship through the Academy for Educational Development, 1997-8
- **American Institute of Pakistan Studies** grant for dissertation field research in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, 1995-6
- **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need** fellowship, University of Washington, 1992-5
- **Foreign Language Area Studies** grants for studying Hindi at the University of Texas in Austin and American Institute of Indian Studies Advanced Hindi Language Program in Banaras, 1990-2

PUBLICATONS

Articles

- “Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī Inscriptions from Hunza-Haldeikish: Sources for the Study of Long-Distance Trade and Transmission of Buddhism” in *South Asian Archaeology 1997* (Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference of the European Association of South Asian Archaeologists), edited by Maurizio Taddei and Giuseppe De Marco. Serie Orientale Roma XC, vol. 2. Rome: Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente, 2000, pp. 903-923.
- “India, Northwest” (vol. 1, 366-368) and “Silk Road” (vol. 2, 775-777) in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, edited by Robert Buswell. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2004.
- “Zu den Kharoṣṭhī-Inschriften” in Martin Bemann, *Die Felsbildstation Dadam Das*. Materielien zur Archäologie der Nordgebiete Pakistans 5. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern, 2005, pp. 50-53.
- “Hunza-Haldeikish Revisited: Epigraphical Evidence for Transregional History” in *Karakoram in Transition – Culture, Development and Ecology in the Hunza Valley*, edited by Hermann Kreutzmann. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2006, pp. 159-170.
- “*La Vieille Route* Reconsidered: Alternative Paths for Early Transmission of Buddhism Beyond the Borderlands of South Asia” in *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 16 (2002 [2006]), pp. 143-164.
- “Passages to India: Śaka and Kuṣāṇa Migration Routes in Historical Contexts” in *On the Cusp of an Era: Art in the Pre-Kuṣāṇa World*, edited by Doris M. Srinivasan. Leiden: Brill, 2007, pp. 55-94.
- “Historical and Geographical Contexts for Avadānas in Kharoṣṭhī Manuscripts” in *Buddhist Studies* (Papers of the 12th World Sanskrit Conference, vol. 8), edited by Richard Gombrich and Cristina Scherrer-Schaub. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2008, pp. 151-167.
- “Meditation in Multiple Contexts: Early Buddhist Manuscripts and Inscriptions” in *Journal of Bojo Jinul’s Thought* 29 (2008), pp. 35-54.

- “Overland Shortcuts for the Transmission of Buddhism” in *Highways, Byways and Road Systems in the Pre-Modern World*, edited by Susan Alcock, John Bodel and Richard Talbert (forthcoming).
- Essays on [Buddhism and Trade](#), [Silk Road Trade Routes](#), [Mauryans](#), [Sakas](#), and [Kushans](#) for the [Silk Road Virtual Art Exhibit](http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/index2.html) (<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/index2.html>).

Reviews

- *Die Felsbildstation Shatial*, by Gérard Fussman and Ditte König (Mainz: 1997) in *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 11 (1997 [2000]), pp. 218-224.
- *Die Felsbildstation Hodar*, by Ditte Bandini-König (Mainz: 1999) in *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 13 (1999 [2002]), pp. 179-182.
- *Die Felsbildstationen Shing Nala und Gichi Nala*, by Ditte Bandini-König and Oskar von Hinüber (Mainz: 2001) in *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 15 (2001 [2005]), 206-208.
- *Religions of the Silk Road: Overland Trade and Cultural Exchange from Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century*, by Richard Foltz (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1999) in *Journal of Asian Studies* 60.4 (November 2001), pp. 1180-1182.
- *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400* by Tansen Sen (Honolulu: Association for Asian Studies and University of Hawaii, 2003) in *Asian Studies Review* 29.4 (December 2005), pp. 423-424.
- *Haunting the Buddha: Indian Popular Religions and the Formation of Buddhism*, by Robert DeCaroli (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004) in *Journal of Asian Studies* 65.1 (February 2006), pp. 209-211.
- *Greater Magadha – Studies in the Culture of Early India*, by Johannes Bronkhorst (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2007) in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 18.3 (2008), 381-383.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Saka Religious and Literary Patronage Networks in Early South Asian History,” 219th meeting of the American Oriental Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 2008.
- “Economic Networks for Long-distance Transmission of Buddhism in South and Central Asian Transit Zones,” Invited Paper at the Conference on Buddhism Across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange, Singapore, 16-18 February 2009.
- “As the *Dharmacakra* Turns: Historical Memory in Buddhist Narratives of the Past, Present, and Future,” Invited Lecture for a conference on Thinking, Recording, and Writing History in the Ancient World, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, December 2008.
- “Domestication of Gandhāran Avadānas in British Library Kharoṣṭhī Manuscripts,” XVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Atlanta, June 2008.
- “Enigma of an Absence: Buddhist Archaeology, Art, and Inscriptions in the Transit Zones of Xinjiang and Northern Pakistan,” Invited Lecture for the Silk Road Initiative and Center for Buddhist Studies, University of California-Berkeley, April 2008.
- “Overland Shortcuts for the Transmission of Buddhism,” 218th meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 2008.

