

## JASON WM ELLSWORTH

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### Home

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### Academic Department

Sociology & Social Anthropology Dept.  
Dalhousie University  
1128, Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Bld.  
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## EDUCATION

2014-Present PhD Candidate: Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University

- Current Stage: Fieldwork
- Doctoral Comprehensive Exams Complete (2017): (1) The Anthropology of Food: Symbolic & Political Economy Approaches; (2) Economics of Anthropology: Value & Values in Buddhist Communities; (3) Buddhist Transnationalism in North America
- Courses Complete (2015): (1) Anthropology of Food & Globalization; (2) Anthropology of Global Movement: Political Economy & Transnationalism; (3) Advanced Issues Economy, Work & Development: Precarious Work; (4) Advanced Issues in Social Justice; (5) SOSA PhD Seminar; (6) Contemporary Perspectives in Ethnography

2010 M.A.: Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Transcending Cultural Borders via the Sak Yant: Angelina Jolie's Adoptive Buddhism

2009 B.A. Honours: Religious Studies, Saint Mary's University (Halifax, N.S.)  
Honours Thesis: Marketing Religion: The Shambhala Brand  
Advisor: Dr. Alexander Soucy

2003 B. Commerce: Marketing, Saint Mary's University (Halifax, N.S.)

2005 Visiting Student: Religious Studies, University of Prince Edward Island

2002-03 Visiting Student: Marketing, Dalhousie University

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

2017-19 SSHRC Fellowship (\$40,000)

2014-17 Dalhousie Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarship (\$48,740)

2016 Religion and Diversity Project: Graduate Research Grant (\$1,000)

2009 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship SSHRC: Master's Award (\$17,500)

2009 Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Fellowship (\$1,980)

2009 Wilfrid Laurier Dean of Graduate Studies Scholarship (\$3000)

## **TRAVEL GRANTS**

- 2016 Buddhism in the Global Eye Travel Grant  
2015 Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Conference Travel Grant

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2016 Lecturer (Sessional). Sociology & Anthropology Dept. University of Prince Edward Island. Course: Magic, Religion, & Witchcraft  
2016 Lecturer (Sessional). Religious Studies Dept., University of Prince Edward Island. Course: World Religions: Eastern Traditions  
2014-15 Tutorial Instructor & TA. Dalhousie University: Dr. Lindsay Dubois. Course: Introduction to Anthropology.  
2010 Tutorial Instructor & TA. Wilfrid Laurier: Dr. Richard Walker. Course: Religion & Visual Culture.  
2009 TA. Wilfrid Laurier University: Dr. Christopher Ross. Course: Evil and Its Symbols.  
2006 TA. Saint Mary's University: Dr. Alexander Soucy. Courses: World Religions & Hinduism  
2003-04 College English Instructor. Gloria English School, Jhungli, Taiwan

## **ACADEMIC WORK & ADMINISTRATION**

- 2017 Co-organizer & Website Curator. *Kapital 150: Symposium on the Relevance of Marx Today*. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. November 3  
2015-16 Co-organizer, Webmaster & Volunteer Coordinator. *Canadian Anthropology Society & Society for Anthropology of North America Solidarit(i)es Conference*, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

## **CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, ROUNDTABLES, & PUBLIC TALKS**

- 2017 Balancing Value and Values: Buddhist Social Economic Enterprises on Prince Edward Island. Panel: The Dharma and the Dime: Ethics and Economics in the Anthropology of Buddhism, American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.  
2017 "Religion" is the Opium of the Scholar. Panel: The Things We Study When We Study Religion: The Scholar, North American Association for the Study of Religion, Boston, MA.  
2017 "Rolls of Love": Food Insecurity, Vulnerable Populations, and Buddhist Food Programs. Panel: Anthropology of Religion, American Academy of Religion Conference, Boston, MA.  
2017 Kapital 150: The Relevance of Marx an Introduction. Kapital 150: Symposium on the Relevance of Marx Today. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. November 3.  
2017 Food for Thought: Socially Engaged Buddhism, Social Frictions, & the Economy. Religious Studies Seminar Series. Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS. January 27.

