

**Elizabeth Mary Rohlman**

Associate Professor

Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary  
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**Education**

- 2007 Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia  
1999 M.A., Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia  
1997 B.A., *summa cum laude*, Philosophy, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

**Professional Appointments**

- 2014-present Associate Professor, Department of Classics & Religion, University of Calgary  
2008-2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Calgary  
2007-2008 Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2000 Instructor, Antioch University, Buddhist Studies Abroad in Bodh Gaya, India  
1999-2000 Lecturer, Religion Department, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia  
1998-2003 Teaching Assistant, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia

**Current Research**

Research Projects:

"Textual Processes: Narrative Design, Communal Identity, and Authorship in the Inter-textual Dialectics of the Sanskrit Purāṇas." Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Grant (\$118,503), commencing May 1, 2012.

Books:

*Telling the Stories of Geography: Compositional Process, Narrative Design, and Communal Identity in the Sarasvatī Purāṇa.* Book manuscript near completion.

*The Discourses of a Great Purāṇa: Inter- and Intra- Textual Dialectics of the Markāṇḍeya Purāṇa.* Co-authored with Raj Balkaran. Book Proposal in Development.

**Publications**

Articles and Book Chapters

2018. "Colonial Era Purāṇa Studies: The Curious Case of the Markāṇḍeya Purāṇa." In *Proceedings of the Purāṇa Section of the 16th World Sanskrit Conference*. Raj Balkaran and McComas Taylor, editors. New Delhi: Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. Anticipated 2018.

2017. "Elusive Sarasvatī." In *Hindu Goddesses*, Mandakranta Bose, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Anticipated 2017.
2016. "Vernacular Sanskrit and Regional Literary Culture in the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." *Journal of the Oriental Institute* 65, 1-4: 71-90.
2016. "Of Cities, Kings, and Step-wells: Purāṇic Imaginings of History and Religion." Forthcoming in *Proceedings of the Epics and Purāṇas Section of the Fifteenth World Sanskrit Conference*, edited by Alf Hiltebeitel, et al. New Delhi: Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. Expected 2016.
2015. "The Dialogue of Tradition: *Purāṇa*, *Gīta*, and Theological Heritage." Forthcoming in *Dialogue And Early South Asian Religions: Frame Stories and Intertextuality in Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist Sources*, edited by Brian Black and Laurie Patton. London: Ashgate, 137-150.
2011. "Geographical Imagination and Literary Boundaries in the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 15, 2: 139-163.
2010. "Manuscripts of the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa* in the Archives of Western India." *Journal of the Oriental Institute* 59, 1-2: 151-162.
2005. "Textual Authority, Accretion, and Suspicion: The Legacy of Horace Hayman Wilson in Western Studies of the *Purāṇas*." *Journal of the Oriental Institute* 52, 1-2: 55-70.

Books Reviewed:

2015. *Exploring the Bhagavad Gita* by Ithamor Theodor. *Religious Studies Review*, 41, 2: 90.
2013. *Woman and Goddess in Hinduism: Re-interpretations and Re-envisionings* edited by Tracy Pintchman and Rita D. Sherma. *Religious Studies Review* 39, 1: 50.
2012. *India's Immortal Comic Books: Gods, Kings, and Other Heroes* by Karline McLain. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 79, 1: 270-273.
2011. *Sarasvatī: Riverine Goddess of Knowledge* by Catherine Ludvik. *Journal of Asian Studies* 70, 3: 874-875.

Oral Publications/Conference Papers:

2017. "The Dynamic Canon of the Purāṇas and the Ethnography of the Classroom." Narrative and Pedagogy in the Hindu Studies Classroom Workshop. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Boston, Massachusetts. November 17, 2017.
2016. "Text, Function, Genre in South Asian Traditions." The 45th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison Wisconsin.
2016. "Narrative Discourse and Intertextual Engagement in the *Markāṇḍeya Purāṇa*'s Frame." The Spalding Symposium on Religion in India. Cardiff, Wales.
2015. "Discourses in Authority: Sparrows, Sages, and Moral Questioning in the *Markāṇḍeya Purāṇa*." The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.

