

Curriculum Vitae

MAI, BUI DIEU LINH
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Research Specialization

History and Philosophy of Religion; Buddhism and Hinduism; Vietnam Socio-Religion; Religious Traditions of Champa and the Contemporary Cham Ahiér; Interactions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam with Local Traditions in Vietnam; French Colonial Studies of Champa; Religious Iconography and Epigraphy in South and Southeast Asia; Historical and Ethnographic Approaches to South and Southeast Asian Religions; Religious Beliefs and Divination Practice of Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam; Oral History and the Voices of Ethnic Minorities in the Vietnam War; Propaganda Art during the Vietnam War.

Languages

Vietnamese, English, French, Sanskrit, Cham

Education

2023 Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Religion, Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University

Dissertation: “Identity and Religion of the Contemporary Cham Ahiér in Vietnam”

Successfully defended on March 6, 2023

2013 M.A. in History and Philosophy of Religion, Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University

2007 Bachelor of Arts and Science, Concordia University

Major in Sociology

Major in Southern Asia Studies

2016 Summer Program in Southeast Asian Art History and Conservation, East Java, Indonesia,
hosted by Nalanda Sriwijaya Center at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (NSC-ISEAS),
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) & University of Surabaya (UBAYA)

Comprehensive Doctoral Examinations

2017 History of Hinduism in South Asia and Southeast Asia

Supervisor: Dr. Leslie Orr (Concordia University)

2016 History of Buddhism in South Asia, East and Southeast Asia

Supervisor: Dr. Marc des Jardins (Concordia University)

2016 History of Vietnam, Indochina Wars

Supervisor: Dr. Christopher Goscha (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Research Grants and Scholarships

2014-2018 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant (SSHRC) for PhD
research on “Identify and religion of the contemporary Cham Ahiér in Central and
Southern Vietnam.”

2014-2017 Fonds de recherche du Québec-Société et Culture (FRQSC) grant for PhD research on
“Identify and religion of the contemporary Cham Ahiér in Central and Southern
Vietnam.”

2018 Concordia University Conference Award for the presenting “Religious Iconography in
Multi-Polity Campā: A View from the North” at The 21st Congress of the Indo-Pacific
Prehistory Association, Hue (Vietnam).

2016 NSC-SOAS Summer Program grant for participation in a course on Southeast Asian Art
History and Conservation which took place in East Java, Indonesia.

2016 Concordia University Conference Award for the presentation “Mahāyāna Buddhism: the
Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara in Medieval Campā” at the Graduate Student Conference for
Southeast Asia Research at University of British Columbia, Institute of Asian Research.

- 2015 Concordia University Conference Award for the presentation “(Re-) Constructing Religion of Ancient Kingdoms: From Colonial to Contemporary Discourses on ‘Indianization’ in Southeast Asia” at the 7th International Conference Engaging with Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue. Hanoi (Vietnam).
- 2015 Concordia University, Faculty of Arts and Science, Travel Grant for the presentation “Buddhism in Campā Through Inscriptions” at the Conference of Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Ottawa (Ontario).
- 2013 Concordia Merit Scholarship, Faculty of Arts and Science for the Master program.
- 2011 Concordia Merit Scholarship, Faculty of Arts and Science for the qualifying year in the Department of Religions and Cultures.

