

# CONSTANTINE LIGNOS

Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures  
Columbia University

## EDUCATION

- 2026                      PhD, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University  
Dissertation: “Dancing Tantra: Body, Text, and Performance in Tibetan  
Tantric Buddhism”  
Committee: Gray Tuttle, Jacob Dalton, Dominique Townsend, Ana Ochoa,  
Zhaohua Yang
- 2023                      MPhil, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University  
Exam Fields: Tibetan history (Gray Tuttle), Tibetan religions (Jacob  
Dalton), ritual and performance (Ana Ochoa), Chinese religions (Zhaohua  
Yang)
- 2019                      MA, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University  
Thesis: “*Cham* in the Qing: Transnational Performances of Tantric Dance”
- 2017                      MA, Performance Studies, New York University  
Thesis: “How to Do Things with Thoughts: Ghostly Agency in Tantric  
Buddhist Ritual”
- 2012                      BFA, Drama and Dramatic Writing, New York University

## TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

**Instructor of Record**, Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University  
The Body and/in Performance: Dance & Drama in Tibet & China, Spring 2025

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University  
Introduction to Tibetan Civilization, Spring 2021  
Colloquium on Major Texts in East Asia, Spring 2022

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Religion, Columbia University  
Introduction to East Asian Buddhism, Fall 2022

## WRITING & PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Incomplete Choreographies: Authorizing and Activating the Absent Body in Tibetan Buddhist  
Tantric Dance,” *Body and Religion*, published by Equinox, work in progress for publication in  
2026

“Dancing the Divine: An Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Tantric Dance,” *Religion Compass*, hosted by Wiley Online Library, forthcoming 2026

### **Chapters in Edited Volumes**

“Ashmina Ranjit” in *50 Key Performance Artists*, edited by T. Nikki Cesare Schotzko and Adriana Disman (Routledge Key Guides: Routledge, March 2026)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

### **National and International Conferences**

“Religion and the Space Between Text & Performance” at **Ocean of Song & Dance: The Tibetan Performing Arts International Conference**, Columbia University, December 2025

“Dancing Metaphysics: Reading Religion Between Text & Body” at the **American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting** in San Diego, CA, November 2024

“Art & Exile” at the **Leros Humanism Seminars** in Leros, Greece, July 2024

“Dancing Divinities: Embodied Knowledge and Tibetan Buddhist Tantric Dance” at the **International Association for Tibetan Studies Conference** in Prague, Czechia, July 2022

### **Graduate Student Conferences**

“The Dancing Deities of Death: Understanding the *Bardo* Through Tibetan Buddhist Tantric Dance” at **After-Life**, hosted by Brown University, April 2024

## **ORGANIZED EVENTS**

“Ocean of Song & Dance: The Tibetan Performing Arts,” organized with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University. Speakers included **Jamyang Norbu** of the High Asia Research Center, **Isabelle Henrion-Dourcy** of Université Laval, **Kimerer LaMothe** of Harvard University, **Kati Fitzgerald** of Otterbein University, and four Tibetan performing artists trained at Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts. Fully-funded, December 5-6, 2026.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Kluge Graduate Student Mentor Fellowship, Columbia University, 2025-2026

Dissertation Fellowship in Buddhist Studies (Alternate), Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation, 2025-2026

Khyentse Foundation PhD Scholarship, Khyentse Foundation, 2025

Teaching Scholars Fellowship, Columbia University, 2024-2025

Religion & the Arts Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion, 2024

Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, 2024

Award for Buddhist Studies, Khyentse Foundation, 2022

Fellowship in Academic Administration, Society of Fellows/Heyman Center for the Humanities, 2021

Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University, 2019-2020

Academic Achievement Award, East Asian Languages & Cultures, 2019

## **HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION**

**Graduate Student Mentor**, Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Programs, Columbia University, 2025-present

**Graduate Student Officer**, Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, 2021-present

**Administrative Aide**, College Core Curriculum, New York University, 2012-2016, 2018-2019

**Administrative Assistant**, School of Dramatic Arts, University of Southern California, 2016-2018

## **SERVICE**

Graduate Student Officer, Modern Tibetan Studies Program, 2021-2023

Student Leader, Khorlo Tibetan Studies Student Group, 2020-2021

Student Leader, East Asian Graduate Association, 2020-2021

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

## **OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

### **Language Acquisition**

Classical Tibetan, advanced; Colloquial Tibetan, intermediate; Modern Chinese, intermediate; Sanskrit, beginner; French, reading comprehension; Modern Greek, heritage speaker

### **Other Relevant Skills**

Ritual Master (*chöpon*), in training, Yeshe Nyingpo Tibetan Buddhist Temple, NYC

Trained in tantric dance, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, Bylakuppe, India

Trained in tantric dance, Pema Ösel Ling, Watsonville, CA