

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Robert Ford Company

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Asian Studies Program  
Vanderbilt University, VU Station B #351806, 2301 Vanderbilt Place  
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Fax (office) (615) 322-2305  
E-mail robert.company@vanderbilt.edu, or robert.company@gmail.com

#### TEACHING and RESEARCH AREAS

##### Primary

History of Chinese religions (Daoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and popular religion); methods and history of the cross-cultural study of religion and culture; religion, culture, and thought in late classical and early medieval China (ca. 300 B.C. – 600 A.D.); comparative religious studies

##### Secondary

East Asian religions; Asian religions and philosophy; Chinese literature and religion; classical Chinese language

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

##### Tenured and tenure-track appointments

2010- Professor, Asian Studies, Vanderbilt University (with adjunct Professorship in the Department of Religious Studies and the Graduate Department of Religion)

2006-2010 Professor, School of Religion, University of Southern California (with adjunct Professorship in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures)

2004-2006 Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University (with adjunct membership in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures)

1995-2004 Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University (with adjunct membership in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures)

1988-95 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University (with adjunct membership in Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures)

##### Other appointments

2008 Directeur d'études invité, École Pratique des Hautes Études, 5<sup>e</sup> Section, Sciences Religieuses, Sorbonne, Université de Paris

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. with distinction                    The University of Chicago, 1988 (History of Religions)  
M.A.    The University of Chicago, 1983 (Religion)  
B.A. *magna cum laude*                    Davidson College, 1981 (Philosophy)
- Non-degree courses of study:        Middlebury College, summer 1984 (Japanese)  
   Middlebury College, summer 1981 (Chinese)  
   St. Anne's College, Oxford University, summer 1980 (literature & history)  
   Middlebury College, summer 1979 (German)

## PUBLICATIONS

Year of publication in parentheses denotes works *accepted* but not yet published.

### Books

- (2013)                    *Early Medieval China: A Sourcebook*, co-edited with Wendy Swartz, Jessey Choo, and Lu Yang, Columbia University Press
- 2012                    *Signs from the Unseen Realm: Buddhist Miracle Tales from Early Medieval China*, Kuroda Institute Series in East Asian Buddhism, University of Hawaii Press. 300 pages
- 2009                    *Making Transcendents: Ascetics and Social Memory in Early Medieval China*, University of Hawaii Press. 300 pages.  
\* Winner, American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion  
\* Honorable Mention, Association for Asian Studies Joseph Levenson Prize for studies of pre-1900 China
- 2002                    *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth: A Translation and Study of Ge Hong's Traditions of Divine Transcendents*, University of California Press, Daoist Classics series no. 2. 607 pages
- 1996                    *Strange Writing: Anomaly Accounts in Early Medieval China*, State University of New York Press. 524 pages

### Peer-reviewed articles and chapters

- (2013)                    "Relations with the Unseen World," in *Early Medieval China: A Sourcebook*, ed. Wendy Swartz, Robert Ford Company, Lu Yang, and Jessey Choo, Columbia University Press
- (2013)                    "Tales of Anomalous Events," in *Early Medieval China: A Sourcebook*, ed. Wendy Swartz, Robert Ford Company, Lu Yang, and Jessey Choo, Columbia University Press
- 2012                    "Religious Repertoires and Contestation: A Case Study Based on Miracle Tales," *History of Religions* 52.2:99-141
- 2011                    "Chinese History and Writing about 'Religion(s)': Reflections at a Crossroads," in *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe: Encounters, Notions, and Comparative Perspectives*, ed. Marion Steinicke and Volkhard Krech, E.J. Brill, 273-294
- 2010                    "Narrative in the Self-Presentation of Transcendence-Seekers," in Alan K.L. Chan and Yuet-Keung Lo, eds., *Interpretation and Literature in Early Medieval China*, State University of New York Press, 133-164

