

Michael E. Naparstek

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Department of Religious Studies
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Relevant Employment

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN Fulltime Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies	2020-present
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Part-time Lecturer, Religious Studies Program	2019–2020
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Part-time Lecturer, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures	2015–2017
Ohio University, Athens, OH Part-time Lecturer, Department of Religion	2013–2015
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT Full-time Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies	2006–2008

Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison Ph.D. Chinese Literature and Culture Transdisciplinary Study of Visual Cultures, minor	2018
M.A. Chinese	2012
National Taiwan University International Chinese Language Program	2009
University of Hawai'i–Mānoa M.A. Religion (Asian)	2005
Trinity College (Hartford, CT) B.A. Religious Studies; Philosophy; International Studies (Asian)	2002
Samtenling Tibetan Monastery (Boudhanath, Nepal) Trinity College, Global Learning Site	2000

Dissertation

“Figuring on Salvation: The Demonic Savior Wang Lingguan and the Power of Presence in Daoist Ritual and Image at the Ming Court”

Committee: Mark Meulenbeld (advisor), Rania Huntington, William H. Nienhauser, Jr., Yuhang Li, Paul Copp (University of Chicago), Vincent Goossaert (Université de Paris)

Publications, Reviews and Works Under Review

Co-editor, “On Whose Terms?: The Study of Judaism and Daoism in Response to “Religion”	<i>forthcoming</i>
Special Issue, <i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i>	
“The Whiteness of Whales: “Religion” in the study of Daoism and China,”	<i>in review</i>
<i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i>	
“What’s the Matter with You, Rock?!: What the Study of Daoism Can Say about Religious Images,”	<i>in review</i>
<i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i>	
“Engendering Thunder: Imperial Consorts, Thunder Ritual, and the Power of Daoist Material Culture at the Ming Court,”	<i>In review</i>
<i>Studies in Chinese Religions</i>	
“Here’s Looking at You: The Eye-opening Life of Religious Images”	<i>in review</i>
<i>The Conversation</i>	
Entry, “The Iron Bottle”	2024
<i>Chinese Religious Culture in 100 Objects</i> , Adam Yuet Chau, editor	
Review for <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>	2024
of Richard G. Wang, <i>Lineages Embedded in Temple Networks: Daoism and Local Society in Ming Culture</i>	
Review for <i>Chinese Literature Essays Articles and Review</i>	2024
of Richard John Lynn, <i>Zhuangzi: A New Translation of the Sayings of Master Zhuang as Interpreted by Guo Xiang</i>	
Co-author and Co-editor, <i>Biographical Dictionary of Tang Literati</i>	2022
with William H. Nienhauser, Jr., Indiana University Press	
Review for <i>Journal of Chinese History</i>	2019
of Meir Shahar, <i>Oedipal God: The Chinese Nezha and His Indian Origins</i>	
Book Chapter, “Auntie’s an Exorcist: Translation and Context of ‘Xue Yi’”	2016
<i>Tang Dynasty Tales: A Guided Reader</i> , vol. 2 (World Scientific)	

Awards, Fellowships, Grants

F. Stanley Lusby and John O. Hodges Excellence in Teaching Award	2021
Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee–Knoxville	
T’ang Studies Society Scholarly Production Grant	2021
Funds Awarded for <i>Biographical Dictionary of Tang Literati</i> (2022)	
Fellow , Curriculum Development, Religious Studies Program	2019
University of Wisconsin–Madison	
Visiting Scholar , Institut für Sinologie	2016
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich	
Vilas Research Travel Grant	2015
University of Wisconsin–Madison	
Teaching Fellow Award , One of fifteen recognized	2014
College of Letters and Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison	
FLAS Award , Japanese Language	2011–2012

Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison	
University Fellow	2010 and
University of Wisconsin–Madison	2015
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	2010
University of Wisconsin–Madison	
Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence, nominee	2007
University of Vermont	
Carpenter Foundation Grant for Daoist Iconography Project	2005
University of Hawai'i in collaboration with the Honolulu Academy of Art	
Francis C. Powers M.A. Thesis Award	2005
for M.A. thesis: "Why do Bad Gods Look so Good: the Iconography of Daoism's Four Great <i>Yuanshuai</i> ," University of Hawai'i–Mānoa	
Dai Ho Chun Graduate Research Fellowship, Daoist art in US Collections	2004
University of Hawai'i–Mānoa	

Courses Taught

Lecturer, University of Tennessee–Knoxville

Supervising Senior Thesis

Religion and Gaming: Virtual Worlds, Real Agents (under development)

Religions in Global Perspective: Social Life of Religious Images

Religion and Nonprofit Leadership

Chinese Religions

Senior Honor Thesis

Religions of Asia

Religions of the World

Comparison of World Religions

Lecturer, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Daoism through Religious Practice and Visual Cultures

