

# Emily B. Simpson, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION

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- **University of California at Santa Barbara** (Sept 2011- June 2019):
    - Graduate Advisors: Fabio Rambelli (Chair); Katherine Saltzman-Li; Sabine Frühstück
    - Doctor of Philosophy in East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies (June 14, 2019): “Crafting a Goddess: Divinization, Womanhood and Genre in Narratives of Empress Jingū”
    - Certificate of College and University Teaching (June 14, 2019)
    - Master of Arts in Asian Studies (Dec 19, 2014): “Sovereign, Shaman and Bodhisattva: A Medieval Reinterpretation of Empress Jingū in the *Hachiman gudōkun*”
  - **Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan** (Sept 2016-Dec 2017):
    - Graduate Research Fellow through Fulbright IIE
    - Research advisor: Satō Hiroo, Japanese Intellectual History
  - **Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY** (Aug 2003-May 2007):
    - Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies, with department and general honors (May 27, 2007)
    - Phi Beta Kappa Induction (May 2007)
    - Minors in Francophone Studies and Japanese
    - Senior Thesis: “The Miko’s Gift and Other Stories: Shaman Queens of Ancient Japan,” Sophia H. Chen Zen Memorial Prize for Best Thesis in Asian Studies
  - **Beijing Language and Culture University Summer Intensive Program** (July-Aug 2012, 2013): Intensive Chinese language training
  - **Kansai Gaidai University Study Abroad Program** (Jan 2006-May 2006): Japanese language and culture classes, homestay with local family
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## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

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- English, native
- Japanese, fluency (JLPT 2); reading proficiency in premodern forms (*bungo*, *kanbun*, *sōrōbun*)
- French, advanced reading proficiency in
- Chinese and German, intermediate
- Korean, beginner

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Japanese religious traditions, Buddhist-Shinto combinatory systems, shamanism
- Gender in premodern East Asia
- Folklore and vernacular literature in the premodern Buddhist world

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## HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- **Dickinson Research Funds, Dartmouth College** (Sept 2019-June 2020, Sept 2020-June 2021): Religion department funds for research-related expenses.
- **Fullbright IIE Graduate Research Fellowship** (Sept 2016 - Dec 2017): Fellowship to support dissertation research in Japan. Affiliated with Tohoku University.
- **Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Doctoral Fellowship** (2016-2017, declined)
- **Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Dissertation Fellowship** (2016-2017, declined)
- **UCSB Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award** (2016, nominated). Award of recognition to exceptional TAs; anonymous nomination by student or professor.
- **UC Regents Graduate Fellowship, UCSB** (2011-2015): Fellowship awarded to incoming graduate students nominated by their department; provides two years of research stipend and two years of guaranteed teaching assistantships.
- **Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, UCSB** (2014): Travel award for use in allaying costs associated with conference presentation in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### **BOOK:**

Monika Schrimpf and Emily B. Simpson, editors. *The Handbook of Women in Japanese Buddhism*. Tokyo: MHM Limited, under contract, expected Spring 2024.

### **ARTICLES & CHAPTERS:**

**Like A Fierce God: Re-envisioning the Enemy in the Legend of Empress Jingū.** *Religions*, Special issue "Aspects of Medieval Japanese Religion," accepted, expected Summer 2022.

**Women.** In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Japanese Religions*, eds. Erica Baffelli, Fabio Rambelli, and Andrea Castiglioni. London: Bloomsbury, March 2021.

**An Empress at Sea: Sea Deities and Divine Union in the Legend of Empress Jingū.** In *The Sea and the Sacred in Japan: Aspects of Maritime Religiosity*, ed. Fabio Rambelli, 65-78. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

**Sacred Mother Bodhisattva, Buddha and Cakravartin: Recasting Empress Jingū as a Buddhist Figure in the *Hachiman gudōkun*.** *Journal of Religion in Japan*. Volume 6, Issue 2-3, 2017: 107-127.

### **TRANSLATIONS:**

Satō Hiroo. **“Changing Images of the World After Death.”** In *Spirits and Animism in Contemporary Japan: The Invisible Empire*, ed. Fabio Rambelli. London: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Itō Satoshi. **“Lands and People Drifting Ashore: Distorted Conceptions of Japan’s Place in the World In Medieval and Early Modern Japanese Myths.”** In *The Sea and the Sacred in Japan: Aspects of Maritime Religiosity*, ed. Fabio Rambelli, 131-138. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Saitō Hideki. **“Origuchi Shinobu and the Sea as Religious Topos: *Marebito* and *Musubi no kami*.”** In *The Sea and the Sacred in Japan: Aspects of Maritime Religiosity*, ed. Fabio Rambelli, 167-180. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Jinno Yuki. **“Consumer Consumption for Children: Conceptions of Childhood in the Work of Taishō-Period.”** In *Child’s Play: Multi-sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan*, eds. Sabine Frühstück and Anne Walthall, 83-101. Oakland: University of California Press, 2017.

