

## JACOB P. DALTON

Khyentse Foundation Distinguished University Professor in Tibetan Buddhism  
UC Berkeley  
3413 Dwinelle Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2230  
jakedalton@berkeley.edu

### Present Appointments

- *Full Professor*,  
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, Group in Buddhist Studies, UC Berkeley, 7/17—present.
- *Khyentse Foundation Distinguished University Professor in Tibetan Buddhism*,  
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, Group in Buddhist Studies, UC Berkeley, 7/12—present.

### Previous Appointments

- *Department Chair*,  
Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley, 8/15-6/19.
- *Associate Professor of Tibetan Buddhism*,  
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, Group in Buddhist Studies, UC Berkeley, 7/12—6/17.
- *Assistant Professor of Tibetan Buddhism*,  
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, Group in Buddhist Studies, UC Berkeley, 1/09—6/12.
- *Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Tibetan Buddhism*,  
Department of Religious Studies, Yale University, 7/05—12/08.
- *Numata Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies*, University of Hamburg, Spring 2008.
- *Assistant Professor of Tibetan Buddhism*, Department of Religious Studies,  
McMaster University, 1/05—6/05.
- *Post-Doctoral Research Fellow*, International Dunhuang Project, The British Library, 8/02—8/05.  
Three-year Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project to create a fully descriptive analytic catalogue of the Tibetan Buddhist manuscripts discovered at Dunhuang.
- *Visiting Lecturer*, Department of the Study of Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies,  
University of London, 9/03-12/03.
- *Research Associate*, Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University, 2000-2001.
- *Instructor*, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan,  
Summer 1997.

### Education

- *University of Michigan*, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures  
Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies, April 2002  
M.A. in Buddhist Studies, April 1995
- *Marlboro College*, Marlboro, VT  
B.A. with highest honors in Religious Studies, May 1992

## Book-Length Works

- *Conjuring the Buddha: Ritual Manuals in Early Tantric Buddhism*. Columbia University Press, 2023.
- *The Gathering of Intentions: A History of a Tibetan Tantra*. Columbia University Press, 2016.
- *Taming of the Demons: Violence and Liberation in Tibetan Buddhism*. Yale University Press, 2011.  
Awarded the E. Gene Smith Prize and the Bernard S. Cohn Prize. Shortlisted for the American Academy of Religion's History Study of Religion Award.
- *Tibetan Tantric Manuscripts from Dunhuang: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Stein Collection at the British Library*. Co-authored with Sam van Schaik. Leiden: Brill, 2006.

## Published and Forthcoming Articles

- "Mañjuśrīyamūlakalpa at Dunhuang: Notes on Two Manuscripts. In Susmita B. Majumdar, ed., *Empirical and Beyond: History of South Asia through Varied Lenses*. Delhi: Primus Books, forthcoming.
- "Evoking the Divine Human: An Appearance of Suchness: Ornament of the Sacred." In Holly Gayley and Andrew Quintman, eds., *Living Treasure: Buddhist and Tibetan Studies in Honor of Janet Gyatso*, pp. 253-277. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2023.
- "Early Developments in Snying thig Practice: The Eighth Topic of Zhang Nyi ma 'bum's *Rdzogs pa chen po tshig don bcu gcig pa*." Co-authored with Khenpo Yeshe. In *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines* 63 (April 2022): 95-130.
- "Bridging Yoga and Mahāyoga: *Samaya* in Early Tantric Buddhism." In Yukiyo Kasai and Henrik H. Sorensen, eds., *Buddhism in Central Asia II: Practice and Rituals, Visual and Material Transfer*, pp. 270-289. Leiden: Brill, 2022.
- "The Early Development of the Padmasambhava Legend in Tibet: A New Look at the Evidence from Dunhuang." In Geoffrey Samuel and Jamyang Oliphant of Rossie, eds., *About Padmasambhava: Historical Narratives and Later Transformations*, pp. 29-64. Shongau, Switzerland: Garuda Books, 2020.
- "Mahāmudrā and Samayamudrā in the Dunhuang Documents and Beyond." In Roger R. Jackson and Klaus-Dieter Mathes, eds., *Mahāmudrā in India and Tibet*, pp. 123-141. Leiden: Brill, 2020.
- "Signification and History in Zhang Nyi ma 'bum's *rDzogs pa chen po tshig don bcu gcig pa*." Co-authored with Khenpo Yeshe. In *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines* 43 (January 2018): 256-273.
- "The Roots of Violence: Society and the Individual in Buddhism and Girard." Co-authored with Alexander von Rospatt. In Richard Shenk and Wolfgang Palaver, eds., *Mimetic Theory and World Religions*, pp. 339-366. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2017.
- "On the Significance of the *Ārya-tattvasaṃgraha-sādhanaopāyikā* and Its Commentary." In Yael Bentor, ed., *Chinese and Tibetan Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 321-337. Leiden: Brill Publications, 2017.
- "How Dhāraṇīs WERE Proto-Tantric: Liturgies, Ritual Manuals, and the Origins of the Tantras." In David B. Gray and Ryan Overbey, eds., *Tantric Traditions on the Move*, pp. 199-229. Oxford University Press, 2016.
- "Power and Compassion: Negotiating Religion and State in Tenth-Century Tibet." In Olaf Czaja and Guntram Hazod, eds., *The Illuminating Mirror, Tibetan Studies in Honour of Per K. Sørensen*, pp. 101-118. Wiesbaden: Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 2015.
- "Preliminary Remarks on a Newly Discovered Biography of Gnubs chen sangs rgyas ye shes." In Benjamin E. Bogin and Andrew Quintman, eds., *Himalayan Passages: Tibetan and Newar Studies in Honor of Hubert Decleer*, pp. 145-162. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2014.