- 2016 Integration, Acceptance, and The Market: Buddhist Food Projects on Prince Edward Island, *Buddhism in the Global Eye: Beyond East and West*. University of British Columbia.
- 2016 Organizer & Chairperson: Solidarities at the Intersection of Food and Religion Double Panel. *Solidarit(i)es Conference, CASCA & SANA*, Dalhousie University, Halifax: NS.
- 2016 Breaking Corn and Forging Solidarities: “Come From Away” Buddhist Food Sharing Initiatives, *Solidarit(i)es Conference, CASCA & SANA*, Dalhousie University, Halifax: NS.
- 2015 Reinvigorating the market: Taiwanese Buddhist ethical food projects on Prince Edward Island. *American Academy of Religion Conference*, Atlanta: GA.
- 2015 Paper Food Practices Panel: *Cross-cultural communions: Eating, dialoguing and the formation of transnational communities through food. ways of Knowing Conference*, Harvard University. Boston: MA.
- 2015 Presider: Ritual Practices Panel. *Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Conference*, Ottawa, ON.
- 2015 Sustaining Where the Buffalo Roam: The Emergence of Taiwanese Buddhism on Prince Edward Island. *Roundtable: Transnational Religious Identity and Practice in North America, at the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Conference*, Ottawa, ON.
- 2010 Shifting methodological approaches for the twenty-first century: Connecting with non-Asian Buddhist communities. *Canadian Society for the Study of Religion*. Montreal: QC.
- 2010 Rebranding, Legitimization, and Hope: Shambhala Buddhism’s Move into the Twenty-first Century. *Wilfrid Laurier University Interdisciplinary Arts Conference: “HOPE: Uncertainty, Pluralism, and Innovation.”* Waterloo, ON, March 27.
- 2007 Discussion Moderator. Partnership for Animal Welfare Society Public Film Screening: Once a Time in Antarctica (2006). Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, NS. February 13.
- 2007 Discussion Moderator. Partnership for Animal Welfare Society Public Film Screening: *Peaceable Kingdom: A Tribe of Heart Documentary* (2004). Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, NS.
- 2005 Electoral Reform: Proportional Representation Media Panel (Participant). Addressing CBC, The Guardian Newspaper, Radio & Other Media. November, Charlottetown, PEI.

## **GUEST LECTURES**

- 2017 Guest Lecture: The Spectrum of Buddhism in North America: Case Studies from a Small Island. University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana. November 8, 2017.
- 2015 Guest Lecture: *Global Buddhism: Transnationalism, Legitimization & Outreach*. Introduction to Anthropology, Dalhousie University, March.

## **BOOK CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 2019 “Religion” is the Opium of the Scholar (Response Chapter). In, Leslie Dorrough Smith (Ed.), *The Architecture of the Academy: Processes, Institutions, and Power in the Academic Study of Religion*. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing. (Forthcoming)

- 2019 Integration, Acceptance, and The Market: Buddhist Food Projects on Prince Edward Island. In J. Harding, V. Hori, A. Soucy, and J. Main (Eds.), *Buddhism in the Global Eye: Beyond East and West*. Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press. (Invited/ Forthcoming)
- 2017 Who am I? I am a new dad (Response Chapter). *Fabricating Identities*. Ed. Russell T. McCutcheon. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing.
- 2017 Are there any religions that do not have official leaders. *Religion in 5 Minutes*. Ed. Russell T. McCutcheon. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing.
- 2017 Is being a vegetarian a religious thing for some people? *Religion in 5 Minutes*. Ed. Russell T. McCutcheon. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing.
- 2017 Are Eastern religions as connected to violence as Western religions seem to be? *Religion in 5 Minutes*. Ed. Russell T. McCutcheon. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing.

### **BULLETIN ARTICLES**

- 2017 Am I a Buddhist because I am Vegetarian?: Teaching at the Intersections of Religion & Food. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*.

### **PEER REVIEWED WEB ARTICLES**

- 2017 Articulating Dinosaurs & Religions (The Story of Us). (October 13). *Culture on the Edge (A Peer Reviewed Blog)*. <https://edge.ua.edu/ellsworth/articulating-dinosaurs-religions-the-story-of-us/>
- 2017 Got Legit Milk. (March 2). *Culture on the Edge (A Peer Reviewed Blog)*. <https://edge.ua.edu/chp2/got-legit-milk/>
- 2017 Manufacturing Fast Food Founders. (February 28). *Culture on the Edge (A Peer Reviewed Blog)*. <https://edge.ua.edu/chp2/manufacturing-fast-food-founders/>
- 2017 Is Tom Brady Vegan, Vegetarian, or Just Another Omnivore?. (February 20). *Culture on the Edge (A Peer Reviewed Blog)*. <https://edge.ua.edu/chp2/is-tom-brady-vegan-vegetarian-or-just-another-omnivore/#more-10540>

### **REVIEWS**

- 2017 Review: Patrick Gray (Ed). (2016). Varieties of Religious Invention. Founders and Their Functions in History (University of Oxford Press), *Studies in Religion Volume 46* (3). 475-476.
- 2012 Review: Nati Baratz, *Unmistaken Child* (Oscilloscope Pictures 2009), *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* Volume 19.

