

YOSAY WANGDI

Department of History
Grand Valley State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, University of Nevada, Reno, December 2003.

Dissertation: *Echoes of an Agonized Nation: Transformations in Tibetan identity in Diaspora*. Co-chairs: Professor Hugh Shapiro and Professor William Rowley.

Qualifying exams: East Asian history.
US environmental history.
Economics.

M.S. in Economics, University of Nevada, Reno, 1999.

Thesis: *Institutional Economics and Forest Management: A Case Study of the Deforestation Problems in the Darjeeling Hills of India*. Chair: Professor Glen Atkinson

M.Phil. in History, Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India, 1992.

Thesis: *Forest Management in the Darjeeling Hills in the Colonial and Post-colonial times (1864-1992)*. Advisor: Professor Chittabrata Palit

M.A. in History Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India, 1982.

Focus: History of India, East Asia and South-East Asia, European Political Thought.

B.A. Loreto College, District Darjeeling, India
History Honors, 1980.

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan,
August 2009-present.

Teaching Assistantship, Dept. of History, University of Nevada, Reno, 1996-2002.

Lecturer, Loreto College and Kurseong College, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India, 1983-1996.

AREAS of RESEARCH and EXPERTISE

Himalayan history, culture, environment, languages, and politics.

Tibetan culture and history.

Nationalism, Identity, and Diaspora.

South Asian History.

Modern Chinese history.

East Asian history (Japan, traditional China).

East Asian Religion/Buddhism.

South Asian Religion/Hinduism.

Economic theory.

U.S. Environmental history and theory.

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

Recognized in August 2004 by Tibet Office New York and the Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamsala, Nepal, as the first Tibetan woman Professor in the United States.

Recipient of Rowell Fund (Grant) 2009, International Campaign for Tibet, Washington D.C.

Recipient of Rowell Fund (Grant) 2008, International Campaign for Tibet, Washington D.C.

Scholarly Travel Grant-in-Aid, GVSU, Summer 2005; Winter 2007; Fall 2007.

Intercultural Studies Faculty Development Grant, International and Intercultural Office, GVSU, Summer 2004; Summer 2005; Summer 2006.

Summer Stipend, Research and Development, GVSU, Summer 2004.

Research Grant-in-Aid, Research and Development, GVSU, Summer 2004.

Humanities and Social Sciences Dissertation Year Fellowship, UNR, 2002-2003.

Graduate Student Association (GSA), Academic Development Travel Fund, UNR, 2002-2003.

History Professor's Scholarship, UNR, 2000; UNR, 2002.

Graduate Student Association, Research Travel Fund, UNR, 2001-2002.

Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities (CEAH), Scholarship for Graduate Students, UNR, 1999.

Wilbur S. Shepperson Memorial Scholarship in History, UNR, 1999.

James Hulse Scholarship in History, UNR, 1998.

Teaching Assistantships, UNR, listed under Employment.

Teacher Fellowship awarded by University Grants Commission, New Delhi, India for M.Phil. degree, 1989-1991.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Publications

Co-editor of Book Series entitled: *Historical and Pedagogical Issues in History: Insights from the Great Lakes History Conference*. Book Title- *The Role of Agency and Memory in Historical Understanding: Revolution, Reform, and Rebellion*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, June 1, 2017.

“Introducing Revolution, Reform and Rebellion: A schema for Agency and Change,” book chapter in *The Role of Agency and Memory in Historical Understanding: Revolution, Reform, and Rebellion*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, June 1, 2017.

“Tibetan Identity: Transformations within the Diaspora,” book chapter in *The Role of Agency and Memory in Historical Understanding: Revolution, Reform, and Rebellion*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, June 1, 2017.

Co-editor Book Series entitled: *Historical and Pedagogical Issues in History: Insights from the Great Lakes History Conference*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. March 10, 2017.

Home, Uprooted. Oral Histories of India's Partition. Fordham University Press, New York, 2014. Book Review. *Choice, Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, April 2015.

“Tibetans in America: Historical Overview,” *Asian American History and Cultures: An Encyclopedia*, Two Volumes. M.E. Sharpe, New York, December 2010, Routledge 2015.

