

Curriculum Vitae

Renée Lynn Ford, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow, Aarhus University, Denmark

“Heart Openings: The Experience and Cultivation of Love in Religious Traditions,” ERC-funded,
Primary Investigator: Christian Suhr, Anthropology

Lecturer, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tibetan language and methodologies of religious studies

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Research Interests

In my work, I look at the adaptation and evolution of themes in contemplative practices through South and Central Asia, Buddhism, in particular. This reflection makes use of multiple aspects of religion such as literature, praxis, cultural, and philosophical components. I am also interested in how body and identity are incorporated into this process of transformation.

My current research focuses on female monastic communities in the Kathmandu valley Nepal and individual accounts of subjective experiences in Buddhist contemplative practices such as raising awakened mind (*byang chub kyi sems*), devotion (*mos gus*), and faith (*dad pa*). My methodologies include visual anthropology, life history interviews, and microphenomenology.

My work also incorporates Tibetan-English translation work. I have primarily translated mahayoga texts in the Tibetan Nyingma lineage such as the Third Dordrupchen Jigme Tenpa'i Nyima's *Staircase that leads to Lotus Light* and *Excellent Instructions on Guru Yoga*, Ratna Lingpa's *Wish-fulfilling Jewel: Devotion as the Teacher*, and Longchenpa's *Prayers of the Lama Yangtik: Cloudbanks of Nectar*.

Academic Positions

- 15/08/2022 - 15/12/2024: Post-doctoral Fellow, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark.
- 15/01/2024 - Present: Lecturer, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 01/08/2020 - 30/05/2024: Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of North Carolina - Wilmington: Asian Religions, asynchronous online delivery method.
- 15/06/2022 - 15/08/2022: Instructor for Advanced Classical Tibetan language, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 01/01/2022 - 01/06/2022: Adjunct Faculty, Naropa University, Boulder, CO: Foundations of Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, undergraduate and graduate, synchronous and in-person.
- 01/01/2022 - 15/04/2022: Adjunct Faculty, University of Denver, Denver, CO: Religions of India, undergraduate, synchronous and in-person.
- 01/02/2020 - 30/12/2021, University of Oxford: The Oral History of Tibetan Studies.
- 15/02/2021: Guest Lecturer, Modern Hinduism; Gender, Identity in South Asia, University of Denver, synchronous online delivery method.
- 15/01/2016 - 15/05/2016: Instructor, Buddhist Art and Literature, Rice University, Houston.

- 15/08/2015 - 15/12/2015: Instructor, Introduction to Tibetan Language, Rice University, Houston.

Education

- 20/08/2020: PhD title conferred
- 15/08/2013 - 20/08/2020 Ph.D. Religious Studies in Buddhist Studies, Rice University, Houston.
- 15/08/2009 - 01/06/2012 M.A. Religious Studies - Indian and Tibetan Buddhism, Nāropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- 01/09/1998 - 31/12/2000; 01/01/2004 - 15/06/2005 B.F.A. Awarded 2005, *cum laude*. University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Other relevant training

- 01/08/2021 - 15/08/2021 Oral History Center Summer Institute, OHC at the Bancroft Library, UC-Berkeley.
- 01/03/2018 - 15/03/2018 Eliciting Interview Training, Claire Petitmengin, PhD Dawn Mountain, Houston, Texas (USA)
- 15/10/2015 - 22/10/2015 Eliciting Interview Training , Claire Petitmengin, PhD France

Other relevant employment

- 01/08/2021 - 31/12/2022 Catalogue Researcher & Translation Coordinator, Khyentse Vision Project.
- 01/01/2020 - 01/06/2020 Sacred Writes and Tricycle Magazine: The Buddhist Review Partnership.
- 01/01/2017 - 30/09/2017 Bibliographic data entry, Tsadra Foundation, Boulder.
- 01/01/2012 - 01/05/2013 Internship, Tsadra Foundation, Boulder.

Teaching Experience

- 01/09/2024 - 31/12/2024: Advanced Tibetan Translation, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 01/15/2024 - 15/05/2024: Methodology in Buddhist Studies, undergraduate, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 01/09/2023 - 31/12/2023: “Contemporary Anthropology,” Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
- 01/08/2020 - present: Part-time lecturer, “Asian Religions,” University of North Carolina at Wilmington, NC
- 06/04/2023: Guest Lecturer, “Anthropological Methodologies,” Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 15/06/2022 - 15/08/2022: Instructor, Advanced Classical Tibetan Language, Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 01/01/2022 - 01/06/2022: Adjunct Lecturer, courses in Buddhist traditions Naropa University, Boulder, CO
- 01/01/2022 - 15/04/2022: Adjunct Lecturer, “Religions of India,” University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 21/01/2021: Guest Lecturer, Tibetan Graduate Studies Seminar, University of Oxford, Oxford, England.
- 15/08/2014 - 31/12/2014: Teacher Assistant to Dr. Anne C. Klein, Introduction to Buddhism, Rice University, Houston.
- 15/01/2014 - 15/05/2014: Teacher Assistant to Dr. William Parsons, Introduction to Religion, Rice University, Houston.
- 15/01/2014 - 15/05/2014: Instructor, Advanced Tibetan. Rice University

- 15/04/2013: Guest Lecturer, Health Sciences graduate Humanities course: “Introduction to Eastern Religions: Hinduism and Buddhism,” Belmont University, Nashville.
- 01/08/2012 – 15/05/2013: Teacher Assistant to professor of Religious Studies in Buddhism, Nāropa University, Boulder.
- 2012 – 2013: Teacher-in-Training, Nitartha Institute, Seattle, Washington.

