

Aaron Kenna Reich

Curriculum Vitae — updated December 2018

areich@sju.edu — akreich.com

Research and teaching interests: Chinese religions and religious art, with an emphasis on the visual culture of Daoism and the iconography of its deities; the history of religious art; ritual traditions of East Asia; religion as it relates to aesthetics, the body, and self-expression.

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. Chinese Literature and Culture, with an emphasis on Chinese religions and Daoism, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Dissertation: “Seeing the Sacred: Daoist Ritual, Painted Icons, and the Canonization of a Local God in Ming China”
- Minor: Transdisciplinary Study of Visual Cultures
- Committee: Professors Mark Meulenbeld (chair), William Nienhauser, Rania Huntington, Li Yuhang, Poul Andersen (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa), Craig Clunas (University of Oxford)
- 2015 M.A. Art History, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Thesis: “Opening the Altar: Daoist Iconography and the Making of Ritual Space in *The Canonization Scroll of Li Zhong*”
- Committee: Professors Quitman Phillips and Li Yuhang
- 2013 M.A. Chinese, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Competencies: Classical, late imperial vernacular, and modern
- Committee: Professors Mark Meulenbeld (chair), William Nienhauser, and Rania Huntington
- 2012 M.A. Asian Religions, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- Thesis: “Painting Outside the Lines: How Daoism Shaped Conceptions of Artistic Excellence in Medieval China”
- Committee: Professors Poul Andersen (chair), James Frankel, and Kate Lingley
- Earned the Francis Powers Award for Best Essay in Religious Studies (Chapter 1) and the College of Arts and Humanities Master’s Research Award
- 2008–2010 Mandarin Training Center, National Taiwan Normal University
- 2006 B.A. Religion and Psychology, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

TEACHING POSITIONS

- 2018– Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Saint Joseph’s University,
Department of Theology and Religious Studies
Courses Developed and Taught:
REL 101: Comparative Religion
REL 356: Death and the Afterlife in Chinese Religions
- 2017 Lecturer, Topics in Religion and Art, Honolulu Museum of Art School
- 2016–2017 Lecturer, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Department of Religion
- 2016 SPRING Lecturer, University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh, Department of Religious
Studies and Anthropology
Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of
Asian Languages and Cultures
- 2015 FALL Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of
Asian Languages and Cultures
Grader/Reader, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of
Asian Languages and Cultures
- 2014 FALL Grader/Reader, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of
Asian Languages and Cultures
- 2013–2016 Private Tutor of Mandarin Chinese, Intermediate and Advanced
- 2011–2012 Tutor of Mandarin Chinese and Academic Mentor, Student-Athlete
Academic Services, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- 2010–2012 Teaching Assistant, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Department of
Religion

EDITORIAL AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2007– Research Assistant, Daoist Iconography Project, a joint venture of the
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and the Honolulu Museum of Art
- 2018 SUMMER Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Chinese Studies, National
Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2014–2016 Editorial Assistant, *Chinese Literature: Essays Articles and Reviews (CLEAR)*
- 2015 SPRING Project Assistant, Video Development for “Daoist Ritual in Hunan,”
University of Wisconsin–Madison

- 2013–2014 Clerical and Editorial Assistant, *Tang Biographical Dictionary of Literary Figures* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming), University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2012 OCT Workshop Assistant, Early Chinese History Workshop VI: *Shi Ji* 史記 Chapters 117, 118, and 120; University of Wisconsin–Madison

PUBLICATIONS

- FORTHCOMING “Empress Cixi as the Bodhisattva Guanyin and an Ancestor Portrait,” and “Four Genre Paintings from 17th to 20th-century China,” in *The Chazen Museum Handbook of the Collection* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press).
- 2016 Review of Harrie A. Vanderstappen, *The Landscape Painting of China: Musings of a Journeyman* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014). In *China Review International* 20.3–4 (2013): 382–86.
- 2013 Annotated Translation of the entry for *Traditions of Divine Ascendants* (*Shenxian zhuan* 神仙傳), in *The Annotated Catalogue of the Complete Imperial Library* (*Siku quanshu zongmu tiyao* 四庫全書總目提要). In *Huazhong Academics* 8: 354–60.
- 2011 Review of Craig Clunas, *Art in China* (Cambridge, UK: Oxford University Press, 2009). In *Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs* 11.1.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 NOV 18 “Summoning the Emissary: The Interwoven Worlds of Late Imperial Thunder Ritual,” presented at the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference in Denver
 Panel: “Vision and Visualization in Art, Alchemy, and Ritual: Exploring Daoist Modes of Perception” (served as Organizer)
- 2017 MAY 5 “Becoming a Daoist God: Painting and Canonization in Late Imperial China,” presented at the Pacific Northwest meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), St. Mary’s University, Calgary
 Panel: “Religion and Art in World Cultures”
- 2017 MAR 23 “Speaking in Images: The Visual Language of Daoist Iconography,” presented at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference “Bridging the Gaps: Conceptualizing Asia through an Interdisciplinary Lens” at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
 Panel: “Image, Ritual, Place, and Contemplation in Asian Religions” (served as Organizer)