“Anglo Indians,” *Asian American History and Cultures: An Encyclopedia*, Two Volumes. M.E. Sharpe, New York, December 2010, Routledge 2015.

The Dawn of Tibet: The Ancient Civilization on the Roof of the World. Rowman & Littlefield, Maryland, 2014. Book Review. *Choice, Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*. Submitted.

“Tibetan Americans,” *Asian Americans: An Encyclopedia of Social, Cultural, and Political Change*, Three Volumes. Greenwood Publishing Group, December 2013. pp. 1107-1111.

“Tibetan Diaspora,” in *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Two Volumes, ABC-CLIO, LLC, September 2011. pp. 703-705.

“Anglo Indians,” in *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Two Volumes, ABC-CLIO, LLC, September 2011. pp. 39-41.

“Scheduled Tribe,” *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Two Volumes. ABC-CLIO, LLC, September 2011. pp. 616-618.

“Ramakrishna Mission,” in *Asian American History and Cultures: An Encyclopedia*, Two Volumes. M.E. Sharpe, New York, December 2010, p. 351.

Associate Editor, *Global Studies Journal*, Vol. 1 (Four issues), 2008.

“Tibetan Identity: Transformations within the Diaspora,” *Global Studies Journal*, Vol.1, Issue 1, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2008, pp. 91-100.

“Displaced People, adjusting to New Cultural Vocabulary: Tibetan Immigrants in North America,” book chapter in *Emerging Voices: The Experiences of the Underrepresented Asian Americans*, Rutgers University Press, New Jersey, October 2008, pp.71-89

“Sikhism (Sikhs),” *Encyclopedia of the Developing World*, Routledge, New York, 2006. pp. 1408-1409.

“Waterfall of Youth” (Tibetan: *Lang tsho 'i rhab chu*), translation and critique. *Studies on Asia*, Michigan State University, Michigan, January 2006, pp.126-136.

“United States Policy for Tibetans: A Reappraisal,” *Tibet News*, New York. February 2005. Also in *Now Newspaper*, Gangtok ,Sikkim 28 April, 2005.

Tibetan Diary: From Birth to Death and Beyond in a Himalayan Valley of Nepal. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. Book Review. *China Information* vol. XX, no. 1 (2006), Leiden University, the Netherlands, pp.107-109.

“Dharamsala Hub of Cultural Globalization,” *Tibetan Review*, p. 20, Dharamsala, India, August 2004.

Interviews

“GV to host Holocaust Conference” Oct 9, 2014. Interview conducted by Shelby Pendowski, *Grand Valley, Lanthorn*. The theme of the interview-“Genocide- its significance.”

“When the Iron Bird Flies,” *Eastern Horizon Journal*, Malaysia. January 2005.

“A Tibetan introduces History of India in American University,” Office of Tibet, New York, 3 August, 2004. www.tibetoffice.org.

“China Olympics and related Socio-Cultural and Political Causes,” *Diverse Issues on Higher Education Magazine*, California, May 27, 2008.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair and Organizer of Panel titled: Community Excellence. 1. “India- A rapidly changing Society and Economy,” 2. “Serving as a Bridge,” 3. “Artist Presentation: Indian Railway” 4. (Presenter- Dr. Y. Wangdi) Promoting Studies on Asia & fostering understanding of Asia.” R.I.C.E Conference: Realizing & Addressing Issues in our Culture and Education. DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, March 19, 2016.

Co-Chair, 41st Annual Great Lakes History Conference, October 9-10, 2015.

Commentator: Panel titled: Uneasy Neighbors: India, China, and Tibet – 1. “Three Circles of Reality: A Typological Study of Tibet;” 2. “Clash of the Rising Titans? The Potential for Conflict and Connection in Chinese-Indian Relations.” International Graduate Historical Studies Conference, Central Michigan University, March 27-28, 2015.

“Diaspora Perspectives on the Classification of Tibetans as ‘Chinese Citizens,’” paper presented at the 40th Annual Great Lakes History Conference, October 10 & 11, 2014.

Chair and Commentator –Tibet Panel- “Sold Mountain: Chinese- Language Films on Shangri-La.” 40th Annual Great Lakes History Conference, October 10 & 11, 2014.

