

# KEITH EDWARD CANTÚ

Goleta, California | kecantu@umail.ucsb.edu

## EDUCATION

- 2015 — Present     **Ph.D. Religious Studies**, concentration in Religions of South Asia with an interdisciplinary doctoral emphasis in European Medieval Studies (currently ABD)  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Dissertation Advisor: David Gordon White  
Dissertation Title: Śrī Sabhāpati Swāmī and the Translocalization of “Śiva’s Rājayoga”  
Comprehensive Exams: (1) World Alchemical Traditions, (2) Sufism in South Asia, (3) Buddhist Tantra, and (4) Chinese Alchemy
- 2014 — 2015     **M.A. International Studies: South Asian Studies** (2<sup>nd</sup> M.A.)  
University of Washington, Seattle  
Committee: Terri DeYoung, Christian Novetzke, Richard Salomon  
MA Thesis title: “Theurgy and the Snake: The Yoga Kalandar and Bengali Sufism”
- 2011 — 2014     **M.A. International Studies: Comparative Religion**  
University of Washington, Seattle  
Committee: Terri DeYoung, James Wellman, Michael Williams, Richard Salomon  
Final paper title: “Ritualized Alphabets, Heterodox Social Behavior, and Counter-hegemonic Force: An Analysis of the Power of Speech in Three Initiatory Traditions”
- 2006 — 2010     **B.A. International Studies (Political Science Concentration)**  
Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

## ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

**University of California, Santa Barbara** – Teaching Assistant     September 2016 – Present

### Courses Taught:

Department of Religious Studies:	Zen Buddhism (Fall 2016)
	Religious Approaches to Death (Winter 2017)
	Gods and Goddesses of India (Spring 2017)
	Islam and the West: 750-1850 (Fall 2017)
Department of Global Studies:	Global Culture and Ethics (Winter 2018)

**The Fulbright Program** – Fulbright Student Fellow (ETA) Dhaka, Bangladesh     September 2010 — August 2011  
*International Institute of Education and the U.S. Department of State*

## PUBLICATIONS

2018

“Bāuls.” In Jain P., Sherma R., Khanna M. (eds), *Hinduism and Tribal Religions*. Encyclopedia of Indian Religions. Dordrecht: Springer.

2017

“Śrīśacandrē Basur yaubankāl o yog sādhanār racanā” (“The Youth of Śrīśacandra Basu / S.C. Vasu and Works on Yogic Sādhanā”). Bhābnagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies, Vol. 7 (December). Dhaka: Bhābnagara.

*City of Mirrors: Songs of Lālan Sāi*. Text, Translations, and Commentary by Carol Salomon. Edited by Keith Cantú and Saymon Zakaria. Introduction by Jeanne Openshaw. Foreword by Richard Salomon. New York: Oxford University Press (South Asia Research series).

Review of *The Book of Abramelin* by Georg Dehn. Published in *Correspondences: Online Journal for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism*, Vol. 4 (2016).

2016

“Lālan Sāi-er bāul gāne bauddha tāntrik pratīk” (“Buddhist Tantric Elements in the Bengali Bāul Songs of Lālan Fakir”). *Bhābanagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 5 (June). Dhaka: Bhābanagara.

“Daśamahāvīdyā o dehakendrik thelimātattva” (“The Ten Mahāvīdyās and Thelemic Doctrines of the Body”). *Bhābanagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 4 (February). Dhaka: Bhābanagara.

2015

*Theurgy and the Snake: The Yoga Kalandar and Bengali Sufism*. Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing.

“Sabhāpati svāmīr jībansādhanār svarūp o bāmlār yog sādhanār sādṛśya bicār” (“The Essential Image in Sabhapaty Swami’s Lifework and an Inquiry into its Resemblance to Bengali Yogic Practice”). *International Journal of Bengal Studies*. Vol. 3 (October). Dhaka: Bhābnagara.

“Āliṣṭer krolir yogasādhanā – bāmlār bāul-suphi sādṛśya anusandhān” (“The Yoga of Aleister Crowley - An Inquiry into its Resemblance to Bengali Bāul and Sufi Practice”). *International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 2 (April). Dhaka: Bhābnagara.