- 2010 “Seekers of Transcendence and Their Communities in This World (pre-350 A.D.),” in John Lagerwey and Lü Pengzhi, eds., *Early Chinese Religion, Part Two: The Period of Division (220-589 AD)*, E. J. Brill, vol. 1, 345-394
- 2008 “Fushi yiwu: Yi Ge Hong wei lie kan xiuxingzhe yu ziran de guanxi 服食异物：以葛洪为例看修行者与自然的关系,” in *Daojiao yu shengtai: yuzhou jingguan de neizai zhi dao 道教与生态：宇宙景观的内在之道* (Jiangsu, China: Jiangsu jiaoyu chubanshe 江苏教育出版社), 109-125 [= Chinese translation of “Ingesting the Marvelous” (2001)]
- 2006 “Secrecy and Display in the Quest for Transcendence in China, ca. 220 B.C.E.-350 C.E.,” *History of Religions* 45.4:291-336
- 2005 “Two Religious Thinkers of the Early Eastern Jin: Gan Bao 干寶 and Ge Hong 葛洪 in Multiple Contexts,” *Asia Major* 3<sup>rd</sup> series 18 (2005):175-224
- 2005 “Eating Better than Gods and Ancestors,” in *Of Tripod and Palate: Food, Politics, and Religion in Traditional China*, ed. Roel Sterckx, Palgrave Press, 96-122
- 2005 “Long-Distance Specialists in Early Medieval China,” in *Literature, Religion, and East-West Comparison: Essays in Honor of Anthony C. Yu*, ed. Eric Ziolkowski, University of Delaware Press, 109-124
- 2005 “The Meanings of Cuisines of Transcendence in Late Classical and Early Medieval China,” *T’oung Pao* 91:126-182
- 2005 “Living off the Books: Fifty Ways to Dodge *Ming* 命 [Preallotted Lifespan] in Early Medieval China,” in *The Magnitude of Ming: Command, Allotment, and Fate in Chinese Culture*, ed. Christopher Lupke, University of Hawaii Press, 129-150
- 2003 “On the Very Idea of Religions (in the Modern West and in Early Medieval China),” *History of Religions* 42.4 (May):287-319
- 2001 “Ingesting the Marvelous: The Practitioner’s Relationship to Nature According to Ge Hong (283-343 C.E.),” in *Daoism and Ecology: Ways within a Cosmic Landscape*, ed. Norman Girardot, James Miller, and Liu Xiaogan (Harvard University Press), 125-147
- 1996 “The Earliest Tales of the Bodhisattva Guanshiyin,” in *Religions of China in Practice*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton University Press), 82-96
- 1995 “To Hell and Back: Death, Near-Death, and other Worldly Journeys in Early Medieval China,” in *Death, Ecstasy, and Other Worldly Journeys*, ed. J. Collins and M. Fishbane (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 343-360
- 1994 “Taoist Bioethics in the Final Age: Therapy and Salvation in the *Book of Divine Incantations for Penetrating the Abyss*,” in *Religious Methods and Resources in Bioethics*, ed. P. Camenisch (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers), 67-91
- 1993 “The Real Presence,” *History of Religions* 32.3:233-272.  
*Partially reprinted* in Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, v. 1: *From Earliest Times to 1600*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 531-532.
- 1993 “Buddhist Revelation and Taoist Translation in Early Medieval China,” *Taoist Resources* 4.1:1-29
- 1992 “Xunzi and Durkheim as Theorists of Ritual Practice,” in *Discourse and Practice*, ed. F. Reynolds and D. Tracy (Albany: SUNY Press), 197-231.  
*Reprinted* in *Readings in Ritual Studies*, ed. Ronald L. Grimes (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1996), 86-103.
- 1991 “Ghosts Matter: The Culture of Ghosts in Six Dynasties *Zhiguai*,” *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 13:15-34

- 1991 “Notes on the Devotional Uses and Symbolic Functions of Sutra Texts as Depicted in Early Chinese Buddhist Miracle Tales and Hagiographies,” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 14.1:28-72
- 1991 “Useless and Useful Survivals: A Reply to Robert A. Segal,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 3.1:100-114
- 1990 “Return-from-Death Narratives in Early Medieval China,” *Journal of Chinese Religions* 18:91-125
- 1990 “‘Survival’ as an Interpretive Strategy: A Sino-Western Comparative Case Study,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 2.1:1-26
- 1986 “Cosmogony and Self-Cultivation: The Demonic and the Ethical in Two Chinese Novels,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 14:81-112
- 1985 “The Demonology of the *Hsi-yu chi*,” *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 7:95-115

#### Minor articles

- 2011 “Response to Peter C. Phan,” in *Catholicism and Interreligious Dialogue*, ed. James L. Heft (Oxford), 200-202
- 2009 “Visions religieuses pendant le haut Moyen Âge chinois.” *Annuaire de l'École pratique des hautes études, Section des sciences religieuses* 116 (2007-2008):39-42
- 2000 Untitled review article on Riccardo Fracasso, *Libro dei Monti e dei Mari (Shanghai jing): Cosmografia e Mitologia nella Cina Antica*, and Anne Birrell, *The Classic of Mountains and Seas*, in *Journal of Chinese Religions* 28:177-187
- 1997 Several unsigned contributions to *The Oxford Dictionary of World Religions*, ed. John Bowker (Oxford)
- 1995 Four short articles in *Harper's Dictionary of Religion*: “Chih-kuai,” “Feng-shen yen-i,” “Hsi-yu chi,” “Hua-hu ching”
- 1990 “Summary Report 1,” in *Deconstructing/Reconstructing the Philosophy of Religion* (The Divinity School, The University of Chicago), pp. 3-22
- 1987 “Buddhist Ethics,” with Frank Reynolds, in *Encyclopedia of Religion* (Macmillan), 2:498-504