Publications

- 2024 “Vaiṣṇavism in medieval Campā through extant inscriptions and iconography,” in Birendra Nath Prasad (ed.), *History, Economy and Religion: Mainland Southeast Asia*. Delhi: Manohar Publishers and Distributors.
- 2022 “Religious Identity and Contemporary Ritual Practices of the Cham Ahiér in Vietnam,” in Matthias Hayek, Piere Emmanuel Roux, and Daeyeol Kim (eds.), *Religious Plurality and Tolerance in East Asia*, a special issue (no. 45) of the *Extrême-Orient, Extrême-Occident*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de Vincennes, pp. 77-117.
- 2022 “Śaiva Religious Iconography: Dancing Śiva in Multi-polity Medieval Campā,” in Andrea Acri and Peter D. Sharrock (eds.), *The Creative South: Buddhist and Hindu Art in Medieval Maritime Asia*, vol 1. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, pp. 289-304.
- 2019 “Champa’s Terracotta Buddhist Tablets at Chòi Mountain, Quảng Ngãi Province.” Co-authored with Nguyễn Hữu Mạnh. *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* (Hanoi), Vol. 5, No. 6, pp. 709-727.
- 2016 “(Re-) Constructing Religion of Ancient Kingdoms: From Colonial to Contemporary Discourses on ‘Indianization’ in Southeast Asia,” in Thuy Linh Le, Leigh G Dwyer, Phan Le Ha (eds.), *Knowledge Journeys & Journeying Knowledge*. Proceedings of the 7th International Conference “Engaging with Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue”. Hanoi: World Publishing House, pp. 247-263.

Book Reviews

- 2017 Christina Elizabeth Firpo, *The Uprooted: Race, Children, and Imperialism in French Indochina, 1890-1980* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2016) in *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 90, No. 4, pp. 868-870.
- 2017 Bruce M. Sullivan (ed.), *Sacred Objects in Secular Spaces: Exhibiting Asian Religions in Museum* (New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015) in *Journal of Religion & Culture*, Concordia University, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 90-92.
- 2016 Erik W. Davis, *Deathpower: Buddhism's Ritual Imagination in Cambodia* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016) in *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 90, no. 2, pp. 400-402.

Other Writing: Land Reform Campaign, French War, Vietnam War, and Sino-Vietnamese Relation in North Vietnam, Vietnamese Diaspora.

- 2013 ***Chuyện nhà một thuở*** [Stories of Aforetime]. Hà Nội: Hội Nhà Văn Publishing House, Vietnam. This novel follows three generations of a Vietnamese family, tracing their lives through the shifting culture, society, and history of Vietnam. It explores how the oldest generation, particularly the grandfather, deeply influenced by Confucianism and versed in classical Chinese language and Sino-Vietnamese traditional medicine, became an early supporter of communist ideology. Despite his role in promoting communism in its infancy, his land and properties were confiscated in 1953 during the party's land reform campaign, and he tragically died in prison, labeled a landlord and a learned man. The second generation focuses on his son, who became a historian. Despite living through the French and Vietnam Wars as a nationalist, he steadfastly refused to join the Communist Party, choosing a path of intellectual independence. In the third generation, the granddaughter pursues higher education in the West, ultimately deciding to stay abroad, drawn by the security, stability, and dignity that life outside Vietnam offered her as an immigrant.
- 2009 ***Cánh Mai vàng trên tuyết*** [Mai Petal on the Snow]. Huế: Thuận Hóa Publishing House, Vietnam. This short story portrays the experiences of Vietnamese immigrants adapting to life in Québec, Canada. It explores themes of identity, cultural displacement, and the challenges of integration while preserving traditions and memories of their homeland. Through the characters' struggles and resiliences, it illuminates the complexities of navigating the immigrant experience in a new society.