Publications

Monographs

- Ford, Renée. *Devotion's Tapestry: Doing, Feeling, and Being in Buddhist Practice*. In process to be submitted to University of Virginia Press Winter 2025.

Articles, Peered Reviewed

- Ford, Renée. “Tears of Devotion: Microphenomenological Interviews Alongside Textual Readings” in *IATS Proceedings*. Leiden: Brill, *forthcoming*.
- Ford, Renée. “I Feel Different: Affect in Contemplative Practices Expressed in Microphenomenology-inspired Interviews and Considerations” in *Journal of Contemplative Studies*, *forthcoming*.
- Ford, Renée. “Tibetan Buddhist studies in Europe” in *Handbook of Buddhism in Europe*, Leiden: Brill, *forthcoming*.
- Ford, Renée. “Longchenpa’s Lineage Prayer” in *Longing to Awaken: Buddhist Devotion in Tibetan Poetry and Song*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2024, 100 - 113.
- Ford, Renée and Adam Pearcey, Trans. *Essential Instructions on Guru Yoga: The Staircase that Leads to Lotus Light (bla rnam la nye bar mkho Ba’i yi ge pad+ma ‘od du bgrod pa’i them skas bzhugs)*. Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo. <https://www.lotsawahouse.org/tibetan-masters/dodrupchen-III/staircase-lotus-light-guru-yoga-instructions>. 2022.
- Ford, Renée. “Dissolving at the Heart: Prayers of the *Lama Yangtig*: Cloud Banks of Nectar” in *Lotsawa Edited Volume*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia (Forthcoming).
- Ford, Renée. 2020. "Devotion, a Lamp That Illuminates the Ground: Non-Referential Devotional Affect in Great Completeness." *Religions* 11, no. 3: 148.
- Ford, Renée, Rachael Griffiths, Anna Sehnalova, & Daniel Wojahn. 2021. “Glimpses of The Oral History of Tibetan Studies.” *Buddhist Studies Review* 38.2, 253 - 263. <https://doi.org/10.1558/bsrv.21197>.
- Ford, Renée. “Trust in Times of Uncertainty.” In *Tricycle Magazine* 30 August 2021. <https://tricycle.org/article/tibetan-buddhism-faith/>.
- “Tibetan Book of the Dead,” in the *Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2016.
- Ford, Renée. “We Don’t Need the Guru: Shambhala Facebook Group and (Re)Creating Vajrayana Buddhism.” *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 26, 29 August 2022, 215 - 236.
- Renée Ford, "Longchenpa Drime Wozer," Treasury of Lives, accessed January 18, 2021, <http://treasuryoflives.org/biographies/view/Longchenpa-Drime-Wozer/2882>.

Book Reviews

- Ford, Renée. *History of Uyghur Buddhism*. For *Tricycle Magazine*, Fall 2024. <https://tricycle.org/magazine/uyghur-buddhism-silk-road/>. Accessed 6 September 2024.
- Ford, Renée. *Mind Beyond Brain: Buddhism, Science, and the Paranormal* for *Nova Religio* 24, no. 2 (November 2020), 132-134.

- Ford, Renée. *The Life of Jamgon Kongtrul the Great for Himalaya: The Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies* Vol. 40, no. 1 (2020), Edited by Mason Brown, PhD.
- Ford, Renée. *Atiśa Dipamkara: Illuminator of the Awakened Mind for Himalaya: The Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies* Vol. 40, no. 2 (2021), Edited by Mason Brown, PhD.

