

Anne T. Mocko

Associate Professor, Department of Religion
Concordia College, 901 8th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56560
amocko@cord.edu / 218-299-3436

EDUCATION

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2012 | Ph.D. in Religious Studies (awarded with distinction)
University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL
<i>foci</i> : South Asian religions, ritual studies |
| 2004 | M.A. in Religious Studies
University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL |
| 2002 | B.A. (Religion major, Anthropology minor); Phi Beta Kappa
The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA |

TEACHING POSITIONS

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2012 to present | Concordia College (Moorhead, MN), Religion Department <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Professor 2012–2018• Associate Professor 2018–2025• Professor 2025+ |
| 2011–2012 | University of Illinois at Chicago (adjunct faculty) |
| 2006–2012 | University of Chicago (instructor/adjunct faculty) |

Current courses

Religions of India
Religions of East Asia
Death & Dying
Christianity and Religious Diversity
Compassionate Community
Religion in the Postcolonial World

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2023+ | Concordia College Director for Interfaith Engagement |
| 2021-2022 | Interim Coordinator for Interfaith Engagement |

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- 2023 *Unraveling the Crown: Ritual, Politics, and the Fall of Monarchy in Nepal*.
Adarsh Books.
- 2016 *Demoting Vishnu: Ritual, Politics, and the Unraveling of Nepal's Hindu Monarchy*.
Oxford University Press.
- James Fisher Book Prize (Honorable Mention, 2019)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Eco-Karma: Environmentalist lessons from India's Jains*
- A book on the 2001 shooting of Nepal's royal family, title TBD

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Dec. 2024 "Assemblages, Materiality, and Basil Brides," *Nidan: International Journal for Indian Studies* forthcoming issue, 9(2)
- 2018 "All the King's Horses, All the King's Elephants: The fate of royal animals in Nepal's post-royal period" (with Shaunna Barnhart), *Himalaya* 38(1): 23–41.
- 2016 "Shifting Grounds: Nepal and Bhutan in 2015" (with Dorji Penjore), *Asian Survey* 55(1): 210–215.
- 2015 "Nepal and Bhutan in 2014: New Governments, Old Problems" (with Dorji Penjore), *Asian Survey* 55(1): 75–81.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2021 "Theories of Practice," *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, vol. 1, ed. William Schweiker et al. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2018 "Tolerance in Nepal Mandala: Communal relations and royal religious patronage in Malla-era Kathmandu," in *Toleration in Comparative Perspective*, ed. Vicki Spencer. Lexington Books. 121-139.
- 2017 "What Jains might teach Lutherans about sustainability and the forgiveness of sins," in *Reformation and Resilience: Lutheran Higher Education for Planetary Citizenship*, ed. Ernest Simmons. University Lutheran Press, 190-200.

- 2017 “Ritual Replacement and the Unmaking of Monarchy,” in *Ritual Innovation in South Asian Traditions*, ed. Brian Pennington. SUNY Press. 35–54.
- 2010 “Tracing the Red Thread: Anti-Communist Themes in the Work of Mircea Eliade,” in *Hermeneutics, Politics, and the History of Religions*, ed. Christian Wedemeyer and Wendy Doniger. Oxford University Press.
- 2010 “Rewriting Ritual: Community and Ethnicity in a San Francisco Performance of American Origins,” in *Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual*, vol. 5. Harrassowitz Press, 277–295.

INTERNET WRITING

For Religion and Culture Forum

- “Attending to Insects” (<https://tinyurl.com/sqqvzrzr>)

For University of Chicago’s Craft of Teaching Blog

- “Embracing ‘The Mind that Doesn’t Know’” (<https://tinyurl.com/y7a5ch62>)
- “On the Fullness of Students” (<https://tinyurl.com/y8hb76ax>)
- “Learning from New American Neighbors” (<https://tinyurl.com/ybrfgtbe>)

For the Enhancing Life Project Blog

- “Eat, Drink, and Make Merit” (<https://tinyurl.com/ybuyrj7s>)
- “Beauty from Brokenness” (<https://tinyurl.com/rq4otgg>)

For OUPBlog

- “Welcome to Sital Niwas, Madame President” (<https://tinyurl.com/ycup4ntw>)

For *Christian Century*

- “Maybe we should just do less” (<https://tinyurl.com/t2cm9bp>)