Chair and Commentator-Genocide in Asia: The cases of Gujarat, Armenia, and Nanking- “The Armenian Genocide and the Russian Response;” and “The Nanking Massacre of 1937: Where was the International Community?” 40th Annual Great Lakes History Conference, October 10 & 11, 2014.

Conference of Tibetan Professionals in North America, Garrison Institute, New York 5-7 Oct 2009. Moderator for Group one session on “Building the Network.”

“Tibetan Identity: Challenges Facing the Diaspora Community,” paper presented at the Global Studies Conference, University of Illinois, Chicago 16-18 May 2008.

“Tibetan Pioneers in the Himalayas,” paper presented at the 56th Annual Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Washington University, St. Louis 19-21 Oct 2007.

Participated in panel discussion on the book *Emerging Voices: The Experiences of the Underrepresented Asian American*, Rutgers University Press, New Jersey, 2007, at the Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS), NYC, April 4-8, 2007.

“Tibet: Violations of Human Rights and the Question of Genocide,” paper presented at the 31st Annual Great Lakes History Conference, October 20-21, 2006. Also participated in a panel discussion on “The World is Flat, Friedman’s Potential Global Conflict over Natural Resources.”

“Tibetan National Identity,” paper presented at the International Conference on Interdisciplinary Studies, Consciousness, Self-Consciousness and Cultural Identity, sponsored by the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, Calcutta 27-30 July, 2006.

“Nature of Buddhist Prayer,” talk and panel discussion presented at the Conference organized on the National Day of Prayer -Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, sponsored by Inter-Religious Initiative and cooperating churches for healing Racism, Muskegon, MI, May 4, 2006.

“Buddhism in the Land of Snows- A Cultural Odyssey,” “Roar of Snow Lion: Tibetan Buddhism then and now,” “Mahasiddhas: the Great masters of Tibet.” Three lectures delivered at the Conference on Buddhism, Malaysia, hosted by the Buddhist Association of Malaysia, 20-22 May, 2005.

“Challenges in Diaspora Tibet: Religion and Politics,” paper presented at the 54th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 24-25 September, 2005.

Chairperson for Panel titled: “Tibet: Regional, Colonial, Diasporic,” at the 54th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 24-25 September, 2005.

“Tibetan Language and Identity.” Paper presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Annual Conference in Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 15 October, 2004.

“Forest Management in the Darjeeling Hills (1864-1998) with Special Emphasis on the Problem of Deforestation: An Institutional Approach.” Paper presented at the Western Social Science Association Conference (Asian Studies Section), Las Vegas, 11 April, 2003.

“Forest Management in the Darjeeling Hills in the Colonial and Post-Colonial times (1864-1998), with special emphasis on the problem of Deforestation,” First International Conference on the Environmental History of Asia Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, 4-7 December, 2002.

“Thangka Art in Tibet” Public talk in Reno, Nevada, 21 October, 2000.

TEACHING

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan.

Associate Professor, August 2003- present.

Courses Taught:

HST 680 Modern India
 HST 495 Tibet and the Himalayan World.
 HST 399 Independent study
 HST 380 History of India
 HST 342 History of Buddhism and East Asian Religions
 HST 332 Emergence of Modern India & South Asia
 HNR 311 Tibet and the Himalayan World
 HST 204 World History Since 1500
 HST 212 India: History & Civilization
 HST 102 European Civilization Since 1300

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan

Co-Chair, Asian Faculty and Staff Association (AFSA), since Fall 2014.

- Fall 2014- wrote AFSA Charter with Co-Chair Prof Kin ma.
- Winter & Fall 2015: Organized AFSA inaugural reception Sept 30, 2015, Alumni House
- Established Faculty and Student Mentorship Program for GVSU Asian Junior faculty and students. The current student mentee figure stands at 26 and faculty mentors at 19.

- Winter 2016 (April 14) & Winter 2017 (April 13) Organized with the office of Multicultural Affairs, the first & second Asian Students Graduation Celebration for approx. 200 graduating students.

Event venue: Kennedy Hall, Pew Campus. The event included networking, cultural dances, community engagement, a recruitment fair by area companies and awards.

