Madhyamaka & Methodology: A Symposium on Buddhist Theory and Method
April 23–25, 2010

These are the scholars who were invited to make formal presentations at the symposium, though other scholars also attended.

**Dan Arnold**
Assistant Professor, Philosophy of Religion, University of Chicago

Dan Arnold is Assistant Professor of the Philosophy of Religion in the University of Chicago Divinity School. Considering Indian Buddhist philosophy as an integral part of the broader tradition of Indian philosophy, he has been especially interested in issues disputed between Buddhist schools and the orthodox Brahmanical school of Pūrva Mīmāṃsā. His current work has to do with modern notions of intentionality as useful in thinking through central issues in classical Buddhist epistemology and philosophy of mind. His first book—*Buddhists, Brahmins, and Belief: Epistemology in South Asian Philosophy of Religion* (Columbia University Press, 2005)—won an American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion. His essays have appeared in such journals as *Philosophy East and West*, the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *Asian Philosophy*, and the *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*.

**Mario D’Amato**
Assistant Professor, Religion Department, Rollins College

Mario D’Amato (BA, Loyola University Chicago; MA and Ph.D., University of Chicago) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. Before arriving at Rollins, he taught at Hampshire College. D’Amato specializes in the study of Mahāyāna philosophy, with a particular focus on the Yogācāra school, and has published papers on Yogācāra thought in *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *Indian International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, and *Semiotica*. He is currently completing a book-length study and translation of a Yogācāra doctrinal treatise known as the *Madhyāntavibhāga (Distinguishing the Middle from the Extremes)*.

**Sue Darlington**
Professor, Anthropology and Asian Studies, Hampshire College

Susan M. Darlington, professor of anthropology and Asian studies, received a B.A. in anthropology and history from Wellesley College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Michigan. Her research, based on extensive fieldwork in Thailand, examines the work of Buddhist monks engaged in rural development, environmental conservation and other forms of social activism. The broader questions she addresses in her research and teaching include understanding the changing social, political and historical contexts of
religion, environmentalism and human rights, and the creative use of ritual for social change. She also teaches about socially engaged Buddhism, religious movements, and Southeast Asian studies.

**Georges Dreyfus**  
Professor, Department of Religion, Williams College

Georges Dreyfus lived for over a decade as a Tibetan monk in the exile community in India and was the first Westerner to obtain the title of Geshe Lharampa, the highest degree conferred within the traditional Tibetan monastic system. He is presently Professor of Religion at Williams College. An expert in Tibetan Buddhist scholastic traditions and Mahayana philosophies, he has taught academic, Buddhist community, and general audiences. In addition, his research interests include post-colonial and cross-cultural studies and the study of religious intellectual practices, traditions, and identity. He is the author of a number of books, including *Recognizing Reality: Dharmakirti's Philosophy and its Tibetan Interpretations* and *The Sound of Two Hands Clapping: The Education of a Tibetan Buddhist Monk*. He received his Baccalaureate at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, and his Ph.D. in the History of Religions from the University of Virginia.

**David Eckel**  
Professor, Religion Department, Boston University

Malcolm David Eckel is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University. He holds two bachelors degrees, one in English from Harvard University and a second in Theology from Oxford University. Professor Eckel earned his Masters in Theology at Oxford and his Ph.D. in the study of Comparative Religion at Harvard. In addition to his position at Boston University, he has held teaching positions at Ohio Wesleyan University, Middlebury College in Vermont, and the Harvard Divinity School, where he served as Acting Director of the Center for the Study of World Religions. At Boston University, Professor Eckel teaches courses on Buddhism, comparative religion, and the religions of Asia. In 1998, Professor Eckel received the Metcalf Award for Teaching Excellence, the university’s highest award for teaching. In addition to many articles, Professor Eckel has published two books on Buddhist philosophy: *To See the Buddha: A Philosopher’s Quest for the Meaning of Emptiness* and *Buddhism: Origins, Beliefs, Practices, Holy Texts, Sacred Places*.

