

JOY CECILE BRENNAN
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Employment

2015 – present	Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Kenyon College
2014 – 2015	Visiting Instructor of Religious Studies, Kenyon College
2013	Instructor, Humanities Core, University of Chicago
2010 – 2013	Instructor, Writing Program, University of Chicago
2012	Adjunct Instructor of Religious Studies, Elmhurst College

Education

2015	Ph.D., Philosophy of Religions, University of Chicago
2007	M.A., Religious Studies, Indiana University
2002	B.A., Philosophy, <i>summa cum laude</i> with honors, Fordham University

Publications

Essays and Manuscripts in Progress

“Mind Only and Dharmas in Vasubandhu’s *Twenty Verses*” (research complete, manuscript in progress, submission to the *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy* anticipated in fall of 2020)

Mind Only on the Path: Centering Liberation in Yogācāra Buddhist Thought (book manuscript, anticipated completion in fall of 2021)

Articles and Essays

“Out of the Abyss: On Pedagogical Relationality and Time in *Confessions* and the *Lotus Sutra*” (forthcoming in *Augustine and Time*, edited by Kim Paffenroth and Sean Hannan, Rowman and Littlefield, 2020)

“Who Practices the Path? Persons and Dharmas in Mind Only Thought.” In *Reasons and Lives in Buddhist Traditions*, edited by Dan Arnold, Cécile Ducher and Pierre-Julien Harter; Wisdom Publications (2019).

“A Buddhist Phenomenology of the White Mind.” In *Buddhism and Whiteness: Critical Reflections*, edited by George Yancy and Emily McRae; Rowman and Littlefield

(2019).

“The Three Natures and the Path to Liberation in Yogācāra-Vijñānavāda Thought.”
Journal of Indian Philosophy 46:4 (September, 2018): 621-648.

Reviews

Roy Tzohar. *A Yogācāra Buddhist Theory of Metaphor*. *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 27 (January 2020).

Online essays

“On Disciplines and Non-Knowing: A Reply to Agnes Callard”

The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere, April 19, 2019. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2019/04/19/on-disciplines-and-nonknowing/>

“Employment is the New Citizenship: The Liberal Arts in the Global Economy”

The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion: The official blog of the University of Chicago’s Craft of Teaching Program, March 19, 2016.
<https://craftofteachingreligion.wordpress.com/author/joycbrennan/>

“The Work of Education is the Loosening of Identity-Formations”

The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion: The official blog of the University of Chicago’s Craft of Teaching Program, February 12, 2016.
<https://craftofteachingreligion.wordpress.com/author/joycbrennan/>

“The Impossible is Possible: On Teaching the Introductory Course”

The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion: The official blog of the University of Chicago’s Craft of Teaching Program, October 30, 2015.
<https://craftofteachingreligion.wordpress.com/author/joycbrennan/>

“Your Moment of Zen”

Sightings: Religion in Public Life, December 6, 2012.

<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/your-moment-zen-%E2%80%94-joy-brennan>

Conference Presentations

Participant in roundtable discussion of Roy Tzohar’s “A Yogācāra Buddhist Theory of Metaphor.” Accepted for the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA (November 2020)

“Mind Only as Diagnosis.” Accepted for the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA (November 2020)

“The Whole Path in Each Dharma: The Concept of a Dharma According to Yogācāra and Huayan Thought.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, CA (November 2019)

“Gender and Karma, Then and Now.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA (November 2015)

“Inversion, Clinging, and the Three Natures.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA (November 2015)

“The Abandonment of Arising in Yogācāra Thought.” American Academy of Religion

- annual meeting, Chicago, IL (November 2012)
- “Knowing Reality and Being Reality in Mind-only Buddhist Thought.” Harvard Divinity School Graduate Student Conference on Religion, Cambridge, MA (October 2012)
- “Mind-only Thought in its Abhidharma Context.” The conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Dharma Drum Mountain, Taiwan (June 2011)

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- October 2020 “Mind Only as Diagnosis.” Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University.
- September 2019 Speaker at Teaching Religion in Public series, sponsored by the Center for Religion and the Human, Indiana University Bloomington. Topic: My TIF essay in response to Agnes Callard.
- September 2019 “Mind Only as Diagnosis.” Indiana University Bloomington, Religious Studies Department.
- June 2019 Faculty presenter at week-long Summer Institute in Buddhism, Bodhi Manda Zen Center, Jemez Springs, NM
- September 2016 “The Path as a Philosophical Concept in Buddhist Thought: A Case Study.” Kenyon Philosophy Colloquium, Kenyon College
- April 2016 “The Three Natures Path Theory and Its Soteriological Significance.” Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal (Delivered remotely)
- March 2015 “Buddhist and Secular Meditative Traditions: Points of Convergence and Departure.” Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH

Fellowships and Awards

- 2013 – 2014 Mellon Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2012 – 2013 Martin Marty Junior Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2011 – 2012 Committee on Southern Asia Studies dissertation write-up fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2012 Karen Dinal Memorial Award for excellence as a teacher of writing to first-year students, University of Chicago’s Writing Program
- 2009 – 2012 University of Chicago Divinity School Fellowship
- 2005 – 2009 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship for Religious Studies, U.S. Department of Education
- 2003 – 2004 Blakemore Fellowship for Advanced Asian Language Study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese language study, Beijing, China
- 2002 Phi Beta Kappa
- 1998 – 2002 Semifinalist scholarship (four year full tuition scholarship for National Merit Scholar Semifinalists), Fordham University

