

ALISON DENTON JONES

Harvard University Department of Sociology
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CURRENT POSITION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Harvard College Fellow, Sociology

2010-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA November 2010
Dissertation: A Modern Religion? The State, The People, and the Remaking of Buddhism in Urban China Today
Committee: Martin Whyte (Chair), Christopher Winship, Nancy T. Ammerman (Boston University)
Special Field Examination Area: Religion in Organizational Perspective

A.M. Sociology, Harvard University 2006
Thesis: Zen and the Art of Boundary Maintenance: Towards a Conceptual Framework of Boundary Work in Religious Organizations
Committee: Martin K. Whyte (Chair), Michèle Lamont, Robert P. Weller (Boston University)

Graduate Certificate, Chinese Studies 2000
Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies, Nanjing, P. R. China
Graduate-level program conducted entirely in Mandarin Chinese. Course work included China's culture, modern history, and society.

B.A. Asian Studies, Sociology minor, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 1998
magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH INTERESTS

China and East Asia, Sociology of Religion, Organizations, Culture, Social Movements, Political Sociology, Globalization, Development, research design and methods

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Book Reviews

Jones, Alison Denton. 2009. Review of *The Violence of Liberation: Gender and Tibetan Buddhist Revival in Post-Mao China* by Charlene E. Makley. *Politics & Religion*. vol. 2., no. 2, August 2009.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Jones, Alison Denton. "Dumplings, Dharani, and Dedication: Honest Auntie Li Tries to Balance Business with Buddhism." In preparation for *Buddhism through Life Histories*. Edited by Todd Lewis. Blackwell, 2011.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Han Chinese Doing Tibetan Buddhism: Production, Reception, and Cross-ethnic Imagined Communities." Invited submission to a special issue of *Social Compass* on the

social impact of Buddhism in contemporary China, guest editors, Vincent Goossaert and Zhe Ji. Dec. 2011.

Tran, Van C., Corina Graif, Alison Denton Jones, Mario Small, and Christopher Winship.
 “Participation in Context: Neighborhood Diversity and Organizational Involvements in Boston.”
 Revise and resubmit.

Jones, Alison Denton. “Zen and the Art of Boundary Maintenance: Towards a Conceptual Framework of Boundary Work in Religious Organizations.” In preparation.

Jones, Alison Denton and Christopher Winship. “Studying the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector from the Bottom Up.” Under revision.

Working Papers / Selected Conference Presentations

Jones, Alison Denton. “Heritage Buddhism in Urban China: Achieving an Ascribed Religious Identity?” *Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Oct. 2009, Denver, CO.

Jones, Alison Denton. “The Uses of Religion: A Framework for Analyzing Religion as a Category ‘in Practice.’” Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, August 2009, San Francisco, CA.

Jones, Alison Denton. “Doing Buddhism on the Organizational Level: Implications for the Civil Sector.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, March 2009, Chicago, IL.

Jones, Alison Denton and Christopher Winship. “Studying the Nonprofit Voluntary Sector from the Bottom Up.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, August 2008, Boston, MA.

Jones, Alison Denton. “Strictness, Subcultural Identity, and Skillful Means: Strategies of Boundary Work in Religious Organizations.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, August 2006, Montreal, QC.

HONORS AND AWARDS

<i>Graduate Student Associate</i> Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University	2009-2010
<i>Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> Supporting PhD dissertation writing Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	2008-2009
<i>Junior Research Fellow</i> Fellow in Residence during PhD dissertation research year Institute for Int’l Research at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in Nanjing, P. R. China	2007-2008
<i>J. William Fulbright Cultural Exchange Fellowship</i> Supported PhD dissertation research in P. R. China	2007-2008
<i>Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship</i> Supported PhD dissertation research in P. R. China Harvard University, Committee on General Scholarships	2007-2008

<i>Shum Fellowship for Social Science Research on Contemporary China</i> For PhD dissertation research in P. R. China (declined) Harvard University, Fairbank Center	2007-2008
<i>Peking University-Harvard Yenching Fellowship for Advanced Research in Chinese Studies</i> For PhD dissertation research in P. R. China (declined) Harvard University, Harvard-Yenching Center	2007-2008
<i>Hauser Center for Nonprofits Program on Religion and Public Life</i> Small Research Grant Harvard University, Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organization	2007
<i>Jack Shand Research Award</i> Small grant for Research Expenses Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)	2007
<i>Young Scholars in the Sociology of Religion</i> Invitation-only conference for promising new scholars in Sociology of Religion Center for the Study of Religion at Notre Dame	May 2007
<i>Republic of China Research Fellowship</i> Supported MA thesis research on Buddhist Organizations in Taiwan Harvard University, Asia Center	Summer 2004
<i>Hassenfeld Scholarship</i> Full academic scholarship to support study at the Hopkins – Nanjing Center	1999-2000
<i>Freeman Foundation Asia Fellowship</i> Full year support for independent research on contemporary Buddhism in China and Taiwan.	1998-1999

