

**Elliott McCarter**

Senior Lecturer in Hindi-Urdu Language, Vanderbilt University  
Department of Asian Studies

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615-875-9042

**Education:**

- 2013: Ph.D. (Asian Cultures and Languages) The University of Texas at Austin;  
Dissertation title: “Kurukshetra: Bending the Narrative into Place.”
- 2005: M.A. (Asian Cultures and Languages) The University of Texas at Austin.
- 1999: B.A. (Religious Studies), The University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

**Languages:** Hindi-Urdu, Sanskrit; reading knowledge of French, German, and Punjabi

**Publications and Scholarly Presentations:**

- September, 2021 “खतरे में हैं विश्वविद्यालय में हिंदी,” in संदर्भ: हिंदी संगम फाउंडेशन की वार्षिक पत्रिका 2021, pp 54-55.
- November, 2018 “Digital Learning with ACTFL 5 C’s.” With Kusum Knapczyk presented at the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, New Orleans, LA, November 17, 2018.
- September, 2018 “Kurukshetra as a Vaishnava Tirtha.” *Journal of Vaisnava Studies*, Vol.27, No.1 / Fall 2018, pp. 17-22.
- May, 2018 “Flipped Classroom Grammar Modules for Hindi-Urdu.” With Kusum Knapczyk presented at the South Asian Language Teachers Association annual meeting, Princeton, NJ, May 19, 2018.
- April, 2018 “Land of the Gita.” Invited lecture, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, April 30, 2018.
- November, 2016 “Formulating and Assessing Humanities-Based Language Learning Outcomes.” With Jennifer Feldman, Hong Li, and Noriko Takeda presented at the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Boston, MA, November 20, 2016.
- March, 2016 “Teaching Grammar Outside of the Classroom: Creating a Rich Digital Environment.” Presented at Emory College Language Center, Emory University, March 15 2016.

- March, 2016 “Formulating and Assessing Language Learning Outcomes in Connection with University General Education Requirements.” With Hong Li, presented at Georgetown University Round Table for Language Assessment, Georgetown University, March 11 2016.
- October, 2014: “India after the Elections: Assessing the Present Conjuncture.” Discussion Panelist, Emory University Center for Post-Colonial Studies.
- June 2014: “Making the Land of the Gita.” Presented at the Conference for the Study of Religion in India, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN, 2014.
- December 2013: Booknote to *India: a Sacred Geography* by Diana Eck. *Religious Studies Review* 39:4 (December, 2013).
- March 4, 2012: “Kurukshetra: Ritual Constructions of Place and Narrative Interpretations of Ritual.” Presented at Emory University West and South Asian Religions Colloquium.
- October 28, 2010: “Tales from Kurukshetra: Bending the Narrative into Place.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, “New Directions in the Study of Religion in South Asia” section, Atlanta, GA, 2010.
- November 17, 2009: “Mapping the Territory: Narratives of Kurukshetra.” Presented at the Classical India Colloquium, Department of Asian Studies, The University of Texas, Austin 2009.
- October 17, 2009: “Kurukshetra: Place and Narrative.” presented at the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies. The University of Texas, Austin 2009.
- July 29, 2008: “*Labhet* in the *Kurukshetra Māhātmya* of the *Mahābhārata*.” Presented at the 44th Session of the All India Oriental Conference. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra 2008.

#### **Academic Employment and Assistantships:**

- 2016 – Present: Senior Lecturer in Hindi-Urdu, Vanderbilt University.
- 2013 – 2016 Instructor of Hindi and South Asian Culture and Hindi Language Program Coordinator, Emory University.
- 2013: Hindi Language Oral Proficiency Examiner, Kennesaw State University.
- 2010 – 2012: Instructor of Sanskrit Language and South Asian Culture, Emory University.
- 2010 (Fall): Assistant Instructor, “Introduction to India,” The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2009 (Spring): Teaching Assistant to Dr. Edeltraud Harzer, First and Second Year Sanskrit.
- 2007 (Fall): Teaching Assistant to Dr. Edeltraud Harzer, First and Second Year Sanskrit.
- 2005-2006: Research Assistant to Dr. Cynthia Talbot.
- 2005 (Summer): Project Assistant to Dr. Herman van Olphen, South Asia Language Research. Center Hindi Material Rehabilitation Project.
- 2005 (Summer): Digital Services for Liberal Arts Information and Technology Services.
- 2004-2005: Research Assistant to Dr. Patrick Olivelle.
- 2003-2004: Research Assistant to Dr. Patrick Olivelle.

### **Additional Employment, Professional Service, and Development:**

2021 – Present: Faculty Senator, Vanderbilt University  
2021 – Present: ACTFL Leadership Initiative in Language Learning Cohort  
2020 – Present: Vanderbilt Foreign Language Committee  
2020 – Present: President, South Asian Language Teachers Association  
2019 – Present: Vanderbilt Study Abroad Committee  
2019 – Present: Principle Faculty Coordinator for South Asia Week  
2017 – Present: Faculty Advisor, Vanderbilt Lakshya  
2017 – Present: Faculty VUceptor, Vanderbilt University  
2013 – Present: Member, National Language Service Corps  
2019 - 20: Critical Language Scholarship Application Screener  
2018 – 2020: Vice President, South Asian Language Teachers Association  
2018 – 19: Hindi-Urdu Lecturer Search Committee Chair  
2018: ACTFL - Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages Project Renderer  
2014 – 2016: Faculty Advisor, SARAAS  
2014 – 2016: Member HAL/HAP Learning Outcomes Assessment Task Force  
2013 – 2016: MESAS Language Forum Coordinator  
2013 – 2016: Member, Emory College Language Center  
2015: Participant in Consortium for Useful Assessment in Language and Humanities Education  
2015: Campus Lecture, “Explore,” presented at Dobbs Hall 1836 Freshman Dinner  
2015: Translation service to Arun Jones, Emory University, for publication  
2014: Participant in American Institute of Indian Studies Dissertation to Book Workshop  
2014: Campus Lecture, “My India,” presented to the Indian Cultural Exchange, Emory University  
2010: Planning Committee, University of Texas at Austin Asian Studies Graduate Conference  
2008: Public Lecture, Haryana, India, United States Educational Foundation in India  
2006-2007: Editor-in-Chief and Administrative Officer, University of Texas at Austin South Asian Graduate Research Journal, *SAGAR*  
2006: Planning Committee, University of Texas at Austin Asian Studies Graduate Conference  
2005: Editor, University of Texas at Austin South Asian Graduate Research Journal, *SAGAR*  
2004: Planning Committee, University of Texas at Austin Asian Studies Graduate Conference

### **Fellowships, Awards, and Scholarships:**

2020: Vanderbilt University COVID-19 Innovative Teaching Award For creative use of multiple technologies in online instruction  
2019: Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching Fellowship.  
2017: Vanderbilt University Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness Project Grant.  
2014: Emory College Language Center Curriculum Development Fellowship.  
2010-2011: David Bruton Jr. Continuing Fellowship.  
2009-2010: University of Texas Graduate School Continuing Fellowship.  
2009 (Summer): South Asia Graduate Research Fellowship.  
2008-2009: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.  
2006-2007: Title VI FLAS Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin.

2006 (Summer): Title VI FLAS Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin.  
2005-2006: Title VI FLAS Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin.  
2004-2005: Title VI FLAS Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin.  
2004 (Summer): Title VI FLAS Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin.  
2003-2004: Title VI FLAS Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin.  
2003 (Spring): Meyerson Scholarship, The University of Texas at Austin.

**Current Research Interests:**

Sacred Narratives; Cultural Geography; Nationalism; South Asian Languages and Literature;  
Humanities Pedagogy