

CURRICULUM VITAE

1) **Name**

Mark Michael ROWE

2) **Business address**

Department of Religious Studies
McMaster University, University Hall, Room 126
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3) **Educational Background**

- 2000-2006 Ph.D., Religion Department, Princeton University
Dissertation: *Death By Association: Temples, Burial, and the Transformation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism*
Supervisor: Jacqueline Stone
- 1997-2000 Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Department of Environmental and Cultural Studies, Kyoto University
Supervisor: Sonoda Minoru
- 1995-1997 M.A., Department of Environmental and Cultural Studies, Kyoto University
Thesis: *Modern Japanese Funeral Practices and the Buddhist Establishment*
Supervisor: Sonoda Minoru
- 1994-1995 Research Student, Department of Literature, Kyoto University
- 1990-1992 B.A. First Class Joint Honours, East Asian Studies and Religious Studies, McGill University
- 1988-1990 Full-time Japanese Language Student, Shinjuku Japanese Language School, Tokyo, Japan
- 1986-1988 Double Major in Political Science and Asian Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

4) **Current Status at McMaster**

Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Religious Studies

5) **Professional Organizations**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)
Nihon Shūkyō Gakkai (Japanese equivalent of the AAR)
Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR)

Japanese Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

6) **Employment History**

a) academic

2012 to Present, Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

July 2006 to 2011, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

7) **Scholarly and Professional Activities**

a) editorial boards

i) Series Editor – *Contemporary Buddhism* (Book Series at University of Hawai'i Press)

b) grant and personnel committees

Reviewer for Undergraduate Student Research Awards, Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University (2007, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Reviewer for Vanier Scholarship (2016)

c) executive positions (*elected)

i) *Japanese Religions Group (AAR) – Co-committee chair (from 2011 to 2017)

ii) *Society for the Study of Japanese Religions – President (from 2014 to 2018)

d) journal referee

Studies in Religion (1 review 2006)

Journal of the American Academy of Religion (1 review 2009)

Contemporary Japan (1 review 2013)

Religion Compass (1 review 2014)

Japanese Journal of Religious Studies (1 review 2014)

Journal of Religion in Japan (1 review in 2015)

Manuscript Reviews

University of Chicago Press (1 manuscript 2020)

University of Hawaii Press (On average, 5 manuscripts per year)

Palgrave Macmillan (1 manuscript 2012)

McGill University Press (1 manuscript 2008)

e) external grant reviews

OGS reviewer (2012)

8) Areas of Interest

Research

Japanese Buddhism, Training of Japanese Buddhist Priests, Buddhist Mortuary Rituals, Japanese Religions, East Asian Religions, Anthropology of Religion, Theory and Method in the study of Religion

Teaching

Japanese Religions, Anthropology of Religion, Theory and Method in the study of Religion Death and Dying, Ritual Studies, East Asian Religions, Japanese History, Religion and Film

Consulting

Contemporary Japanese Buddhism, Training of Japanese Buddhist Priests, Buddhist Mortuary Rituals, Japanese Religions

9) Honours

- 2015 – Research fellow at Ryukoku University’s Research Center for Buddhist Cultures in Asia (BARC) as part of a five-year research project into contemporary Buddhism.
- 2014 – Summer research fellow at the Research Center for Buddhist Cultures in Asia (BARC)
- 2012 – Undergraduate Teaching Award, Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University. One of only three teachers nominated in the entire faculty.
- 2011 – AAR Award for Excellence - Analytical-Descriptive Category^[1] Short Listed: *Bonds of the Dead*, University of Chicago Press, 2011.
- 2006 - Reischauer Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University (Declined, in favour of position at McMaster)
- 2006 - Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University (Declined, in favour of position at McMaster)
- 2006 - Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellowship, Tokyo University (Declined, in favour of position at McMaster)

10) Courses Taught (last five years)

a) Undergraduate

- RS 3E03/JAPAN ST 3E03 Japanese Religions and Film (Term 1, 2015; Term 2, 2017, Term 2, 2019)
- RS 2TT3/JAPAN ST 2TT3 Religion and Popular Culture in Contemporary Japan (Term 1, 2016; Term 2, 2019)