#### Book reviews

- Amy Olberding and Philip J. Ivanhoe, eds., *Mortality in Traditional Chinese Thought*. *Journal of Asian Studies* 71 (2012):782-84
- Suzanne E. Cahill, *Divine Traces of the Daoist Sisterhood: Records of the Assembled Transcendents of the Fortified Walled City*. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 35 (2007):137-38.
- Barbara Hendrichske, *The Scripture on Great Peace: The Taipingjing and the Beginnings of Daoism*. *The Chinese Historical Review* 14 (2007):302-3.
- Keith Knapp, *Selfless Offspring: Filial Children and Social Order in Medieval China*. *Journal of Chinese Studies* 47 (2007):505-506.
- Livia Kohn, *Monastic Life in Medieval Daoism: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75 (2007):165-166.
- Philip Clart and Charles B. Jones, eds., *Religion in Modern Taiwan: Tradition and Innovation in a Changing Society*. *History of Religions* 46.3 (2007):276-278.
- Alan J. Berkowitz, *Patterns of Disengagement: The Practice and Portrayal of Reclusion in Early Medieval China*. *China Review International* 12.2 (Fall 2005):364-66.

- Edward Slingerland, *Effortless Action: Wu-wei as Conceptual Metaphor and Spiritual Ideal in Early China*. *History of Religions* 45 (2005):181-82.
- Richard Strassberg, *A Chinese Bestiary: Guideways through Mountains and Seas*. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 32 (2004):260-61.
- John Kieschnick, *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*. *Pacific Affairs* 77 (2004):558-59.
- Caroline Walker Bynum, *Metamorphosis and Identity*. *Journal of Religion* 84 (2004):115.
- Robert Sharf, *Coming to Terms with Chinese Buddhism: A Reading of the Treasure Store Treatise*. *Journal of Religion* 84 (2004):153-54.
- Michael Nylan, *The Five "Confucian" Classics*. *History of Religions* 43.3 (February 2004):258-61.
- Tiziana Lippiello, *Auspicious Omens and Miracles in Ancient China: Han, Three Kingdoms, and Six Dynasties*. *Journal of Asian Studies* 63 (2004):155-56.
- Livia Kohn, *Daoism and Chinese Culture*. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 123 (2003):408-9.
- Rémi Mathieu, *Démons et merveilles dans la littérature chinoise des Six Dynasties: Le fantastique et l'anecdotique dans le Soushen ji de Gan Bao*. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 29 (2001):335-36.
- Mark E. Lewis, *Writing and Authority in Early China*. *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 61 (2001):198-201.
- John Kieschnick, *The Eminent Monk: Buddhist Ideals in Medieval Chinese Hagiography*. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 121 (2001):656-57.
- Terry Kleeman, *Great Perfection: Religion and Ethnicity in a Chinese Millennial Kingdom*. *Journal of Religion* 80 (2000):166-67.
- Paul Katz, *Demon Hordes and Burning Boats: The Cult of Marshal Wen in Late Imperial Chekiang*. *History of Religions* 37 (1998):278-81.
- Kenneth DeWoskin and J.I. Crump, tr., *In Search of the Supernatural: The Written Record*. *China Review International* 4.1 (Spring 1997):118-21.
- Glen Dudbridge, *Religious Experience and Lay Society in T'ang China: A Reading of Tai Fu's "Kuang-I chi."* *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 19 (1997):143.
- Deborah Porter, *From Deluge to Discourse: Myth, History, and the Generation of Chinese Fiction*. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 25 (1997):197-200.
- Robert Fuller, *Religion and Wine: A Cultural History of Wine Drinking in the United States*. *Journal of American History* 83 (1997):1367-68.
- Phyllis Granoff and Koichi Shinohara, *Speaking of Monks: Religious Biography in India and China*. *History of Religions* 35.4 (May 1996):341-43.
- Anne Birrell, *Chinese Mythology: An Introduction*. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 23 (1995):163-173.
- Judith Zeitlin, *Historian of the Strange: Pu Songling and the Chinese Classical Tale*. *Journal of Chinese Religions* 23 (1995):229-32.
- Susan Naquin and Chunfang Yu, eds., *Pilgrims and Sacred Sites in China*. *Journal of Asian Studies* 53 (1994):925-26.
- Lisa Raphals, *Knowing Words: Wisdom and Cunning in the Classical Traditions of China and Greece*. *Journal of Religion* 74 (1994):284-85.
- Miriam Levering, ed., *Rethinking Scripture: Essays from a Comparative Perspective*. *History of Religions* 32.2 (Nov. 1992):199-201.
- Terry F. Godlove, *Religion, Interpretation, and Diversity of Belief: The Framework Model from Kant to Durkheim to Davidson*. *History of Religions* 31.4 (May 1992):420-23.
- Eric Lott, *Vision, Tradition, Interpretation: Theology, Religion and the Study of Religion*. *Journal of Religion* 71 (1991):127-28.
- Stephen Teiser, *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China*. *History of Religions* 30 (1991):424-26.
- Donald B. Gjerdtson, *Miraculous Retribution: A Study and Translation of T'ang Lin's "Ming-pao chi."* *Journal of Chinese Religions* 19 (1991):154-56.

