ALISON DENTON JONES

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Fellow in Sociology, 2019-2020
Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Lecturer on Social Studies, 2012 – 2019
Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

Lecturer on Sociology, 2011-2012
Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Harvard College Fellow in Sociology, 2010-2011
Harvard University, Department of Sociology

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2010
Dissertation: A Modern Religion? The State, The People, and the Remaking of Buddhism in Urban China Today
Committee: Martin Whyte (Chair), Christopher Winship, Nancy T. Ammerman (Boston U.)
Special Field Examination Area: Religion in Organizational Perspective

A.M. Sociology, Harvard University 2006
Thesis: Zen and the Art of Boundary Maintenance: Towards a Conceptual Framework of Boundary Work in Religious Organizations
Committee: Martin K. Whyte (Chair), Michèle Lamont, Robert P. Weller (Boston University)

Graduate Certificate, Chinese Studies 2000
Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies, Nanjing, P. R. China
Graduate-level program conducted entirely in Mandarin Chinese. Course work included China's culture, modern history, and society.

B.A. Asian Studies, Sociology minor, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 1998
magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH INTERESTS

China and East Asia, Sociology of Religion, Organizations, Culture, Social Movements, Globalization, Development, Qualitative research design and methods

PUBLICATIONS

Jones, Alison Denton. Forthcoming. "Accidental Esoterics: Han Chinese Practicing Tibetan Buddhism." In *Sino-Tibetan Buddhism across the Ages: A book dedicated to the memory of Monica Esposito*. Edited by Ester Bianchi and Weirong Shen. Brill East Asian Religions Series.

Jones, Alison Denton. 2014. "A Modern Chinese Laywoman: Dumplings, Dharani, and Dedication – Honest Auntie Li Tries to be a Good Buddhist." In *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism through the Lives of Believers*. Edited by Todd Lewis. Wiley-Blackwell.

Tran, Van C., Corina Graif, Alison Denton Jones, Mario Small, and Christopher Winship. 2013. "Participation in Context: Neighborhood Diversity and Organizational Involvement in Boston." *City & Community* 12:3, September 2013.

Jones, Alison Denton. 2011. "Contemporary Han Chinese Involvement in Tibetan Buddhism: A Case Study from Nanjing." *Social Compass* vol. 58 no. 4, December 2011. Pp 540-553.
(Invited submission to a special issue on the social impact of Buddhism in contemporary China, guest editors, Vincent Goossaert and Zhe Ji.)

Book Reviews

Jones, Alison Denton. 2019. Review of *The Hybridity of Buddhism: Contemporary Encounters between Tibetan and Chinese Traditions in Taiwan and the Mainland.* Ed. by Fabienne Jagou. *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 47.

Jones, Alison Denton. 2016. Review of *Commodifying Mount Putuo: State Nationalism, Religious Tourism, and Buddhist Revival.* by Courtney Bruntz. *Dissertation Reviews*, April 5, 2016.

Jones, Alison Denton. 2012. Review of *Social Scientific Studies of Religion in China: Methodologies, Theories, and Findings.* Ed. by Fenggang Yang & Graeme Lang. *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 40.

Jones, Alison Denton. 2011. Review of *Charisma and Compassion: Cheng Yen and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Movement.* by C. Julia Huang. *China Review International*, vol. 18, no. 1, Dec. 2011.

Jones, Alison Denton. 2009. Review of *The Violence of Liberation: Gender and Tibetan Buddhist Revival in Post-Mao China* by Charlene E. Makley. *Politics & Religion*. vol. 2., no. 2, Aug. 2009.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Jones, Alison Denton. *Blood Drives, Bodhisattvas, and Blogs: China's 21st Century Urban Buddhists*. Book in preparation.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Zen and the Art of Boundary Maintenance: Towards a Conceptual Framework of Boundary Work in Religious Organizations." Article in preparation.

HONORS AND AWARDS

The Stanley Hoffman Award for Excellence in Teaching 2016
Committee on Degrees in Social Studies, Harvard University

Graduate Student Associate 2009-2010
Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University

Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2008-2009
Supporting PhD dissertation writing
Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Junior Research Fellow 2007-2008
Fellow in Residence during PhD dissertation research year
Institute for International Research at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in Nanjing, P. R. China

J. William Fulbright Cultural Exchange Fellowship 2007-2008
Supported PhD dissertation research in P. R. China

Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship 2007-2008
Supported PhD dissertation research in P. R. China
Harvard University, Committee on General Scholarships

Hauser Center for Nonprofits Program on Religion and Public Life 2007
Small Research Grant
Harvard University, Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organization

Jack Shand Research Award 2007
Small grant for Research Expenses
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

Young Scholars in the Sociology of Religion 2007
Invitation-only conference for promising new scholars in Sociology of Religion
Center for the Study of Religion at Notre Dame

Republic of China Research Fellowship 2004
Supported MA thesis research on Buddhist Organizations in Taiwan
Harvard University, Asia Center

Hassenfeld Scholarship 1999-2000
Full academic scholarship to support study at the Hopkins – Nanjing Center

Freeman Foundation Asia Fellowship 1998-1999
Full year support for independent research on contemporary Buddhism in China and Taiwan.

