

## **ALISON DENTON JONES**

---

Harvard University Department of Sociology  
33 Kirkland Street, WJH 609 / Cambridge, MA 02139

404-242-3809  
adjones@fas.harvard.edu

### 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 *Buddhism through Life Histories*. Edited by Todd Lewis. Blackwell, 2011.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Pathways to Buddhist Identities in Contemporary China: Ascription, Voluntarism, and Pragmatism." In preparation for *Religion on the Edge: De-Centering and Re-Centering the Sociology of Religion*. Edited by Courtney Bender, Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt and David Smilde. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Jones, Alison Denton. "Buddhism." In preparation for the *Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by George Ritzer. Wiley-Blackwell: Oxford, UK, 2012.

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 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 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

---

*Graduate Student Associate*

2009-2010

Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i>   | 2008-2009   |
| Supporting PhD dissertation writing<br>Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  |             |
| <i>Junior Research Fellow</i>  | 2007-2008   |
| Fellow in Residence during PhD dissertation research year<br>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<br>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)<br>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)<br>Harvard University, Harvard-Yenching Center   |             |
| <i>Hauser Center for Nonprofits Program on Religion and Public Life</i>  | 2007        |
| Small Research Grant<br>Harvard University, Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organization   |             |
| <i>Jack Shand Research Award</i>   | 2007        |
| Small grant for Research Expenses<br>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<br>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<br>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

---

*Pilot Survey of the Boston Area Nonprofit Sector* 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* 2004 to present

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* 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 EXPERIENCE

---

*Senior Thesis Advising*

Primary Thesis Advisor, Sociology 2009-2010

Jessamin Birdsall. “*Conflicting Identities: Complexities of Ethnicity and Religion in the Indo-Fijian Community*”

Senior Thesis Tutor, East Asian Studies 2009-2010

Hannah Waight. “*Chinese Education in the Reform Period: the Evolution of the Examination System*”

Primary Thesis Advisor, Committee on the Study of Religion 2005

Pippi Kessler. “*The Next Generation of Chinese Buddhism in the US*”

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: Teaching Fellow. 2006 & 07: Graduate Instructor. Faculty supervisor: Prof. Chris Winship)	2005, 06, 07
Foreign Cultures Core 63. "China's Two Social Revolutions" (Teaching Fellow; Head TF. Instructor: Prof. Martin K. Whyte)	2005
Sociology 128. "Paradigms of Social Inquiry" (Teaching Fellow. Instructor: Prof. David Gibson)	2004

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

<i>Peer Reviewer</i> 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	Ongoing
<i>Roundtable Moderator and Discussant</i> American Sociological Meetings: Sociology of Religion Section, Asia and Asian Americans Section; Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings.	Ongoing
<i>Panel Organizer</i> Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL "Associational Life in Contemporary China: Emerging Civic Organizations in Urban Communities"	March 2009
<i>Panel Organizer and Discussant</i> 16th Annual Graduate Conference on East Asia, Columbia University "Religious Mobilization in Modern China and Taiwan"	February 2007
<i>Coordinator</i> , Workshop on Institutions & Organizing Harvard University, Department of Sociology	2006-2007
<i>Coordinator</i> , Graduate Student Organization Harvard University, Department of Sociology	2005-2006
<i>Coordinator</i> , Professional Development Program Harvard University, Department of Sociology	2004-2005
<i>Coordinator</i> , Chinese Language Table Harvard University, Dudley House Graduate Center	2002-2005
<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 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  
Professor of Sociology  
Harvard University, Department of Sociology  
480 William James Hall  
33 Kirkland Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-495-9853  
mwhyte@wjh.harvard.edu

Christopher Winship  
Diker-Tishman Professor of Sociology  
Harvard University, Department of Sociology  
620 William James Hall  
33 Kirkland Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-495-9821  
chris\_winship@harvard.edu

Nancy T. Ammerman  
Professor and Department Chair  
Boston University, Department of Sociology  
Sociology 260B  
96-100 Cummington Street  
Boston, MA 02215  
617-358-0634  
nta@bu.edu

Robert P. Weller  
Professor and Chair of Anthropology and  
Research Associate, Institute on Culture, Religion  
and World Affairs, Boston University  
10 Lenox Street  
Brookline, MA 02146  
617-353-6714  
rpweller@bu.edu