Curriculum Development-

HNR 311/Junior Seminar proposal approved. Tibet and the Himalayan World: History, Culture and Society-Winter 2016.

General Education Proposals: 1. Approved for Hst 332: Emergence of Modern India and South Asia; 2. Hst 342: History of Buddhism and East Asian Religions, under Issues and World Perspective categories, Fall 2015-Winter 2016.

General Education Course Change Proposal approved for Hst 212: India History and Civilization- Winter 2014.

General Education Assessment: Collected data with colleagues and wrote Course Assessment Report for Hst 204 (3 sections) for Winter 2016.

General Education Assessment: Collected data and wrote the Course Assessment Report for Hst 212-01 for Fall 2016.

Compiled student learning objectives for Hst 342: History of Buddhism and East Asian Religions, Winter 2016 for East Asian Studies Report.

Attended the following digital workshops:

Blackboard Assessment Tools (Surveys, Tests & Quizzes)
Creating Engaging & Interactive Digital Media
Engaging Learning through Online Discussion

Received-Certificate of Completion, Foundations Online/Hybrid Course Development Winter 2017, Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center, GVSU.

Faculty Advisor, Student Diversity Club, GVSU, since Winter 2017.

Vice-President Bhutanese Association of Michigan-Since 2016. The effort is to help the Bhutanese refugees (now Bhutanese-Americans) in Michigan to live, and thrive in United States.

Organized India Cultural Immersion Program for Hst 212- India: History & Civilization. Hosted by the West Michigan Bengali Cultural Association (WMBCA), Fall 2016.

HNR 499 Senior Thesis Advisor to Coung Van, Fall 2016. Thesis title: "Situational Analysis in the Retail Industry: US in India."

Emergency Preparedness Plan for History Department: wrote plan in Spring & Summer 2016.

Member, Outreach Committee, Winter 2016.

Co-Chair, 41st Annual Great Lakes History Conference, October 9-10, 2015.

Judge, Michigan History Day, “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History,” March 21, 2015.

Attended Workshop, Bias Incident Protocol, Presented by Team Against Bias (TAB), Division of Inclusion & Equity, March 19, 2015.

Represented, Division of Inclusion & Equity at Asian Gala, Connecting Asia to West Michigan, Inspiring our Future Leaders. West Michigan Asian American Association, INC (WMAAA), March 25, 2015, and 2016 Goei Center, Grand Rapid.

Minority Faculty & Staff Reception-Committee Member and Organizer. Event was held in Kennedy Hall, Oct 16, 2015.

Member, Committee, Recognition for Graduates of Color, April 23, 2015.

Inclusion Advocate, Search Committee for Faculty Position in History/Social Studies Education, Fall 2014-Winter 2015.

Member, Curriculum Committee, Fall 2014-Winter 2015.

Inclusion Advocate, Search Committee for Assistant Manager (Web Fulfillment & Warehouse) Education, University Bookstore, Fall 2014

Member, Search Committee for Visiting Faculty Position in World History/American History /European Medieval History, Spring 2014

Member, University Assessment Committee, Fall 2014

Member, Ombuds Task Force, Fall 2013

Member, General Education Committee, Fall 2013

Member, Department Personnel Committee, Fall 2013

Presented Lecture on Buddhism, titled “The Buddha’s Awakening,” Muskegon Community College, October 9, 2013.

Admissions, Department representative for Visitation day for High schools seniors, Fall 2013

Prepared Report, Study Abroad Self Study for Department, Winter 2013

Prepared, Study Abroad Advisement for History Majors, Fall 2012

Admissions, Department representative for Visitation day for High schools seniors, Fall 2012

Member, Committee for Departmental policy concerning Sabbatical proposals, Fall 2012

Attended, Healing Racism Workshop, Oct 31 & Nov 1; Inclusion and Equity Advocate meeting, Nov 11, 2011.

Member, Search Committee for Faculty Position in Modern Latin America, Fall 2011

Member, Dean Feedback Focus Groups, Fall 2010.

Member, Curriculum Committee, Fall 2009.

Presented Lecture, titled “The experience of Buddhism,” Loutit District Library, Grand Haven, February 19, 2009.

