

Adam Newman

Department of Religion • University of Illinois • 3027 Foreign Language Building 707 S
Matthews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801 • anewman4@illinois.edu

EDUCATION

University of Virginia, Ph.D. Department of Religious Studies
Dissertation title: “Constructing Sacred Space In Mewar: Text, Temple and Landscape in the Fifteenth Century *Ekalingamāhātmya*.” Advisor: John Nemecek.

University of Virginia, M.A. Department of Religious Studies

University of California, Santa Barbara, B.A., *cum laude*, Department of Religious Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2020-present
Assistant Professor, Department of Religion

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2019-2020
Lecturer, Department of Religion

University of Mary Washington 2017-2018
Instructor, Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion

University of Virginia 2013
Instructor, Department of Religion

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

“Royal Eulogies in Stone: Epigraphy, Narrative, and the Refashioning of the Mythic Landscape in Fifteenth Century Rajasthan,” Brown Bag Speaker series, UIUC Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, April 2022.

Respondent to Hannah Silverblank, “Monstrosity, Motherhood, and Music in the Myth of Medusa,” part of *Bodies in Crisis* speaker series, UIUC Spurlock Museum, March 10, 2022.

“Mapping the Sacred in the ‘Land of Kings’: Myth and Warfare in a Fifteenth-century Hindu Kingdom.” University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Religious Studies Program, March 7th, 2022.

“Making Space in Mewar: At the Border of Trauma, Memory, and History in Fifteenth-Century Rajasthan.” Annual National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2019.

“The Spatial Context of Genealogy: The Āṭapura Inscription and its Relationship to the 15th Century *Ekalingamāhātmya*.” 229th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 2019.

“Dismembering Demons: Spatial and Bodily Representations in the Fifteenth-Century

Ekalingamāhātmya.” Annual National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2018.

“Rāṣṭrasenā: A Regional Martial Goddess Set in a Theriomorphic Yoginī Form.” Annual National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2017.

“Goddess of the Mountain, Goddess of War: Representations of the Divine Feminine in the *Ekalingamāhātmya.*” Presentation at The South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference, Jaipur, India, February 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

Constructing Sacred Space in Mewar: Text, Temple, and Landscape in the Fifteenth-Century Ekalingamāhātmya. (In progress).

“Body, Community, Cosmos: A Śaiva Siddhānta Rite of Initiation.” In *The Handbook of Religion and the Body*. Edited by George Pati and Yudit Greenberg. London: Routledge. Forthcoming.

“Lineage in its Spatial Context: Epigraphy, Geography, and the Formation of Political Unity in Medieval Mewar.” *Journal of Hindu Studies*, published March 8th, 2022.

“Rāṣṭrasenā: Hawk Goddess of the Mewar Mountains.” In *Garland of Forgotten Goddesses: An Anthology of Hindu Goddess Tales*. Edited by Michael Slouber. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2020.

“Dismembering Demons: Spatial and Bodily Representations in the Fifteenth-Century Ekalingamāhātmya.” In *Transformational Embodiment in Asian Religions: Subtle Bodies, Spatial Bodies*. Edited by George Pati and Katherine Zubko. London: Routledge, 2019.

Review of Axel Michaels *Homo Ritualis: Hindu Ritual and Its Significance for Ritual Theory*, in *Reading Religion*, a publication of the American Academy of Religion.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fulbright-Nehru Research Grant—India (2015-2016)

University of Virginia Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Summer Research Grant (2015)

American Institute of Indian Studies Language Fellowship—Hindi (2013-2014)

American Institute of Indian Studies Language Fellowship—Hindi (2011)

American Institute of Indian Studies Language Fellowship—Sanskrit (2009)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Religions of South Asia

Asian Mythology and Narrative

Sanskrit literature

Purāṇic narratives

Sacred geography

Political history of pre-modern South Asia
The politics of space
Goddess traditions in South Asia

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Steering Committee Member, Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2022-2027

National Humanities Alliance's National Advocacy Day delegate, March 13-15, 2022 (online)

UIUC Religion Department, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2020-

UIUC Faculty Advisor to the Student Association, 2020-

UIUC Search Committee for an Instructor of Islam, Spring 2021

LANGUAGES

Sanskrit—Advanced proficiency

Hindi—Advanced proficiency (reading and speaking)

German—Reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Oriental Society

REFERENCES

John Nemeč
Associate Professor
University of Virginia
Gibson Hall, S-354
Charlottesville, VA 22904
jwn3y@virginia.edu
434-924-6716

Robert Hueckstedt
Professor
University of Virginia
137 New Cabell Hall
Charlottesville, VA 22904
rah2k@virginia.edu
434-243-8228

Jalane Schmidt
Associate Professor
University of Virginia
Gibson Hall, S-364
Charlottesville, VA 22904
jds7b@virginia.edu
434-924-1061

Michael Allen
msa2b@virginia.edu
Assistant Professor
University of Virginia
Gibson Hall
Charlottesville, VA 22904
434-924-8311