**Jay Garfield**  
Professor, Department of Philosophy, Smith College

Jay Garfield is Doris Silbert Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Logic Program and of the Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program at Smith College, Professor in the graduate faculty of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Professor of Philosophy at Melbourne
University and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies. He teaches and pursues research in the philosophy of mind, foundations of cognitive science, logic, philosophy of language, Buddhist philosophy, cross-cultural hermeneutics, theoretical and applied ethics and epistemology. Garfield’s most recent books include a translation, with Professor Geshe Ngawang Samten, of Tsong Khapa’s commentary on Nagarjuna’s *Mulamadhyamakakarika (Ocean of Reasoning)* (2002); *Empty Words: Buddhist Philosophy and Cross-Cultural Interpretation* (2006); *Buddhist Philosophy: Essential Readings*, co-edited with William Edelglass (2009); *Trans-Buddhism: Transmission, Translation and Transformation*, co-edited with Nalini Bhushan and Abraham Zablocki (2009); and *Pointing at the Moon: Buddhism, Logic, Analytic Philosophy*, co-edited with Tom Tillemans and Mario D’Amato (2009). Garfield is also working on projects on the development of the theory of mind in children with particular attention to the role of pretence in that process; the acquisition of evidentials and its relation to the development of theory of mind (with Jill deVilliers, Thomas Roeper and Peggy Speas), the history of 20th Century Indian philosophy (with Nalini Bhushan) and the nature of conventional truth in Madhyamaka (with Graham Priest and Tom Tillemans).

**Peter Gregory**
Professor, Department of Religion, Smith College

Peter N. Gregory joined the faculty at Smith College as Jill Ker Conway of Professor of Religion and East Asian Studies in 1999. After receiving his doctorate in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University in 1981, he taught in the Program for the Study of Religion at the University of Illinois for fifteen years. He has also served as the President and Executive Director of the Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Human Values since 1984, and in that capacity he has directed two publication series with the University of Hawaii Press: "Studies in East Asian Buddhism" and "Classics in East Asian Buddhism." His research has focused on medieval Chinese Buddhism, especially the Chan and Huayan traditions during the Tang and Song dynasties, on which he has written or edited seven books, including *Tsung-mi and the Sinification of Buddhism* (1991). He is currently completing a translation of a ninth-century Chinese Buddhist text on the historical and doctrinal origins of the Chan tradition. Since coming to Smith, his research and teaching have become increasingly concerned with Buddhism in America, and he has recently coedited *Women Practicing Buddhism: American Experiences*, which is slated for publication by Wisdom Publications in the fall of 2007.
**Maria Heim**  
Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Amherst College

Maria Heim is an assistant professor of Buddhist Studies at Amherst College. She works primarily on the Theravada, and is currently working on a book about Buddhist theories of intention and the springs of moral action. Her book, *Theories of the Gift in South Asia: Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain Reflections on Dana*, was published in 2004.

**David Higgins**  
Lecturer, Department of Religion, University of Victoria

David Higgins is a doctoral candidate at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in the Section de Langues et Civilisations Orientales and a Sessional Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada. His current research concerns the phenomenological distinction between dualistic mind (sems) and primordial awareness (ye shes) as it has been articulated and defended in the Tibetan rNying ma tradition from the 8th to 14th centuries. His dissertation will offer a critical study of rNying ma views on mind and attempt to clarify their complex relationship to earlier Madhyamaka, Yogācāra and Vajrayāna views.

**Jamie Hubbard**  
Professor, Department of Religion, Smith College

Jamie Hubbard is Professor of Religion and Yehan Numata Lecturer in Buddhist Studies at Smith College where he has taught since 1985. He has a long interest in the relationship between text, rhetoric, and institution, particularly in the social-political realm involving questions of heresy and orthodoxy. Past projects include a book on a popular Chinese Buddhist movement that was branded heretical and whose scriptures were banned (*Absolute Delusion, Perfect Buddhahood*), an edited volume on a controversy in contemporary Japanese Buddhism (*Pruning the Bodhi Tree*, with Paul Swanson), and a BBC film on Buddhism in contemporary Japan (*The Yamaguchi Story: Buddhism and the Family in Contemporary Japan*). He is currently working on an apocryphal Buddhist text attributed to an important early Japanese ruler in a strategy of Buddhist authority-creation.

**C. W. Huntington**  
Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Hartwick College

C. W. Huntington is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY. He is the author of *The Emptiness of Emptiness: An Introduction to Early Indian Mādhyamika* (1989), which includes a complete English translation of Candrakīrti’s *Madhyamakāvatāra*. His publications also include an edition and extensive text-critical study of the *Akutobhayā*, as well as a number of articles on the interpretation of Madhyamaka and on historical and text-critical methodology.
In 2003 he was the recipient of the Margaret Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence, Hartwick College's highest award for teaching.