- RS 2M03 Death and Dying, Comparative (Term 2, 2014)
- RS 1J03 Great Books in Asian Religions (Term 1, 2017; Term 1, 2018)
- RS 4H03 Discourses of Authenticity (Term 1, 2017)

b) Graduate

- RS 723 Readings in Japanese Religions (Term 1, 2012; Term 1, 2016; Term 1, 2018)
- RS 718 Topics in Buddhist Studies : Recent Scholarship (Term 2, 2015)
- RS 716 Topics in Japanese Religions (Term 2, 2018)
- RS 701 Issues in the Study of Religion (Term 1, 2015, Term 1, 2019 (9 weeks))
- RS 709 Anthropological Approaches to Asian Religions (Term 2, 2017; Term 1, 2019)

11) Contributions to Teaching Practice

I have developed what I call a “digital palette” of materials that can be used by faculty both in lectures and on course web pages to teach Asian Religions. Images, short video clips, and audio of religious rituals, daily practices, and cultural context from my research provide students not only with the details of other traditions, but also with the colours and sounds, the very textures of other cultures that bring the lecture material to life.

Developed a new graduate course RS 718 “Dissertations 101”, that has students read recent dissertations as genre rather than strictly for content. There was a heavy focus on writing, with one student each week providing a writing sample that we then line-edited as a group. Although official enrollment can be low, additional students would sit in on a given week when the dissertation interested them. On average I had 5-6 students each week.

I hosted two, two-day writing retreats for graduate students in the department. I intend for this to become a regular event.

12) Supervisorships

a) Master - In progress

Mitchell Weishar (currently on leave to write)
Sam Martens (2019 to present)

Master - Completed

Abigail MacBain (2008)
Brigitte Robert (2009)
Meghan Walsh (2013)
Myra Sivaloganathan (2017)
Kira Thibaudeau (2020)
Manvinder Gill (2020)
Alex Loop (2020)

b) Doctoral - In progress

Kimberly Beek (2007 to present. This student is currently on leave to write.)
Marcus Evans (2015 to present)
Marc Lagace (2020 to present)

e) Supervisory committees

Master – In progress

Master - Completed

Stephanie Balkwill (2006)
Michael Harack (2007)
Kathleen Ridell (2008)
Katherine Olson (2008)
Keenan Cox (2014)
Nathaniel Lovdahl (2014)
Crystal Beaudoin (2017)

Doctoral - In progress

Chris Emms (2012 to present)
Gerjan Altenberg (2014 to present)
Jeremy Cohen (2017 to present)
Gerald Ens (2016 to present)
Li Lan (2019 to present)
Anne Crosby (2020 to present)

Doctoral - Completed

Kathy Jackson (2008)
Kevin Bond (2008)
Hisako Omori (2010)
Adrian Tseng (2014)
Stephanie Balkwill (2015)
Erez Joskovich – Tel Aviv University (2015 External reader for dissertation)
Chris Handy (2016)
Justin Stein – University of Toronto (2017)
Adam Lyons – Harvard University (2017 External reader for dissertation)
Chris Jensen (2018)
Ruifeng Chen (2020)

13) Lifetime Research Funding

[I am the sole and principal investigator in each of the grants listed below.]

- Japan Foundation Long-Term Grant (\$40, 000), “Female Buddhist Priests in Contemporary Japan.”
- 2016-2021 – SSHRC Insight Grant (\$113,897), “Female Buddhist Priests in Contemporary

Japan.”

- 2016 – Japan Foundation Short-term research grant (\$6000), “Female Buddhist Priests in Contemporary Japan.”
- 2015 – MIG Grant (\$5000)
- 2013-14 – American Academy of Religion Individual Research Grant (\$5000), “Female Priests in Japanese Temple Buddhism.”
- 2014 – Arts Research Board Research Grant (\$4900), “Female Priests in Japanese Temple Buddhism.”
- 2011-12 – JSPS Research Grant (\$70,000) “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks”
- 2011-12 – Japan Foundation Research Grant (\$62,000) “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks” Declined.
- 2010 - SSHRC Standard Research Grant (\$71,287) “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks – The Lives and Training of Buddhist Priests in Contemporary Japan.”
- 2010 - SSRC, Japan Society of the Promotion of Science Short-term Fellowship (\$12,000) “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks: The training and daily lives of contemporary Japanese Buddhists.”
- 2010 - Japan Foundation Short-Term Fellowship (\$12,000) “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks: The training and daily lives of contemporary Japanese Buddhists.” (Declined)
- 2010 - Association for Asian Studies, NEAC Japanese Studies Grant (\$3,000) “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks.”
- 2010 - Research grant, Arts Research Board, McMaster University (\$7,000). “The Lives and Training of Buddhist Priests in Contemporary Japan.”
- 2009 - Research grant, National Endowment of the Humanities (\$6,000). “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks”
- 2009 - Research grant, Arts Research Board, McMaster University (\$7,000). “The Lives and Training of Buddhist Priests in Contemporary Japan.”
- 2008 - Large project grant, Centre for Leadership and Learning, McMaster University (\$5,042). “The Digital Palette.”
- 2007 - Research grant, Arts Research Board, McMaster University (\$4,866). “The Lives and Training of Buddhist Priests in Contemporary Japan.”

