

JASON WM ELLSWORTH

Research Fellow, Ph.D. Candidate, & Lecturer

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EDUCATION

- 2014 - Ph.D. Candidate, Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
Dissertation Title: Dharma Ventures: Global Buddhism, Social Enterprises and Value(s)
Current Stage: Dissertation Writing
Supervisor: Dr. Elizabeth Fitting
- 2010 M.A., Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON
Major Research Paper: Transcending Cultural Borders via the Sak Yant: Angelina Jolie's Adoptive Buddhism
- 2009 B.A. with Honours, Religious Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.
Honours Thesis: Marketing Religion: The Shambhala Brand
Advisor: Dr. Alexander Soucy
- 2003 B. Commerce (Major in 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

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2020- Research Fellow (Project: Mobilities and Externalities in Nova Scotia's Local Food Movement), Sociology & Social Anthropology Department, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2019 Lecturer, Sociology & Social Anthropology Department, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2016 Lecturer, Religious Studies and Sociology & Anthropology Departments, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI
- 2015-16 Co-organizer, Webmaster & Volunteer Coordinator. *Canadian Anthropology Society & Society for Anthropology of North America Solidarit(i)es Conference*, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2011-14 Development Coordinator, Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Saint John, NB
- 2009 Development - AIDS Walk For Life Coordinator, AIDS PEI, Charlottetown, PEI
- 2002-08 Human Resources / Athletic Director, Timber Lake Family of Camps, Glen Cove, NY

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

- 2019 Canadian Anthropology Society Travel Grant
- 2016 Buddhism in the Global Eye Travel Grant
- 2015 Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Conference Travel Grant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE DETAILED

- 2019 Lecturer (Sessional). Sociology & Social Anthropology Department, Dalhousie University. Course: Goblins, Ghosts, Gods & Gurus
- 2019 Lecturer (Sessional). Sociology & Social Anthropology Department, Dalhousie University. Course: Religion in Contemporary Society
- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming Essay in Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2020 Discourses of Veganism, Dinosaurs, & Religion: Legitimizing the Story of Us. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. (Forthcoming)

Forthcoming Edited Volume

- 2020 *Fabricating Authenticity*. (Co-editing with A. Alexander). Sheffield: Equinox Publishing. (Forthcoming)

Forthcoming Chapters

- 2020 Fabricating Authentic Tacos. In J.W.M. Ellsworth and A. Alexander (Eds.), *Fabricating Authenticity*. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing. (Forthcoming)

Book Chapters & Contributions

- 2020 Glocalization in Buddhist Food Ventures on a Small Canadian 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Journal Articles

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

Reports

- 2020 Farmers’ Markets, Community Support Agriculture, & The Local Food System in Nova Scotia: A Snapshot of Consumer Habits and Perceptions. (September 2020)
- 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/>

Book Reviews

- 2018 Review: Jiemin Bao. (2015). *Creating a Buddhist Community: A Thai Temple in Silicon Valley* (Temple University Press), *Studies in Religion Volume 47* (4). 621-622.
- 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.

Peer Reviewed Academic Web & Blog Articles

- 2019 Selling Diversity, Unity & Social Justice (2 Part Series). (March 15 & 16). *Culture on the Edge* (A Peer Reviewed Blog). <https://edge.ua.edu/ellsworth/selling-diversity-unity-social-justice-part-i/>
- 2018 Marketing the Authentic Taco. (May 11). *Culture on the Edge* (A Peer Reviewed Blog). <https://edge.ua.edu/ellsworth/marketing-the-authentic-taco/#more-11478>
- 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 Ominvore?. (February 20). *Culture on the Edge* (A Peer Reviewed Blog). <https://edge.ua.edu/chp2/is-tom-brady-vegan-vegetarian-or-just-another-ominvore/#more-10540>

Editor

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

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, ROUNDTABLES, & PUBLIC TALKS

Papers in Refereed Conferences

- 2019 Legitimizing Commodities, Legitimizing Values: Discourses of Buddhism, Organics, & Social Enterprises. Panel: The Climate of Commodity Discourses: Values We Produce, Market, And Consume (Part 1 & 2), American Anthropological Association & Canadian Anthropology Society, Vancouver, BC.
- 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..
- 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 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 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.

Organizer: Conferences Symposiums, Panels, & Chair

- 2019 Co-organizer & Co-Chair. Panel: The Climate of Commodity Discourses: Values We Produce, Market, And Consume (Part 1 & 2), American Anthropological Association & Canadian Anthropology Society, Vancouver, BC.
- 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
- 2016 Organizer & Chairperson: Solidarities at the Intersection of Food and Religion Double Panel. *Solidarit(i)es Conference, CASCA & SANA*, Dalhousie University, Halifax: NS.
- 2015 Presider: Ritual Practices Panel. *Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Conference*, Ottawa, ON.

Workshops

- 2018 Value(s) in Action: Commodification, Social Enterprises, & Marketing as Acts of Legitimation. Value, Values and Religion in the Contemporary World, Workshop at the Center for Contemporary Buddhist Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Public Academic Talks

- 2017 Food for Thought: Socially Engaged Buddhism, Social Frictions, & the Economy. Religious Studies Seminar Series. Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, NS. January 27.

2017 Kapital 150: The Relevance of Marx an Introduction. Kapital 150: Symposium on the Relevance of Marx Today. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. November 3

Guest Lectures

2019 On the Trail: Commodity Chain Analysis & Methodology. Course: Research Methods in Religious Studies. Queen's University, Kingston, ON. October 28.

2018 Transnational Socially Engaged Buddhism on Prince Edward Island. Course: Engaged Buddhism. Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS. January 31.

2017 Guest Lecture: The Spectrum of Buddhism in North America: Case Studies from a Small Island. University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana. November 8.

2015 Guest Lecture: *Global Buddhism: Transnationalism, Legitimization & Outreach*. Introduction to Anthropology, Dalhousie University, March.

Other Public Engagement

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.

LANGUAGES

English; French (Intro); Mandarin Chinese (Intermediate)

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
- 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)