

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 2012–2018Associate Professor 2018–2025Professor 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 <i>Ritual Innovation in South Asian Traditions</i> , ed. Brian Pennington. SUNY Press. 35–54.
2010	“Tracing the Red Thread: Anti-Communist Themes in the Work of Mircea Eliade,” in <i>Hermeneutics, Politics, and the History of Religions</i> , ed. Christian Wedemeyer and Wendy Doniger. Oxford University Press.
2010	“Rewriting Ritual: Community and Ethnicity in a San Francisco Performance of American Origins,” in <i>Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual</i> , vol. 5. Harrassowitz Press, 277–295.

INTERNET WRITING

For Religion and Culture Forum

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

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 Buddhsisms” 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 “*Satya-graha*: 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 (*Fulbright-IIE awarded, declined*)

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)