Koresawa Hiroaki. **“Children and the Founding of Manchukuo: The Young Girl Ambassadors as Promoters of Friendship.”** In *Child’s Play: Multi-sensory Histories of Children and Childhood in Japan*, eds. Sabine Frühstück and Anne Walthall, 121-137. Oakland: University of California Press, 2017.

### **BOOK REVIEWS:**

Review of Sujung Kim, *Shinra Myōjin and Buddhist Networks of the East Asian “Mediterranean.”* Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2019. In *Journal of Asian Humanities at Kyushu University*, March 2021.

Review of David Quinter, *From Outcasts to Emperors: Shingon Ritsu and the Mañjuśrī Cult in Medieval Japan*. Brill’s Japanese Studies Library, vol. 50. Leiden: Brill, 2015. In *Journal of Religion In Japan*, Volume 5, Issue 1, 84-88. Leiden, Brill: 2016.

### **PUBLICATIONS FOR NON-SPECIALIST AUDIENCES:**

**“Is Shinto an Indigenous Religion?”** In *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, eds. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing, forthcoming Jan 2022.

**“Can We (and Should We) Still Use the Term ‘Shamanism?’”** In *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, eds. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing, forthcoming Jan 2022.

Encyclopedia entries on **“Amaterasu Omikami,” “Guan Yin,” “Kami,” “Shamans and Ritual Practitioners,” and “Shinto Priestesses,”** for *Women in World Religions: Faith and Culture Across History*, ed. Susan de-Gaia. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018.

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**PRESENTATIONS**

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**INVITED TALKS:**

**The Divine Empress and Her Son: Motherhood, Lineage and Deification in Late Medieval Narratives of Empress Jingū** (June 28, 2021). Talk given virtually at the University of Zurich as part of the workshop “Warrior Queens and Resistance Fighters: The Role of Female Figures in Imperialist Mythology.”

**Cooling the Womb of Stone: Empress Jingū and Embodied Pregnancy in Late Medieval Origin Stories** (May 24, 2021). Talk given virtually at the University of Chicago as part of the “The Body in the East Asian Imaginaire” series.

**From Degenerate Age to Divine Country: Reimagining Japan and its World in Medieval Religious Discourse** (March 19, 2021). Talk given virtually at the Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia as part of the “Seminar Series on Asian Religions.”

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS - JURIED:**

**Like A Fierce God: Re-envisioning the Enemy in the Legend of Empress Jingū** (March 25, 2021). Paper presented at the annual Association of Asian Studies conference, held virtually this year.

**The Many Faces of Hachiman: A Consideration of Composite Divinization in Medieval Shinto** (Oct 11, 2019). Paper presented at the third annual Premodern Japanese Studies (PMJS) Network International Conference, held at McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

**All in the Family: Divinity and Diversity in the Hachiman Cult** (Nov 17, 2018). Paper presented at the annual American Academy of Religion conference, held at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO.

**The Empress Divine: Jingū's Status as a Deity in *Jisha engi*** (Aug 31, 2017). Paper presented at the triennial Conference of the European Association of Japanese Studies, held at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal.

**In the Line of Emperors: Empress Jingū in Medieval Explorations of Dynasty** (Oct 17, 2015). Paper presented at the annual New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS), held at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.

**The Jewel of the Tide: Empress Jingū and Maritime Religiosity in Medieval Japan** (Aug 28, 2014). Paper presented at the triennial Conference of the European Association of Japanese Studies, held at the University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**The Power of Precedent: Referencing Chinese and Buddhist Traditions in the *Hachiman gudōkun*** (Nov 3, 2013). Paper presented at the annual graduate Texas Asia Conference at the University of Texas, Austin, TX.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS - INVITED:**

**The Empress' New Sister: The Role of Toyohime in Medieval Legends of Empress Jingū** (online: Aug 6, 2020). Paper presented at the virtual conference series "Reiterations of the Past: Negotiations Through Practice," hosted by the International Master's Program (IMAP) in Japanese Humanities at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan.