Conferences

- 2025 “From ‘Cham Brahmanistes’ to ‘Cham Ahiér’ and ‘Cham Cuh:’ the Politics of Terminology and Identity,” will be presented at the Conference of Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies “Pursuing the Common Good: Southeast Asia and Southeast Asian Studies.” University of Victoria (British Columbia), October 23-25.
- 2023 “Rescuing Untold Oral Histories: Archiving and Unlocking the War of Memory of the Vietnam Wars,” presentation at the Conference “Tools of the Trade: The Way Forward,” (co-authored with Dr. Hai Nguyen). Harvard University (Boston), March 14-16.
- 2019 “Cham Identity: South-Central Cham in Contemporary Vietnam,” presentation at the Conference of Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies. University of Sherbrooke and McGill University (Montréal), October 24-26.
- 2018 “Religious Iconography in Multi-Polity Campā: A View from the North,” presentation at The 21st Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (Hue), September 23-28.
- 2016 “Naṭarāja, the Lord of Dance in medieval Campā,” presentation at the 8th Conference “Engaging with Vietnam through Scholarship and the Arts”. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu (Hawaii), October 4-10.
- 2016 “Mahāyāna Buddhism: the Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara in Medieval Campā,” presentation at the Graduate Student Conference for Southeast Asia Research. University of British Columbia, Institute of Asian Research and Liu Institute for Global Issues (Vancouver), April 14-15.
- 2015 “Buddhism in Campā Through Inscriptions,” presentation at the Conference of Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies “Tensions and Transformations: Southeast Asia in a Changing World.” University of Ottawa (Ontario), October 15-17.
- 2015 “(Re-) Constructing Religion of Ancient Kingdoms: From Colonial to Contemporary Discourses on “Indianization” in Southeast Asia,” presentation at the 7th International Conference “Engaging with Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue”. Hanoi University of Business and Technology (Hanoi), July 7-8.
- 2015 “Following Maritime Routes: Hinduism in pre-modern Southeast Asia,” presentation at the Eastern International Regional Meeting of American Academy of Religion. McGill University (Montréal), May 1-2.

- 2014 “Reconstructing Cam Mandala: An Analysis of Religious Art of Medieval Campā in its Historical and Political Context,” presentation at the 6th International ADI (The Asian Dynamics Initiative) Conference “Intra-Asian Connections: Interactions, Flows, Landscapes.” Copenhagen University (Copenhagen), October 22-24.
- 2014 “Vaiṣṇavism Art in Medieval Campā,” presentation at the 20th Annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference “Tangible: The Mystical, the Material and the Messy In-between.” Concordia University (Montréal), March 6.
- 2013 “An art-historical study of Viṣṇu and Kṛṣṇa statuary in Campā as represented in architectural and sculptural art,” presentation at the Conference of Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies. Université de Montréal – UdeM (Montréal), October 17-19.
- 2012 “Worship of Śiva in the kingdom of Campā as represented in architectural and sculptural art,” presentation at Canadian Asian Studies Association Conference. Université du Québec à Montréal – UQAM (Montréal), November 2-4.
- 2012 “Divination practices among Vietnamese minorities,” presentation at the International Conference “Divinatory Traditions in East Asia: Historical, Comparative and Transnational Perspectives,” (co-authored with Dr. Alexei Volkov). Rice University (Houston, Texas), February 17-18.

Work Experiences

- 2022-2025 Research Fellow at *Unseen Legacies of the Vietnam War Project*, Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia, Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School. As part of a collaborative team, I researched and analyzed captured documents from battlefields (CDEC) and other archival sources in the U.S, Canada, and Vietnam. Through an interdisciplinary investigation of military and non-military records, I contributed to uncovering, verifying and contextualizing personal backgrounds, identities, circumstances, and burial locations of Vietnamese war dead. In addition, my work explores unwritten histories of Vietnamese ethnic minorities, particularly the Cham, whose voices have long been marginalized in official narratives of the Vietnam War.
- 2015-2018 Researcher, I conducted extensive fieldwork in Vietnam, particularly in Bình Thuận and Ninh Thuận provinces, collecting data and interviewing Cham scholars, intellectuals, priests, and other community members about their religion, identity, ritual, and collective memory of the past. This research forms a central component of my doctoral dissertation and examines how these historical experiences shape contemporary Cham identity. It was

funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Fonds de recherche du Québec-Société et Culture.

- 2012-2017 Researcher, I conducted field research in temples, museums, and archives across Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, India, Malaysia, and Indonesia, collecting data on interreligious relations and the transmission, adoption, and practice of Buddhism and Hinduism in South Asia and Southeast Asia. This was partly funded by Concordia University, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Fonds de recherche du Québec-Société et Culture.
- 2014 Research assistant and field-translator, “Integration of mountainous regions of mainland Southeast Asia, 1960-2010: between adaptation and marginalization.” Project director: Dr. Steve Déry, Department of Geography, Université Laval, Québec. My duty was to conduct fieldwork in Lâm Đồng province, Vietnam and interview the Cơ Ho and Churu ethnic minorities.
- 2012 Researcher, “Divination practices among Vietnamese minorities.” Project Director: Dr. Alexei Volkov, Graduate Institute of History & Center for General Education, National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan. This project required me to travel to Vietnam to collect primary and secondary sources on divination practices and conducted interviews local practitioners to document their methods.
- 2005 Literary translator, my work was to translate the Vietnamese history book *Chính sách khuyến nông dưới thời Minh Mạng*, written by Mai Khắc Ứng [Emperor Minh Mạng’s agriculture encouraging policy] into English for Dr. Ben Kiernan, Department of History, Yale University, as part of his research preparation to write his book *Vietnam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present* (2019).

Teaching (as primary instructor)

- 2019 Reli 226 Introduction to Buddhism (Concordia University)
- 2019 Reli 225 Introduction to Hinduism (Concordia University)
- 2018 Reli 385 Women and Religion: Buddhism (Concordia University)

Teaching Assistantships

- 2022 Reli 343 Yoga in History, Thought, & Practice, Dr. Sowparnika Balaswaminathan
- 2022 Reli 216 Encountering Religions, Dr. Laurie Lamoureux Scholes
- 2021 Reli 350 Theravada Buddhism, Dr. Marc des Jardins
- 2021 Reli 325 Leaders, Rebels and Saints in Buddhism, Dr. Josée Campion
- 2020 Reli 226 Introduction to Buddhism, Dr. Marcel Parent
- 2016 Reli 225 Introduction to Hinduism, Dr. Jose Abraham
- 2016 Reli 226 Introduction to Buddhism, Dr. Marcel Parent
- 2016 Reli 215 Religions of Asia: Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Chinese and Korean traditions, Dr. Marc des Jardins
- 2015 Reli 344 Hindu Myth and Narrative: The Epics and Puranas, Dr. Leslie Orr
- 2015 Reli 215 Religions of Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Dr. Marcel Parent
- 2013 Reli 225 Introduction to Hinduism, Dr. Shital Sharma
- 2013 Reli 224 Introduction to Islam, Dr. Dragos Stoica
- 2012 Reli 364 Mahāyāna Buddhism, Dr. Hatley Shaman

Research Assistantships

- 2018 “History of Medieval India”, Dr. Leslie Orr (Concordia University)
- 2016-2017 “Slavery in Medieval India”, Dr. Leslie Orr (Concordia University)
- 2014 “Integration of mountainous regions of mainland Southeast Asia, 1960-2010: between adaptation and marginalization,” Dr. Steve Déry (Université Laval, Québec)

References

Dr. Leslie Orr, Professor, Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University, 1455 blvd. de Maisonneuve, West, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3G 1M8, leslie.orr@concordia.ca, Tel (514) 848-2424, ext. 2065.

Dr. J. F Marc des Jardins, Associate Professor, Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University, 1455 blvd. de Maisonneuve, West, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3G 1M8, marc.desjardins@concordia.ca, Tel (514) 848-2424 ext. 5732.

Dr. Steve Déry, Professor, Département de géographie, Université Laval, Québec (Québec) G1V 0A6, Steve.Dery@ggr.ulaval.ca, Tel (418) 656-2131, ext. 405107.

Dr. Alexei Volkov, Professor, Graduate Institute of History & Center for General Education, National Tsing-Hua University, 101, sect. 2, Kuang-Fu Rd., Hsinchu 300, Taiwan, lang.yuan.tw@gmail.com, Tel (+886) 9310-42201.