- Antonino Forte, *Mingtang and Buddhist Utopias in the History of the Astronomical Clock: The Tower, Statue and Armillary Sphere Constructed by Empress Wu*. *Journal of Asian History* 25.1 (1991):92-93.
- Gary Seaman, *Journey to the North: An Ethnohistorical Analysis and Annotated Translation of the Chinese Folk Novel "Pei-yu-chi."* *Journal of Religion* 70 (1990):299-302.
- Ching-I Tu, *Tradition and Creativity: Essays on East Asian Civilization*. *Journal of Religion* 70 (1990):298-99.
- James O. Caswell, *Written and Unwritten: A New History of the Buddhist Caves at Yungang*. *Journal of Asian History* 24.1 (1990):96-97.
- Tu Weiming, Milan Hejtmanek, and Alan Wachman, eds., *The Confucian World Observed: A Contemporary Discussion of Confucian Humanism in East Asia*. *International Journal of Comparative Religion* .
- Stanley Weinstein, *Buddhism Under the T'ang*. *Journal of Religion* 69 (1989):154.
- David Jordan and Daniel Overmyer, *The Flying Phoenix: Aspects of Chinese Sectarianism in Taiwan*. *Journal of Religion* 68 (1988):176-77.
- Louis H. Jordan, *Comparative Religion: Its Genesis and Growth*. *Journal of Religion* 67 (1987):615-16.
- Ronald Grimes, *Research in Ritual Studies*. *Journal of Religion* 66 (1986):232.

**PAPERS, LECTURES, and RESPONSES (\* indicates invited talks)**

- 2012 \*"The Incredible Vanishing Religion: Glimmers of Buddhist Imagination from Early Medieval China," Harvard University
- 2012 \*"Mapping the Dreamscape of Early Medieval China," University of Kentucky
- 2012 \*"The Incredible Vanishing Religion: Glimmers of Buddhist Imagination from Medieval China," Smith College
- 2012 \*"The Dreamscape of Early Medieval China," University of Michigan
- 2012 \*"The Dreaming Self in Medieval China," Belmont University
- 2012 \*"The Incredible Vanishing Religion: Glimmers of Buddhist Imagination from Medieval China," Transylvania University
- 2011 "Scriptural Authority and Evidential Narrative in Medieval China: A Buddho-Daoist Comparative Case Study," International Association of Buddhist Studies, Dharma Drum College, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2010 \*"Reading Signs from the Unseen Realm," Wellesley College
- 2010 \*"Religious Repertoires and Contestation: A case study based on a collection of Buddhist miracle tales, ca. 490 C.E.," paper presented at workshop on Buddhism and Daoism, Princeton University
- 2010 \*"*Signs from the Unseen Realm (Mingxiang ji 冥祥記)*: A collection of Buddhist miracle tales from early medieval China," UCLA
- 2010 "The Meanings of *Zhai* 齋 ('Abstinence Ceremony') in Early Medieval Chinese Buddhist Miracle Tales," Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia (in panel "*Zhai*: The Meanings of Periodic Abstinence in Early Medieval China" organized by me)
- 2009 \*"The Dreamscape of Early Medieval China," University of California, Berkeley
- 2009 \*"The Meanings of Buddhist *Zhai* 齋 in Early Medieval China" (with Sylvie Hureau), International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology 国際仏教学高等研究所, Soka University 創価大学, Hachiōji, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 \*"Mapping some Topoi on the Dreamscape of Early Medieval China," Columbia University, Early Medieval China Workshop
- 2009 "Making Scenes: Buddhist and Daoist Visualization Practices," Association for Asian Studies, Chicago
- 2009 \*"Visualization Texts in Early Medieval China: A Comparative Case Study in Religious Imagination," Vanderbilt University

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- 2009 \*"Making Transcendents in Early Medieval China," Columbia University
- 2008 \***Four** public lectures under the general title "Religious Vision(s) in Early Medieval China" in my capacity as Directeur d'études invité, École Pratique des Hautes Études, 5e Section, Sciences Religieuses, Sorbonne, Université de Paris
- 2008 \*"Chinese History and Its Implications for Writing 'Religion,'" conference Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe: Encounters, Notions, and Comparative Perspectives, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- 2008 \*"Making Transcendents in Early Medieval China," University of Leiden, The Netherlands
- 2008 \*"Some Reflections on a Shangqing Text on Practice," Conference on Daoist Studies, University of British Vancouver, Canada
- 2008 "The Dreamscape of Early Medieval China," American Academy of Religion, Chicago
- 2008 \*"Hagiographic Persuasions," Early Medieval China Workshop, Columbia University
- 2008 \*"Making Transcendents: Ascetics and Social Memory in Early Medieval China," University of Virginia
- 2008 \*"Early Medieval Chinese Texts on Visualization: A comparison in three parts," University of the West
- 2008 \*Respondent, "Catholicism and Confucianism: An Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue," University of Southern California
- 2007 \*"Hagiographic Persuasions," Southern California China Colloquium, UCLA, Los Angeles
- 2007 \*Respondent, panel titled "The Power of 'Religion' in China" on the Chinese appropriation of the Western category "religion," American Academy of Religion, San Diego
- 2007 \*"Making Scenes: Disciplines of Visualization in Early Medieval China," presented at the interdisciplinary seminar Visualizing Religion, University of Southern California
- 2007 \*"The Power of Scriptures," symposium Art and Practice: Buddhism in China from the 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Centuries, China Institute, New York, New York
- 2007 \*"Daoism in Early China," presented to Introduction to China, class for secondary-level educators at the China Institute, New York, New York
- 2007 \*"Making Scenes: Disciplines of Visualization in Early Medieval China," international conference on the religious lives of medieval Chinese literati, Academia Sinica 中央研究院, Taipei, Taiwan (為道屢遷：中國文人生活中的宗教／禮儀實踐與創新」國際學術研討會)
- 2007 \*"Making Scenes: Disciplines of Visualization in Early Medieval China," workshop on Kinetic Vision in Early Medieval China, Harvard University
- 2007 \*"Seeing, Visualizing, and Vacating in Chinese Religious Texts and Practice (ca. 300 B.C.E.-600 C.E.)," paper delivered at "Visionaries and Vision-Hunters: An Interdisciplinary Workshop," University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- 2007 \*"Seeing, Visualizing, and Vacating: Aspects of Early Medieval Chinese Religion," Northern Arizona University
- 2006 \*"Adepts and their Communities (to 350 C.E.)," paper delivered at "Rituals, Pantheons and Techniques: A History of Chinese Religion before the Tang," conference in preparation of a multi-authored history of early Chinese religions organized by Professor John Lagerwey, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris
- 2006 \*Respondent, paper on a sixth century Buddhist cave in Anhui province by Wendi Adamek, Early Medieval China Workshop, Columbia University, New York
- 2006 \*Respondent, panel on new approaches in East Asian hagiography, Buddhism Section, American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 \*Respondent, panel showcasing book projects of four junior faculty members in the School of Religion, University of Southern California

- 2006 \*"Buddhist Impact on Chinese Conceptions of Freedom and Salvation?" Inaugural session of Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Seminar, American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 \*"The Functions of Narratives in the Self-Presentation and Reception of *Xian*-Seekers," International Conference on the World of Thought in Early Medieval China, National University of Singapore
- 2006 \*"Seekers of Transcendence in Early Medieval China: A Performance-Reception Model," University of Southern California
- 2006 \*"Seekers of Transcendence in Early Medieval China: A Performance-Reception Model," Boston University
- 2005 \*"Adepts and the Family," Early Medieval China Workshop, Columbia University
- 2005 \*"Adepts in Quest of Transcendence and their Communities," New Perspectives on Daoist Religion: A Symposium in Celebration of *The Taoist Canon: A Historical Companion to the Daozang*, University of Chicago
- 2005 \*"Religion(s) in Early Medieval China," "The Category 'Religion' in China" conference, Fairbank Center, Harvard University
- 2005 \*"Two Religious Thinkers of the Early Eastern Jin: Gan Bao 干寶 and Ge Hong 葛洪 in Multiple Contexts," Workshop on the Eastern Jin Dynasty, Harvard-Yenching Institute and Fairbank Center, Harvard University
- 2005 \*"Locative and Utopian in China: Redefining the Quest for Transcendence and Rectifying the Categories of Redescription," conference in honor of Professor Anthony C. Yu's retirement (one of four speakers on this occasion), University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2005 \*"The Quest for Transcendence in China, 320 B.C.-320 A.D.," Wittenberg University
- 2004 \*"Eating Better than Gods: Cuisines of Transcendence in Late Classical and Early Medieval China," conference "Of Tripod and Palate: Food, Politics, and Religion in Traditional China" at Trinity College, Cambridge University, England
- 2004 \* "Narrating the Quest for Transcendence in China, 320 B.C. – 320 A.D.," Swarthmore College
- 2003 "Transcending What?" American Academy of Religion, Atlanta
- 2003 \*Panel respondent, "Religious Self in Late Antiquity," conference at Indiana University
- 2003 \* "Fiction,' Hagiographic Narrative, and the Social Fashioning of Transcendents in Early Medieval China," Harvard University
- 2003 "The Hagiographic Process and Its Products in Early Medieval China," Association for Asian Studies, New York
- 2003 \*"The Social Production of Hagiographic Narrative in Early Medieval China," Symposium on Daoism and Buddhism in Chinese Literature, University of Illinois
- 2002 "On the Very Idea of Religions in Early Medieval China," Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C.
- 2001 \*"Teaching the Bureaucratic Metaphor," conference on teaching about Chinese religions, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2000 \*"Thinking about Religion(s) (in Early Medieval China)," Harvard University, Workshop on Early Medieval China
- 2000 \*Panel respondent, "Sacred Mountains and Sacred Time in Buddhism and Daoism," Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Indiana University
- 2000 \*Panel respondent, "The Narrative Lens: Insights on Chinese History, Painting, and Memoirs," Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Indiana University
- 2000 \*"The Study of Daoism—and of Other People's Religions," Southwest Virginia Center for Higher Education, College for Older Adults



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- 2000 \*"Living Off the Books: Fifty Ways to Dodge *Ming*," Conference on *Ming* (Fate) in Chinese Culture, Bowdoin College
- 1999 \*"The Quest for Immortality in Early Medieval China," Universität Tübingen, Germany
- 1999 \*"In Pursuit of Immortality: Daoist Religion in Fourth Century China," University of Notre Dame
- 1999 \*"Hagiographic Uses of the Past, and Our Uses of Hagiography," conference on Religion, Ritual, Myth, at August Herzog Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany
- 1998 \*Panel respondent, "Spirit Links Across East Asia," East Asian Religions Group, American Academy of Religion
- 1998 \*"The Ideology and Cult of Images in Early Buddhist China," Middlebury College
- 1998 \*"Ingesting the Marvelous: The Daoist's Relationship to Nature According to Ge Hong (283-343 C.E.)," Conference on Taoism and Ecology, Harvard University
- 1998 \*"Daoist Religion and Society in Early Fourth Century China," Princeton University
- 1998 \*"Daoist Religion and Society in Early Fourth Century China," Harvard University
- 1998 \*"Daoist Religion and Society in Early Fourth Century China," East Asian Studies Center Colloquium Series, Indiana University
- 1998 "Living Off the Books: Fifty Ways to Dodge *Ming* (Predestined Lifespan) in Fourth Century China," Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 \*"The Buddha of History and the Buddhism of Worship in China," Grinnell College
- 1997 \*"Ritual Syntax and Semantics: Taoist Death Rites," Dowling College
- 1996 \*"The Rise of the *Zhiguai* Genre: Its Historical, Cultural, and Religious Meanings," paper presented to conference "Dialogue with the Ancients" at Western Washington University
- 1996 \*"The Buddha of History and the Buddhism of Worship in China," Dowling College
- 1996 \*"The Buddha of History and the Buddhism of Worship in China," Duke University
- 1996 "The Special Dead, The Ordinary Dead, and the Undead in Early Medieval China," American Academy of Religion meeting, New Orleans
- 1995 \*"Chinese Accounts of Anomalies: A New Perspective," University of California at Davis
- 1995 \*"Chinese Accounts of Anomalies: A New Perspective," Stanford University
- 1995 \*"'Asokan *Stupas*,' Images, and the Cult of Relics in Early Medieval China," University of California at Berkeley
- 1995 \*"'Asokan *Stupas*,' Images, and the Cult of Relics in Early Medieval China," paper presented to the AAR Seminar on Buddhist Relic Veneration
- 1995 "Comparing Traces of Transcendence and Eminence," American Academy of Religions
- 1994 \*"The Non-Creation of the World and the Creation of the Self in Taoism," in lecture series "Creators and Creation," Dowling College
- 1994 \*"Taoism between the Han and the Tang," University of Colorado at Boulder
- 1994 \*"Sex and Longevity in the Taoist Religion," Dowling College, Long Island
- 1993 \*Panelist on American Academy of Religion (Buddhism Section) discussion of David Eckel, *To See the Buddha*
- 1993 \*"Research on the Origins of the Taoist Religion," address given at Alumni Day celebration, Dept. of Religious Studies, Indiana University
- 1993 \*"The Role of Theory in the Practice of History of Religions," University of Chicago
- 1993 \*"The Basic Ideas of the *Scripture of Great Peace*," lecture to the Taoist adepts of the Taoist Academy, Qingcheng Mountain 青城山, Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China (in Chinese)
- 1993 \*"Taoist Mysticism," Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- 1993 \*"Taoist Death Rites," Bloomington Hospital

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- 1993 \*"Recent and Current Trends in the Study of Religion in North America," Institute for the Study of Religion, Sichuan University, Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China
- 1992 \*"Buddhist Revelation and Taoist Translation in Early Medieval China," Premodern China Seminar, Harvard University
- 1991 \*Panelist on American Academy of Religion (Comparative Religions Section) discussion of Gary Ebersole, *Ritual Poetry and the Politics of Death in Early Japan*
- 1991 \*"To Hell and Back: Death, Near-Death, Afterlife, and other Worldly Journeys in Early Medieval China," conference on Other Realms: Death, Ecstasy and Otherworldly Journeys in Recent Scholarship, sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study of Religion of the University of Chicago
- 1991 \*"From Comparative Theory to Theories Compared," conference on Diverging Rationalities: Problems and Possibilities of Comparison, The Divinity School, The University of Chicago
- 1991 "Visions and Dreams in Early Chinese Buddhist Narratives," conference on Visions and Visionary Experience in Religion, University of Kansas
- 1991 "Buddhist Revelation and Taoist Translation in Early Medieval China," American Academy of Religions, Kansas City
- 1990 \*"Confessions of an Eclecticist: A Response to J. Samuel Preus' *Explaining Religion*," panel on Preus' book at Indiana University
- 1990 "Thoughts on the Impact of 'Subjectivist' Assumptions on the Study of Chinese Religions," North American Association for the Study of Religion, New Orleans
- 1990 "The Earliest Chinese Tales of Guanyin: Story and Icon as Vehicles of Deliverance," American Academy of Religion, New Orleans
- 1990 "Religion on the Ground in Early Medieval China: Prolegomena," Lilly Lecture, Indiana University
- 1989 \*"Xunzi and Durkheim as Theorists of Ritual Practice," Conference Series on "Religion(s) in Culture and History," University of Chicago
- 1989 "The War on the Ground: Buddhho-Taoist and 'Popular' Interactions in Early Medieval China," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA
- 1989 ""The Living and the Dead Travel Different Paths': Ghosts and Near-Death Experiences in Early Medieval China," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 1988 \*"Charting the Terrain of the Strange: Religious Aspects of Chinese *Chih-kuai* Stories," East Asian Studies Center Colloquium, Indiana University
- 1987 "The Fantastic in Six Dynasties Accounts of the Strange," Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs
- 1987 "Other Scribes, Other Objects: Writing 'Religion' in China (and in the West)," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston
- 1986 "*Zhiguai* as Hagiographies of *Fangshi*," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting

**RESEARCH AWARDS and ACADEMIC HONORS**

- 2011-2012 Research Fellow, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities seminar on "Sacred Ecology: Landscape Transformation for Ritual Practice," Vanderbilt University
- 2011 Honorable Mention, Joseph Levenson Prize, Association for Asian Studies, for *Making Transcendents*

Curriculum Vitae Robert Ford Campany

- 2010 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion (Historical Study of Religion category) national book prize for *Making Transcendents*
- 2009 Fellowship from the University of Southern California Provost's Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences program for summer research in Paris and Tokyo toward *Visions in Early Medieval China*
- 2004 Indiana University Summer Faculty Fellowship for work on *Making Transcendents*
- 2003 Arts & Humanities Initiative fellowship, Indiana University, for work on *The Making of Transcendents in China, 320 B.C.E.-320 C.E.*
- 2002 *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth* selected for publication support by the Lilienthal Fund of the University of California Press
- 1999 Indiana University Summer Faculty Fellowship for completion of *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth*
- 1996 Indiana University Summer Faculty Fellowship for work on an annotated translation and study of the fourth-century proto-Daoist hagiography *Traditions of Divine Transcendents*
- 1994 Research Materials grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support one year's leave time from teaching for purpose of preparing index to marvel tales
- 1993 Grant from the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China for 3.5 months of textual and field research on Daoism at Sichuan University, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, PRC
- 1992 Grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (through the American Council of Learned Societies) for work on manuscript of *Strange Writing*
- 1990 Indiana University Summer Faculty Fellowship for research on local cults and shrines in early medieval China
- 1989 PhD dissertation awarded the Rosenberger Prize as the most distinguished dissertation during the previous three years in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago
- 1989 PhD dissertation awarded the Marc Perry Galler Prize as the most distinguished dissertation during the year in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago
- 1989 Lilly Foundation summer grant for research on local cults in south China, 100-600 C.E.
- 1987-88 Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship
- 1987-88 Junior Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion (University of Chicago)
- 1986 PhD qualifying exams passed with distinction
- 1984-86 NDEA Title VI Fellowship (Chinese)
- 1983-84 Joseph M. Kitagawa Scholarship
- 1981-82 Henry Luce Scholarship (Tainan, Taiwan)
- 1981-82 Fulbright/DAAD for study of early Reformation history at the Universität Tübingen, Germany (declined)
- 1981 Phi Beta Kappa

**TEACHING AWARDS and GRANTS**

- 2005 Trustees Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence, Indiana University
- 1997 Grant from Indiana University Campuswide Writing Program for development of pedagogical uses of writing in classes

1991 Indiana University Summer Instructional Development grant for work on introductory survey of East Asian religions

**CURRENT RESEARCH (including works submitted but not yet accepted for publication)**

**Book-length projects underway**

*A Garden of Marvels: Tales of the Strange and the Uncanny from Early Medieval China:* A book of new translations of wonder tales from China, ca. 300-550. Intended primarily for students and general readers. Under contract with University of Hawai'i Press.

*Buddhist Imagination in Early Medieval China:* A monograph on important aspects of the Buddhist imaginaire in early medieval China—aspects often overlooked in the wake of the “Buddhist modernisms” or “Protestant Buddhisms” constructed both in the West and in Asia that see Buddhism as primarily a “philosophy” or as “spiritual” but not “religious.” Chapter topics will include the sorts of stories told of images; spirit-monks; spirits of goodness (protective spirits said to be activated by good deeds); protective bodhisattvas; mysterious fragrance as a sign of the miraculous; sutras as agents; relics and stupas; wonder-working monks and nuns; journeys outward and back (including near-death trips to the underworld and to Pure Lands).

*Visions and Dreams in Early Medieval China:* A monograph on religious visions and dreams, and visualizing as a spiritual practice, in all the major religious traditions of early medieval China. The book will be partly based on improved versions of four public lectures presented at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Sorbonne, Paris, in May-June 2008.

**MEMBERSHIPS in PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

American Academy of Religion  
Association for Asian Studies  
International Association for Buddhist Studies  
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

**MAJOR SERVICE to PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS and to UNIVERSITIES**

*International and National Organizations*

Co-editor, *Journal of Chinese Religions* (beginning with 1998 issue, and with *sole* responsibility for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004 and subsequent issues; tenure covered 1998 through 2005 issues)  
Member, Board of Directors, Society for the Study of Chinese Religions (1993-98 and 2005-present) (4 terms, by international election)  
Member, Program Committee, American Academy of Religion (1996-2000, two terms, by appointment)

*University of Southern California*

Director, School of Religion (January 2009-May 2010) (*equivalent to department chair*)  
Associate Director, School of Religion (July 2006-December 2008) (*equivalent to department vice-chair*)  
Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Reform Committee (2007-08)  
Chair, South Asia Search Committee (2007-08)  
Chair, Graduate Committee (2006-07, 2008-09)  
Chair, Faculty Committee (2006-07)  
Chair, South Asia Search Committee (2006-07)  
Chair, Faisal Chair in Islamic and Arab Studies search committee (2009-10)  
Member, Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Humanities, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences (2008-09)  
Member, Dean's Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences (2008-09)  
Mentor to junior faculty (Anne Porter, Lori Meeks, 2006-2010; James McHugh, 2008-2010)

*Indiana University*

Director of Graduate Studies (departmental, from 1 July 2005 through 30 June 2006)  
Chair, departmental search committee, South Asian religions (1993-94, netted two appointments)  
Chair, departmental search committee, African religions (2004-05)  
Director of Undergraduate Studies (departmental, pre-tenure, early 1990s)

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

1986-87      Editorial Assistant, *History of Religions* journal  
1986-87      Project Assistant, "Religions in Culture and History" (series of conferences sponsored by the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago)  
1985-86      Assistant and bibliographer, NEH Institute on "Religious Studies & Liberal Education"  
1981-82      Lecturer, Tainan Theological College (Taiwan)

**LANGUAGES STUDIED**

Classical Chinese, modern Chinese (Mandarin), modern Japanese, French, German, Latin, classical Greek

**COURSES TAUGHT (at Vanderbilt University)**

The Daoist Tradition (upper-level undergraduate course with graduate component)  
The Study of Religion (entering seminar for doctoral students in Religion and Divinity)  
Religions of China (lower-level undergraduate course)  
East Asian Buddhism (upper-level undergraduate course with graduate component)

**COURSES TAUGHT (at the University of Southern California)**

Religions of Asia: Chinese Religions (large freshman-level General Education course)  
Religions of China (large freshman-level General Education course)  
The Taoist Tradition (upper-level undergraduate course)  
Immortality, Alchemy, Sex and Healing in China (senior-level undergraduate seminar)

**COURSES TAUGHT (at Indiana University)**

**Undergraduate**

The Living and the Dead (large freshman-level core or “topics” course)  
Religions of the East (large freshman-level elective)  
Religion in China: The Formative Phase (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
Chinese Religions Through Stories (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
Issues in the Study of Religion (middle-level undergraduate course)  
East Asian Buddhism (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
The Taoist Tradition (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
*Chuang Tzu*, a Taoist Classic (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
Body, Self, and Salvation in Chinese Religions (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
Religion & Literature in Asia: *The Journey to the West* (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
Death and the Dead in Comparative Perspective (mid-and-upper-level undergraduate course)  
Death, Birth, and Alchemy in China: Studies in Taxonomy and Transformation (senior level seminar)

**Graduate**

The Cross-Cultural Study of Religion (Ph.D. core seminar)  
The Holy Person in Comparative Perspective (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
Religion and Magic (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
Methodological Issues in the Study of Chinese Religions (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
When Religions Cross Cultures (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
The Holy Person in Early Medieval China: Daoist, Buddhist, and Other Hagiographical Traditions  
(M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
Cuisine of the Gods: Religion and Food (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
The Taoist Tradition (M.A. seminar)  
Religion & Culture in China, 100-600 C.E. (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
Buddhism & Culture in East Asia (M.A./Ph.D. seminar)  
The Religious Tale in Medieval China (Ph.D. seminar)  
Death, Birth, and Alchemy in China: Studies in Taxonomy and Transformation (M.A. seminar)