- 2007 - Conference travel grant, Arts Research Board, McMaster University (\$1,632), to present at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion.
- 2006 - Academic Innovation Grant, Experiential Education, McMaster University (\$18,000). “Digital Resources for Teaching Asian Religions.”
- 2006 - Research grant, Arts Research Board, McMaster University (\$3,500). “A Crisis of Faith: How to train Buddhist priests in contemporary Japan.”

14) **Lifetime Publications**

Unless otherwise noted, I am the sole and principal author of each of the articles listed below. Other authors are listed in the exact sequence of the publication as it was published.

a) **Peer Reviewed**

i) **Books**

2016 *Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia*. Edited with Justin McDaniel and Jeffrey Samuels. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press.

2011 *Bonds of the Dead: Temples, Burial, and the Transformation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

ii) **Contributions to books**

2019 仏教人類学とジェンダー—女性僧侶の体験から— (Ethnography of Buddhism and Gender: From the Experiences of Female Priests) In 那須英勝・本多彩・碧海寿広編『現代日本の仏教と女性。—文化の越境とジェンダー』 (In *Women and Contemporary Japanese Women – Cultural Transgression and Gender*) 法藏館, 2019. (This is a reworked version and translation of “Charting Known Territory,” published in 2017.)

2016 “Contemporary Buddhism and Death.” In *Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism*. Edited by Michael Jerryson. New York: Oxford University Press.

2007 “Grave Changes: Scattering Ashes in Contemporary Japan.” B. Cuevas and J. I. Stone, eds. *The Buddhist Dead: Practices, Discourses, and Representations*. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 378-404. [This is a modified version of Grave Changes 2003]

iii) **Journal articles**

2017 “Charting Known Territory – Female Buddhist Priests.” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 44/1: 75–101

2015 “Death and Burial in Japan,” *About Japan a Teacher’s Resource*. The Japan Society.

http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org/page/japaneducation_home

- 2008 “Death, Burial, and the Study of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism,” *Religion Compass* 3/1: 18-30.
- 2004 “Where the Action Is: Sites of Contemporary Sōtō Buddhism” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 31/2: 357-388.
- 2004 Stephen G. Covell and Mark Rowe “Buddhism in Contemporary Japan: Teachings, Doctrines, and Practices.” Editors’ introduction written with Stephen Covell. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 31/2: 245-254.
- 2004 Stephen G. Covell and Mark Rowe “Round-table Discussion: The Current State of Sectarian Universities,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 31/2: 429-464.
- 2003 “Grave Changes: Scattering Ashes in Contemporary Japan.” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 30/1-2: 85-118.
- 2000 “Stickers for Nails: The Ongoing Transformation of Roles, Rites, and Symbols in Japanese Funerals.” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 27/3-4: 353-378.

v) Other: Book reviews

- 2015 Review: Paola Cavaliere, *Promising Practices: Women Volunteers in Contemporary Japanese Religious Civil Society*. *Journal of Religion in Japan*, 4/2-3: 290-93.
- 2013 Barbra Ambros, *Bones of Contention: Animals and Religion in Modern Japan*, H-Shukyō, H-Net Reviews.
- 2012 Ugo Dessi ed., *The Social Dimension of Shin Buddhism*, *Religion* 42/4: 687-689.
- 2011 Shōji Yamada, *Shots in the Dark: Japan, Zen, and the West*, *The Journal of Religion* 91/3: 427-429.
- 2009 Nancy Stalker, *Prophet Motive: Deguchi Onisaburō, Oomoto, and the Rise of New Religions in Imperial Japan*, *Journal of Religion* 89/3: 454-455.
- 2009 Nam-lin Hur, *Death and Social Order in Tokugawa Japan: Buddhism, Anti-Christianity, and the Danka System*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 77/1: 160-162.
- 2007 Stephen Covell, *Japanese Temple Buddhism: Worldliness in a Religion of Renunciation*, *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 34/2: 452-455.

