

**PURVI PARIKH**

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**CURRENT POSITION**

**Muhlenberg College**, Allentown, PA

Assistant Professor, Department of Religion Studies

2017-Present

**EDUCATION**

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy, South Asia Studies

August 2014

- Areas of Specialization: South Asian Religions, Modern Hinduism, Religion and Secularism, Ethics

**Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Bachelor of Arts, Math and Philosophy (Highest Honors); Minor: Psychology

2006

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS and TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor of Religion Studies, Muhlenberg College**

Fall 2017 – Present

Religion and Secularism

Nonviolence: Gandhi and His Legacy

The Moral Self

Religions of India

Modernity and the Death of God?

**Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Muhlenberg College**

Fall 2015-Fall 2016

Religions of India

The Moral Self

Modernity and the Death of God?

**Adjunct, Seton Hall University**

Religions of the World

Spring 2015

**Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania**

Introduction to Buddhism

Spring 2014

Hindu Mythology

Spring 2009

Religion in Modern India

Fall 2008

Introduction to Hinduism

Spring 2008

Pre-modern History of South Asia

Fall 2007

Introduction to Indian Philosophy

Spring 2006

**PUBLICATION**

*In progress* “Mediating Modernity: Redefining the Other through Devotion.”

“Conclusion.” In (Re)Considering Diversity, Human Difference and Global Engagement at Muhlenberg, 79-85. Pennsylvania: Muhlenberg College, 2018.

*Book review* *Receptacles of the Sacred: Illustrated Manuscripts and the Buddhist Book Cult in South Asia*, by Jinah Kim, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 41, No. 1 (March 2015): 37.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS**

“Gandhian Satyagraha in BJP’s India.” Paper accepted for the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, Nov 2020.

“Teaching Asia through Religion Studies.” ASIANetwork Annual Conference, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA, April 2019.

(Re)Considering Diversity, Human Difference and Global Engagement at Muhlenberg. Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA 2018. (Panel Discussant)

“Modernization, Religion, and the Ethics of Connectivity in Contemporary India,” ASIANetwork Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 2018. (Panel Chair and Presenter).

“Understanding New Religious Movements in India.” Religion Studies Colloquium, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, April 2016.

“The Modern Self in Indian Religions.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 2016.

“Constructing Moral Selves in Contemporary Hinduism: The Self-Ethics of Swadhyaya.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2015.

“The Self, Other and God in Modern Indian Society: A Case Study of the Swadhyaya Movement.” Paper accepted for the Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, New York, March 2014.

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**Pedagogical Development Grant, Muhlenberg College** 2021  
Awarded by Muhlenberg College’s Provost’s Office and the Faculty Center for Teaching to support the development of a current course.

**Pedagogical Development Grant, Muhlenberg College** 2020

Awarded by Muhlenberg College's Provost's Office and the Faculty Center for Teaching to support the development of a current course.

**Summer Research Grant, Muhlenberg College** 2020

Awarded by Muhlenberg College's Provost's Office and the Faculty Development and Scholarship Committee

**Course Development Grant, Muhlenberg College** 2018

Awarded by Muhlenberg College's Provost's Office and the Faculty Center for Teaching to support the development of a new course.

**Course Development Grant, Muhlenberg College** 2016

Awarded by Muhlenberg College's Provost's Office and the Faculty Center for Teaching to support the development of a new course.

**Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Muhlenberg College** 2015-2017

**Briton Martin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania** 2013-2014

Full tuition, fees, and stipend for dissertation completion.

**Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania** 2006-2011

Full tuition, fees, and stipend fellowship awarded for five years of study in the Ph.D. program at the School of Arts and Sciences.

**Teece Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania** 2011

Awarded by the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences for dissertation research in India.

**Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania** 2010

Awarded by the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences for summer research in India.

**Dean's Summer Fund, University of Pennsylvania** 2009

Awarded by the Department of South Asia Studies.

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Title VI)** 2008

Summer fellowship awarded for the study of advanced Sanskrit at the American Institute of Indian Studies in Pune, India.

**Center for Advanced Study of India Travel Fund, University of Pennsylvania** 2008

Awarded for pre-dissertation research in Mumbai, India.

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Title VI)**

2007

Summer fellowship awarded for the study of intermediate Sanskrit at the South Asia Summer Language Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**MUHLENBERG COLLEGE SERVICE**

- Faculty Advisor, Top Naach, Muhlenberg College 2015 - present
- Faculty Advisor, Asian Students Association, Muhlenberg College 2016 - present
- Co-organizer, Faculty Seminar, *The Myth of Liberal Secularism* 2016-2017
- Co-organizer, *(Re)Considering Diversity, Human Difference, and Global Engagement at Muhlenberg Conference* Spring 2018
- Lectures and Forums Committee Member 2019 – 2020
- International Studies Program Review Committee Member 2019 -2020
- Asian Studies Advisory Board, Muhlenberg College 2019 – present
- Co-organizer of anti-racism series, “From the Ashes of Relentless Racial Crises amid COVID-19: Creating a New United States of America” 2020 - present
- First Year Advising 2019, 2020
- President’s Diversity Advisory Council 2021-present

**LANGUAGES**

- Sanskrit: Advanced reading competency; intermediate speaking and writing competency; dissertation work.
- Hindi: Advanced speaking, reading, and writing competency; Fieldwork interviews and dissertation work.
- Gujarati: Native fluency in speaking. Advanced reading competency; Fieldwork interviews and dissertation work.
- French: Intermediate reading competency.

**PROFESIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
 ASIANetwork  
 Association for Asian Studies

**REFERENCES**

Dr. Kammie Takahashi  
 Associate Professor of Religion Studies  
 Muhlenberg College  
[ktakahashi@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:ktakahashi@muhlenberg.edu)

Sharon Albert  
 Senior Lecturer of Religion Studies  
 Muhlenberg College  
[salbert@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:salbert@muhlenberg.edu)

Dr. Justin McDaniel  
Professor and Chair of Religious Studies  
University of Pennsylvania  
[jmcdan@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jmcdan@sas.upenn.edu)

Dr. Deven Patel  
Associate Professor and Chair of South Asia Studies  
University of Pennsylvania  
[devenp@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:devenp@sas.upenn.edu)