For AAR Spotlight on Teaching

- “Teaching Buddhism, Teaching Otherness? ‘Many Buddhisms’ in Transnational Chicago” (<https://tinyurl.com/tc3dlwx>)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “‘Hamro Raja, Hamro Desh’: Democracy and the invention of Nepal’s modernist monarchy”
South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2023 “Assemblages, Materiality, and Basil Brides”
South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2019 “Navaratri in North Dakota”
American Academy of Religion (AAR), San Diego
- 2018 “All the King’s Horses: Once-royal animals in the aftermath of Nepal’s monarchy”
South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2017 “Removing the Royals from Nepal’s Navaratri”
American Academy of Religion (AAR), Boston
- 2017 “Eco-Karma: Notes on what Westerners might learn from India’s Jains”
Enhancing Life Project Capstone Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2016 “Nepal’s Flawed Succession of 2001: The Crisis That Doomed a Dynasty”
Annual Conference on Kings and Queens, Clemson University
- 2015 “Of Corpses and Crowns”
South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2015 “Tolerance in Nepal Mandala”
University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand)
- 2015 “Who Sees the Sacred Vest? Ritual, Politics, and the Recasting Bhoto Jatra”
Social Science Baha Conference (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- 2014 “Retooling a Royal Tutelary Deity: The Kathmandu Kumari in the 21st Century”
South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2014 “The Presidency and the Post-Monarchy in ‘Naya Nepal’”
Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies, Yale University
- 2013 “Silent Spectator: The royal sword in the festival of Rato Machindranath”
Committee for the Study of Religions of India, Drew University
- 2011 “Who Sees the Sacred Vest? Ritual Replacement and Refiguring of the Nepali State”
Discourses of Ritual and Power conference, Florida State University
- 2009 “Ritual Replacement and the Unmaking of Monarchy: Notes on Nepal’s Bhoto Jatra”
Committee for the Study of Religions of India conference, Kalamazoo College

- 2008 “Rewriting the Ritual”
Ritual Dynamics Conference, University of Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany)
- 2008 “Accounting for *Katto*: Investigation into a Nepali ritual of royal death”
American Oriental Society conference, Chicago

PUBLIC SPEAKING

INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

- 2024 “Bhoto Jatra and the Anthropology of Religion” (*online*)
Anthropology program, Georgia College & State University
- 2021 “Beyond the Essay” (*online*)
Craft of Teaching Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2020 “Cooking in a Karmic Kitchen: Notes on Jain Food Disciplines” (*online*)
Enrichment Lecture, Concordia College
- 2019 “Monarchy, Democracy, Dasai: How Nepal’s core holiday serves shifting politics”
Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu
- 2018 “The Pedagogy of Site Visits”
Craft of Teaching Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2016 “Goodbye Gyanendra”
Clemson University, departments of History and Political Science
- 2016 “Incentivizing Asceticism”
Concordia College Philosophy Colloquium
- 2011 “Bhoto Jatra and the Unmaking of Monarchy.”
The American Center, Gyaneshwar, Kathmandu

GENERAL AUDIENCE

- 2022 “Many Buddhisms” lecture series, Madison Public Library
- 2021 “Religious Food, Religious Bodies”
Public webinar, Concordia College Religion Department
- 2020 “Diwali”
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission program, Concordia College

2020	“Learning Eco-Ethics in India” AAUW lecture series, AAUW Northern NJ chapter
2019	“From New Jersey to Nepal,” Campus talk for DEIC
2017	“Citizenship in Perspective” Dialogue with David Brooks, Concordia College
2016	“Refugees and immigrants: Myths and realities” Voter-education panel, Moorhead MN
2014	“An ethic of non-violence toward bees” Earth Day public lecture, Moorhead MN
2014	“ <i>Satya-graha</i> : Gandhi, Jainism, and the Indian roots of MLK’s non-violence” Martin Luther King Day public program, Concordia College

MAJOR AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2023	Flaat Distinguished Teaching Award, Concordia College
2021	Sacred Writes fellowship for public scholarship on religion
2019	Darlene Ross grant for sabbatical research
2015–2017	Enhancing Life Project research grant, Templeton Foundation
2012	Lilly Foundation teaching fellowship, Border Crossings Project
2010–2011	Harper Fellowship for dissertation writing, University of Chicago
2010–2011	Martin Marty Junior Fellows Program, University of Chicago
2009–2010	Fulbright-Hays dissertation research fellowship (<i>Fulbright-IIE awarded, declined</i>)
2008	Provost’s Grant for pre-dissertation research, University of Chicago

