

Elizabeth Napper

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INDIA
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Current Position

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

Degrees:

- Ph.D. (1985) University of Virginia, Religious Studies (Buddhist Studies; secondary concentration, Hindu Studies)
- M.A. (1979) University of Virginia, Religious Studies (Buddhist Studies)
- B.A. (1971) University of Wisconsin, Indian Studies (Distinction in the Major)

Professional Experience

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. The primary project has been the construction of Dolma Ling, the first ever Institute of Higher Studies for ordained Tibetan women, but basic support is also provided to over six hundred nuns living in the Tibetan exile community. A new nunnery and institute of studies for nuns in the Nyingma tradition, Shugsep Nunnery, is fully funded and nearly complete. This institute has 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
1982-83 Graduate Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, UVA
1980-81 Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, UVA
1978-80 Graduate Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, UVA

Publications

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 or 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).

Fellowships and Awards

- 2003 Recipient of "Unsung Heroes of Compassion" award given by Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet
- 1988-90: Recipient of a grant for translation from the Tibetan Buddhist Learning Center, Washington, N.J.
- Summer, 1987: Ellen Bayard Weedon Foundation Summer Travel Grant
- 1983-84: Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Writing Fellowship
- 1981-82: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant
- 1979-80: DuPont Fellowship
- 1978-79: Governor's Fellowship
- 1976-78: NDFL Title VI Foreign Language Fellowship (Hindi)

Languages

Tibetan	Sanskrit
Pali	Hindi (basic)
French	

Time Spent Abroad

Fall, 1991-present: Majority of time spent in Dharamsala, India working to develop the Tibetan Nuns Project. 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, American Museum of Natural History, and Distant Horizons Travel.

Summer, 1990: Co-leader of a one month tour to Tibet and China

Spring, 1990: India (six weeks research)

Fall, 1988: Tibet (eight weeks research)

Summer, 1987: Tibet (eight weeks research)

1981-82: India (dissertation research)

1970-71: India (University of Wisconsin College Year Abroad Program)