

## ***CURRICULUM VITAE***

**Joseph A. Adler**  
**Professor Emeritus of Asian Studies & Religious Studies**  
**Kenyon College**

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[www2.kenyon.edu/depts/religion/fac/adler](http://www2.kenyon.edu/depts/religion/fac/adler)

### **PRIMARY AREAS**

Neo-Confucianism  
Chinese Religions  
Phenomenology of Religion

### **SECONDARY AREAS**

Buddhism  
Japanese Religions

### **EDUCATION**

1984 Ph.D. Religious Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara  
Dissertation: "Divination and Philosophy: Chu Hsi's Understanding of the *I-ching*"  
Committee: Tu Weiming, Robert Gimello, Ninian Smart, Richard Comstock  
1979-80 Inter-Campus Exchange Student, University of California, Berkeley  
1977 M.A. Religious Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara  
Major field: China and Japan  
Minor field: Ancient Mediterranean  
1970 B.A. Biology, University of Rochester

### **POSITIONS**

1987-2014 Kenyon College  
Professor of Asian Studies (2008-14)  
Professor of Religious Studies (2002-14)  
Associate Professor of Religion (1994-2002)  
Assistant Professor of Religion (1991-94)  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion (1987-91)  
1996-97 International Division, Waseda University (Tokyo)  
Visiting Professor  
1986-87 University of Southern California  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and East Asian Languages and  
Cultures  
1983-86 Santa Barbara College of Oriental Medicine  
Instructor in Chinese Philosophy (part-time)  
1981-83 University of California at Santa Barbara  
Instructor in Religious Studies (three courses)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

- 2014 [\*Reconstructing the Confucian Dao: Zhu Xi's Appropriation of Zhou Dunyi\*](#) (Albany: State University of New York Press).
- 2002 *Introduction to the Study of the Classic of Change*, by Chu Hsi (translation, with introduction and notes) (Provo: Global Scholarly Publications).
- 2002 *Chinese Religious Traditions* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice-Hall).
- 1990 *Sung Dynasty Uses of the I Ching*, co-authored with Kidder Smith, Jr., Peter K. Bol, and Don J. Wyatt (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

### Articles/chapters:

- Forthcoming "The Heritage of Non-theistic Belief in China," in J. Gordon Melton and Mark Vandebrake, eds., *Forging a Secular World: A History of Modern Unbelief*.
- 2016 "Response to Seth D. Clippard, 'Zhu Xi and the Instrumental Value of Nature,'" *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, 10:1, 39-43.
- 2016 "Chan Buddhism," "Five Classics," "Four Books," and "Thirteen Classics," in Michael Dillon, ed., *Encyclopedia of Chinese History* (London: Routledge).
- 2016 "Chance and Necessity in Zhu Xi's Conceptions of Heaven and Tradition," *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 8:1, 143-162.
- 2015 "On Translating *Taiji*," in David Jones and He Jinli, eds., *Rethinking Zhu Xi: Emerging Patterns Within the Supreme Polarity* (Albany: SUNY Press).
- 2014 "The Great Virtue of Heaven and Earth: Deep Ecology in the *Yijing*," in James Miller, ed., *Religious Diversity and Ecological Sustainability in China* (London: Routledge).
- 2012 "The Classical and Contemporary Confucian Ways," in M. Darrol Bryant, Yan Li, and Judith Maclean Miller, eds., *Along the Silk Road: History, Literature & Culture in China* (Kitchener, Ontario: Pandora Press): 28-43.
- 2010 "Confucianism" and "Confucius," in J. Gordon Melton and Martin Baumann, eds., *Religions of the World : A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices*, 2nd ed. (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO).
- 2008 "Zhu Xi's Spiritual Practice as the Basis of his Central Philosophical Concepts," *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*
- 2008 "Divination and Sacrifice in Song Neo-Confucianism," in Jeffrey L. Richey, ed., *Teaching Confucianism* (NY: Oxford University Press): 55-82.
- 2007 "Chinese Religions," in Jonathan Fenby, ed., *The Seventy Wonders of China* (London: Thames & Hudson).
- 2006 "Daughter/Wife/Mother or Sage/Immortal/Bodhisattva? Women in the Teaching of Chinese Religions," in *AsiaNetwork Exchange*, vol. XIV, no. 2 (Winter 2006): 11-16.
- 2005 "Chinese Religion: An Overview," in Lindsay Jones, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd ed. (NY: Macmillan): 1580-1613 (rev. and exp. version of 1987 article by Daniel Overmyer).
- 2004 "Varieties of Spiritual Experience: *Shen* in Neo-Confucian Discourse," in Tu Wei-ming and Mary Evelyn Tucker, eds., *Confucian Spirituality*, vol. 2 (NY: Crossroad): 120-148.

