

Maxine R. Katz
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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, M.A., Department of Religion, May 2025 (expected)
GPA: 3.82/4.0
Areas of Study: Religions of India (Hinduism and Jainism), Ritualization and Methods
Global Studies Graduate Minor
Program Dates: August 2021 – May 2024

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, B.A., Department of Religion, December 2020
Major GPA: 3.8 (3.5 Overall GPA)
Concentrations: Catholicism, Judaism, Hinduism
Spanish Minor, Interfaith Certificate

Awards and Honors

David L. Boren Fellowship, South Asia Flagship Languages Initiative (SAFLI), Department of Defense, Summer 2023, and Academic Year 2023-2024

Foreign Language Acquisition Scholarship (FLAS) Graduate Level Fellowship, Beginner Hindi, Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Academic Year 2022-2023

Full Tuition Fee Remission, Beginner Sanskrit, South Asian Summer Language Institute, Summer 2021

Ronald Filler Scholarship, Program of Jewish Culture and Society, Fall 2020

Marjorie Hall Thulin Study Abroad Scholarship, Department of Religion, Summer 2019

Frances E Smith Scheidel Scholarship, School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics, 2019-2020

Dean's List, Fall Semester 2018, Spring Semester 2019, Spring Semester 2020, Fall Semester 2020

Declined Awards

American Institute of Indian Studies, Hindi Fellowship, Jaipur, India, Academic Year 2023-2024

Foreign Language Acquisition Scholarship, Advanced Hindi, Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Academic Year 2023-2024

Foreign Language Acquisition Scholarship, Intermediate Hindi, Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin Madison, Summer 2023

(Alternate, Semifinalist) Summer Student Fellowships for Digital Sonic and Visual Projects, American Institute of Indian Studies, Summer 2022

Teaching Experience

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant, Department of Religion

Courses Instructed: Introduction to World Religions (REL/PHIL 110) -- Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Research Interests

Religions of India

Ritual and Religion Theory and Methods

Textual and Hagiographic Receptions

Interreligious Interactions

Research Experience

Project Assistant – Interfaith Curricula & Initiatives

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Interfaith America

December 2020 – May 2022

Curricula Developed: Fall 2021 – Religious Approaches to Veterinary Medicine (VM 694 / REL 390)

Spring 2022 – Religious Literacy Case Studies for College of Nursing, College of Medicine for Fall 2022

Independent Study – Sanskrit Translation

Supervisor – Professor Adam Newman

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2021 *Ekalingamāhātmya* chapters 2 and 11

Independent Study – Theoretical Approaches to Rituals

“Ritualization and Embodiment in Eucharistic Adoration and *Ṣoḍaśopacārapūjā*.”

Supervisor – Professor Adam Newman

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2020

Undergraduate Capstone Project – Eusebius of Caesarea

“Eusebius of Caesarea: Actualized Logos Theology in *Ecclesiastical History* and *Life of Constantine*”

Supervisor – Professor Richard Layton

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2020

Conference Presentations

“Spiraling, Spiraling, Spiraling: Viraha-Bhakti in the Kumarasambhava and the Tiruvaymoli” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, March 24th, 2023.

“Method Madness: A Graduate Student Roundtable” with Dr. Mukhtar Ali, Dr. Miki Chase, Dr. Mark Leuchter, Dr. Sohini Pillai, and Heidi Ippolito. Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, March 24th, 2023. Moderator.

“Religious Studies and Catastrophe - Past, Present, and Future(s)” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 19th, 2022. Co-President.

“Spontaneity, Positionality, and Navigating Ethnographic Fieldwork” with Dr. Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, March 4th, 2022. Moderator.

“Ritualized Embodiment in Eucharistic Adoration and *Ṣoḍaśopacārapūjā*” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, April 23rd, 2021.

Languages

Spanish – advanced proficiency (written), intermediate proficiency (spoken)

Biblical Hebrew – beginner proficiency (written and oral)

Sanskrit – beginner proficiency (written and oral)

Hindi – beginner proficiency (written and oral)

Language Experiences

Academic Year Program in Advanced Hindi

Boren Fellowship (SAFLI) and American Institute of Indian Studies

August 2023 – May 2024

Jaipur, India

Intensive Program in Intermediate Hindi

South Asian Summer Language Institute and Boren Fellowship (SAFLI)

June 2023 – August 2023

Madison, Wisconsin

Intensive Program in Elementary Sanskrit

South Asian Summer Language Institute

June 2021 – August 2021

Madison, Wisconsin (remote)

Intensive Program in Elementary Biblical Hebrew

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

June 2019 – July 2019

Jerusalem, Israel

Spanish Language and Culture

CEGRÍ

January 2018 – May 2018

Granada, Spain

Academic Service

Graduate Student Committee Member

American Academy of Religion

May 2021 – May 2023

Student Director

Midwest Region- American Academy of Religion

May 2021 – May 2023

President- Students for the Study of Religion

Department of Religion

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

January 2019 – December 2020

Public Service

Student Representative

Interfaith Conference Steering Committee

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

January 2019 – November 2019

Shabbat Intern, Café Sababa Intern

August 2018 – December 2018

Shabbat Intern

Illini Hillel Cohen Center for Jewish Life
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

August 2017 – December 2017

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion (Midwest Region)