Conferences

- 23/11/2024: “Contemporary Women, Traditional Rituals and Well-rounded Education: Tekcholing Nunnery and its Redefined Buddhist Monasticism.” Redefining Buddhist Monasticism, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, USA.
- 09/10/2024: “Nyungne in Text and Practice.” Tibetology: Present Research and Future Perspectives. Basel, Switzerland.
- 03/09/2024: “Ascetic Traditions, Contemporary Times: A Preliminary Study of Nyungne Retreat at Tekcholing Nunnery, Nepal.” International Seminar of Young Tibetologists.
- 23/06/2024: “We are in This Together: Ascetic Practice and Cultivating Compassion in Nyungne Retreat.” International Seminar on Contemplative Research, Padova, Italy.
- 06/12/2023: “Devotion’s Metaphors: Longchenpa’s Homage to Samantabhadra in *A Treasure Trove of Scriptural Transmissions*.” Ruhr-Bochum, Germany
- 22/11/2023: “Languages of Experience: Understanding Open-Hearted Experiences Across Cultures.” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX.
- 23/11/2023: “Heart Opens, Spacious Love: Reading thug rje in Longchenpa’s ‘Cloud banks of nectar of the Lama Yangtik.’” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX.
- 03/10/2023: “Open Hearts in Nepal: Expressions of love and care of Kagyu Buddhist Nuns.” International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, Netherlands.
- 30/04/2023: “Space as Canvas: The Relationship between Space and Creativity for Longchenpa.” Buddhism, Creativity, & Art, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 15/07/2022: “Tears of Devotion: Microphenomenological Interviews alongside Textual Readings.” International Association of Tibetan Studies, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 20/11/2021: “Come to the Land of Padmasambhava: Sikkim as a ‘Buddhist Nation.’” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX.
- 23/11/2019: “Scandals Heard Around the World: How the Internet Changes Vajrayana Buddhism.” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA.
- 15/09/2019: “Devotion, A Lamp that Illuminates the Ground: Non-referential Devotional Affect in Dzogchen.” Society for Tantric Studies Conference, University of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, AZ.
- 15/07/2019: “Faith, an Open Flower: Jigme Lingpa’s Refuge Verse in the *Heart Essence, Vast Expanse*.” International Association for Tibetan Studies, Paris, France.
- 03/02/2019: “What’s a Subject Got to Do with it?: The Relationship between Tantra and Dzogchen in Subject Formation.” American Philosophical Association Central Conference, Denver, CO.
- 15/10/2018: “Prayers of the Lama Yangtig: Cloud Banks of Nectar.” Lotsawa Translation Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.
- 02/09/2018: “Devotion in the *kLong chen sNying Thig*: Looking at the Dodrupchen III Guru Yoga and Use of Devotion.” International Studies of Young Tibetologists, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 27/09/2017: “Embodiment of Devotion through the Third Dodrupchen’s Guru Yoga.” Himalayan Studies Conference, Boulder, CO.
- 15/03/2017: “Discovering Purity: The Role of *Vajrasattva* in the *kLong chen sNying thig sNgon ‘dro* and Significance for Subjective Transformation.” Southwest Regional AAR, Dallas, TX and Rocky Mountain Regional AAR, Boulder, CO.

- 24/06/2016: “Two Words, One Meaning: kLong chen Rab ‘byams and Tsong kha pa’s Interpretation of Tripiṭakamāla’s *Lamp for the Three Modes (Tshul gsum pa’i sgron ma)*,” International Association of Tibetan Studies, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway.
- 03/03/2016: “Purification in sNgon ‘gro,” Southwest Regional AAR, Dallas, TX.
- 05/03/2015: “Calming the Mind and Wisdom: The Relationship between Meditative Concentration and Ultimate Reality in Śāntideva’s *Bodhicaryāvatāra*,” Southwest Regional AAR, Dallas, TX
- 15/04/2014: “The Spirit of the Gnostic” Paper: “The Spirit of the Sound: Reaching the Ineffable through Vocalizations,” Rice University, Houston
- 27/02/2013: Master’s Honor Thesis: “*Selected Translation from Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra (Sher Phyin Brgyad Stong Pa) 8,000 Line Perfection of Wisdom, Chapter Twelve: Knowing the World Translated from Sanskrit and Tibetan to English*,” ASDP National Conference, Phoenix.

Language competence

	<i>Speaking</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Writing</i>
English:	Native Language		
Tibetan:	Good	Excellent	Good
French:	Fair	Competent	Fair
German:	Beginner	Fair	Beginner
Sanskrit:		Good	

Fellowships and Grants

- Tsadra Foundation: Tuition waived for Summer Tibetan Language Intensive, Advanced Track, Boulder, CO (2018, 2019) (\$1000 per annum).
- Dean’s Conference, Research and Advancement Fund: Humanities Dept. Rice University, Houston (2018, 2019) (\$1000 per annum).
- Khyentse Foundation: Translation Studies Scholarship (2018, 2019) (\$5000 per annum).
- Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship: Rice University, Houston (2018) (\$9000).
- Travel Award: Humanities Research Center, Houston (2015) (\$5000).

Distinctions

- Master’s Honors Thesis: Nāropa University, Boulder (2012).
- Graduated *Cum Laude*: University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati (2005).
- Dean’s List: University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati (1998 – 2000, 2004 – 2005).
- Cincinnati Scholarship: University of Cincinnati (Awarded 1998).

Professional Organization

- International Association of Tibetan Studies
- International Seminar of Young Tibetologists

- International Association of Buddhist Studies
- American Academy of Religion
- Association for Asian Studies

Service

- Working Group, Digital Buddhist Resource Center, since September 2018
- Student Representative Graduate Student Association: GSA, Rice University, Houston, TX (2014 – 2015)
- Representative for Student Government: United Nāropa, Nāropa University, Boulder (2009 – 2011).
- Assistant to the Director of Practice and Education: Boulder Shambhala Meditation Center, Boulder (2009 – 2010)
- Graduate Assistant: Religious Studies Department, Nāropa University, Boulder (2011 – 2012).
- Graduate Assistant: Inter-Disciplinary Department, Nāropa University, Boulder (2011).

References upon request