### **REPORTS**

- 2018 Ellsworth, Jason W.M., & Elizabeth Williams Oerberg. A Report on “The Dharma and the Dime” From Washington DC. (January 19). Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies News Blog. <https://cjbuddhist.wordpress.com/2018/01/19/a-report-on-the-dharma-and-the-dime-from-washington-dc/>

## **EDITOR**

2010 Co-Editor, *Over Dinner: The Laurier M.A. Journal of Religion and Culture*, Volume 2.

## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE**

- 2011-14 Development Coordinator, Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Saint John, NB  
2010-11 Recreations Service Coordinator, GO PEI, Grand-Tracadie, PEI  
2009 Development - AIDS Walk For Life Coordinator, AIDS PEI, Charlottetown, PEI  
2008-09 Executive Director / Co-Founder, Planned Pethood, Halifax, NS  
2002-08 Human Resources / Athletic Director, Timber Lake Family of Camps, Glen Cove, NY  
2000-02 Marketing & Communications Officer, Saint Mary's University Students' Association, Halifax, NS

## **MEDIA: INTERVIEWS & NEWS REPORTS**

- 2014 Interview & News Report. D. Dickinson. Perth-Andover child receives wish. *Bugle-Observer*. Print March 14, 2014.
- 2013 Interview & News Report. Alumni events to help grant child's wish. Saint John Sea Dogs. Online August 25, 2013. (<http://www.saintjohnseadogs.com/article/alumni-events-to-help-grant-child-s-wish>)
- 2013 Interview. M.P. Beaubien. La communauté se mobilise pour Philippe Myers. *TV4*. Online June 28, 2013. ([http://cimt.teleinterrives.com/nouvelle-Regional\\_La\\_communaute\\_se\\_mobilise\\_pour\\_Philippe\\_Myers-6468](http://cimt.teleinterrives.com/nouvelle-Regional_La_communaute_se_mobilise_pour_Philippe_Myers-6468))
- 2013 Interview. Charity raises \$20K at princess tea party. *CBC News New Brunswick*. Online March 24, 2013. (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/charity-raises-20k-at-princess-tea-party-1.1371977>).
- 2013 Interview. Saint John bottle thief stealing from children's charity. *CBC News New Brunswick*. Online January, 10, 2013. (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/saint-john-bottle-thief-stealing-from-children-s-charity-1.1373663>)
- 2012 Interview. G. Roberts. Bike for Wishes campaign makes dreams come true. *Telegraph-Journal Newspaper*. Print August 15, 2012.
- 2008 News Report. Planned Pethood set up deal with Halifax feral felines. *CBC News Nova Scotia*. Online March 17, 2008. (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/planned-pethood-set-up-to-deal-with-halifax-feral-felines-1.765919>)

## **LANGUAGES**

English; French (Beginner); Mandarin Chinese (Beginner & Currently in Classes)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS**

- Canadian Anthropology Society of Canada Member
- American Anthropological Association Member
- Religious Diversity Project Member (Advisor: Dr. Christopher Helland)
- North American Association for the Study of Religion Member
- Association for the Sociology of Religion Member
- American Academy of Religion Member
- Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Member
- American Academy of Religion Member
- Internet Marketing Association Member
- Canadian Internet Marketing Association Member
- Association of Canadian Advertisers Member
- President, Sociology & Social Anthropology Graduate Association, Dalhousie (2015-2016)
- Wilfrid Laurier Religion and Culture Society Member (2009-2010)
- Executive Director: Planned Pethood, Halifax (2008-2010)
- Alumni Advisor: Partnership for Animal Welfare Society, Halifax (2009-2010)
- Saint Mary's University Religious Studies Society Member (2008-2009)
- Marketing Chair: Saint Mary's University Commerce Society (2000-2002)