Other: Translations

- 2000 “Changes in Japanese Urban Funeral Customs during the Twentieth Century,” by

Murakami Kōkyō. Translation. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 27/3-4: 335-352.

b) *Not Peer Reviewed*

iii) **Journal articles**

2005 “Gaikokujin kara mita Nihonjin no Shiseikan” (An Outsider’s Look at Japanese views of death). *Banki* vol. 76: 11-19.

2003 Himonya Hajime and Mark Rowe, “Sōshiki/haka kara mita Gendai Nihon no Bukkyō” (Japanese Buddhism through Mortuary Rites and Graves).. *Sogi* 13/5: 45-57.

v) **Other: Television and Radio Appearances**

2015 Religious Studies News (American Academy of Religion) Interview on my research into Female Buddhist Priests. Hosted by Dr. Kristian Peterson of University of Nebraska Omaha. November 5, 2015. <http://rsn.aarweb.org/articles/female-priests-japanese-buddhism>

2011 *New Books in East Asian Studies Podcast*. Hosted by Carla Nappi of UBC. December 12, 2011.

2007 *The Link*. “Death and Dying,” Radio Canada International. Broadcast in October 2007.

2006 *Path To Enlightenment*. “Buddhism & Academia: Teaching Buddhism,” Omni Television. Filmed in November 2006, broadcast in February 2007.

2006 *3D Dialogue*. “Lived Buddhism in Japan Today,” Omni Television. Filmed in October 2006, broadcast in January 2007.

Other: Translations

1996 John LoBreglio and Mark Rowe, trans. Documentary Film: *The Hadaka Festival of Mitsuke Tenjin*. Co-translation with. The Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō).

15) **Presentations at Meetings**

a) *Invited*

- “On the Road with Temple Buddhism – Interstitial Practices in Obon”, Princeton University, May 18, 2019.
- “Contemporary Ethnography of Japanese Buddhism”, Conference: Bridging the Methodological Divide”, Michigan University, Oct. 31 – Nov 2, 2019.
- 2018 “Sōryotachi kara miru Sōshiki Bukkyō – Shukyō Jinruigaku to Kanjō (Funerary Buddhism from the Priests’ Point of View – Emotion and the Anthropology of Religion),”

Ryukoku University, Japan.

- 2018 ““The Extraordinary in the Ordinary - Female Buddhist Priest in Japan Today,” University of Tubingen, Germany.
- 2017 “Bikers, Bodhisattvas, and Widows – Female Priests in Japanese Buddhism”, the Japan Foundation, Toronto.
- 2017 “Gendering Japanese Temple Buddhism” European Association of Japanese Studies, Annual Meeting, Lisbon.
- 2017 “Ghosts and Spirits in Contemporary Japanese Buddhism”, Japanese Studies Association of Canada Annual Meeting, Toronto.
- 2016 “Depopulating Japanese Buddhism” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2016 “Between the Idea and the Reality: An Ethnography of Japanese Buddhism” Keynote Address to the Buddhism, Humanities and Ethnographic Methods Conference at the University of Vermont.
- 2015 “Doctrine” at “Anthropology of Buddhism Conference”, University of Toronto.
- 2015 “Against Insularity: Moving Beyond ‘Japanese Religions.’” Respondent.
- Western Michigan University.
- 2014 “Bikers and Bodhisattvas: Female Buddhist Priests in 21st-Century Japan,” Harvard University.
- 2014 “Bikers and Bodhisattvas: Female Buddhist Priests in 21st-Century Japan,” University of Buffalo.
- 2014 “From *Ganbare* Buddhism to *Genba* Buddhism.” Invited Talk in Japanese at “The Possibilities of Japanese Buddhism” symposium at Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan.
- 2014 “Biographies of Eminent Nuns: Female Temple Priests.” Invited Talk in Japanese at “Contemporary Japanese Buddhism and Gender” symposium at Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan.
- 2014 “Enough with the Nuns! Mothers, daughters, wives and sisters in Japanese Temple Buddhism,” Princeton University.
- 2014 “On Being Railroaded into Running a Japanese Buddhist Temple,” Bucknell University.
- 2013 “Thick Conversations: Toward a Dialogical Approach to Japanese Buddhism,” Harvard Reischauer Institute, Harvard University.
- 2013 “Japanese Temple Buddhism in Depopulated Areas,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 “Looking Good on the Outside – Training Zen Priests in 21st Century Japan,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 2012 “Ethnography and Decline Presuppositions in the Study of Japanese Buddhism” Invited Talk at UCLA
- 2012 “Buddhist Training in Contemporary Japan” SSSR, Phoenix.
- 2012 “Raising Buddhists: The *Seshū Mondai* in Contemporary Japanese Buddhism,” Japan Studies Association of Canada, Carleton University.
- 2011 “Non-Eminent Monks – The Temple and the Anthropology of Buddhism” Invited Talk in Japanese at Ryukoku University
- 2010 “Idealized Realities and Realized Ideals: Temple-born and lay-born Japanese Buddhist Priests,” Japan Studies Association of Canada, UBC.
- 2009 “Orbiting the *Genba* – Issues in the study of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism,”

Tracing Japanese Buddhism: An International Conference, University of California, Berkeley.

- 2009 “Navigating Contemporary Japanese Buddhism – Priestly Routes Over Rough Terrain,” Japan Anthropology Colloquium, Yale University.
- 2009 “Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks – Situating Contemporary Japanese Buddhist Priests,” Buddhist Studies Colloquium Series, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2009 “The Death of Buddhism in Contemporary Japan,” Oxford Brookes University, UK.
- 2009 “Producing Expertise in Post-War Japanese Buddhism,” Training Buddhist Priests – Numata Conference, University of Toronto.
- 2009 “Split Personality Buddhists – Priestly Identity in Post-War Japan,” Religious Studies Ideas Series, University of Regina.
- 2008 Respondent – “Buddhism in Contemporary Japan,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago.
- 2008 “I Fought the Dharma and the Dharma Won: Temple Versus Sectarian Buddhism in Contemporary Japan,” Triangle East Asia Colloquium, Duke University.
- 2007 Respondent – “Themes in the Memorialization of Pets in Japan,” Japan Anthropology Workshop, Oslo, Norway.
- 2004 “Post-Mortem Reproductions: Families, Buddhists, and Doctrine,” Reproduction in Modern Japan, Yale University.

b) *Contributed*

i) Peer reviewed

- 2011 “State of the Field Roundtable: Ethnographic Approaches to Buddhism,” Panel organizer and participant. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2011 “Recontextualizing Japanese Religions in Popular Culture,” Respondent. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2010 “Continued Biographies of Non-Eminent Monks,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- 2009 “Buddhist Propagation in Contemporary Japan: Promising emptiness or empty promises?” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Ottawa.
- 2007 “Screening and Streaming Japanese Religions: Integrating Visual Media into the Classroom,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego.
- 2007 “Praying at and Preying on Japanese Buddhist Altars,” Society for the Anthropological Study of Religion, Phoenix.
- 2005 “Surveying Emptiness – The Role of Research Centers in Post-War Japanese Buddhism,” American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia.
- 2005 “Dying for Agency – Posthumous Divorce in Contemporary Japan,” American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2003 “Where are the Ancestors?” Society for the Anthropological Study of Religion, Providence.
- 2002 “Blurring the Lines: Buddhist Responses to the Changing Place of the Dead,” American Academy of Religion, Toronto.
- 2002 “Scattering Ashes in Contemporary Japan,” Society for the Anthropological Study of

Religion, Cleveland.

17) **Administrative Responsibilities**

i) Department

Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Department of Religious Studies, 2006 to 2008, and 2015

Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Religious Studies, 2008 to present

Public Relations Committee, Department of Religious Studies, 2008 to 2017

Library Representative 2016 and 2017

Chair of Graduate Affairs 2017 to present

Departmental Communications & Publicity Committee 2017 to present

ii) Faculty

Tenure and Promotion Committee 2012 to 2015

Faculty Council, Department of Religious Studies, 2007 to 2008

Dean's Advisory Committee on Technical Needs 2009 to 2013

Fall Preview Lecturer, 2008

Vanier Scholarship 2016

Ethics Committee = "ARGSREC" 2016 to present

Faculty Research Finance Focus Group 2017 to present

SocSci Level I Instructors Working group 2017 to present

May at Mac Presenter 2017

Graduate Curriculum and Policy 2017 to present