**Connie Kassor**  
Ph.D. student (and Smith alumna), Religion Department, Emory University

Connie Kassor received her BA in philosophy from Smith College, and is currently a doctoral student in Emory University’s Graduate Division of Religion. She has conducted research in India at the Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies and Jampa Choling Nunnery Institute, and in Nepal at the Rangjung Yeshe Institute and the International Buddhist Academy. Her research interests include Tibetan interpretations of Indian philosophical thought, and Buddhist practices in Kinnaur. She is currently engaged in research on the Sakyapa scholar Gorampa Sonam Senge, and his influence on the Buddhist Nonsectarian (ris med) movement.

**Yaroslav Komarovski**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Yaroslav Komarovski (Ph.D. University of Virginia, 2007) teaches and conducts research on Asian religions, in particular Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. His research focuses on Madhyamaka and Yogācāra interpretations of the nature of reality and related epistemological, philosophical, and contemplative issues. In particular, he focuses on writings of a seminal Tibetan Buddhist thinker Shakya Chokden (1428–1507) who articulated a startlingly new reconsideration of the core areas of Buddhist thought and practice, such as epistemology, ethics, tantric rituals, and the relationship between philosophy and contemplation. Prior to his doctoral training at the University of Virginia, Komarovski studied Buddhism in several Tibetan monastic institutions of higher learning in India and Nepal for nine years, and for more than fifteen years worked as a translator and interpreter from Tibetan. His publications include “Encountering Ineffability—Counting Ineffability: On Divergent Verbalizations of the Ineffable in 15th Century Tibet” *Acta Tibetica et Buddhica*, vol. 1 (2008): 1-15; “Reburying the Treasure—Maintaining the Continuity: Two Texts by Śākya Mchog Ldan on the Buddha-Essence,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, vol. 34, no. 6 (2006): 521-570; and *Three Texts on Madhyamaka by Shakya Chokden*. Dharamsala, India: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 2000. Komarovski’s latest interests lie in comparative study of Tibetan Dzokchen and Chinese Hua-yen systems, as well as Buddhist perspectives on the question of (un)mediated mystical experience. His manuscript focusing on the life and work of Shakya Chokden is currently under review with SUNY.
Karen Lang
Professor, Religious Studies, and Director, Center for South Asian Studies,
University of Virginia

Karen Lang is Professor of Indian Religions in the Department of Religious Studies and Director of the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Virginia. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism and reading courses in Sanskrit, Pāli and Tibetan. Her publications include two books, *Four Illusions: Candrakīrti’s Advice on the Bodhisattva Path* and *Āryadeva’s Catuḥṣataka: On the Bodhisattva’s Cultivation of Merit and Knowledge*, as well as numerous articles on Buddhist philosophy and literature in edited volumes and in *Indo-Iranian Journal, Asiatische Studien, Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde Sudasiens, Feminist Studies in Religion, Buddhist-Christian Studies* and *The Eastern Buddhist*. She is currently completing a book-length study and translation of chapters 5-8 of Candrakīrti’s *Bodhisattvayogacāracatuḥṣatakātīkā* (commentary on Āryadeva’s 400 verses on the Bodhisattva’s practice).

Sara McClintock
Assistant Professor, Religion Department, Emory University

Sara McClintock received her BA from Bryn Mawr College, her MTS from Harvard Divinity School, and her Ph.D. in Religion from Harvard University. Her research focuses on the philosophical traditions of Indian and Tibetan Buddhism, with special interests in the rhetorical nature of Buddhist conceptions of reason and the moral philosophy of Buddhist narrative literature. She teaches courses on Indian religions, Buddhism, Buddhist narrative literature, the role of the reader in the interpretation of religious texts, and Tibetan language. Her book, *Omniscience and the Rhetoric of Reason: Rationality, Argumentation and Religious Authority in the Tattvasamgraha and the Panjika* (forthcoming, 2010), explores the ways that certain forms of Buddhist argumentation about omniscience reflect contextual notions of both reason and authority. She is the co-editor with Georges Dreyfus of *The Svetantrika-Prasangika Distinction: What Difference Does a Difference Make?* (Wisdom Publications, 2003), a volume of papers on Indian and Tibetan Madhyamaka philosophy. With her colleague John Dunne, she has translated Nagarjuna’s *Ratnavali*, a revised version of which will be released in Wisdom Publication’s Classics of Indian Buddhism Series as *The Precious Garland: An Epistle to a King*.