- 2014 JUN 1 “Making Space: The Iconography and Pictorial Logic of an Illustrated Daoist Ritual of Investiture from Ming China (1641),” presented at the Ninth Annual International Conference on Daoist Studies, Boston College
Panel: “Daoist Ritual in History”
- 2014 APR 6 “In the Hands of the Gods: The Futility of Daoist Ritual in *Jin Ping Mei*,” presented at the Second Annual Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2013 NOV 23 “Forgetting the Brush: The Place of *Zhuang Zi* in Northern Song Literati Writings on Painting,” presented at the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference in Baltimore
Panel: “Submerged Readings of *Zhuang Zi*”
- 2012 MAR 3 “Walking with the Gods: The Life of Images in Taiwanese Popular Religion,” presented at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Organization Conference “Cycles of Transformation and Transformations of Cycles” at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- 2011 APR 8 “Daoist Notions of Creativity in Tang and Song Aesthetic Theory,” presented at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Organization Conference “Space, Place, and the Production of Knowledge” at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- 2011 APR 4 “Reading Images: An Introduction to the Daoist Iconography Project,” presented at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference “Crossing Borders: Emerging Trends in Pacific and Asian Studies” at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2018 SPRING Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, Taiwan Center for Chinese Studies, with funds from the Ministry of Education
- 2017–2018 Graduate School Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2017 SPRING Conference Presentation Travel Grant, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2016–2017 Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2014–2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship for Chinese, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship for Japanese, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- 2014 SPRING Ninth Annual International Daoist Studies Conference Scholarship
- 2013 FALL Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2013–2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship for Japanese, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2012–2013 Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2012 Francis Powers Award for Best Essay in Religious Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 2012 College of Arts and Humanities Master's Research Award, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 2009–2010 Mandarin Training Center Scholarship, National Taiwan Normal University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2016 NOV 18 Representative for the Department of Religion at the International Education Fair, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 2015–2016 Graduate Student Representative for the China Program at faculty meetings, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2013 SPRING Participant, College of Letters and Sciences Career Services Focus Group, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2011–2012 Departmental Representative, Graduate Student Organization, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2018 Organizer, Panel: “Vision and Visualization in Art, Alchemy, and Ritual: Exploring Daoist Modes of Perception,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference in Denver
- 2017 SPRING Organizer, Panel: “Image, Ritual, Place, and Contemplation in Asian Religions,” School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- 2011–2012 Organizer, Graduate Student Weekly Presentation Seminar “Papers in Progress Sessions” (PIPS), Department of Religion, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SERVICE LECTURES

- 2016 OCT 26 “Applying for PhD Programs and Writing Your Statement of Purpose: A Professional-Development Workshop for Graduate Students,” presented at the Department of Religion, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
- 2012 FALL “Writing Chinese Poetry: A Creative Exercise,” co-taught with graduate students for an undergraduate course on late imperial Chinese literature
- 2011 FALL “Leading a Discussion Section in the Arts and Humanities: A Student-Centered Approach,” New Teaching Assistant Training, hosted by the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

- 2015– Daoist Text Initiative
Directors: Terry Kleeman and Stephen Bokenkamp
<http://www.colorado.edu/daoisttexts>
- 2007– Daoist Iconography Project
Director: Poul Andersen
<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/daoist-iconography>

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Mandarin and Classical Chinese (advanced)
Japanese (basic spoken, advanced reading)
Spanish (basic spoken, advanced reading)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Asian Studies
College Art Association
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions