

# Rosanna Picascia

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Department of Philosophy  
Swarthmore College  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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**Swarthmore College**, 2023 – present (*Renewal of 3-year contract*)  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of Philosophy

**Swarthmore College**, 2020 – 2023  
*Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of Philosophy

## EDUCATION

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**Harvard University**, Ph.D., Philosophy of Religion, 2019

**Harvard Divinity School**, M.T.S., Philosophy of Religion, 2009

**The George Washington University**, Honors Program, B.A., Religion (minor in Philosophy), 2007

## AREAS OF SPECILIZATION

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Asian Philosophy (esp. Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Philosophy), Philosophy of Religion

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Epistemology, Pragmatism (esp. William James)

## PUBLICATIONS/FORTHCOMING

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“Our Epistemic Dependence on Others: Nyāya and Buddhist Accounts of Testimony as a Source of Knowledge,” *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 17, no. 1 (2024): 62-80. doi: 10.1093/jhs/hiad003

“The Action-Knowledge Principle in Indian Philosophy,” *Philosophy Compass*, forthcoming.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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“Jayanta Bhaṭṭa on the Epistemic Significance of Religious Disagreement”

“How Do You Know That You Know What You Know? Buddhist and Nyāya Responses to a Mīmāṃsā Challenge”

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS (\*indicates invited)

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- Nov. 2024      TBD  
American Academy of Religion, Hindu Philosophy Unit, Philosophical roundtable on “The Nyāya Argument for God’s Existence” \*
- Oct 2024      “The Action-Knowledge Principle in Indian Philosophy”  
Workshop for Works in Progress in Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, and Philosophy of Mind, Swarthmore College
- Jan 2024      “Jayanta Bhaṭṭa on Action-guiding Judgements”  
Eastern APA, Symposium on “The Status of Testimony as a Source of Knowledge in Indian Philosophy” \*
- Jan 2024      “Rationally Determining That We Have Knowledge: Buddhist and Nyāya Responses to a Mīmāṃsā Challenge”  
Eastern APA, Panel on “Buddhists vs. Naiyāyikas” organized by the Graduate Student Council \*
- Mar 2023      Comments on Nilanjan Das’s, “Śrīharṣa on the Indefinability of Knowledge”  
Seminar on Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University \*
- Dec 2021      “Is the Buddha’s Teaching Authoritative?”  
Buddhism as Philosophy Lecture Series, Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion \*
- Dec 2020      Comments on Alex Watson’s “Do the Perceptions of Non-Enlightened People Weigh in Favor of, or Against, Momentariness?”  
American Academy of Religion, Hindu Philosophy Unit \*
- Nov 2020      “Knowing from Others: Epistemic Responsibility in Testimonial Exchange”  
Buddhism as Philosophy Lecture Series, Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion \*
- Oct 2015      “Testimony and the Problem of Religious Diversity”  
Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference, Harvard University
- Sept 2015      “Hindu-Buddhist Debates on the Authority of Testimony”  
South Asian Institute, Harvard University
- Oct 2014      “Knowing through Others: The Case for Testimony as a Source of Knowledge”  
Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference, Harvard University

## TEACHING

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### SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

#### *Instructor*

Philosophy of Religion (seminar) – Fall 2025  
Indian Philosophy – Spring 2025  
Introduction to Philosophy: Personal Identity and the Self (writing course) – Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024  
Introduction to Philosophy: Religion and Rationality (writing course) – Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024  
Buddhist Philosophy – Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2024  
Comparative Theories of Knowledge – Fall 2021, Spring 2023  
Introduction to Philosophy: Reasoning and Living Well – Fall 2023

#### *Adviser*

Senior Course Study – Spring 2024  
Senior Thesis Adviser – Fall 2021

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY, DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

#### *Teaching Fellow*

Saints, Heretics, and Atheists: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (Jeffrey McDonough) — Spring 2020  
Buddhist Philosophy (Parimal Patil) — Fall 2019  
World Religions (Christopher Queen) — Spring & Summer 2012-2017  
Buddhism and Social Change (Christopher Queen) — Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

#### *Teaching Fellow*

Intermediate Sanskrit (Parimal Patil) — Fall 2015-Spring 2016  
Saints, Heretics, and Atheists: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (Jeffrey McDonough) — Fall 2012, Spring 2015  
Studying Buddhism Across Time and Place (Janet Gyatso) — Fall 2012  
Hindu Worlds of Art and Culture (Diana Eck) — Fall 2011

#### *Undergraduate Thesis Adviser*

Joint-concentration senior honors thesis in Religion and Philosophy — Fall 2014-Spring 2015

#### *Instructor in Independent Course*

The Self in Indian Philosophy (co-instructor) — January session mini-course, 2014

## BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LIFELONG LEARNING SUMMER PROGRAM

### *Instructor*

Introduction to Buddhist Thought — 2012

Philosophy in Everyday Life — 2011

### AWARDS, CERTIFICATES, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Bok Center Teaching Certificate, Harvard University – 2017

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University – 2016-2017

Graduate Student Associate Fellowship, South Asian Institute, Harvard University – 2015-2016

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, “Intermediate Sanskrit” – 2015-2016

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, “Saints, Heretics, and Atheists: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion” – 2015

Harvard Summer School Tuition Fellowship, Harvard University, German Language Study – 2010

### SERVICE

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Reviewer for *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*

Member, Asian Studies Committee – Fall 2020-present

Instructor for “Philosophy for Kids,” a class offered through The Field Co-op, a homeschooling network in the Philadelphia area – Fall 2023

Representative for the Humanities, Harvard’s Graduate Student Council – Fall 2016-Spring 2017

### REFERENCES

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PARIMAL G. PATIL

Professor of Religion and Indian Philosophy

Department of Philosophy and Department of South Asian Studies

Harvard University

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NILANJAN DAS

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JEFFREY K. MCDONOUGH

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KRISTA K. THOMASON  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
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