Susanne Mrozik
Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Amherst College

Susanne Mrozik focuses on South Asian Buddhist ethics. Her current book project, *Virtuous Bodies: The Physical Dimension of Morality in Buddhist Ethics*, examines early medieval Buddhist perspectives on the different kinds of roles bodies play in the ethical development of living beings. Additionally, Mrozik is
co-editing a volume on *Women Practicing Buddhism: American Experiences*. The volume explores the extraordinarily diverse nature of women’s Buddhist practice in contemporary America. Mrozik has contributed scholarly articles to a range of publications, including the *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* and the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. She is the recipient of numerous teaching and academic awards, including the Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from Harvard University, a Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and a Fulbright grant for research in India.

**Andy Rotman**
Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Smith College

Andy Rotman is Associate Professor of Religion at Smith College. His research largely concerns the ways in which seeing and what is seen in South Asia function as part of social history, affective relations, and material culture. This interest is apparent in his research on Indian Buddhism, South Asian media, and the economies of the north Indian bazaar. He recently published *Divine Stories* (2008), the first part of a two-part translation of the *Divyavadana*, one of the largest and most important collections of ancient Buddhist narratives. This volume inaugurates the Classics of Indian Buddhism series from Wisdom Publications. His second book, *Thus Have I Seen: Visualizing Faith in Early Indian Buddhism* (2008), considers the construction of faith as a visual practice in Buddhism, and how seeing and faith function as part of overlapping visual and moral systems.

**Tom Tillemans**
Professor, Buddhist Studies, University of Lausanne

T. J. F. (Tom) Tillemans is a Dutch-Canadian Buddhologist, Indologist and Tibetologist. Since 1992, Tillemans has been Professor of Buddhology in the Faculty of Oriental Languages and Civilizations at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. He received his bachelor's at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. His masters, in Sanskrit, Chinese and philosophy, he received at the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva and his doctorate in Buddhist Studies in Lausanne. After his studies he did research at Hiroshima University in Japan and was invited to several universities as a visiting professor. In addition to his professorship in Lausanne as head of the department Orientalis Studies and Associate Dean for the Faculty of Arts. Tillemans does research on Indian and Tibetan Buddhist logic and epistemology, Madhyamaka philosophy, indigenous Tibetan literature, and Tibetan grammar and poetry. His publications include *Agents and actions in classical Tibetan: The indigenous grammarians on bdag and gzhana bya byed las gsum* (1989); *Persons of Authority: The Ston Pa Tshad - A Tibetan Work on the Central Religious Questions in Buddhist Epistemology* (1993); *Scripture, Logic, Language: Volume I: Essays on Dharmakirti and His Tibetan Successors* (1999); and *Materials for the Study of Aryadeva, Dharmapala and Chandrakirti* (2008).
Kevin Vose
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, College of William and Mary

Kevin Vose is an assistant professor of religious studies at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He received his Ph.D. in Buddhist studies from the University of Virginia. His work examines the interplay of late-Indian and early-Tibetan Madhyamaka and the formation of Tibetan scholasticism. His current research concerns a thirty-volume collection of recently discovered Tibetan manuscripts from the Kadampa (bka' gdam pa) order. These manuscripts were recovered from one of the few monastic libraries to survive the Cultural Revolution in Tibet. In particular, he is examining several eleventh- and twelfth-century texts pertaining to the formation of Tibetan Madhyamaka philosophy. His first book, *Resurrecting Candrakirti: Disputes in the Tibetan Creation of Prasangika*, was published by Wisdom Publications in 2008.

Jan Westerhoff
Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Durham

Jan Westerhoff is a philosopher and orientalist with specific interests in metaphysics and the philosophy of language. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and SOAS. At present he is a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Durham as well Research Associate at SOAS. For two years he was Research Fellow in Philosophy at the City University of New York and seminar associate at Columbia University. Before that he was a Junior Lecturer in philosophy at the University of Oxford. He is a specialist in metaphysics and Indo-Tibetan philosophy. His research interests also include the history of ideas in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. His publications include *Ontological Categories. Their Nature and Significance* (2005) and *Nagarjuna's Madhyamaka* (2009)