**All in the Family? Kami Triads and Modular Divinization in Medieval Japan** (online: July 20, 2020). Paper presented virtually for the #AcademicsInQuarantine group.

**神功皇后の神格化：神になる過程を考え直す** [Divinizing Jingū: Reconsidering the Procession of Deification in Premodern Japan] (Feb 16, 2018). Paper presented at the annual USC Meiji University Japanese Research Exchange, held at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

**An Empress at Sea: The Role of Sea Deities in the Legend of Empress Jingū** (June 15, 2016). Paper presented at conference on Sea Religion In Japan. UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.

**Mother Before Warrior: The *Hachiman gudōkun* and Empress Jingū's Place in Early Modern Women's Cults** (Feb 13, 2016). Paper presented at Networks and Negotiations: Graduate Student Conference on Premodern Japan. UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.

**Sacred Mother Bodhisattva, Buddha and Cakravartin: Recasting Empress Jingū as a Buddhist Figure** (March 9, 2014). Paper presented at the periodic graduate conference New Directions in Buddhist Studies, highlighting new research at UC schools and Stanford University, held at UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.

**OTHER CONFERENCE ROLES:**

**Conference Co-Organizer: Networks and Negotiations: Graduate Student Conference on Premodern Japan** (Feb 12-13, 2016). Graduate conference planning, funding and organization completed with fellow graduate student and faculty advisor at home university. UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.

**Panel Organizer: Re-envisioning the Land of the Gods: Reinterpretations of Japan's History and Religion after the Mongol Invasions.** (Mar 25, 2021). Panel organized for the annual Association of Asian Studies conference, held virtually from March 21-26, 2021.

**Gods in the Making: A Reconsideration of the Process of Deification in Medieval Japan and Beyond** (Aug 30, 2017). Panel organized for the triennial Conference of the European Association of Japanese Studies, held at the University of Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal.

**Discussant: Siting Memories of the Dead** (May 8, 2015). Discussant at the symposium War and Remembrance: Cultural Imprints of Japan's Samurai Age. UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.

**OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS:**

Dartmouth Japan Society: Presentation for quarterly Professor Dinner. Hanover, NH.

- **Japanese Religion Through Images** (Nov 13, 2019).
- **Power Spots: The Intersection of Spirituality, Religion and Tourism** (Feb 19, 2021).

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**


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**LECTURER, Department of Religion, Dartmouth College** (Fall 2019-current):

- **Women and Religion in Japan** (Fall 2019, hybrid: Winter 2021)
  - Intermediate course exploring gender and religion in Japan, from prehistory to today
- **Religions of Japan** (Winter 2020, remote: Summer 2020)
  - Introductory course exploring religions in Japan with a focus on material culture
- **Shinto: Foundations, Festivals and Fox Shrines** (remote: Spring 2020, hybrid: Spring 2021)
  - Introductory course examining the history, categorization and diversity of Shinto
- **Buddhism in Korea and Japan: From Tribute Missions to Temple Tourism** (remote: Spring 2020, Winter 2022)
  - Introductory course comparing Buddhism's development and legacy in Japan and Korea
- **Shamanism: The Agony and the Ecstasy** (hybrid: Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
  - Theory course with global scope, problematizing the concept of "shamanism"

**LECTURER, International Master's Program (IMAP) and International Doctorate (IDOC) in Japanese Humanities, Kyushu University (Kyudai)**, (Summer 2021):

- **Religion in Manga, Anime and Popular Media**
  - Intensive graduate seminar for MA and PhD Students

**LECTURER, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara** (Spring 2021):

- **Introduction to Japanese Religions**
  - Introductory course on Japanese religions (60+ students, with TA)

**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD, University of California at Santa Barbara** (Summer 2016, Fall 2018-Spring 2019):

**Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies**

- **East Asian Traditions: Modern (Summer 2016, co-instructor)**
  - Course on Modern Chinese and Japanese culture, always co-taught
- **Women and Womanhood in Japanese History (Spring 2019)**
  - Self-designed course exploring gender issues in Japanese history, ancient to modern times

**Writing Program**

- **Academic Writing**
  - Intensive course preparing students for academic writing in various fields

**INVITED CLASS LECTURES****Department of Asian Societies, Cultures and Languages, Dartmouth College (Fall 2019):**

- Presented prepared lecture with slides followed by discussion for full class period
  - School Lunch in Japan: Kyūshoku in Context, for intermediate course Eat, Drink, Japan: An Interdisciplinary Approach (October 29, 2019)