INTERFAITH WORK AT CONCORDIA: SELECT EXAMPLES

2025	Incoming co-chair of Ramadan Planning Committee
2023-2024	Co-designed and implemented the pilot Interfaith Incubator program
2023-2024	Member of Day of the Dead celebration planning committee
2022-2024	Member of Ramadan Planning Committee
2022, 2024	Organized and led student interfaith field-trips to Minneapolis
2022	Organized campus-lecture by Dr. Tamara Gray
2021-2024	Supervised all interfaith practicum projects for the interfaith minor (8 total to-date)
2021-2022	Oversaw the year-long work by four student Interfaith Scholars
2021	Hosted campus-lecture by Valarie Kaur
2016	Designed and led an Interfaith Justice Journey to Chicago

OTHER SERVICE-WORK AT CONCORDIA: SELECT EXAMPLES

2024	Search Committee for Director of Inclusion
2024	Evaluation committee for Michael Johnson
2024	Presenter at summer faculty workshop on artificial intelligence, participant in department working-group to draft a statement on AI
2023	Participant in piloting the redesigned Engaged Citizenship FYS
2023-2024	Member of Professional Learning Community
2021	Evaluation committee for Dr. Ahmed Afzaal
2020-2023	Elected member of Advising Committee
2018-2019	Campus working-group on Environmental Humanities
2017-2019	Elected member of Cultural Events Committee
2014-2018	Faculty advisor for Student Peace Alliance and Queer Persons of Faith (QPof)

SELECT EXAMPLES OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BEYOND CONCORDIA

2024	Panel chair, “Doing Democracy in Nepal: Performances and Practices, 1951 to Now”
2024	Grant reviewer for Harvard Radcliffe Fellows program (annual service since 2021)
2024	Book reviewer, <i>International Journal of Hindu Studies</i>
2021	Book reviewer, <i>History of Religions</i> journal
2022	Peer-reviewer, <i>Studies in Nepali History and Society (SINHAS)</i> journal
2020/21/24	Manuscript-reviewer for Oxford University Press
2019	Panelist, book-panel, annual meeting of Association for Asian Studies
2018	External reviewer for tenure portfolio, South Asia Studies
2018	Manuscript-review for Bloomsbury Press
2015	Grant reviewer for the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Interfaith America
Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS)
Association of Asian Studies (AAS)
Committee for the Study of Religions of India (CSRI)
Phi Beta Kappa

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

Nepali	Proficient in speaking, comprehending, reading, and writing.
Sanskrit	Proficient translation
Hindi	Beginner-level written and oral
Gujarati	Beginner-level written and oral
Newari	Intermediate-level translation
French	Proficient in reading

PERTINENT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Fall 2019	Nepal (follow-up to existing projects)
Summer 2019	India (Eco-Karma research)
Summer 2018	Sri Lanka & Thailand (Enhancing Life Project research)
June/July 2016	India (Eco-Karma research)
May 2016	Sri Lanka (Enhancing Life Project research)
July 2015	Nepal (earthquake relief)
Aug.-Oct. 2011	Nepal (dissertation research)
Aug. 2009–2010	Nepal (dissertation research)
Summer 2008	Nepal (pre-dissertation research)
Summer 2007	Nepal (language learning)
Summer 2003	Nepal (language learning)
July/Aug. 2001	India (personal travel)
Jan.-June 2001	Nepal (language learning; research on local abortion law)

AVAILABLE REFERENCES

Elna Solvang, current chair (solvang@cord.edu)

Christian Wedemeyer, graduate advisor (wedemeyer@uchicago.edu)

Bruce Lincoln, graduate school mentor (blincoln@uchicago.edu)

Wendy Doniger, graduate school mentor (don8@uchicago.edu)

William Schweiker, head of Enhancing Life Project (w-schweiker@uchicago.edu)

Andy Rotman, South Asia-studies colleague (arotman@smith.edu)

Christoph Emmrich, Nepal-studies colleague (christoph.emmrich@utoronto.ca)