Religion in Critical Perspective (Theory and Method), Blended Course

Religious Studies for Leadership in Practice, Online Course

Genres of Asian Religious Writing: Buddhist Writings Across Asia

Introduction to Daoism

Lecturer, Ohio University, Athens, OH

Daoism as Print-Based Course

Lecturer, University of Vermont, Religious Studies

Asian Religious Iconography and Ritual

Daoism Seminar

Introduction to the Study of Religion: Comparative Religions

Introduction to the Study of Religion: Asian Religious Traditions

Service and Outreach

Religious Literacy for Middle School/Highschool Faculty Curriculum Knoxville Area school systems, Knoxville, TN	2023-present
Editor, Database of Religious History Daoism Unit, Templeton Funded, University of British Columbia	2021-present
Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion Daoist Studies Unit	2021-present
Co-Founder and Steering Committee, Global Daoist Studies Forum University of Hawai'i–Mānoa	2021-present
Invited Talk, "Social Life and Personhood of Religious Images" Appalachian State University, Boone, NC	2021
Co-founder, Judaism/Daoism Critical Workshop and Conference University of Wisconsin–Madison	2020-present
Blended and Online Curriculum Development Program Religious Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2019–2020
Welcoming Delegation for Nanjing University Dignitaries University of Wisconsin–Madison	2018
Invited Talk, "Daoism, Body and Gender" OutReach LGBTQ Seniors Study Group, Madison, WI	2018
Organizing Committee, Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference University of Wisconsin–Madison	2013–2016
Instructor, Teaching Workshop for College of Letters and Sciences UW-Madison, training incoming Teaching Assistants in Humanities	2014
Invited Talks on Daoism, First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI	2013–2014
Founding Member, Daoist Iconography Project University of Hawai'i–Mānoa	2004
Editorial Assistant, Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life Contributor to periodical <i>Religion in the News</i> , Trinity College, Hartford, CT	2001–2002

Professional Trainings

Teaching and Learning Innovation, UTK Design, facilitation and management techniques for online pedagogy	2023
SafeZone at UT Training, UTK Pride Center Tier 1, Tier 2 Training for LGBTQ+ safezone	2022-23
TeachOnline@UW, University of Wisconsin–Madison Design, facilitation, and management techniques for teaching online	2019
Blend@UW, University of Wisconsin–Madison Techniques for blending student-centered technology into course design	2018

Conference Participation and Workshops

Daoism in the Ming: Lineage, Locale, and the Critical Place of Daoism in Shaping Ming Culture Organizer of Session, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX	2023
“Thought in Reality” – Film Session Respondent, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX	2023
Database of Religious History Liaison, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA	2023
On Whose Terms?: The Study of Judaism and Daoism in Response to “Religion” Roundtable, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, CO	2022
On Whose Terms?: The Study of Judaism and Daoism in Response to “Religion” Co-Organizer of International Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2022
“The Whiteness of Whales: ‘Religion’ in the Study of Daoism and China” Paper, On Whose Terms? Conference, University of Wisconsin–Madison	2022
Materializing Martial Gods: Thunder Ritual, Material Culture, and the Story of Daoism in Ming China Co-Organizer of Session, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, HI	2022
“Thunder in the Bedroom: Imperial Consorts, Ritual Scrolls, and Daoist Demonifuges at Jiajing’s Court” Paper, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI	2022
(Re-)Presenting Efficacy and Agency in Chinese Religions Organizer of Session, Annual Conference of the AAR, San Antonio, TX	2021
“An Ecology of Efficacy: ‘Ling’ and Power of ‘Presence’ in Daoist Ritual” Paper, Annual Conference of the AAR, San Antonio, TX	2021
Bodies Divine: Art, Agency, and Body in Daoist and Buddhist Images Organizer of Session, Annual Conference of the AAR, Boston, MA	2020
“About Face: The Body Multiple and Icon Agency in Zhou Jichang’s 周季常 <i>Louhan Manifesting Himself as Eleven-Headed Guanyin</i>” Paper, Annual Conference of the AAR, Boston, MA	2020
Performing Images: Ritual, Art, and Agency in Chinese Religions Co-Organizer of Session, Annual Conference of the AAR, San Diego, CA	2019
“From this Becomes Real: Emergence of the True Form in Daoist Ritual and Image” Paper, Annual Conference of the AAR, San Diego, CA	2019
“Ling 靈” for Critical Terms for Chinese Religious Studies Paper, International Conference, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HK	2019
Organizing Committee, LOKA Conference and Symposium on Global Religious Leadership and Environmental Activism University of Wisconsin-Madison	2019

- “Awakening toward the Center: Hongwu’s *Subjugating the Demons*, Buddhism, and the Power of Visuality at the Margins of the Qianlong Era”** 2019
Paper, Annual Conference of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, IL
- “Symbiosis of Art and Ritual at the Ming Court”** 神像與雷法在明世宗的宮廷 2018
Paper, International Workshop, UW-Madison
- From Another World: A Conversation between Daoism and Ritual Theory** 2017
Co-Organizer of Session, Annual Meeting of the AAR, Boston, MA
- “Consummate Bodies: A Daoist Ritual Theory of the Senses”** 2017
Paper, Annual Meeting of the AAR, Boston, MA
- “Daoist Scrolls and Demon Souls”** 2017
Paper, International Conference on Daoism, Nanterre University, Paris, FR
- “Figuring on Salvation: A Daoist Scroll for Saving Souls in Jiajing’s Court”** 2017
Paper, Annual Conference for the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, CN
- Contributor, International *Shiji* Workshop** 2016
Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, GER
- “Daoist Scrolls, Saving Souls, and the Demonic Savior Wang Lingguan”** 2016
Center for East Asian Studies Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin
- Principal Organizer, “Images in/as Ritual” Workshop** 2016
Mellon Funded Conference, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Invited Moderator, “Living Through Verse** 2015
Trans-Asian Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- “Iconized Bodies: Engendering the Real Object in Daoist Ritual”** 2014
Paper, Trans-Asian Graduate Student Conference, UW-Madison
- “Re-placed Bodies: Principle of *tishen* at work in Daoist *kaiguang* ritual”** 2014
Paper, International Conference on Daoism, Boston University, Boston, MA
- “Tang Literary Consumption of Daoist Exorcism”** 2011
Paper, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- “Auntie’s an Exorcist: Daoist Exorcism in the *Guangyi ji* 廣異記”** 2011
Paper, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Macalester College, St. Paul