- 2004 "The Qianlong Emperor and the Confucian Temple of Culture (Wen miao) at Chengde," in James A. Millward, Ruth W. Dunnell, Mark C. Elliott, and Philippe Forêt, eds., *New Qing Imperial History: The Making of Inner Asian Empire at Qing Chengde* (London: RoutledgeCurzon): 109-122.
- 2003 "Zhu Xi yu bushi" (Zhu Xi and Divination). In Tian Hao (Hoyt Tillman), ed., *Songdai Sixiang Shilun* (Essays on Song Intellectual History) (Beijing: Chinese Academy of Social Sciences): 304-348.
- 1999 "Zhou Dunyi: The Metaphysics and Practice of Sagehood," in Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2nd ed. (NY: Columbia University Press), vol. 1: 669-678. Reprinted (with abridged introductions) in Wm. Theodore de Bary, ed., *Sources of East Asian Tradition* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2008), vol. 1: 338-343.
- 1998 "Response and Responsibility: Chou Tun-i and Neo-Confucian Resources for Environmental Ethics," in *Confucianism and Ecology: The Interrelation of Heaven, Earth, and Humans*, ed. Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Berthrong (Cambridge: Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions): 123-149.
- 1981 "Descriptive and Normative Principle (*li*) in Confucian Moral Metaphysics: Is/Ought from the Chinese Perspective," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 16:3, 285-293.

#### Book Reviews:

- 2015 Chenyang Li and Franklin Perkins, eds., [\*Chinese Metaphysics and its Problems\*](#). In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2015.07.17.
- 2015 John Minford, trans., *I Ching (Yijing): The Book of Change*. In *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, vol. 14, no. 1.
- 2013 Robin R. Wang, *Yinyang: The Way of Heaven and Earth in Chinese Thought and Culture*. In *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, vol. 12, no. 4: 561-565.
- 2013 Yong Huang, *Confucius: A Guide for the Perplexed*. In *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 41, no. 2: 158-161.
- 2012 Paul R. Goldin, *Confucianism*. In *China Review International*, vol. 19, no. 1: 67-71.
- 2011 Lee Dian Rainey, *Confucius and Confucianism: The Essentials*. In *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 39: 127-129.
- 2005 Xinzhong Yao, ed., *RoutledgeCurzon Encyclopedia of Confucianism*, 2 vols., in *Religious Studies Review*, vol. 30, no. 4: 267-268.
- 2003 "The Confucian Body." Feature review of Thomas A. Wilson, ed., *On Sacred Grounds: Culture, Society, Politics, and the Formation of the Cult of Confucius*. In *China Review International*, vol. 10, no. 2: 351-362.
- 2003 Edward Hacker, Steve Moore, and Lorraine Patsco, *I Ching: An Annotated Bibliography*. In *Journal of Chinese Religions*, no. 31: 238-239.
- 1999 Irene Bloom and Joshua Fogel, eds., *Meeting of Minds: Intellectual and Religious Interaction in East Asian Traditions of Thought*. In *Journal of Chinese Religions*, no. 27: 132-135.
- 1995 Hoyt Cleveland Tillman, *Confucian Discourse and Chu Hsi's Ascendancy*. In *Asian Thought and Society*, vol. 20, no. 58-59: 148-150.
- 1993 Wm. Theodore de Bary, *The Trouble with Confucianism*. In *Journal of Chinese Religions*, no. 21: 137-142.

- 1990 Donald J. Munro, *Images of Human Nature: A Sung Portrait*. In *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, vol. 50, no. 2: 707-717.
- 1989 Wing-tsit Chan, *Chu Hsi: Life and Thought*. In *Bulletin of Sung-Yüan Studies*, no. 21: 98-101.
- 1987 Daniel K. Gardner, *Chu Hsi and the Ta-hsüeh: Neo-Confucian Reflection on the Confucian Canon*. In *Bulletin of Sung-Yüan Studies*, no. 19: 35-41.