2014

“Āge jāno nā re man - ingrejir anubāde lālaner gān” (“Didn’t you know it before, O my mind? - Lālan’s songs in translation”). *Bhābnagar: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 1 (August). Dhaka: Bhābnagara.

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

“The ‘Mystic Anatomy’ of Theodor Reuss.” Association for the Study of Western Esotericism (ASE) biannual meeting at Rice University in Houston, Texas. May 25, 2018.

“Buddhist Tantric Elements in the Bengali Bāul Songs of Lālan Fakir.” International Congress of Bengal Studies (ICBS) conference at Jahangirnagar University in Savar, Bangladesh. January 27, 2018.

“Haṭhayoga as ‘Black Magic’ in Early Theosophy: The Case of Rāma Prasād.” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts. November 18-21, 2017.

“The ‘Mystic Anatomy’ of Theodor Reuss.” Ascona Conference (organized by Academia O.T.O.) in Ascona, Switzerland. August 26, 2017.

“Haṭhayoga as ‘Black Magic’ in Early Theosophy and Beyond.” European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), 6th Conference in Erfurt, Germany. June 1-3, 2017.

“Śrī Sabhāpati Swāmī: Forgotten Yogi of Western Esotericism.” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. November 18-20, 2016.

“The Essential Image in Sabhapati Swami’s Lifework and an Inquiry into its Resemblance to Bengali Yogic Practice.” *Yoga darśana, yoga sādhana: traditions, transmissions, transformations international conference* in Kraków, Poland. May 19-21, 2016.

“Proposal for a Department of Magical Studies.” Magic, Miracles, and the Paranormal in Religious Imaginaries graduate conference at the University of Texas at Austin. April 9-10, 2016.

### **ACADEMIC TALKS AND LECTURES**

“Celebrating an Embodied Feminine: Lālan Fakir and the Bāuls of Bengal.” University of California, Santa Barbara. March 3, 2017. Lecture and Bāul song performance with Madeline Cantú.

“The Essential Image in Sabhapati Swami’s Lifework and an Inquiry into its Resemblance to Bengali Yogic Practice.” Paper presentation at Universität Gotenburg. May 18, 2016.

“Mahābhūter ras o bānglār bāul” (“Quintessential Fluids and the Bāuls of Bengal”). Cultural Heritage and Ethnomusicology of Bangladesh symposium at the EMK Center in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. August 26, 2015.

### **AWARDS**

2018	Foreign Language and Area Studies award (UC Berkeley) for summer intensive Tamil (second)
2018	American Institute of International Studies (AIIS) fellowship for summer intensive Tamil
2017	Foreign Language and Area Studies award (UC Berkeley) for summer intensive Tamil (first)
2015 to Present	Chancellor’s Central Fellowship at the University of California, Santa Barbara
2015	Graduate Center for Literary Research Fellowship at the University of California, Santa Barbara
2010-2011	Fulbright Student Fellowship (English Teaching Assistant): Dhaka, Bangladesh
2010	Critical Language Enhancement Award (U.S. Department of State): Bengali / Bangla

### **LANGUAGES (in order of fluency)**

**English** (incl. reading competency in Old English / Anglo-Saxon)

**Bengali** (Fluent in modern Standard, *sādhu bhāṣā*, competent in Middle and Old Bengali)

**Sanskrit** (Classical, Epic, Buddhist-Hybrid)

**Tamil** (Modern and Early Modern)

**French** (Reading fluency)

**Latin** (Medieval)

**Spanish** (Reading fluency)

### **NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

**U.S. Department of State** – Desk Officer (Intern) Washington, DC, United States      June 2012 – August 2012  
*Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA)*  
*Office of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives*

**U.S. Department of State** – Officer (Intern) Washington, DC, United States      January 2009 – April 2009  
*Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO)*  
*Office of Human Rights, Humanitarian and Social Affairs*

**International Labour Organization** – Intern      Geneva, Switzerland      June 2008 – August 2008  
*Employment Sector, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department*