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: *Ceci n'est pas une Thangka*. 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.

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

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

Columbia University

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

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

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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

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)