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

Global Social Movements Spring 2013, Fall 2013-18

- Junior tutorial seminar teaching research design, qualitative methods, and focusing on social movement theory and cases of global social movements.

Senior Thesis Seminar Full Years 2012-16

- Half-time seminar supporting seniors writing theses, focusing on developing good writing process, how to construct and articulate an argument over several chapters.

Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Religion in a Globalizing World (Lecturer) Spring, Fall 2011

- Lecture course focusing on the contemporary roles of religion in global movements, transnational flows, and national and international public spheres.

Religious Worlds of Boston (Lecturer) Spring 2011

- Junior tutorial seminar teaching qualitative methods and research design, focusing on the intersection of urban sociology and sociology of religion.

Research for Nonprofits (Lecturer) Fall 2010, Spring 2012

- "Activity-Based Learning" conference course introducing organizational sociology and perspectives on the nonprofit sector while supporting students' in-depth research projects on nonprofit or voluntary organizations.

Research for Nonprofits (Instructor, Teaching Fellow) Spring 2005-2007
with Prof. Christopher Winship

Paradigms of Social Inquiry (Teaching Fellow) Fall 2004
with Prof. David Gibson

Harvard University, Core Program (Foreign Cultures)

China's Two Social Revolutions (Head Teaching Fellow) Fall 2005
with Prof. Martin K. Whyte

Thesis Advising and Grading

- Served as primary Thesis Advisor on 15 senior theses from 2005-present, in the departments of Social Studies, Sociology, East Asian Studies, & the Committee on the Study of Religion.
- Two of the senior theses I advised have won the Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for outstanding undergraduate research (2010 and 2018).
- Served as Thesis Grader and Oral Examiner on 30 senior theses from 2006-present, in the departments of Social Studies, Sociology, and the Committee on the Study of Religion.

Concentration Advising

- Social Studies Primary Academic Advisor for 8 juniors and seniors per year, 2012-present
- Sociology Concentration Advisor to Adams, Quincy, and Winthrop Houses, 2009-2010
- Non-resident Tutor, Sociology and East Asian Studies, Quincy House, 2005-present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Reviewer
Ongoing
American Journal of Sociology, Sociological Methods and Research, Social Science Research, Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Review of Religious Research, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Sociology Compass, Sociological Spectrum, Journal of Chinese Religions, Journal of Global Buddhism, Ethnography

Panel Organizer 2010 & 2011
Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore & Milwaukee.
"Notions of Religion around the Globe: Defining Religion from the Ground Up"

Workshop Organizer and Advisor 2009-2012
Qualitative Social Science Interschool Faculty Project, Harvard University
"Comparing Approaches to Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) Panel Discussion"

Paper Chair 2010
Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems
"Nonprofit Organizations and Community Partnerships" panel

Panel Organizer 2009
Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
"Associational Life in Contemporary China: Emerging Civic Orgs. in Urban Communities"

Panel Organizer and Discussant 2007
16th Annual Graduate Conference on East Asia, Columbia University
"Religious Mobilization in Modern China and Taiwan"

Coordinator, Workshop on Institutions & Organizing 2006-2007
Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Rapporteur, "The Politics of Religion in Contemporary China" Conference 2004
Stanford University, Centers for East Asian Studies and Buddhist Studies

Conference Assistant, "7th International Conference on Buddhist Women" 2002
Sakyadhita International, Taipei, Taiwan

AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Sections: Sociology of Religion; Sociology of Culture; Asia and Asian Americans; Organizations, Occupations, and Work; Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Society for the Study of Social Problems
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Religious Research Association
Association for Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese
Speaking: conversational fluency; reading and writing: proficient. Five years of formal language study, over four years of residence in Taiwan and Mainland China including graduate social science classes conducted in Mandarin.

REFERENCES

Martin K. Whyte
John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Sociology, Emeritus
Asia Scholar, U. of Melbourne, 2017-19
Harvard University, Department of Sociology
406 William James Hall
33 Kirkland Street
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