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS AND LECTURES

- 2014 "Reconstructing the Confucian *Dao*" and "Confucianism as a Religious Tradition," Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, National Taiwan University (Taipei); and Philosophy Department, Tunghai University (Taichung)
- 2012 "Theistic and Non-theistic Belief in China," public lecture, John Carroll University (Cleveland).
- 2012 "'The Great Virtue of Heaven and Earth:' Deep Ecology in the *Yijing*," Workshop on Religious Diversity and Ecological Sustainability in China, Minzu University of China (Beijing). Revised version presented to conference, "Contemporary Issues, Classical Insights," Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, National Taiwan University (Taipei).
- 2011 "Chan/Zen, the Oxherding Pictures, and the World-Affirming Turn in Chinese Buddhism," Gund Gallery, Kenyon College
- 2011 "The Heritage of Non-theistic Belief in China," International conference, "Toward a Reasonable World: The Heritage of Western Humanism, Skepticism, and Freethought," San Diego State University
- 2011 "Confucianism in China Today," Pearson *Living Religions* Forum (New York)
- 2011 "Buddhism and War," Hiram College Center for Engaged Ethics (Hiram, Ohio)
- 2011 "Synthesis: 'The One and the Many' in the *Lotus Sūtra* and Zhu Xi," International *Lotus Sūtra* Seminar (Zushi, Japan)
- 2008 "Divination as Spiritual Practice in Song Confucianism," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Chicago).
- 2006 "Confucianism as Religion / Religious Tradition / Neither: Still Hazy after All These Years," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C.); and Institute of Religious Studies, Minzu University of China (Beijing, 2010).
- 2006 "Zhu Xi's Spiritual Practice as the Basis of his Central Philosophical Concepts," Neo-Confucianism and Global Philosophy Conference, Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University.
- 2005 "Daughter/Wife/Mother or Sage/Immortal/Bodhisattva? Women in the Teaching of Chinese Religions," ASIANetwork Annual Meeting (Whittier, California).
- 2002 "The *Tao Te Ching*: Introduction to exhibition by Peggy Kwong-Gordon," Olin Gallery, Kenyon College.
- 1999 "The Interpenetration of Stillness and Activity in Chu Hsi's Appropriation of Chou Tun-i," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Boston).
- 1997 "Varieties of Spiritual Experience: *Shen* in Neo-Confucian Discourse," Confucian Spirituality Conference, Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions (Cambridge); and American Academy of Religion (San Francisco).

- 1996 "Thinking About Religion in Japan," Lecture Series (3), Waseda University (Tokyo).
- 1996 "Chou Tun-i and 'Moral Responsiveness': Confucian Resources for Environmental Ethics," Confucianism and Ecology Consultation, Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions (Cambridge).
- 1992 "The Mind of the Sage: Chu Hsi's Appropriation of Chou Tun-i," Association for Asian Studies (Washington D.C.); and New England Symposium on Chinese Thought (York, Maine).
- 1990 "Universalism and Particularism in Chinese Ethics: Reflections of an Ancient Debate in Chinese Society Today," International Studies Faculty Forum, Kenyon College.
- 1989 "Chu Hsi's Uses of the *I-ching*," Columbia University Regional Seminar on Neo-Confucian Studies (New York).
- 1985 "Chu Hsi and the 'Original Intention' of the *I-ching*," Association for Asian Studies (Philadelphia), and Southern California China Colloquium, Symposium on Religion and Ideology in the Chinese Tradition (UCLA).
- 1982 "*I-hsüeh* and *Hsin-hsüeh*: Chu Hsi's Study of the *I-ching* and his Philosophy of Mind," Workshop on Chu Hsi's Philosophy of Mind and Nature, International Conference on Chu Hsi (University of Hawaii, Manoa).
- 1982 "*I-ching* Divination as a Form of Self-Cultivation in Chu Hsi's Neo-Confucianism," American Academy of Religion, Western Branch (Stanford University), and American Oriental Society, Western Branch (Arizona State University).

#### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

- 2012 Presentation on Kenyon's Asian Studies joint major at Japan Study 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, "The Future of East Asian Studies at Liberal Arts Colleges," Earlham College.
- 2012 Attended conference, "Beyond 'New Confucianism': Confucian Thought for Twenty-first Century China," State University of New York, Buffalo.
- 2010 CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar: "Religion, Ecology, and Identity in Tibet," Beijing and Tibet
- 2009 Consultant on two chapters for Mary Pat Fisher, *Living Religions*, 8th ed. (London: Laurence King, 2011)
- 2007 Respondent, panel on "Korean Contributions to Neo-Confucianism," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 2006 NEH panelist, Division of Preservation and Access, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 Organized panel, "The Religious Status of Confucianism," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2004 "Chinese Religions:" video interview with Dr. James Catanzaro for online course, "Religions of the World" <http://webctdev.chattanoogaastate.edu/rotw/videointerviews.htm>
- 2004 Attended conference sponsored by the Japan Study Program and the Asian Studies Development Program: "Environment, Culture, and Development in East Asia," Ohio Wesleyan University, October 14-16, 2004.
- 2004 Attended 3rd International Seminar on Dunhuang Art and Society: Luoyang, Lanzhou, and Dunhuang, China
- 2003 Attended conference on "Daoism and the Contemporary World" (Boston).