2015. "Colonial Era Purana Studies: The Curious Case of the Markāṇḍeya Purāṇa." Presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.
2014. "From *Maha* to *Sthala* and Back Again: Narrative and Identity in the Evolution of a Purāṇic Narrative." The Seventh International Conference on Sanskrit Epics & Purāṇas, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
2013. "Becoming a Region: Sarasvatī's Sanctification of Landscape, Theology, and Community in the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
2012. "Writing a Region: Place, Community, and Goddess in the *Purāṇas* of Gujarat." Presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
2012. "Of Cities, Kings, and Step Wells: Purāṇic Imaginings of History and Religion." The 15<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, New Delhi, India.
2011. "Envisioning a Future Philology for the Sanskrit *Purāṇas*." The American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
2009. "The Fluid Textual Boundaries of the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
2008. "Sammukham: Dialogue in South Asian Religious Literature." Panel Discussant at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago.
2006. "Textual Boundaries and Sectarian Identity in the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." The 13<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland.
2005. "The Bodies of Texts: Exploring the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa* through its Manuscripts." The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
2005. "On Religion, Literature, and Geography: Regional and Trans-Regional Narrative Traditions in the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." The Fourth International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and *Purāṇas*, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
2005. "Rethinking the Sanskrit Cosmopolis: Elite and Popular in the *Purāṇas* of Gujarat." Presented at "Elite and Popular Interface: India's Art History," Fine Arts Faculty, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, India.
2004. "Reading Across Cultures: Positioning the Reader in the Dialogics of Orientalists and Post-Said Scholarship." Presented at "Dialogics of Cultural Encounters: Seventh International Conference of the Forum for Contemporary Theory," Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.
2003. "On Being a Reader of Texts: Horace Hayman Wilson, Vans Kennedy, and the Fate of the Sanskrit *Purāṇas*." The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.

Oral Publications/Invited Lectures:

2017. "Encountering Hinduism at the Crossroads of Myth and History." CSEE Secondary School Religion Teachers Workshop at the American Academy of Religion. Boston, Massachusetts. November 17, 2017.
2017. "Rewriting Religion & Rescuing Genre: The Evolution of Texts, Gods, & Peoples in the Sanskrit Purāṇas." Calgary Institute for the Humanities. September 21, 2017.
2016. "The Elusive Sarasvatī." The University of British Columbia, Centre for Asia Research. March 3, 2016.
2015. "The Nine Nights of the Goddess: Celebrating Navaratri Across India." Calgary Institute for the Humanities. December 17, 2015.
2015. "(Re)Writing a Region: Evolution and Religious Vision in the Sarasvatī Purāṇa." MS University of Baroda Department of English, Vadodara, Gujarat, India, June 2015.
2015. "The Stories "We" Tell about the Stories "They" Tell: Studying Religion and Narrative." Keynote Lecture at the SPIRAL Graduate Conference, University of Calgary.
2015. "Indian Penal Code 295(A): Religious Sensibilities and the Politics of Studying Religion." Classics & Religion Department Lecture Series, University of Calgary.
2013. "Grant Writing 101: Crafting a Successful Proposal." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Student Lounge Roundtable, Baltimore, Maryland.
2012. "The Hindu City as Sacred Landscape." Religious Studies Department Colloquium, University of Calgary.
2010. "Good Bad Sanskrit." The Medieval and Renaissance Cultural Studies Group, University of Calgary.
2009. "Hindu Traditions." Grace Presbyterian Church, Calgary.
2009. "The Valuable Lessons of Pulp Fiction: An Inquiry into the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." The Forum for Contemporary Theory, Vadodara, India.
2006. "Geographical Imagination and Communal Identity in the *Sarasvatī Purāṇa*." The Center for South Asia Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Grants, Fellowships & Awards**

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| 2015-2016 | Calgary Institute for the Humanities Fellowship  |
| 2015      | Faculty of Arts SEED Grant, \$2,500  |
| 2012      | Social Science and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant (\$118,503)   |
| 2011      | Conference Travel Grant, University of Calgary URG (1,800)   |
| 2009      | Career Development Award, University of Calgary Faculty of Humanities (\$800)                                    |
| 2009      | Research Grant for New Faculty, University of Calgary URG (\$8,500)  |
| 2006      | Faculty Senate Dissertation Writing Fellowship in Recognition of Excellence in Teaching, University of Virginia. |

2005, 2004	Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation (award declined)
2004	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Gujarati), University of Virginia.
	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, U.S. Department of Education
2003	Fulbright IIE Research Fellowship, U.S. State Department (award declined)
	Mellon Fellowship for Pre-dissertation Research in Archival Resources, Institute for Historical Research, University of London
	All-University Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia
2003, 1999	Semi-finalist, Seven Society Graduate Teaching Fellowship, University of Virginia
2001-2005	Governor's Fellowship, University of Virginia
1997	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Tibetan), University of Virginia

### Graduate Supervision

#### M.A. Students:

Anusha Sudindra Rao. Thesis Topic: Influences of Kāvya and Kātha in Purāṇic Literature. Supervised since September, 2017.

