

ALISON DENTON JONES

Harvard University Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, Harvard University Expected June 2010

Dissertation: Constructing Modern Religion: Doing Buddhism in Urban China Today

Committee: Martin K. 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 AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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

WORKS

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 a Blackwell Volume on *Buddhism through Life Histories*.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Pathways to Buddhist Identities in Contemporary China: Ascription, Voluntarism, and Pragmatism." In preparation for an edited volume, *Religion on the Edge: Expanding the Boundaries of the Sociology of Religion*.

Jones, Alison Denton and Christopher Winship. "Studying the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector from the Bottom Up." In preparation.

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

Selected Conference Presentations

Jones, Alison Denton. "The Uses of Religion: A Framework for Analyzing Religion as a Category 'in Practice'." Paper to be presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association* session on: "Religion on the Edge: Expanding the Boundaries of the Sociology of Religion," August 2009, San Francisco, CA.

Tran, Van C., Alison Denton Jones, Corina Graif, Christopher Winship, and Mario Small. "Participation in Context: Neighborhood Diversity and Organizational Involvements in Boston." Paper to be presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association* session, "Formal Organizations and Urban Transformations," August 2009, San Francisco, CA.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Buddha's Bricolage: Innovating Organizational Forms in Urban Lay Buddhism." *Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies*, Directions in the Social Sciences special panel: "Associational Life in Contemporary China: Emerging Civic Organizations in Urban Communities, March 2009, Chicago, IL.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Han Chinese Doing Tibetan Buddhism: Production, Reception, and Cross-ethnic Imagined Communities." *Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*, October 2008, Louisville, KY.

Jones, Alison Denton and Christopher Winship. "Studying the Nonprofit Voluntary Sector from the Bottom Up." *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Regular Session on "Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations," 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*, Sociology of Religion Section panel: "Religious Markets and Religious Organizing," 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>	2007-2008
Fellow in Residence during PhD dissertation research year Institute for International Research at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing, P. R. China	
<i>J. William Fulbright Cultural Exchange Fellowship</i>	2007-2008
Supported PhD dissertation research in P. R. China	
<i>Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship</i>	2007-2008
Supported PhD dissertation research in P. R. China Harvard University, Committee on General Scholarships	
<i>Shum Fellowship for Social Science Research on Contemporary China</i>	2007-2008
For PhD dissertation research in P. R. China (declined) Harvard University, Fairbank Center	
<i>Peking University-Harvard Yenching Fellowship for Advanced Research in Chinese Studies</i>	2007-2008
For PhD dissertation research in P. R. China (declined) Harvard University, Harvard-Yenching Center	
<i>Hauser Center for Nonprofits Program on Religion and Public Life</i>	2007
Small Research Grant Harvard University, Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organization	
<i>Jack Shand Research Award</i>	2007
Small grant for Research Expenses Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)	
<i>Young Scholars in the Sociology of Religion</i>	May 2007
Invitation-only conference for promising new scholars in Sociology of Religion Center for the Study of Religion at Notre Dame	
<i>Republic of China Research Fellowship</i>	Summer 2004
Supported MA thesis research on Buddhist Organizations in Taiwan Harvard University, Asia Center	
<i>Hassenfeld Scholarship</i>	1999-2000
Full academic scholarship to support study at the Hopkins – Nanjing Center	
<i>Freeman Foundation Asia Fellowship</i>	1998-1999
Full year support for independent research on trends in contemporary Chinese and Taiwanese Buddhism.	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<i>Pilot Survey of the Boston Area Nonprofit Sector</i>	2006 to present
Harvard University, Department of Sociology & the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations	

Profs. Christopher Winship and Mario Small (Univ. of Chicago)

- 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

Taking the Measure of the Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector in American Life

Harvard University, Department of Sociology & the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations

Profs. Christopher Winship and Mark Moore

- Conducted literature reviews
- Assessed existing data sources
- Co-developed conceptual arguments

Chinese Monastic Buddhism Approaches the 21st Century

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 EXPERIENCE

Senior Thesis Advising

Primary Thesis Advisor, Sociology	2009-2010
Jessamin Birdsall. “ <i>Conflicting Identities: Complexities of Ethnicity and Religion in the Indo-Fijian Community</i> ”	
Primary Thesis Advisor, Committee on the Study of Religion	2005
Pippi Kessler. “ <i>The Next Generation of Chinese Buddhism in the US</i> ”	
Senior Thesis Grader and Exam Committee Member for two theses	2009
Department of Social Studies	

Concentration Advising

Sociology Concentration Advisor to 3 Undergraduate Houses	2009-2010
Non-resident Tutor, Sociology and East Asian Studies, Quincy House	2005-2010

Teaching

Sociology 96. “Research Seminar: Research for Non-Profits”	2005, 06, 07
(2005: Teaching Fellow. 2006 & 07: Graduate Instructor. Faculty supervisor: Prof. Chris Winship)	
Foreign Cultures Core 63. “China’s Two Social Revolutions”	2005
(Teaching Fellow; Head TF. Instructor: Prof. Martin K. Whyte)	
Sociology 128. “Paradigms of Social Inquiry”	2004
(Teaching Fellow. Instructor: Prof. David Gibson)	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

<i>Peer Reviewer</i>	Ongoing
American Journal of Sociology, Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion, Review of Religious Research, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Sociology Compass, Sociological Spectrum	
<i>Roundtable Moderator and Discussant</i>	Ongoing
American Sociological Meetings: Sociology of Religion Section, Asia and Asian Americans Section; Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings.	
<i>Panel Organizer</i>	March 2009
Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL “Associational Life in Contemporary China: Emerging Civic Organizations in Urban Communities”	
<i>Panel Organizer and Discussant</i>	February 2007
16th Annual Graduate Conference on East Asia, Columbia University “Religious Mobilization in Modern China and Taiwan”	
<i>Coordinator, Workshop on Institutions & Organizing</i>	2006-2007
Harvard University, Department of Sociology	
<i>Coordinator, Graduate Student Organization</i>	2005-2006
Harvard University, Department of Sociology	
<i>Coordinator, Professional Development Program</i>	2004-2005
Harvard University, Department of Sociology	
<i>Coordinator, Chinese Language Table</i>	2002-2005
Harvard University, Dudley House Graduate Center	
<i>Rapporteur, “The Politics of Religion in Contemporary China” Conference</i>	2004
Stanford University, Centers for East Asian Studies and Buddhist Studies	
<i>Conference Assistant, “7th International Conference on Buddhist Women”</i>	2002
Sakyadhita International, Taipei, Taiwan	

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 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.

REFERENCES

Martin K. Whyte
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620 William James Hall
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Nancy T. Ammerman
Professor and Department Chair
Boston University, Department of Sociology
Sociology 260B
96-100 Cummington Street
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Robert P. Weller
Professor and Chair of Anthropology and
Research Associate, Institute on Culture, Religion
and World Affairs, Boston University
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