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<i>Pilot Survey of the Boston Area Nonprofit Sector</i> Harvard University, Department of Sociology & the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations Profs. Christopher Winship and Mario Small (Univ. of Chicago)	2006-present
• Collected and coded data on Boston non-profits • Conducted literature reviews • Consulted on development of survey questionnaire • Designed sampling procedure and questionnaire for follow-up interviews • Conducted in-depth follow-up interviews • Managed research team of 3 PhD students and 2 undergraduate students	
<i>Taking the Measure of the Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector in American Life</i> Harvard University, Department of Sociology & the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations Profs. Christopher Winship and Mark Moore	2004-present
• Conducted literature reviews • Assessed existing data sources • Co-developed conceptual arguments	

Chinese Monastic Buddhism Approaches the 21st Century

1998-1999

Freeman Foundation Asia Fellow

Independent Research Project

- Investigated trend toward “Socially Engaged” Buddhism in Taiwan and Mainland China
- Visited, lived and worked in twelve monasteries and other Buddhist institutions
- Interviewed leaders, nuns, monks, and lay Buddhists
- Participant-observation in religious practice, social work, and academic conferences

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Religion in a Globalizing World (Lecturer)

Spring, Fall 2011

- Lecture course focusing on the contemporary roles of religion in transnational flows, national and international public spheres, and global movements.

Religious Worlds of Boston (Lecturer)

Spring 2011

- Junior tutorial seminar teaching qualitative methods and research design, focusing on the intersection of urban sociology and sociology of religion.

Research for Nonprofits (Lecturer)

Fall 2010, Spring 2012

- “Activity-Based Learning” conference course introducing organizational sociology and perspectives on the nonprofit sector while supporting students’ in-depth research projects on nonprofit or voluntary organizations.

Research for Nonprofits (Instructor, Teaching Fellow)

Springs 2005-2007

with Prof. Christopher Winship

- Planned syllabus, grading scheme, invited weekly guest speakers
- Designed, taught several lectures.
- Provided extensive ongoing feedback on student research projects and presentations
- Graded assignments and final projects

Paradigms of Social Inquiry (Teaching Fellow)

Fall 2004

with Prof. David Gibson

- Planned and led two weekly discussion sections for 15-25 second year Sociology concentrators
- Designed and evaluated weekly reading response assignments
- Met with students to guide the development of research proposals, Graded papers and exams

Harvard University, Core Program (Foreign Cultures)

China’s Two Social Revolutions (Head Teaching Fellow)

Fall 2005

with Prof. Martin K. Whyte

- Planned and led one weekly discussion section for 10 undergraduate students
- Coordinated work of all Teaching Fellows
- Initiated and designed student project to engage course material with multi-media and web technology
- Maintained and expanded resources on course web site
- Assisted development of exam questions, Graded papers and exams

Thesis Advising and Grading

- *Secondary Thesis Advisor, Sociology* (2010-2011)
- *Primary Thesis Advisor, Sociology* (2009-2010), Grade: *summa cum laude*, winner of the Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for outstanding undergraduate research
- *Senior Thesis Tutor, East Asian Studies* (2009-2010), Grade: *magna cum laude*
- *Senior Thesis Grader, Sociology and Social Studies* (2009, 2010, 2011)
- *Primary Thesis Advisor, Committee on the Study of Religion* (2005), Grade: *magna cum laude*

Concentration Advising

Sociology Concentration Advisor to Adams, Quincy, and Winthrop Houses 2009-2010
 Non-resident Tutor, Sociology and East Asian Studies, Quincy House 2005-present

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Activity-Based Learning Pilot Project 2005-2007

Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

- Three year pilot project of courses that give students the opportunity to do public service, internships, or community-based research in conjunction with their coursework
- Participated in training and ongoing feedback for ABL instructors. Helped design evaluations of pilot.

Graduate Writing Fellows Program Spring 2005

Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

- Semester-long training workshop on common problems and dynamics of undergraduate writing
- Learned and brainstormed ways to incorporate writing practice into class assignments
- Practiced methods for constructive feedback on student writing

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Reviewer Ongoing

American Journal of Sociology, Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Review of Religious Research, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Sociology Compass, Sociological Spectrum, Journal of Chinese Religions

Panel Organizer October 2010

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD.
 “Notions of Religion around the Globe: Defining Religion from the Ground Up”

Workshop Organizer and Advisor 2009-present

Qualitative Social Science Interschool Faculty Project, Harvard University
 “Comparing Approaches to Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) Panel Discussion”

Paper Chair Winter 2010

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems
 “Nonprofit Organizations and Community Partnerships” panel

Panel Organizer March 2009

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
 “Associational Life in Contemporary China: Emerging Civic Orgs. in Urban Communities”

Panel Organizer and Discussant

February 2007

16th Annual Graduate Conference on East Asia, Columbia University
“Religious Mobilization in Modern China and Taiwan”

Coordinator, Workshop on Institutions & Organizing
Harvard University, Department of Sociology

2006-2007

Rapporteur, “The Politics of Religion in Contemporary China” Conference
Stanford University, Centers for East Asian Studies and Buddhist Studies

2004

Conference Assistant, “7th International Conference on Buddhist Women”
Sakyadhita International, Taipei, Taiwan

2002

AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

Sections: Sociology of Religion; Sociology of Culture; Asia and Asian Americans; Organizations,
Occupations, and Work; Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Religious Research Association

Association for Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese

Speaking: conversational fluency; reading and writing: proficient. Five years of formal language study, over four years of residence in Taiwan and Mainland China including graduate social science classes conducted in Mandarin.

REFERENCES

Martin Whyte
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