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EDUCATION

- 2015 – Present **Ph.D. Religious Studies**, concentration in Religions of South Asia; interdisciplinary doctoral emphasis in European Medieval Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara
Dissertation Title:
Sri Sabhapati Swami and the “Translocalization” of Śivarājayoga
Comprehensive Exams (Passed): (1) World Alchemical Traditions, (2) Sufism in South Asia, (3) Buddhist Tantra, (4) Chinese Alchemy
- 2014 – 2015 **M.A. International Studies: South Asian Studies** (2nd M.A.)
University of Washington, Seattle
- 2011 – 2014 **M.A. International Studies: Comparative Religion**
University of Washington, Seattle
- 2006 – 2010 **B.A. International Studies** (Political Science concentration)
Pepperdine University

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2016 – Present **University of California, Santa Barbara** — Teaching Assistant
Department of Religious Studies
Department of Global Studies
- 2010 – 2011 **The Fulbright Program** — English Teaching Assistant
St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Dhaka, Bangladesh

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2017 *City of Mirrors: Songs of Lālan Sāi*. Text, translations, and commentary by Carol Salomon, edited by Keith Cantú and Saymon Zakaria, New York: Oxford University Press (South Asia Research series).
- 2015 *Theurgy and the Snake: The Yoga Kalandar and Bengali Sufism* (M.A. thesis), Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing [note: LAP is a non-academic, print-on-demand press I used to self-publish my masters thesis].

Articles and Chapters (English)

- 2021 “Sri Sabhapati Swami: The Forgotten Yogi of Western Esotericism,” in *The Occult Nineteenth Century: Roots, Developments, and Impact on the Modern World*, edited by Lukas Pokorny and Franz Winter, London: Palgrave Macmillan (submitted and accepted for publication; forthcoming), 347–71.
- 2021 “The Eighth Instruction of the *Rasāyanakhaṇḍa*,” in Indian alchemy handbook published by the ERC-funded Ayuryog project, edited by Dagmar Wujastyk and Patricia Sauthoff (submitted and accepted for publication, ~30 pages; forthcoming).
- 2021 “Songs for Siddhi: An Ethnographic Analysis of Bāul Fakiri Sādhanā.” In *Tantric Traditions as Lived Religion: Re-Imagining Tantra through Ethnography*, edited by Carola Erika Lorea and Rohit Singh. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press (submitted and accepted for publication, ~25 pages; forthcoming).
- 2020 “‘Don’t Take Any Wooden Nickels’: Western Esotericism, Yoga, and the Discourse of Authenticity.” In *New Approaches to the Study of Esotericism*, edited by Egil Asprem and Julian Strube. Supplements to Method & Theory in the Study of Religion. Leiden: Brill (submitted and accepted for publication, 18 pages; forthcoming).
- 2020 “Sri Sabhapati Swami,” in *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, edited by Knut Jacobsen, Leiden: Brill (submitted and accepted for publication, ~15 pages; forthcoming).
- 2019 “Islamic Esotericism in the Bengali Bāul Songs of Lālan Fakir,” *Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism* 7, no. 1 (Special Issue: Islamic Esotericism), 109–65.
- 2018 “Bāuls,” in *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions: Hinduism and Tribal Religions*, edited by P. Jain, R. Sherma, and M. Khanna, Dordrecht: Springer (7 pages).

Articles (composed in Bengali)

- 2018 শ্রীশচন্দ্র বসু ও বাংলার অনুবাদে সভাপতি (“Śrīś Candra Basu and Sabhāpati’s Bengali translation”), *Bhābnagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 9 (December), Dhaka: Bhābnagara, 1099–1106.

