

## **LEAH RENOLD**

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Department of History  
Texas State University  
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### **Education**

Ph.D. in Modern South Asian History from the University of Texas at Austin, May 1999

Qualifying areas include Modern South Asian History, Hindi/Urdu, Sanskrit, History of Religion in America

Dissertation: The Construction of Hindu Identity at Banaras Hindu University (1915-1947)

Dissertation Committee: Gail Minault (Supervisor-South Asian History), William Roger Louis (British History), Robert Hardgrave (Government of India), Herman van Olphen (Hindi/Urdu), and Howard Miller (History of Religion)

MA in Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin, December 1992

BA in Humanities, University of Texas at Austin, May 1986

### **Research and Teaching Interests**

Colonial period and Indian independence movement, construction of nationalist and post-colonialist historical narratives, South Asian religion in the context of colonialism and globalization, debates over secularism and religious identity, mythic interpretations of the colonial past, majority/minority politics, Hindu-Muslims relations, politicization of religion, theologies of violence and non-violence, and Mahatma Gandhi and the legacy of non-violent political activism.

### **Teaching Experience**

Assistant professor of South Asian History, Texas State University, San Marcos, Summer I, 2007 until present.

Visiting lecturer in Modern South Asian History, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, Spring and Fall 2005.

Director of the New York State Independent College Consortium for Study in India (Bard, Hamilton, Hartwick, Hobart & William Smith, Skidmore, and St. Lawrence University), Spring 2004-Spring 2005.

Visiting assistant professor in Asian Religions in the Religious Studies Department at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, Fall 2001-Spring 2004.

Teaching assistant in History of Buddhism for Prof. Gregory Schopen, University of Texas at Austin, 1994.

Teaching assistant in History of Asian Religions for Prof. Gregory Schopen, University of Texas in Austin, 1993.

Teaching assistant in Sanskrit for Prof. Patrick Olivelle, University of Texas in Austin, 1992-1993.

### **Courses I Have Taught**

HIS 100: World of Mahatma Gandhi  
HIS 203: History of Modern India  
HIS 303: Twentieth Century India  
HIS 403: Hindu Muslim Relations in South Asia  
HIST 2311: World Civilizations to 1500  
HIST 4350 I History of India  
HIST 4350 H Gandhi and Non-violence  
HIST 5395E Mahatma Gandhi in World History  
REL 100: Mystery and Meaning: An Introduction to Religion  
REL 221: The Religious Life of India  
REL 222: Buddhist Religious Traditions  
REL 224: Islamic Religious Traditions  
REL 247: Religion and Violence  
REL 247: Moral Dilemmas  
REL 451: Independent Study: Sanskrit  
REL 248: Mahatma Gandhi: Religion, Non-violence, and Resistance to Globalization  
REL 270: Fundamentalism as Cultural Encounter  
REL 312: Mystical Experience: Eastern and Western  
REL 370: Asian Religions in the Modern World  
REL 380: Mythology and Popular Religious Thought in India

### **Fellowships and Awards**

Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University, 2007-2008.

Meyerson Scholarship, Center for Asian Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1997-98.

American Institute for Indian Studies Junior Scholar Fellowship for dissertation research in India, 1996-1997.

University of Texas Summer Study Abroad Fellowship for research trip to India, 1995.

Professional Development Award of the University of Texas Graduate Studies Program, 1995.

Dora Bonham Grant for research at the India Office Library, London, England, 1994.

Ford Foundation Social Science Research Grant for research on Banaras Hindu University at the India Office Library and Records of the British Library in London, England, 1994.

American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship for the Hindi Language Program at Banaras, India, 1991-92.

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships for the study of Hindi and Urdu at the University of Texas, 1990-91, 1994-95, 1995-96.

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for First-Year Hindi Intensive at the University of California at Berkeley, 1990.

## **Publications**

"The Temple of Learning: A Strategic Design." *Benares: Urban History, Architecture, Photography*. Michael S. Dodson, ed. Forthcoming by Routledge.

"Predecessors of Prajna: A Survey of Pre-Independence Journals." *Prajna* 54: 1-2 (December) 255-258.

*A Hindu Education: The Early Years of the Banaras Hindu University*. Oxford University Press, August 2005.

A Book Review of Charu Gupta's *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community: Women, Muslims, and the Hindu Public in Colonial India*, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, Vol. 4, 2003.

"Fundamentalism," in *Collateral Language: A User's Guide to America's New War*, John Collins and Ross Glover, editors. New York University Press, 2002. Also in an Italian edition, *Linguaggio Collaterale*, Ombre Corte, 2006.

"Gandhi: Patron Saint of the Industrialist," *Sagar: South Asia Graduate Research Journal* Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring 1994): 16-38.

## **Papers Presented at Academic Conferences**

"Gandhi and the Gospel of Wealth," 2005 American Academy of Religion Meeting in Philadelphia, November 21, 2005.

"Religion in its Broadest Sense: The Diffusion of Hindu Identity and the Sanctification of Western Knowledge at the Hindu University," South Asian Seminar of the Center for South Asia at the University of Virginia, November 11, 2005.

"War and the Church: Just Warfare and Just Peacemaking," New York State Peace Conference, St. Lawrence University, January 2003

"Annie Besant and the Way We Teach Hinduism," Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, October 2002

"Religious Pluralism and Educational Reform in India," Teaching World History and Geography 2000, Austin, Texas, 2000.

"Saffron Walls and the Missing Clock Tower: The Politics of Difference at Banaras Hindu University," South Asian Seminar, Center for Asian Studies, University of Texas, 1998.

"Gandhi and Trusteeship," Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1995

"Defining the Hindu in Banaras Hindu University," Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Washington, DC, 1995.

"Gandhi: Patron Saint of the Industrialist Birla," Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1994.

"Defining the Hindu in Banaras Hindu University," Ford Foundation Social Science Research Symposium, the University of Texas, 1994.

"The Foundation of Banaras Hindu University: Patronage and Politics," Southwestern Association of Asian Studies Conference at Texas A & M University, 1994.