

# Rachelle M. Scott

Associate Professor and Associate Head, Department of Religious Studies  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996  
865-974-6688, [rscott@utk.edu](mailto:rscott@utk.edu)

## EDUCATION

- Northwestern University Ph.D. Religion 2002
- Arizona State University M.A. Religious Studies 1994
- Lawrence University B.A. Religious Studies 1992

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, 2010 – present
- Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, 2003 – 2010
- Lecturer, University of Tennessee, 2002
- Instructor, Northwestern University, 2001

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Religion, Prosperity, and Lottery Lore: The Linkage of New Religious Networks to Gambling Practices in Thailand,” *New Religiosities, Modern Capitalism, and Moral Complexities in Southeast Asia*, edited by Juliette Koning and Gwenaël Njoto-Feillard, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- “Theravāda Buddhist Afterlife Beliefs and Funerary Practices,” *Routledge Companion to Death and Dying*, edited by Christopher M. Moreman, Routledge, 2017.
- “Contemporary Thai Buddhism,” *Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism*, edited by Michael Jerryson, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- “Pawinee Bunkhun: The Life of a Thai Buddhist Upasika,” *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism through the Lives of its Practitioners*, edited by Todd Lewis, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, June 2014.
- “The Cultivation of Memory and Invention in Contemporary Thai Festivals,” *Dharma World*, 40, April-June 2013.
- “Buddhism, Miraculous Powers, and Sacred Biographies: Re-thinking the Stories of Theravāda Nuns,” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, 33: 2, Spring 2012.
- *Nirvana for Sale?: Buddhism, Wealth, and the Dhammakāya Temple in Contemporary Thailand*, Albany: State University of New York Press, September 2009.
- “World Peace Through Inner Peace: The Discourses and Technologies of Dhammakāya Proselytization,” *Proselytization Re-visited: Rights Talk, Free Markets and Culture Wars*, edited by Rosalind I.J. Hackett, London: Equinox Publishing Ltd., October 2008.
- “A New Buddhist Sect?: The Dhammakāya Temple and the Politics of Religious Difference,” *Religion*, December 2006.

## PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Restless Ghosts and Karmic Time: Reflections on Temporality in Thai Buddhism,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans, LA, May 15-17, 2017.

- “Lottery Luck and Ethical Rewards: Gambling as Religious Practice in Thailand,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego, CA, April 16-19, 2015.
- “Religion, Prosperity, and Lottery Lore: the Linkage of New Religious Networks to Gambling Practices in Thailand,” Emerging Moral Economies in Southeast Asia: Exploring the Symbolic and Material Dimensions of “New Religiosities.” Paris, France, June 13-14, 2014.
- “The Beckoning Spirit of Thailand: Locating Nang Kwak in Thai Religious Spaces,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Pasadena, CA, April 14, 2013.
- “Beautiful Bodies Beautiful Bodies, Prosperous Lives, and Global Identities: The Rise of New Goddess Cults in Thailand,” invited lecture at Boston University’s Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, February 14, 2013.
- “Enchanted Trees and Powerful Spirits: Consumerism, Globalization, and the “Return” of Animism and Supernaturalism, paper presented at the SSEASR regional conference of the International Association of the History of Religions, Thimphu, Bhutan, July 1, 2011.
- “Goddess, Spirit, or Peasant Girl?: The Curious Case of Nang Kwak in Thailand,” paper presented at the International Association of the History of Religions World Congress, Toronto, August 16, 2010.
- “Stories of Miraculous Nuns: Rethinking Religion, Power, and Gender in Southeast Asia,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, November 9, 2009.
- “The Miraculous Powers of Extraordinary Women: Goddesses, Queens, and Nuns in Southeast Asia,” paper presented at a regional conference of the International Association of the History of Religions, Bali, June 7, 2009.
- “Meditation, Miracles, and Superhuman Powers: A Case Study of Two Remarkable Thai Nuns,” paper presented at the International Association of Buddhist Studies conference, Atlanta, June 25, 2008.
- “Dharma Beyond the Temple: Buddhist Monks and New Media in Thailand,” paper presented at Association of Asian Studies, Boston, March 23, 2007.
- “Contemporary Thai Nuns: Have We Forgotten Someone?,” paper presented at the International Association of Asian Studies, Baton Rouge, LA, February 14, 2006.
- “David Beckham as the New Face of Thai Buddhism?: Consumption, Consumerism, and Debates over Thai Buddhist Identity,” paper presented at the Global Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, May 13, 2005.
- “World Peace Through Inner Peace,” paper presented at the International Association of the History of Religions World Congress, Tokyo, Japan, March 26, 2005.
- “Nikai Mai?: The Dhammakaya Temple and the Politics of Religious Difference,” paper presented at the “Crossroads of Faith: Religious Resurgence and New Religious Movements in Southeast Asia” conference, Ohio University, March 4, 2005.
- “First Among Disciples – Second to None: Khun Yay and the Re-envisioning of Buddhist Nuns in Thailand.” University of Tennessee Inaugural Lecture. February, 2004.
- “Commissioning the Titanium Buddha,” paper presented at the South Asia Conference, Madison, WI, October, 2002.
- “The Dhammakaya Temple Controversy,” presentation at the Social Science Research Council Workshop for Fellows, Washington DC, 1999.

- “Issues of Wealth in the Dhammakaya Temple Controversy,” presentation at the Social Science Research Council Workshop for Fellows, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1999.

### **TELEVISION INTERVIEW**

- Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, PBS Broadcasting, June, 2014.

### **RADIO INTERVIEW**

- WUOT, “Thai Buddhism,” October, 2013.

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- University of Tennessee, Faculty Development Award, 2012
- University of Tennessee, Humanities Center, Faculty Fellow, 2012-2013
- University of Tennessee, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Advising Award, 2012
- National Endowment of the Humanities – Summer Research Grant, 2004
- Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University - Research Grant Recipient 1998, 2000
- Social Science Research Council - Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 1998-1999
- Northwestern University Tuition Fellowship, 1997- 2002
- Northwestern University Fellow, 1996-1997
- Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) Fellow, 1994
- Arizona State University - Teaching Excellence Award, 1994
- Phi Beta Kappa

### **DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

- Interim Head (2014-15)
- Associate Head (2011-2014; 2015-current)
- Member, Undergraduate Committee (2004-current)
- Member, Graduate Committee (2006-2008)
- Faculty Advisor, Religious Studies Association (2002-2006, 2009)
- Member, Asian Studies Subcommittee, Department Board of Visitors (2004-current)
- Member, Religion and Media, Department Board of Visitors (2006-current)
- Department Advising (2003-current)
- Media Committee (2007-current)

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- College Alumni Awards Committee
- College Research Committee (Early career and Senior research awards)
- Summer Undergraduate Research Review Committee
- College of Arts and Sciences Lecturer Promotion Committee
- Dean’s Advisory Council
- Member, Department of Religious Studies, Graduate Committee
- Member, Department of Religious Studies, Undergraduate Committee
- Member, Asian Studies Committee
- Member, Global Studies Committee

- Arts and Science Advising
- Faculty Advisor, Religious Studies Association
- Faculty Advisor, Global Studies
- Member, Humanities Curriculum Committee
- Member, Social Sciences Curriculum Committee
- Member, College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE**

- Co-editor of the journal, *Fieldwork in Religion*
- Steering Committee, Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- Member, American Anthropological Association
- Member, American Academy of Religion
- Member, Association of Asian Studies
- Member, International Association of Buddhist Studies
- Member, IAHR Women Scholars Network
- International Advisory Committee, South and Southeast Asian Association for the study of Religion and Culture