- 2017 শ্রীশচন্দ্র বসুর যৌবনকাল ও যোগ সাধনার রচনা (“The youth of Śrīśacandra Basu / S.C. Vasu and works on yogic *sādhana*”), *Bhābnagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 7 (December), Dhaka: Bhābnagara, 833–844.
- 2016 লালন সাঁই-এর বাউল গানে বৌদ্ধ তান্ত্রিক প্রতীক (“Buddhist Tantric elements in the Bengali Bāul songs of Lālan Fakir”), *Bhābanagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 5 (June), Dhaka: Bhābanagara, 583–600.
- 2016 দশমহাবিদ্যা ও দেহকেন্দ্রিক থেলিমাতন্ত্র (“The Ten Mahāvidyās and thelemic doctrines of the body”), *Bhābanagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 4 (February), Dhaka: Bhābanagara, 495–506.
- 2015 সভাপতি স্বামীর জীবনসাধনার স্বরূপ ও বাংলার যোগ সাধনার সাদৃশ্য বিচার (“The essential image in Sabhapaty Swami’s lifework and an inquiry into its resemblance to Bengali yogic practice”), *Bhābnagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*. Vol. 3 (October), Dhaka: Bhābnagara, 386–400.
- 2015 আলিস্টের ক্রোলির যোগসাধনা - বাংলার বাউল-সুফি সাদৃশ্য অনুসন্ধান (“The yoga of Aleister Crowley – an inquiry into its resemblance to Bengali Bāul and Sufi practice”), *Bhābnagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 2 (April), Dhaka: Bhābnagara, 233–47.
- 2014 আগে জানো না রে মন - ইংরেজির অনুবাদে লালনের গান (“Didn’t you know it before, O my mind? - Lālan’s songs in translation”), *Bhābnagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 1 (August), Dhaka: Bhābnagara, 115–37.

Reviews

- 2021 Book Review: Jeffrey Kripal and Whitley Strieber, *The Super Natural: A New Vision of the Unexplained*, in *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* (submitted and accepted for publication, 3 pages; forthcoming).
- 2019 Book Review: Aparna Kapadia, *In Praise of Kings: Rajputs, Sultans and Poets in Fifteenth-century Gujarat*, in *Journal of Medieval Worlds* 1, no. 3 (September), University of California Press, 125–28.
- 2018 Book Review: Keya Maitra, *The Bhagavad Gita: A Guide to Navigating the Battle of Life*, in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* (online).

- 2018 Book Review: Ravi Ravindra, *Philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita: A Contemporary Introduction*, in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* (online).
- 2017 Book Review: Georg Dehn, *The Book of Abramelin*, in *Correspondences: Online Journal for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism*, Vol. 4 (2016), 134–37.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (accepted; indefinitely postponed due to COVID-19)
- 2019 Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship (declined)
- 2018 American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Junior Research Fellowship, named as Ludo and Rosane Rocher Research Fellowship in Sanskrit Studies
- 2018 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, Tamil (AIIS in Madurai)
- 2017 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, Tamil (SASLI)
- 2015 Chancellor's Central Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara
- 2015 Graduate Center for Literary Research Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara
- 2010 Fulbright Student Fellowship (English Teaching Assistantship), Bangladesh
- 2010 Critical Language Enhancement Award (U.S. Department of State), Bengali
- 2009 Pi Delta Phi (French Honor Society)

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 "Sri Sabhapati Swami and Translation Translocalized?", Translation Across Time and Space, Indiana University, India Gateway, New Delhi, 11–12 January.
- 2019 "Notes toward an Ethnography of Bengali Fakiri Yoga and Tantra," International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) 11, in Leiden, July 16–19.
- 2019 "The Buddhist *skandhas* and Ceremonial Intoxication in the Works of Aleister Crowley," European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), University of Amsterdam, 2–4 July.
- 2019 "The Role of Herbal Intoxication in Bengali Fakiri *Sādhana*," European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), University of Amsterdam, 2–4 July.
- 2018 "The 'Vedāntic Rājayoga' of Śrī Sabhāpati Swāmī: Its History and Practice," Occult South Asia. From the 19th to the 21st century Workshop. University of Vienna, Austria, 23–24 November.

