

## Elizabeth Napper

### Addresses:

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### Current Position

Freelance translator from Tibetan. Currently working on projects for the UMA Institute of Tibetan Studies, editing a Nyingma preparatory practices text, and translating Sakya liturgical and teaching materials.

Co-Director, Tibetan Nuns Project. Time divided between India and the US office.

### Degrees:

Ph.D. University of Virginia, Religious Studies (Buddhist Studies;  
secondary concentration, Hindu Studies)

M.A. University of Virginia, Religious Studies (Buddhist Studies)

B.A. University of Wisconsin, Indian Studies (Distinction in the Major)

### Professional Experience

2002-present Freelance translator from Tibetan into English.

1991-present Co-Director, Tibetan Nuns Project, Seattle, Washington, and Sidhpur, H.P., India, non-profit organizations working to raise the level of Tibetan Buddhist nuns. The long-term focus is on education and basic support including education is provided to over seven hundred nuns living in the Tibetan exile community and remote Himalayan regions of India. The primary initial project was the construction of Dolma Ling, the first ever Institute of Higher Studies for ordained Tibetan women; with that functioning, we were able to spearhead an initiative that led to the establishment of a fully-qualified Geshe degree program available to women that graduated the first ever group of Tibetan nuns earning the highest degree of their spiritual tradition in 2016. This is a seventeen year course of study followed by four years of examinations; more nuns now complete this each year. A new nunnery and institute of studies for nuns in the Nyingma tradition, Shugsep Nunnery and Institute, which was completed in 2010, graduated the first groups of women to complete the full course of traditional studies in the Nyingma tradition.

- Summers, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007  
Lecturer, University of Michigan. Co-taught a two month summer school course in Tibet that involved one month in the Lhasa area and one month travel through outlying regions of the Tibetan cultural area
- 1991-98  
2006, 2007  
Study Leader: fourteen tours to the Himalayan Region, Tibet, and China on behalf of the Smithsonian Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, and Distant Horizons Travel
- Spring, 1996  
Visiting Numata Professor, University of Hawaii
- 1990-91  
Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University
- 1988-90  
Scholar-in-Residence, University of Virginia; recipient of a grant for translation from the Tibetan Buddhist Learning Center; consultant to the University of Virginia Center for South Asian Studies on preparation of Tibetan language course materials, development of a Tibetan Oral Proficiency Exam, and computerization
- 1985-88  
Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia

## **Publications**

Have completed numerous translations of tantric materials in the Sakya tradition that are circulated only to qualified recipients authorized to read them and practice at that level.

Translated Kön-chog-jig-may-wang-po's *Presentation of the Grounds and Paths: Beautiful Ornament of the Three Vehicles*, (UMA Institute for Tibetan Studies, uma-tibet.org, February 2016) 152 pp.

Translated and edited *Traversing the Spiritual Path: Kön-chog-jig-may-wang-po's Presentation of the Grounds and Paths: Beautiful Ornament of the Three Vehicles, with Dan-ma-lo-chö's Oral Commentary*, (UMA Institute for Tibetan Studies, uma-tibet.org, August 2015) 312 pp.

Translated three of thirteen sections of a collaborative three volume translation of Tsong-kha-pa's *Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment*, (Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications, 2000, 2002, 2004).

*Dependent-Arising and Emptiness*, (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1989), 886 pp.

*Mind in Tibetan Buddhism*, translator and editor (London: Rider, 1980; Ithaca, New York: Snow Lion, 1980; reprints, 1981 and 1986), 175 pp.

Co-Author (with William Magee) *Fluent Tibetan* (Ithaca, New York: Snow Lion, 1993), 1024 pp.

Co-editor (with Jeffrey Hopkins) of *Kindness, Clarity, and Insight* by Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet, (Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion, 1984; Dutch, Spanish, German, and Portuguese editions; Italian edition forthcoming).

**Time Spent Abroad**

Fall, 1991-2006: Majority of time spent in Dharamsala, India working to develop the Tibetan Nuns Project. 2007-present: India time reduced to 3-6 months per year.

Four summers spent in Tibet teaching University of Michigan summer course.

Travel to Tibet, China, Nepal, Bhutan, and Ladakh while serving as Study Leader for various tours conducted under the auspices of the Smithsonian Museum, American Museum of Natural History, and Distant Horizons Travel.