

Brian S. Karafin
Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Philosophy and Religion
241 Park School
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY 14850
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Areas of specialization:

Religion and Society
Contemporary Religious Thought
Buddhism
Religion and Politics

Areas of competence:

Religions in America
Comparative World Religions
Mysticism
Religion and Depth Psychology

Education:

Ph.D., Religion, Syracuse University, 1991
Dissertation: *Prophetic Discourse and Postmodernism: Towards a Critical Theory of Religion*
M.A., Religion, Syracuse University, 1984
B.A., Religion and Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1980

Awards:

Syracuse University Graduate School Doctoral Prize, 1991
Syracuse University Graduate Fellowships, 1985–86, 1986–87, 1988–89

Teaching experience:

Ithaca College, Fall 1989 to Spring 2010:
“Introduction to World Religions: Indigenous and Eastern” (15 times)
“Religion and Society” (12 times)
“Introduction to Religion” (6 times)

“Introduction to Buddhism” (8 times)
“Introduction to World Religions: Western and Modern” (4 times)
“Religions in America” (4 times)
“Introduction to Mysticism” (4 times)
“Religion and Depth Psychology” (3 times)
“Twentieth-Century Mysticism” (3 times)
“Religion and Social Ethics” (3 times)
“Religion and Social Change” (2 times)
“Tibetan Buddhism” (2 times)
“Introduction to Judaism” (2 times)
“Religion in the Contemporary United States”
“Religion in the Middle East Conflict”
“Religion and Politics at Century’s End”
“Saints and Ethics”
“Religion and Post-Colonialism”
“Comparative Study of Religion”
“Issues in Contemporary Judaism”
“Religion and the Global Crisis”
Junior Honors Seminar on Narrative (two-week segment on religion and narrative)

Syracuse University, Fall 1987:

“Sociology of Religion and Morality”

Publications:

Review of Sallie King, *Socially Engaged Buddhism* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 30 (2010) (forthcoming)
Review of M. Mcleod, ed. *Mindful Politics: A Buddhist Guide to Making the World a Better Place* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 29 (2009)
Review of Stephanie Kaza, ed., *Hooked! Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire, and the Urge to Consume* and P. F. Knitter and Chandra Muzaffar, eds., *Subverting Greed: Religious Perspectives on the Global Economy* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 27 (2007)
Foreword to Kamala Tiyavanich, *Sons of the Buddha* (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2007)
“Figures of Religious Resistance,” in *Buzzsaw Haircut* December 2007
Review of Philip Cousineau, *The Way Things Are: Conversations with Huston Smith on the Spiritual Life* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 25 (2005)
Review of Janet Ruffing, *Mysticism and Social Transformation* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 24 (2004)
Foreword to Kamala Tiyavanich, *The Buddha in the Jungle* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003)
Review of David Loy, *A Buddhist History of the West: Studies in Lack* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 23 (2003)

Review of Anne Klein's *Meeting the Great Bliss Queen: Buddhists, Feminists, and the Art of the Self* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 19 (1999)

Review of Joanna Macy's *World as Lover, World as Self* in *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 18 (1998)

Review of Charles Scott's *The Question of Ethics: Nietzsche, Foucault, Heidegger* in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 60/1 (Spring 1992)

Presentations:

“Basic Teachings of the Buddha,” talk for “Stretching the Spirit” series, Longview (Ithaca), November 2009

“Compassion in Exile: The 14th Dalai Lama,” talk in preparation for Dalai Lama visit to Ithaca College, October 2007

“The Jew in the Lotus,” panel discussion following film, as part of “Religions, Ethnicities, Identities” discussion series, Ithaca College, Fall 2002

“Women and Buddhism,” guest lecture for “Women and Religion” class, Ithaca College, Spring 2002; March 2003

“Buddhist Thought and Practice,” public talk at Foundation of Light, Ithaca, New York, May 1999

“Buddhist Philosophy and Christian Mysticism,” talk and panel discussion with Euert Cousins, Daniel Cozort, and Geshe Tendhar, Cornell University, April 1995

“Islam and the West,” public talk, Ithaca College, December 1990

“Religion and the Middle East Conflict,” public talk, Ithaca College, February 1991

“Critical Theory and Postmodern Religious Thinking,” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 1989

“Prophetic Discourse and Postmodern Critical Theory: The Case of Fredric Jameson,” presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 1987

Professional service:

Native American Studies Pre-Doctoral Diversity Fellowship Search Committee Spring 2010

Faculty Advisor for student group, Ithaca College Buddhism Club, 2010

Religion Program Search committees 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009

Served on Ithaca College Dalai Lama committee in preparation for the 2007 visit

Arranged public talk by Tibetan lama, Bardor Tulku, Ithaca College, October 2009

Arranged public talk by Tibetan lama, Geshe Jangchub, Ithaca College, Spring 2007

Arranged public talk by Tibetan monk, Ven. Tenzin Thutob, Ithaca College, Spring 2006

Arranged public talk and discussion on Theravada Buddhism with Kamala Tiyavanich, Ithaca College, Fall 2005

Arranged public talk by Tenzin Gephel, Tibetan Buddhist monk, Ithaca College, 2001

Member of Jewish Studies Steering Committee, Ithaca College, 1999 to 2004 including Search Committee, 2000–01

Philosophy/Religion Department Library Representative, 1998 to 2005

Faculty Advisor for student group, Students for a Free Tibet, 1992–2000

- Arranged public talk by Tibetan Buddhist nun Ven. Thubten Dekyong, Abbess of Khachoe Gakyil Ling Nunnery, Textor Hall, 1999
- Arranged public talk by Bhikku Santikkaro, American Buddhist monk in the Theravadin tradition, Muller Chapel, 1999
- Arranged public talk by Ven. Tenzin Deshek, Tibetan Buddhist monk, Muller Chapel, 1999
- Arranged public talk by Ven. Selden, Tibetan Buddhist monk, Textor Hall, 1997
- Arranged public talk by Geshe Tendhar, Tibetan Buddhist monk; Euert Cousins, scholar of Christian mysticism; and Daniel Cozort, scholar of Buddhist Madhyamaka Philosophy, Muller Chapel, 1995
- Arranged public talk by Ven. Tsering Namgyal, monk of Namgyal Monastery and Institute of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy/Religion Department, 1993

Membership in professional societies:

American Academy of Religion, 1987 to present