

CONSTANTINE LIGNOS

www.constantinelignos.phd

Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University
406 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511

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; Tibetan religions; ritual and performance; Chinese religions
- 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

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2026-present Postdoctoral Associate, Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University
Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University
Lecturer, Department of South Asian Studies, Yale University

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- 2026 "Ashmina Ranjit." In *50 Key Performance Artists*, edited by T. Nikki Cesare Schotzko and Adriana Disman. Routledge Key Guides. Routledge.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2027 "The Life of Dawa Pelrin/Tsandragomi." *Treasury of Lives*.

Manuscripts in Submission

- 2027 "Putting on a Show: Performance, Aesthetics, and Ritual Innovation Across Three Vajrakīlaya Cham Yik." *Revue d'Études Tibétaines*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Dancing Tantra: Body, Text, and Performance in Tibetan Tantric Buddhism. Book manuscript, revised from the dissertation.

“Seeing All Phenomena as Self: Emptiness, Performance, and Tibetan Buddhist Dance Aesthetics.” For *TDR: The Drama Review*.

HONORS & AWARDS

2025-2026	Kluge Graduate Student Mentor Fellowship, Columbia University
2025	Khyentse Foundation PhD Scholarship, Khyentse Foundation
2024-2025	Teaching Scholars Fellowship, Columbia University
2024	Religion & the Arts Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion
2024	Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life
2022	Excellence in Buddhist Studies, Khyentse Foundation
2021	Fellowship in Academic Administration, Society of Fellows/Heyman Center for the Humanities
2019-2020	Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University
2019	Academic Achievement Award, East Asian Languages & Cultures

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences and Symposia Organized

2027	"No eye. No ear. No nose. No tongue. No body. No mind: Sensory Experience and Emptiness in Buddhist Ritual Performance." Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University. Spring 2027.
2025	"Ocean of Song and Dance: Emerging Currents in Tibetan & Himalayan Performance Studies." Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University. December 5-6, 2025.

Papers Presented

2026	"Writing Dance." Panel: <i>Ceci n'est pas une Thangka</i> . American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, CO, November 21-24.
2026	"Choreographing the Cosmos." Panel: Religious Thinkers as Co-Theorists: The Future of Critical Theory on Religion. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, CO, November 21-24.
2025	"Religion and the Space Between Text & Performance." Ocean of Song & Dance: Emerging Currents in Tibetan & Himalayan Performance Studies. Columbia University, December 5-6.

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| 2024 | "Dancing Metaphysics: Reading Religion Between Text & Body."
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA,
November 23-26. |
| 2024 | "The Dancing Deities of Death: Understanding the Bardo Through Tibetan
Buddhist Tantric Dance." After-Life, Brown University, April 5-6. |
| 2024 | "Art & Exile." Leros Seminars on Humanism. Leros, Greece, June 26-28. |
| 2022 | "Dancing Divinities: Embodied Knowledge and Tibetan Buddhist Tantric
Dance." International Association for Tibetan Studies Seminar. Prague,
Czechia, July 3-9. |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale University

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| Fall 2026 | Liberation by Hearing: Sound and Listening to the Liminal |
| Spring 2027 | Beauty & Terror: Aesthetics & Wrath in Indo-Tibetan Tantra |

Columbia University

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| Spring 2025 | The Body and/in Performance: Dance & Drama in Tibet & China
(instructor of record) |
| Fall 2022 | Introduction to East Asian Buddhism (teaching assistant) |
| Spring 2022 | Colloquium on Major Texts in East Asia (teaching assistant) |
| Spring 2021 | Introduction to East Asian Civilizations: Tibet (teaching assistant) |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| 2024-2025 | Trained in monastic tantric dance at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in
Bylakuppe, South India, and at Pema Ösel Ling in Watsonville, California. |
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SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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| 2021-2023 | Graduate Student Officer, Modern Tibetan Studies Program |
| 2020-2021 | Student Leader, Khorlo Tibetan Studies Student Group |
| 2020-2021 | Student Leader, East Asian Graduate Association |

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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| 2025-2026 | Graduate Student Mentor, Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program,
Columbia University |
| 2021-2026 | Graduate Student Officer, Society of Fellows/Heyman Center for the
Humanities, Columbia University |

TEACHING AREAS

Introduction to Buddhism; East Asian Religions; Introduction to Theories & Methods in the Study of Religion; Tibetan Civilization; Major Texts of East Asia; Religion and Performance; Ritual Studies; Religion, Sound, and the Senses

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

EXTRA TRAINING

Certificate of College Teaching Preparation (in-progress), Poorvu Center for Teaching & Learning, Yale University
Certified Anytime Anywhere Meditation Teacher, Tergar Institute (in-progress)

REFERENCES

Gray Tuttle, Leila Hadley Luce Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies
Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures, Columbia University
gwt2102@columbia.edu

Jacob Dalton, Khyentse Foundation Distinguished University Professor in Tibetan Buddhism Group in Buddhist Studies, UC Berkeley
jakedalton@berkeley.edu

Ana Ochoa, Distinguished Greenleaf Scholar in Residence
Newcomb Department of Music, Tulane University
aochoa1@tulane.edu