Genevieve Minions. *Morality in War: A Comparison between Bhīma from the Mahābhārata and Achilles from the Iliad*. Successfully defended September, 2017.

Emily Kotow. *Myth Matters: Intelligent Imagination in Plato's Phaedo and Phaedrus*. Successfully defended August, 2017.

Erica MacLachlan. *The Story of Section 295-A: A Law and Literature Approach*. Successfully defended July, 2017.

Kendra Marks. *Goddesses, Monsters, and Monstrous Goddesses: The Portrayal of Kālī in the Devī Māhātmya*. Supervised 2008-2010. Successfully defended January, 2011.

#### Ph.D. Students:

Durga Kale. Thesis Topic: Narrative, Gender, and Healing at the Śakta Pithas of Maharashtra. Supervising beginning September, 2016.

Raj Balkaran. *Kingship, Asceticism, and the Greatness of the Goddess: An Analysis of Sovereignty in the Devī Mahātmya within the Context of the Markāṇḍeya Purāṇa*. Successfully defended September, 2015.

#### Doctoral Supervisory Committees:

Mihai Derbac (Since 2011). Supervisor: Dr. James Apple. Advanced to Candidacy April, 2013.

Sarah Gallant. Supervisor: Dr. Morny Joy. Successfully Defended Dissertation May, 2013.

Roselle Gonsalves. Supervisor: Dr. Anne Moore. Successfully Defended Dissertation September, 2015.

Campbell Peat (Since 2014). Supervisor: Dr. Chris Framarin. Advanced to Candidacy September, 2015.

Examination Committees:

Chien-Yaun Hsu, Religious Studies. Doctoral Candidacy Exam, April 2010. Supervisors: Dr. Leslie Kawamura and Dr. James Apple.

Allison Mader, English. M.A. Thesis Exam, September 2009. Supervisor: Dr. Clara Joseph.

Rhea McCarroll, Religious Studies. Honors Thesis Exam, December 2009. Supervisor: Dr. Irving Hexham.

Anna Sammuelsen, Religious Studies. Honors Thesis Exam, April 2009. Supervisor: Dr. Leslie Kawamura.

**Service**Service to the University :

2017-2018	Undergraduate Committee, Department of Classics & Religion
2017	Merit Review Committee, Department of Classics & Religion
2017	Merit Review Committee, Faculty of Arts
2014-2015	Graduate Program Director, Religious Studies Program
2014-2015	Head's Advisory Committee, Department of Classics & Religion
2014-2015	Chair of Christian Thought Steering Committee
2013-2015	Faculty of Arts Research & Scholarship Committee
2012-2013	Search Committee, Numata Chair in Buddhist Studies
2011-2012	Faculty of Arts Curriculum and Academic Review Committee
2011-2012	Religious Studies Head's Advisory Committee
2009-2010	Religious Studies Graduate Program Committee
2012	Referee for the Religious Studies Annual Graduate Student Symposium
2010	Faculty of Humanities Research Leave Committee
2010	Referee for the Religious Studies Annual Undergraduate Essay Competition
2008-2009	Religious Studies Undergraduate Advisor
2008-2009	Religious Studies Visiting Speaker Committee

Service to the Profession:

2016-2018	Co-Convenor, Purāṇa Section, 16 <sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, Vancouver
2014-2015	Co-Convenor, Purāṇa Section, 15 <sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, Thailand
2011	Co-organizer of the Dr. Leslie Kawamura Memorial Panel and Reception at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2011.

**Other Professional Qualifications**Languages:

Reading knowledge of Sanskrit, Gujarati, Pali, Classical Tibetan, French, Russian  
Basic Speaking proficiency in Gujarati

Professional Affiliations:

American Academy of Religion, International Association for Sanskrit Studies, Forum for Contemporary Theory