

ALISON DENTON JONES

Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies
Hilles - Lower Main Level / 59 Shepard Street / Cambridge, MA 02138

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CURRENT POSITION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Lecturer, Social Studies

2012-present

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Lecturer, Sociology

2011-2012

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Harvard College Fellow, Sociology

2010-2011

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, Ethnography and Qualitative research design and methods

PUBLICATIONS

- Jones, Alison Denton. "Dumplings, Dharani, and Dedication: Honest Auntie Li Tries to Balance Business with Buddhism." 2013, forthcoming. In *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism through Life Histories*. Edited by Todd Lewis. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Tran, Van C., Corina Graif, Alison Denton Jones, Mario Small, and Christopher Winship. 2013. "Participation in Context: Neighborhood Diversity and Organizational Involvement in Boston." *City & Community* 12:3, September 2013.
- Jones, Alison Denton. 2011. "Contemporary Han Chinese Involvement in Tibetan Buddhism: A Case Study from Nanjing." *Social Compass* vol. 58 no. 4, December 2011. Invited submission to a special issue on the social impact of Buddhism in contemporary China, guest editors, Vincent Goossaert and Zhe Ji.

Book Reviews

- Jones, Alison Denton. 2012. Review of *Social Scientific Studies of Religion in China: Methodologies, Theories, and Findings*. Ed. by Fenggang Yang & Graeme Lang. *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 40.
- Jones, Alison Denton. 2011. Review of *Charisma and Compassion: Cheng Yen and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Movement*. by C. Julia Huang. *China Review International*, vol. 18, no. 1, December 2011.
- 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 AND SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 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.
- Jones, Alison Denton. "Is Buddhism a Religion? Urban Lay Buddhists Contending with the P.R. Chinese State's Multiple Framings of Religion." *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, March 2012, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Jones, Alison Denton. "Pathways to Buddhism in Urban China Today: Experiences and Narratives of Conversion and Adoption." *Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Oct. 2011, Milwaukee, WI.
- 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.

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

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

Global Social Movements (Lecturer) Spring, Fall 2013

- Junior tutorial seminar teaching research design, qualitative methods, and focusing on social movement theory and cases of global social movements.

Senior Thesis Seminar (Lecturer) Full Year 2012-13, 2013-14

- Half-time seminar supporting seniors writing theses, focusing on developing good writing process, how to construct and articulate an argument over several chapters, writing introductions.

Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Religion in a Globalizing World (Lecturer) Spring, Fall 2011

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

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

- After one year as teaching fellow, planned and taught course as instructor for two years.

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

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

Thesis Advising and Grading

- *Thesis Advisor, Social Studies* (2012-2013), Grade: *magna cum laude*
- *Thesis Advisor, Social Studies* (2011-2012), Grade: *magna cum laude minus*
- *Thesis Advisor, Sociology* (2010-2011), Grade: *magna cum laude*
- *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)

- *Thesis Advisor, Committee on the Study of Religion* (2005), Grade: *magna cum laude*

Concentration Advising

Social Studies Primary Advisor for 8 juniors and seniors	2012- present
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

<i>Activity-Based Learning Pilot Project</i>	2005-2007
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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.

<i>Graduate Writing Fellows Program</i>	Spring 2005
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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

<i>Peer Reviewer</i>	Ongoing
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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, Ethnography

<i>Panel Organizer</i>	October 2010 & 2011
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Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD and Milwaukee, WI. "Notions of Religion around the Globe: Defining Religion from the Ground Up"

<i>Workshop Organizer and Advisor</i>	2009-present
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Qualitative Social Science Interschool Faculty Project, Harvard University
"Comparing Approaches to Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) Panel Discussion"

<i>Paper Chair</i>	Winter 2010
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Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems
"Nonprofit Organizations and Community Partnerships" panel

<i>Panel Organizer</i>	March 2009
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Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
"Associational Life in Contemporary China: Emerging Civic Orgs. in Urban Communities"

<i>Panel Organizer and Discussant</i>	February 2007
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16th Annual Graduate Conference on East Asia, Columbia University
"Religious Mobilization in Modern China and Taiwan"

<i>Coordinator</i> , Workshop on Institutions & Organizing Harvard University, Department of Sociology	2006-2007
<i>Rapporteur</i> , “The Politics of Religion in Contemporary China” Conference Stanford University, Centers for East Asian Studies and Buddhist Studies	2004
<i>Conference Assistant</i> , “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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Sociology 260B
96-100 Cummington Street
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Robert P. Weller
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Research Associate, Institute on Culture, Religion
and World Affairs, Boston University
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