- “Lost and Found: A Fourteenth-Century Discussion of Then-Available Sources on gNubs chen sangs rgyas ye shes.” In Franz-Karl Ehrhard, ed., *Bulletin of Tibetology (Special Issue, Nyingma Studies: Narrative and History)* 49.1 (2013): pp. 39-54.
- “Sometimes Love Don’t Feel Like It Should: Redemptive Violence in Tantric Buddhism.” In Phyllis Granoff and Koichi Shinohara, eds., *Sins and Sinners: Perspectives from Asian Religions*, pp. 295-308. Leiden: Brill Publications, 2012.
- “Visions from the Peripheries,” *Townsend Center for the Humanities Newsletter*, September/October 2012: 8-10.
- “The Questions and Answers of Vajrasattva.” In David G. White, ed., *Yoga in Practice*, pp. 185-203. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.
- “Mahāyoga Ritual Interests at Dunhuang: A Translation and Study of the Codex IOL Tib J 437/Pelliot tibétain 324.” In Yoshiro Imaeda, Matthew Kapstein, and Tsuguhito Takeuchi, eds., *New Studies of the Old Tibetan Documents: Philology, History and Religion*, pp. 293-313. Tokyo: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, 2011.
- “Beyond Anonymity: Paleographic Analyses of the Dunhuang Manuscripts.” Co-authored with Tom Davis and Sam van Schaik. In *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, no.3 (2007): 1-23.
- “Recreating the Rnying ma School: The *Mdo dbang* Tradition of Smin grol gling.” In Bryan Cuevas and Kurtis Schaeffer, eds., *Power, Politics, and the Reinvention of Tradition in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Tibet*, pp. 91-101. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- “A Crisis of Doxography: How Tibetans Organized Tantra during the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Centuries.” In *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 28.1 (2005): 115-181.
- “The Early Development of the Padmasambhava Legend in Tibet.” In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124.4 (2004): 759-772.
- “The Development of Perfection: The Interiorization of Buddhist Ritual in the Eighth and Ninth Centuries.” In *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 32.1 (2004): 1-30.
- “Where Chan and Tantra Meet: Buddhist Syncretism in Dunhuang.” Co-authored with Sam van Schaik. In Susan Whitfield, ed., *The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith*, pp. 63-71. Chicago: Serindia Publications, 2004.
- “Lighting the Lamp: An Examination of the Structure of the Bsam gtan mig sgron.” Co-authored with Sam van Schaik. In *Acta Orientalia*, vol. 64 (2003): 153-175.
- “Nyingma,” “Dakini,” “Longchenpa,” “Padmasambhava,” “Samye,” “Samye Debate.” In *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*, New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003.

