

Rosanna Picascia

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EMPLOYMENT

Swarthmore College, 2023 – present (*Renewal of 3-year contract*)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

Swarthmore College, 2020 – 2023
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Ph.D., Philosophy of Religion, 2019

Harvard Divinity School, M.T.S., Philosophy of Religion, 2009

The George Washington University, Honors Program, B.A., Religion (minor in Philosophy), 2007

AREAS OF SPECILIZATION

Asian Philosophy (esp. Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Philosophy), Philosophy of Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology, Pragmatism (esp. William James)

PUBLICATIONS

“Our Epistemic Dependence on Others: Nyāya and Buddhist Accounts of Testimony as a Source of Knowledge,” *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 17, no. 1 (2024): 62-80. doi: 10.1093/jhs/hiad003

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Action-Knowledge Principle in Indian Philosophy,” under review, *Philosophy Compass*

“Jayanta Bhaṭṭa on the Epistemic Significance of Religious Disagreement”

“How Do You Know That You Know What You Know? Buddhist and Nyāya Responses to a Mīmāṃsā Challenge”

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS (*indicates invited)

- Nov. 2024 “On the Inference of God’s existence: Disagreement and Permissive Rationality”
American Academy of Religion, Hindu Philosophy Unit, Philosophical
roundtable on “The Nyāya Argument for God’s Existence” *
- Oct 2024 “The Action-Knowledge Principle in Indian Philosophy”
The Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium (GPPC), Works in Progress in
Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, and Philosophy of Mind, Swarthmore
College
- Jan 2024 “Jayanta Bhaṭṭa on Action-guiding Judgements”
Eastern APA, Symposium on “The Status of Testimony as a Source of
Knowledge in Indian Philosophy” *
- Jan 2024 “Rationally Determining That We Have Knowledge: Buddhist and Nyāya
Responses to a Mīmāṃsā Challenge”
Eastern APA, Panel on “Buddhists vs. Naiyāyikas” organized by the Graduate
Student Council *
- Mar 2023 Comments on Nilanjan Das’s, “Śrīharṣa on the Indefinability of Knowledge”
Seminar on Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University *
- Dec 2021 “Is the Buddha’s Teaching Authoritative?”
Buddhism as Philosophy Lecture Series, Boston University Institute for
Philosophy and Religion *
- Dec 2020 Comments on Alex Watson’s “Do the Perceptions of Non-Enlightened People
Weigh in Favor of, or Against, Momentariness?”
American Academy of Religion, Hindu Philosophy Unit *
- Nov 2020 “Knowing from Others: Epistemic Responsibility in Testimonial Exchange”
Buddhism as Philosophy Lecture Series, Boston University Institute for
Philosophy and Religion *
- Oct 2015 “Testimony and the Problem of Religious Diversity”
Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference, Harvard University
- Sept 2015 “Hindu-Buddhist Debates on the Authority of Testimony”
South Asian Institute, Harvard University
- Oct 2014 “Knowing through Others: The Case for Testimony as a Source of Knowledge”
Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference, Harvard University
- Aug 2012 “Buddhist Thought- What’s it Really About?”
Asbury Park Summer Lecture Series, Brookdale Community College

TEACHING

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Instructor

Philosophy of Religion (seminar) – Fall 2025

Indian Philosophy – Spring 2025

Introduction to Philosophy: Personal Identity and the Self (writing course) – Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024

Introduction to Philosophy: Rationality and Religious Belief (writing course) – Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024

Buddhist Philosophy – Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2024

Comparative Theories of Knowledge – Fall 2021, Spring 2023

Introduction to Philosophy: Reasoning and Living Well – Fall 2023

Adviser

Senior Course Study – Spring 2024

Senior Thesis Adviser – Fall 2021

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Teaching Fellow

Saints, Heretics, and Atheists: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion — Spring 2020

Buddhist Philosophy — Fall 2019

World Religions — Spring & Summer 2012-2017

Buddhism and Social Change — Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Teaching Fellow

Intermediate Sanskrit — Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Saints, Heretics, and Atheists: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion — Fall 2012, Spring 2015

Studying Buddhism Across Time and Place — Fall 2012

Hindu Worlds of Art and Culture — Fall 2011

Undergraduate Thesis Adviser

Joint-concentration senior honors thesis in Religion and Philosophy — Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Instructor in Independent Course

The Self in Indian Philosophy (co-instructor) — January session mini-course, 2014

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LIFELONG LEARNING SUMMER PROGRAM

Instructor

Introduction to Buddhist Thought — 2012

Philosophy in Everyday Life — 2011

AWARDS, CERTIFICATES, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Bok Center Teaching Certificate, Harvard University – 2017

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University – 2016-2017

Graduate Student Associate Fellowship, South Asian Institute, Harvard University – 2015-2016

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, “Intermediate Sanskrit” – 2015-2016

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, “Saints, Heretics, and Atheists: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion” – 2015

Harvard Summer School Tuition Fellowship, Harvard University, German Language Study – 2010

SERVICE

Reviewer, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*

Member, Asian Studies Committee – Fall 2020-present

Member, Medieval Studies Committee – Fall 2022-present

Instructor for “Philosophy for Kids,” a class offered through The Field Co-op, a homeschooling network in the Philadelphia area – Fall 2023

Representative for the Humanities, Harvard’s Graduate Student Council – Fall 2016-Spring 2017

REFERENCES

PARIMAL G. PATIL

Professor of Religion and Indian Philosophy

Department of Philosophy and Department of South Asian Studies

Harvard University

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JEFFREY K. MCDONOUGH

Professor of Philosophy

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KRISTA K. THOMASON
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NILANJAN DAS
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