- “Meditation in Multiple Contexts: Early Buddhist Manuscripts and Inscriptions,” Symposium on Buddhism, Language and Meditation, Bojo Research Institute, Seoul, South Korea, November 2007.
- “The Gift of Gruel: A Gāndhārī Version of the *Kulmāṣapiṇḍajātaka*,” 217th meeting of the American Oriental Society, San Antonio, Texas, March 2007.
- “Onomastic Patterns in Indian Buddhist Inscriptions: The Significance of Personal Names and Naming Practices in Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī Graffiti from Northern Pakistan” 13th World Sanskrit Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2006.
- “Buddhism in the Borderlands of South Asia: Archeological Materials, Graffiti Inscriptions, and Petroglyphs in the Transit Zones of Northern Pakistan,” Invited Lecture for South Asia Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, November 2005.
- “*La Vieille Route* Reconsidered: Alternative Routes for the Early Transmission of Buddhism,” 34th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2005.
- “Old Roads and Early Paths for the Transmission of Buddhism: Alternatives to Alfred Foucher's *Vieille Route*” Invited Lecture for the Seminar on Central Asian and Iranian Buddhism, University of Toronto-Mississauga, September 2005.
- “Islands in the Ocean of Buddhist Stories: Interpretation of Selected Avadānas in British Library Kharoṣṭhī Fragments 12 + 14” XIVth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, London, August 2005.
- “Avadāna Narrative Summaries in Gandhāran Buddhist Manuscripts: Intra- and Intertextual Methods of Interpretation” Invited Lecture for the South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago, March 2005.
- “Early Routes for the Transmission of Buddhist Art, Languages and Literary Texts to Central Asia” Invited Lecture at Free University Berlin, June 2004.
- “Pathways to the Silk Routes as Marked by Buddhist Images and Inscriptions from Northern Pakistan” International Conference on Maps and Images: How They Have Transmitted Visual Knowledge Along the Silk Road, Zurich, Switzerland, May 2004.
- “Two Buddhist *Avadānas* involving Courtesans in a Kharoṣṭhī Manuscript” 214th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, San Diego, California, March 2004.
- “Introducing Indian Buddhism into the Curriculum: New Approaches and Methods” Southeastern Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Gainesville, Florida, January 2004.
- “Contrasts between Buddhist and Brahmanical Perspectives on Gandhāra: Sacred Center or Peripheral Frontier” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2003.
- “Historical and Geographical Contexts for Avadānas in Kharoṣṭhī Manuscripts” 12th World Sanskrit Conference, Helsinki, Finland, July 2003.
- “Narrative Literature in Early Buddhist Manuscripts” Asian Languages and Literature Department Colloquium, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, April 2003.
- “Avadāna Narratives in Early Buddhist Manuscripts from Gandhāra” Numata Lecture, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, February 2003.
- “Transmission of Buddhism Along the Silk Routes” Silk Road Seattle Teacher Workshop, Seattle, Washington, January 2002.

- “Long-Distance Transmission of Buddhism from South Asia to the Silk Routes: New Evidence from Rock Drawings and Inscriptions in Northern Pakistan” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 2001.
- “Drawing for Merit: Buddhist Petroglyphs and Donative Inscriptions in Previously Unestablished Places” 116th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Portland, Oregon, March 2000.
- “Establishing the Presence of Buddhism through Images and Words: Petroglyphs and Graffiti from Northern Pakistan in Comparative Perspective” Invited Lecture at the University of Virginia Early Indian Sculpture Symposium, Charlottesville, Virginia, April 1999.
- “Comparative Graffitology of Buddhist Inscriptions” 27th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 1998.
- “The Languages of Buddhist Transmission as Reflected in Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī Graffiti Inscriptions from Northern Pakistan” 114th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 1998.
- “Epigraphical Records of Traders and Monks: Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī Graffiti from Northern Pakistan” 26th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 1997.
- “Kharoṣṭhī and Brāhmī Inscriptions from Hunza-Haldeikish: Sources for the Study of Long-distance Trade and Transmission of Buddhism” 14th International Conference of the Western European Association of South Asian Archaeologists, Rome, Italy, July 1997.