Departmental Representative for Student Visitation Day, October 31, 2009.

Member, Search Committee for Faculty Position in Middle Eastern History, Fall 2008.

Member, Committee on Faculty Activity Report (FARP), Winter 2008.

Interview with *Diverse Issues on Higher Education* Magazine, on China Olympics and related Socio-Cultural and Political Causes, California, May 27, 2008.

Interview with NPR, Washington on the issue of Tibet and China, March 2008.

Member, Search Committee for Faculty Position in Latina/o/Chicana/o History, Winter 2008.

Talk on India-Decolonization at the Regional Perspectives on Decolonization organized by The International Relations Organization GVSU, April 1, 2008.

Guest lecture on “Hinduism” in Hst 203 World Civilization class, 4th February 2008.

Participated in FTLC workshop “Deeper Learning: Helping Students Integrate their Experiences,” 23rd September 2008.

Member, Teaching Circle under Faculty Teaching and Learning Center (Support group for new faculty), Fall 2007

Interview with WGVU, “Tibet-China Relations,” Grand Valley State University, September 29, 2006.

ITV Presentation on “China-Tibet-India” to K12 Teachers at Oklahoma University, April 8, 2006.

Talk on “Buddhism” at the 34th Annual Symposium on the American Indian: Native Roots Run Deep, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, April 5-8, 2006.

“Buddhism” lecture given at Muskegon Community College, March 3, 2006.

Consultant for *The Secret Garden*, presented by GVSU Opera Theatre, January 2006.

Interview in WGVU Newsmakers, TV 35 & TV 52. A half hour segment on Tibet and China, December 2005.

Organized two lectures on Tibetan Buddhism by Khensur Rinpoche at Pere Marquette Room, GVSU on November 11, 2005.

“Tibetan Quest for Justice and Peace through Non-Violence,” talk presented at the West Michigan Justice and Peace Coalition Convention, Grand Rapid, MI, March 12, 2005.

Member, Teaching and Learning Subcommittee under Diversity Assessment Committee, GVSU 2006.

Member, CLAS Diversity task force, GVSU, 2005.

Member, Environmental Studies task force, GVSU, 2005.

Member, Search Committee for Faculty Position in Colonial American History, Winter 2005.

Member, Search Committee for Faculty Position in Social Studies, Fall 2004.

Public speaking on “Tibet and China” organized by Perspectives of Faith Planning Committee, East Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 21, 2004.

Chair and Commentator: “Public Consciousness, Humanitarianism, and the Global Economy,” Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 30 October 2004.

Speaker, “Tibet and its Environment” organized by Grand Valley State University, Students for Free Tibet (SFT) chapter at the Annual Tibetan Benefit Concert at the Arts Cooperative, Grand Rapids on March 12, 2004.

Organized and Conducted a Question-Answer Session with the Grand Rapid Community after the movie “Tibet: Cry of Snow Lion,” presented at UICA, Grand Rapids on March 10, 2004.

Organized Cultural Performance by Tibetan monks from Tashilhunpo Monastery, South India, at Cook-dewitt center, GVSU on February 11, 2004.

Speaker, “Hindu-Muslim Relations in South Asia” organized by Perspectives of Faith Planning Committee, East Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 5, 2003.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Fluent: English, Tibetan, and South Asian languages: Nepalese, Hindi, and Bengali.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Eye Camp for the Poor, Darjeeling, India.

Mother Theresa, Sishu Ashram, Shelter for Children, Calcutta, India.

Leprosy Colony Siliguri, District Darjeeling, India, run by Sister Ivana.

Drug awareness programs, Kurseong College, District, Darjeeling, India.

CARE, Chicago, USA.

Feed the Children, Oklahoma, USA.

MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

East Asian Studies (EAS), GVSU, Allendale, Michigan.

Tibet-Michigan Group.

Tibetan Women's Association, Dharamsala, India.

International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal.

REFERENCES

Prof. Edward Cole, Emeritus Professor of History Grand Valley State University, Allendale.

Prof. James Goode, Dept. of History, Grand Valley State University, Allendale. Ph: (616) 331-3184

Prof. W. Rowley, Dept. of History, University of Nevada, Reno. Ph: (775) 784-6852