**Various Departments, University of California at Santa Barbara (Fall 2013 - Summer 2019):**

- Presented prepared lecture with slides followed by discussion for full class period
  - Japanese Religion and Popular Culture, for lower division course Popular Culture in Modern Japan (July 29, 2019)
  - Korean Shamanism: Case Studies in Ethnographic Research, for upper division course Anthropology of Korea (May 17, 2018)
  - Heritage and Globalization in Korean Temples, for upper division course Anthropology of Korea (May 15, 2018)
  - The Religious Landscape of Premodern Japan, for upper division course Tokugawa Japan (July 18, 2016)
  - Shintō and the Religious Landscape of Japan, for lower division course Introduction to Asian Religious Traditions (March 9, 2016)
  - The Legend of Empress Jingū: A Case Study in Folklore, for upper division course Japanese Folklore (Nov 20, 2014)
  - Buddhism in Japanese Literature, for lower division course Masterpieces of Japanese Literature (May 8, 2014)
  - Chinese Buddhism, for lower division course Introduction to Buddhism (Nov 18, 2013)
  - Japanese Buddhism, for lower division course Introduction to Buddhism (Nov 20, 2013 and Nov 16, 2012)

**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, Various Departments, University of California at Santa Barbara (2012-2016, 2018):**

- Created course materials and led discussion sections
- Developed and graded exams and papers in consultation with professors
  - East Asian Traditions: Premodern (Winter 2018, 2013)
  - Masterpieces of Japanese Literature (Spring 2014, Sole TA)
  - Introduction to Asian Religious Traditions (Winter 2014)
  - Introduction to Buddhism (Fall 2013: Head TA, Fall 2012)
  - East Asian Traditions: Modern (Spring 2013)
- Created syllabus, writing assignments, and teaching materials as primary instructor
  - Academic Writing (Fall 2015-Spring 2016, Spring 2018)

**CLASS READER, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara (2014, 2018):**

- Participated in class discussions and meetings with students
- Graded class exams and written assignments
  - Japanese Theatre (Spring 2018)

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- Japanese Folklore (Fall 2014)

**ESL INSTRUCTOR, Part-Time and Substitute, Multiple Locations** (2011, 2014-2016):

- Taught grammar, conversation, and writing to 3-30 students of mixed language background
- Created lesson plans, class handouts and assessments materials
- Served as substitute teacher for additional classes as needed
  - English Learning Center (ELC), Santa Barbara, CA (May 2014-August 2016)
  - English Learning Services (ELS), Cleveland, OH (March-June 2011)

**ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER, JET Program, Shikokuchūō-shi, Ehime, Japan** (July 2009-Aug 2010):

- Team-taught junior high school classes of 20-40 students and participated in all school functions
- Planned and taught elementary school sessions (3-100 students) as primary instructor
- Pioneered multiple community activities, including adult English classes and cultural events

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**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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**Dartmouth College** (Fall 2019-present):

- Participating Faculty, Japanese Language Table (January 2020-present)
- Faculty Associate, Consortium of Studies in Race, Migration, and Sexuality (Aug 2020-present)

**Editorial Work** (2011-present):

- Assistant editor for the *Journal of Religion in Japan* (February 2021-present)
- Copy editor for *Journal of Religion in Japan* (2015-present)
- Copy editor for *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Japanese Religions*, March 2021.
- Editorial work on manuscripts for several acquainted scholars

**University of California at Santa Barbara** (2011-2019):

- EALCS Graduate Student Colloquium: Coordinator (2012-2016), Member (2012-2019)
- Reinventing Japan Research Focus Group: Student Liaison (2014-2016), Member (2013-2018)
- EALCS Department Newsletter contributions (2012, 2013, 2016, 2020 issues)

**Writing Program Associate, University of California at Santa Barbara** (2018-2019):

- Assisted in planning two week-long training workshop and pedagogy seminar for new TAs
- Served as mentor to new TAs in the Writing Program throughout academic year

**D.E. Shaw & Co., L.P., New York City, NY** (2008-2009):

- Corporate librarian and administrative coverage assistant at large hedge fund

**Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY** (2003-2007):

- Asian Studies Program: Senior Intern (2006-2007)
- Chinese and Japanese Department: Research and Teaching Assistant (2005-2007)
- Asian Students Association Vice President (2004), Member (2003-2007)



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**ASSOCIATIONS**

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- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- American Association of Religion (AAR)
- European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS)