

Jonathan Miles-Watson
Department of Religion
Luther College
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Fields of Research

Anthropology of Religion, Theories of Religion, South Asian Religions, Landscape Theory, Pilgrimage, Sacred Space, Religion and Civil Society, Faith and Wellbeing, Structural Anthropology.

Fieldwork Sites

North India (Himachal Pradesh), UK (Wales and England).

Education

PhD, Religious Studies (2006), University of Aberdeen, UK.

Thesis Area: Anthropology of Religion.

Supervisor: Professor Seth Kunin (now at Durham University, UK).

External Examiner: Dr Stephen Hugh-Jones (University of Cambridge, UK).

Internal Moderator: Dr Martin Mills (University of Aberdeen, UK).

MA, awarded with first class honors, (2002), University of Aberdeen, UK.

Current Employment

2011 – Luther College, Department of Religion, Visiting Assistant Professor.

Past Employment

2008- 2011 Tallinn University, Department of Anthropology, ESF Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 'Sacred Landscapes of Identity in Shimla, India'.

2006- 2008 University of Manchester, UK, Department of Religions; Lecturer (0.5 fte).

2006- 2008 University of Manchester, UK, William Temple Foundation; Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 'Religious Capital Project'. (0.5 fte).

2005 – 2006 Swansea University, UK, Department of Anthropology; Lecturer, Fixed Term.

2002 – 2005 University of Aberdeen, UK, Department of Religious Studies; Teaching Assistant.

Grants and Scholarships

2008, European Science Foundation, research grant.

2008, AHRC¹/ESRC² religion and society network grant, as part of a successful group bid.

2007, Leverhulme Trust, research grant, as part of a successful group bid.

2003, AHRC PhD scholarship.

2002, Carnegie scholarship.

¹ The British Arts and Humanities Research Council

² The British Economic and Social Science Research Council

Papers and Publications

Books

- Miles-Watson, J. (n.d.), *Space, Spirits and Spirituality: Landscapes of Christian Worship in North India*, in preparation.
- Miles-Watson, J., Reinert, H, Sooväli, H. Eds, (2012) *Ruptured Landscapes: Landscape and Identity in Times of Social Change*, Dordrecht: Springer.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2009), *Welsh Mythology: A Neo-Structuralist Analysis*. New York: Cambria Press.
- Miles-Watson, J., Kunin, S. Eds, (2006), *Theories of Religion: A Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, UK; New Brunswick (NJ): Rutgers University Press, US.

Book Chapters

- Miles-Watson, J. (2012), 'The Ruptured Landscapes of Shimla's Christians and the Stretching of Landscape Capital'. In, Miles-Watson, J., Reinert, H, Sooväli, H. (Eds) *Ruptured landscapes: landscape and identity in times of social change*, Dordrecht: Springer.
- Miles-Watson J., (2011), Miles-Watson S. 'Conflicts and Connections in the Landscape of Himalayan Pilgrimage', in Lavolette, P. (Ed.) *Collaborative Anthropology*, Tallinn University Press.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2010), 'Ethnographic Insights into Happiness'. In, Steedman, J., Atherton, J., Graham, E. (Eds.), *Political Economy, Religion and Wellbeing: The Practices of Happiness*. London, UK: Routledge Taylor & Francis Ltd.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2009), 'Betwixt and Between: Anthropological Approaches to Blurred Encounters of Faith'. In, Baker, C., Reader, J. (Eds.), *Entering the New Theological Space: Blurred Encounters of Faith, Politics and Community*. London: Ashgate Publishing.
- Miles-Watson, J. Kunin, S. (2006) 'Issues and Arguments in the Study of Religion', in Miles-Watson, J., Kunin, S. Eds, (2006), *Theories of Religion: A Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, UK; New Brunswick (NJ): Rutgers University Press, US.

Journal Articles

- Miles-Watson, J. (2012), 'The Cathedral on the Ridge and Other Examples of Implicit Mythology in the Shimla Hills', *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*, Special Edition, 'Ethnographic Explorations of Implicit Mythology', forthcoming.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2012), 'Pipe Organs and Satsang: Contemporary Worship in Shimla's Colonial Churches' *Culture and Religion*, Special Edition 'Politics of Faith in Asia: Local and Global Perspectives of Christianity in Asia', forthcoming.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2011), 'Methodological Theism and the Limits of Anthropology: An Example from the Shimla Hills'. *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*, forthcoming.
- Miles-Watson, J., Miles-Watson, S. (2011), 'Conflicts and Connections in the Landscape of the Manimahesh Pilgrimage'. *Tourism: An International Interdisciplinary Journal*. Special edition, 'Pilgrimage: Communitas and Contestation', Vol. 59, No. 3.

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- Miles-Watson, J., Baker C. (2011) 'Responding to the Dream of Spiritual Capital', *Implicit Religion*, Vol. 14, No.1.
- Miles-Watson, J., Baker, C. (2010), 'Faith and Traditional Capitals: Defining the Public Scope of Religious Capital'. *Implicit Religion*, Vol. 13, No. 2.
- Miles-Watson, J., Korpela, M. (2010), 'Indiascapes: Reflecting on India'. *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*, Vol. 35, No. 3.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2009), 'Structuralism: A Key Methodology for the New Millennium?'. *Man in India*, Special Edition, 'Issues and Perspectives in Anthropology Today', Vol. 89.
- Miles-Watson, J. Baker, C. (2008), 'Exploring Secular Spiritual Capital: An Engagement in Religious and Secular Dialogue for a Common Future'. *International Journal of Public Theology*, Vol. 2, No. 4.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2004), 'A Structural Analysis of the Miracles in Adomnán's Vita Columbae'. *Northern Studies*, Vol. 38.

Other Publications

- Miles-Watson, J. (2011) 'Places in Search of a Purpose: Colonial Cathedrals in Postcolonial India', *Anthropology News Online*, Available via the American Anthropological Association's Blog.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2009) *St Michael's Cathedral Shimla: A Guide for Visitors*. Shimla: St Michael's Cathedral.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2009) *Christ Church Cathedral, Shimla: A Guide for Visitors*. Shimla: Christ Church Cathedral.
- Miles-Watson, J. Atherton, J. Reader, J. (2009) *Glendale Alive: Rural Mission and Ministry Initiative Report*. Manchester: William Temple Foundation.

Recent Conference Papers

- Miles-Watson, J. (2011), 'The Cathedral on the Ridge: Implicit Myth in the Shimla Hills', *Biennial Meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion*, Santa Fe, USA.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2010), 'Colonial Religious Landscapes and Postcolonial Christian Worship in Shimla, India', *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta, USA.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2010), 'Spatial Memory and Historical Rupture in the Contemporary Landscape of Shimla's Churches', *Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association*, New Orleans, USA.
- Miles-Watson, J., Miles-Watson, S. (2010), 'Trading Symbolic Capital on the Manimahesh Pilgrimage', *Tourism and Seductions of Difference*, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Miles-Watson, J. (2010), 'Worshipping with Ghosts: Historical Presence in the Landscape of Shimla's Churches', *Biennial Meeting of the European Association of Anthropologists*, Maynooth, Ireland.

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Administrative Academic Duties

- 2011, Coordinator of the Religion Forum at Luther College, USA.
- 2011, Creator and director of the anthropology PhD program at Tallinn University, Estonia.
- 2011, Organizer and chair of the ‘Ethnographic Explorations of Lévi-Strauss’ Implicit Myth’, session at the biennial Meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Santa Fe, USA.
- 2010, Organizer and chair of the ‘Indiascapes: Reflections of Contemporary India’, workshop at the biennial meeting of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, Maynooth, Ireland, with Korpela, M.
- 2010, Chair of the ‘Keeping Time Alive: rhythms of memory and meaning in person and place’, session at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, USA, with Flexner, J.
- 2010, Examiner for the Asian studies program at Tallinn University.
- 2006- , Editorial board member of the journal *Man in India*, published quarterly since 1920.

Teaching Experience

Module Name	Institution	Role			
		Tutor	Lecturer	Designer	Examiner
Anthropology of Religion	Luther College, USA	Y	Y	Y	Y
South Asian Religions	Luther College, USA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Myth and Meaning	Luther College, USA	Y	Y	Y	Y
The Bible and Culture	Luther College, USA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anthropology of Religion	Tallinn University, Estonia	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anthropology of India	Tallinn University, Estonia	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anthropology of Islam	Manchester University, UK	Y	Y	Y	Y
Conceptions of the Sacred	Manchester University, UK	Y	Y		
Faith in the Himalayas	Manchester University, UK	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anthropology Theory	Swansea University, UK	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anthropology Methods	Swansea University, UK	Y	Y	Y	Y
Life Worlds	Swansea University, UK	Y	Y		
Theories of Religion	Aberdeen University, UK	Y	Y		
Structuralism	Aberdeen University, UK	Y	Y		
World Religions	Aberdeen University, UK	Y			
Anthropology of Religion	Aberdeen University, UK	Y			

Teaching Interests

I am happy to teach a wide range of courses including, entry level courses, methods courses and variations of all of those listed above. I am particularly keen to be involved in teaching courses that engage with aspects of life in South Asia, the anthropology of religion and theory courses.

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Recently Supervised Theses

Dancing the pilgrimage to Goloka-Vrindavan, India.

Sacred and secular ideas of conservation in North India: Himachal Pradesh's 'Mountain Cleaners'.

Exotic seductions and New Age religion: the case of the Lilleoru Ashram, Estonia.

Islam, migration and belonging: the importance of faith for Moroccan migrant workers in Spain.

The privatization of religious practice in Estonia's southern islands.

Awards

2002, Christ College, University of Aberdeen, most distinguished graduate.

2002, University of Aberdeen Quincentenary Medal.

2002, Ewan Prize for papers exploring religion and culture.

2001, Ewan Prize for papers exploring religion and culture.

Academic Affiliations and Memberships

American Academy of Religion.

Society for the Anthropology of Religion.

European Association for Social Anthropologists.

American Anthropological Association.

The British Association for South Asian Studies.

Anthropology of Religion Network (EASA).

Religion and Wellbeing Network.

Honorary Positions

2009-2010, Honorary Research Fellow, Himalayan Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, India.

Newspaper Interviews

[British Anthropologist at Tallinn University examines the culture and landscape of the former Summer Capital of British India] 'Briti antropoloog uurib Tallinna Ülikoolis India suvepealinna kultuuri ja maastikku', *Keskus Kultur* Pirgita-Maarja Hallas (24. 09. 2010).

Radio Interviews

'Estonia: the most secular country in Europe?', BBC World Service, Kristine Pommert (20. 06. 2011).

Invited Talks

2011, 'The Development of Anthropology in India', Riga Stradins University, Latvia.

2008, 'Globalization, Citizenship and Religious Identity', HPU, Shimla, India.

References

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