- 2018 “The ‘Vedāntic Rājayoga’ of Śrī Sabhāpati Swāmī,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in Denver, CO, 17–20 November.
- 2018 “From Basu to Vasu and Back Again: Śrīśacandra Basu’s Tantric Legacy,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in Denver, CO, 17–20 November.
- 2018 “The ‘Mystic Anatomy’ of Theodor Reuss,” Association for the Study of Western Esotericism (ASE) biannual meeting at Rice University in Houston, TX, 25 May.
- 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, 27 January (paper delivered in absentia).
- 2017 “Haṭhayoga as ‘Black Magic’ in Early Theosophy: The Case of Rāma Prasād,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in Boston, MA, 18–21 November.
- 2017 “The ‘Mystic Anatomy’ of Theodor Reuss,” Ascona Conference (organized by Academia O.T.O.) in Ascona, Switzerland, 26 August.
- 2017 “Haṭhayoga as ‘Black Magic’ in Early Theosophy and Beyond,” European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), 6th Conference in Erfurt, Germany, 1–3 June.
- 2016 “Śrī Sabhāpati Swāmī: Forgotten Yogi of Western Esotericism,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in San Antonio, TX, 18–20 November.
- 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, 19–21 May.
- 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, 9–10 April.

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2018 “Bengali Tantra in its Colonial and Contemporary Contexts,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in Denver, CO, 17–20 November.

- 2016 “South Asian Yoga and Tantra in Western Esoteric and Occult Traditions: A Cross-fertilization of Practice,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in San Antonio, TX, 18–20 November.

COURSES TAUGHT (TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS)

University of California, Santa Barbara

- Dept. of Religious Studies: Gods and Goddesses of India (accepted, Spring 2021)
Modern Iran (Spring 2019)
Religion and Western Civilization: Medieval (Winter 2019)
Native American Rel. and Phil. Traditions (Fall 2018)
Islam and the West: 750–1850 (Fall 2017)
Gods and Goddesses of India (Spring 2017)
Religious Approaches to Death (Winter 2017)
Zen Buddhism (Fall 2016)
- Dept. of Global Studies: Global Culture and Ethics (Winter 2018)

LANGUAGES

- English**, native fluency, reading competency in Old English
Bengali, fluency in modern Standard, *sādhu bhāṣā*, competency in Middle and Old
Tamil, advanced reading and speaking, modern and nineteenth-century Maṇḍipravāla
Sanskrit, advanced reading in Classical, Epic, Buddhist-Hybrid, Tantric/Alchemical
French, reading fluency, intermediate speaking
Hindi, German, reading competency, elementary to intermediate speaking
Latin, reading competency, Medieval
Spanish, reading competency

OTHER INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS

- 2020 “Sri Sabhapati Swami and Yoga in Modern Occultism,” Ordo Templi Orientis - Carl Kellner Camp, Hallein, Austria, 25 July.
- 2018 “Tantric Roots of Thelema: Fact and Fiction,” Star Sapphire Lodge, Los Angeles, 16 December.
- 2017 “Celebrating an Embodied Feminine: Lālan Fakir and the Bāuls of Bengal,” lecture and Bāul song performance with Madeline Cantú, University of California, Santa Barbara, 3 March.

- 2016 “The Essential Image in Sabhapati Swami’s Lifework and an Inquiry into its Resemblance to Bengali Yogic Practice,” Universität Gotenburg, 18 May.
- 2015 “Mahābhūter ras o bāṅglār bāul” (“Quintessential fluids and the Bāuls of Bengal”), Cultural Heritage and Ethnomusicology of Bangladesh symposium, EMK Center in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, 26 August.

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 *The Collected Works of Sri Sabhapati Swami, Volume One: Om. A Treatise on Vedantic Raj Yoga Philosophy (1880)*. The Mahatma Giana Guroo Yogi Sabhapaty, edited by Siris Chandra Basu and Keith E. Cantú, with a new introduction and annotations. OTO Editions (submitted and accepted for publication, ~200 pages; forthcoming).

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2012 **U.S. Department of State** — Desk Officer (Intern) Washington, DC
Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA)
Office of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives
- 2009 **U.S. Department of State** — Officer (Intern) Washington, DC
Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO)
Office of Human Rights, Humanitarian and Social Affairs
- 2008 **International Labour Organization** — Intern Geneva, Switzerland
Employment Sector, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department