## Fellowships and Awards

- *NEH Fellowship*, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2017-18
- *Guggenheim Fellowship*, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, 2014-15
- *Townsend Center Associate Professor Fellowship*, UC Berkeley, Spring 2015
- *Mellon Project Grant*, College of Letters and Science, UC Berkeley, 2013-14
- *Bernard S. Cohn Book Prize*, Association of Asian Studies, 2013
- *E. Gene Smith Inner Asia Book Prize*, Association of Asian Studies, 2013
- *Charles A. Ryskamp Fellowship*, American Council of Learned Societies, 2011-12
- *UC President’s Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities*, UC Humanities Research Institute, 2011-12

- *Hellman Faculty Fellowship*, Hellman Family Faculty Fund, UC Berkeley, 2011-12
- *ATBL Research Grant*, American Trust of the British Library, New York City, 2009-2010
- *ACLS Fellowship*, American Council of Learned Societies, 2007-2008
- *Morse Fellowship*, Yale University, 2007-2008
- *Franklin Research Grant*, American Philosophical Society, 2005
- *AAR Research Grant*, American Academy of Religion, 2005
- *Spalding Research Grant*, Spalding Trust, UK, 2004
- *Research Grant*, British Academy, 2003
- *Fulbright-Hays Fellowship*, U.S. Department of Education, 1999-2000
- *Radcliffe and Ramsdell Fellowships*, University of Michigan, 1998
- *John D'Arms Scholar*, University of Michigan, 1995

### Invited Talks and Conference Papers (Past Five Years)

- "Conjuring the Buddha: The Rise of Poetic Language in Buddhist Ritual Manuals," Tang Center for Silk Road Studies, UC Berkeley, October 5th, 2023.
- "Sacrifice in Context: The Tantric Feast in Tenth Century Tibet," Asian Religions Keynote, Seminar on Sacrifice: Hermeneutics, Sources, Historiography, Italian Doctoral School for Religious Studies, Reggio Emilia, Italy, September 18-21st, 2023.
- "On the Early Development of Sexual Union: Evidence from Dunhuang," Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University, June 1st, 2023.
- "Changing Definitions of the Illusory Body: Dream Yoga in Context," Generative Contemplation Symposium, University of Virginia, April 19-23, 2023.
- "Sexual Yoga before the Subtle Body: Evidence from Dunhuang on Vajra Recitation," Sino-Tibetan Buddhist Philology Lecture Series, Tsinghua University, Beijing, January 13th, 2023.
- "Dream Yoga and the Transformation of Unconscious Fixations in Early Dzogchen," Annual Meeting of the AAR, November 21st, 2022.
- "How to Transform Your Body into Light and Act Just Like a Buddha," 16th Meeting of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Charles University, Prague, July 7th, 2022.
- "Four Passages on Rainbow Body," Visionary Encounters with Luminous and Empty Forms, Stanford University, May 29th, 2022.
- "Tibetan Tantra at Dunhuang," The Goodman Lectures, Khyentse Foundation, September 24th, 2021.
- "Navigating the Afterlife through the Tibetan Book of the Dead," Arts of Asia Lecture Series, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, February 12th, 2021.
- "A Tangle of Hair-Knots: Uṣṇīṣa Buddhas and Intertextuality in Early Tibet," Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture Series, Harvard University, October 7th, 2020.
- "Samaya from Yoga to Mahāyoga: Evidence from Dunhuang," Ruhr Universität Bochum, September 18th, 2019.
- "On the Place of *Samaya* in Early Mahāyoga: Observations from Dunhuang and Beyond," International Association of Tibetan Studies, Paris, July 9th, 2019.
- "Demons Underfoot: The Tibetan Ritual of Demon Suppression (*dam sri mnan pa*) and Its Mythic Context," Conjuring Demons: Buddhist Narratives of Encounters with the Demonic, Stanford University, April 27th, 2019.

- “Seeing without Looking: A Psychoanalytic View of Great Perfection Contemplation in Tibet,” Tang Art Museum, Skidmore College, March 20th, 2019.
- “On the Historical Importance of *Samaya* in Early Tantric *Āveśā*: Observations from Dunhuang,” New Directions in Himalayan Studies, UC Berkeley, March 1st, 2019.
- “Further Insights into Early Tantric Buddhism from the Dunhuang Manuscripts,” School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK, January 8th, 2019.
- “Visions of Emptiness: Unpacking the Murals of the Dalai Lama's Nāga House,” Arts of Asia Lecture Series, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Panel respondent to “Religion and Violence in Tibet and the Himalayas,” Annual Meeting of the AAR, November 17th, 2018.
- “Observations on the Possible Historicity of Padmasambhava,” International Seminar “Perspectives on Padmasambhava,” Rubin Museum of Art, New York City, October 13th, 2018.
- “Evoking Enlightenment: The Rise of Poetic Language in Early Tantric Ritual,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, March 6th, 2018.
- “Circular vs. Linear Thinking: Observations on Zhang Nyi ma 'bum's *Rdzogs pa chen po tshig don bcu gcig pa*,” Department of South Asian Studies, Harvard University, March 2nd, 2018.