Public Presentations and Community Outreach

- August 2019 Presenter & storyteller on Buddhist traditions at Peace Village, Mount Vernon, OH, organized by Mount Vernon United Church of Christ
- August 2018 Presenter & storyteller on Buddhist traditions at Peace Village, Mount Vernon, OH, organized by Mount Vernon United Church of Christ
- January 2018 Member of clergy panel at the 2nd Annual Knox County Interfaith Martin Luther King Service
- October 2017 Speaker at anti-Racism class organized by an interfaith group of Knox County clergy, Mount Vernon UCC
- 2015 & 2016 Twice presenter on Buddhist traditions for the Adult Education Forum at Mount Vernon UCC
- August 2015 Presenter & storyteller on Buddhist traditions at Peace Village, organized for Mount Vernon area schoolchildren by the Mount Vernon UCC
- July & August 2011, July 2012 Three-time presenter on Buddhist traditions and environmental concerns at KAM/Isaiah Israel's summer camp for teens on sustainability and food justice, Chicago, IL
- April 2012 Representative for Buddhist traditions on a panel on the "Future of Creation" for the Zygon Center for Religion and Science and the Lutheran School of Theology, at KAM/Isaiah Israel, Chicago, IL (April 2012)
- September 2009 "The Three Natures and the Path to Liberation." Udumbara Zen Center, Evanston, IL

Professional Service

- 2020 Roundtable organizer and participant, "Roundtable on Roy Tzohar's "A Yogācāra Buddhist Theory of Metaphor." American Academy of Religion annual meeting
- 2020 Panel organizer and speaker, "Yogācāra as Idealism?: New Avenues of Inquiry", American Academy of Religion annual meeting
- 2018 – 2023 Co-chair, Yogācāra Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2014 –2017 Steering Committee Member, Yogācāra Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2017 Outside M.A. thesis reader for Martina Cotter, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2016 Panel organizer and chair, "Reading the *Dharma-dharmatā-vibhāga*" panel, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
- Ongoing Content contributor, *Digital Dictionary of Buddhism*, a comprehensive web database of texts, terms, people, places, and concepts in the history of Buddhism

Institutional Service at Kenyon College

- Jan 2020 - present Chair, Religious Studies Department
- 2019 Organizer, Climate Teach-In, September 20-21, 2019 and Faculty Climate Working Group
- 2019 Search committee, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese Language
- 2019 Co-organizer of Rev. angel Kyodo williams' visit for Kenyon Interfaith Partnership, part of Religion and Social Justice speaker series
- 2018-2019 Organizer, Whiteness Studies Reading Group
- 2018 Search committee outside member, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- 2016-2018 Curricular Policy Committee member
- 2017-2018 Search committee member, Assistant Professor of Judaic Traditions
- 2016-2017 Search committee member, Assistant Professor of Christian Traditions
- 2015-2016 Search committee member, Visiting Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies
- 2016 Co-moderator and panelist, Second Year Faculty Panel at New Faculty Orientation
- 2016 Co-organizer, "Care" series sponsored by Kenyon Interfaith Partnership. Invited Eric Shutt, Chicago based Soto Zen priest and teacher, to give a public talk, lead a period of meditation for "Care" series event, And to visit my Religious Communities seminar to discuss his time living at Zen monasteries
- 2016 Search committee outside member, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics
- 2015-2018 Member, Kenyon Interfaith Partnership
- 2015-2016 Search committee, Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation Fellowship
- 2015 & 2016 Founder and organizer, New Faculty Picnic at Ariel Foundation Park (2016 co-organizer with Jackie McAllister)
- 2015 Discussion leader, Dear White People film viewing for first-year orientation
- 2015 Panelist, Second Year Faculty Panel at New Faculty Orientation
- 2015 Organizer, *Dream of Red Mansions* Chinese text reading group
- 2014-2018 Member of Asian Studies Faculty
- 2014-2015 Faculty sponsor for Buddhist Student Group

Religious Studies senior theses advised: Alexandra Britt (2015), Carmen Perry (2015), Peter Hardy (2016), Kayla Glazer (2017), Kristen Huffman (2017), Charles "Colin" Ainsworth (2017), Robert "Lane" Yates (2018), Will Freda (2018), Anna Fuller (2019), Tobias "Eli" Baumann (2019), Tyler Raso (2019), Nell Smith (2019), Nina "Nell" Conover (2019), Grace Gerber (2019), Kathleen Duffy (2020; as co-advisor with David Maldonado for honor's thesis), Chris Healey (2020)

Faculty advisor to Religious Studies majors/minors: Charles "Colin" Ainsworth (2017), Kayla Glazer (2017), Maddie Farr (2018), Will Freda (2018), Anna Fuller (2019), Tobias "Eli" Baumann (2019), Tyler Raso (2019), Nina "Nell Conover" (2019), Nell Smith (2019), Sam Manno (2019), Rob Meagher (2019), Gabrielle Bing (2019), Peter Michalowski (2020), Chris Healy (2020), Mara Edwards (2021), Samuel Che Pieper

(2021)

Faculty Development

2018 Ohio 5 Mellon Grant Consortial Summit at Oberlin College
2018 Planning for Success in Community Engaged Learning and Research,
Summer Faculty Seminar, Kenyon College

Languages

Classical Chinese (reading for research)
Sanskrit (reading for research)
Modern Chinese (good reading ability, fair speaking ability, depending on the topic)
French (reading for research)

Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion
International Association of Buddhist Studies
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

Community Service and Associations

2017 – Present Ordained Buddhist priest in the Sōtō Zen tradition
2015 – Present Founder and lead organizer at Mount Vernon Zen Community
2012 – 2014 Secretary of the Board of Directors, Udumbara Zen Center, Evanston, IL
2011 – 2014 Volunteer urban gardener with KAM/Isaiah Israel’s Social Justice
Committee’s gardening and food distribution program, Chicago, IL
2008 – 2010 Volunteer at PAWS Chicago, a “no kill” humane organization