- 2002 Attended International Symposium on the History of the Jewish Diaspora in China: Nanjing and Kaifeng, China (chaired one panel)
- 2001 External reviewer, Department of Religion, Bucknell University
- 2001 Evaluated grant proposal for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- 1991-2000 Organizer and chair of steering committee (co-chair 1994-2000), Confucian Traditions Group (program unit of the American Academy of Religion); chair of panels at AAR Annual Meetings: "The Religious Dimensions of Confucianism" (San Francisco, 1992), "Confucianism as a Living Tradition" (Washington, D.C., 1993), "Confucianism in Dialogue" (Chicago, 1994), "Confucian Spirituality and Mysticism" (Orlando, 1998), "Interpretations of the Great Learning and the Doctrine of the Mean" (Boston, 1999), "Appropriating Confucianism: Comparative and Legitimizing Projects" (Nashville, 2000).
- 1999 Respondent, panel on Chinese Traditions, Conference on Religion and Animals, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Cambridge.
- 1999-2001, 05, 07 Attended AsiaNetwork Annual Meetings (Tacoma, Lisle, Cleveland, Whittier)
- 1996 Symposium: "Digital Images in Support of Teaching," sponsored by The Five Colleges of Ohio, Ohio Wesleyan University.
- 1994 NEH Summer Institute: "Reading the Manchu Summer Palace at Chengde: Art, Ritual, and Rulership in 18th Century China and Inner Asia," University of Michigan.
- 1993 Summer Institute in Academic Information Resources, sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts, Kenyon College.
- 1992 GLCA Course Design and Teaching Workshop, Kenyon College.
- 1992 Organizer of panel, "Confucian Uses of History: Sung, Ming, and Ch'ing," Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C.).
- 1991- Pre-publication reviewer for Princeton University Press; Oxford University Press; Routledge; Westview Press; Seven Bridges Press; State University of New York Press; McGraw-Hill; University of Virginia Press; W.W. Norton; Blackwell; University of Hawaii Press; Bedford/St. Martin's; Yale University Press; Palgrave-Macmillan; Bloomsbury; *Philosophy East & West*; *Journal of Asian Studies*; *Dao*; *International Journal for Existential Psychology and Psychotherapy*; *Manusya Journal of Humanities*; *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*; *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*; *Estudios de Asia y África*; *Religion Compass*.

## LANGUAGES

Classical Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, French

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2010 LaBalme Faculty Development Grant for travel to China
- 2008-09 Scholar Grant, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation
- 1988, 91, 92, 96, 98, 2004, 05 Faculty Development Grants, Kenyon College
- 1997, 2002 Teaching Initiative Grants for travel to China, Kenyon College
- 2000 ASIANetwork / Freeman Foundation Student-Faculty Fellowship: Funding for collaborative project with a Kenyon student to study and videotape ancestor worship in Chinese homes in Taiwan.
- 1997 Research Grant for travel to Taiwan, Waseda University (Tokyo)

- 1995 Research Grant, Pacific Cultural Foundation (Taipei)  
 1992 Travel Grant for Research in Japan, Japan Study Program (Earlham College)  
 1990 Language and Research Fellowship, Inter-University Program in Chinese Language  
 Studies in Taipei and the Academia Sinica Committee on Scientific and Scholarly  
 Cooperation with the U.S.A.: Six months of language study and research in Taipei,  
 February - August, 1990.  
 1985 Leverhulme Trust Post-Doctoral Fellowship at University of Lancaster, England  
 (declined)  
 1982-83 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship  
 1982-83 Research Grant, Pacific Cultural Foundation (Taipei)  
 1982 Conference Fellowship, International Conference on Chu Hsi (Honolulu), Center for  
 Asian and Pacific Studies of the University of Hawaii and American Council of  
 Learned Societies  
 1975-76, 78-79, 81-82 University of California Regents Fellowships

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Chinese Religions  
 Confucian Thought and Practice  
 Daoism  
 Japanese Religions  
 Zen Buddhism  
 Buddhist Thought and Practice  
 Buddhist Asia in Comparative Perspective  
 The Silk Road  
 Religious and Social Change in East Asia  
 Introduction to the Study of Religion  
 Experience and Expression of Religion  
 Approaches to the Study of Religion  
 Religion and Nature  
 Religion and Science  
 Comparative Mysticism  
 Interreligious Dialogue  
 New Religious Movements

Independent Study courses:  
 Chinese Popular Religion  
 Divination in Chinese Society  
 Traditional Chinese Medical Theory  
 Reading in Classical Chinese  
 Buddhism and Japanese Education  
 Religion and Law  
 Ancestor Worship in Taiwan  
 Indian Philosophy  
 Buddhist Philosophy  
 Buddhist Sutras  
 Mongolian Religion

### **ADMINISTRATIVE/COMMITTEE WORK** (at Kenyon unless otherwise noted)

- 1989-2014 Asian Studies Committee  
 2005-07, 2010-13 Director, Asian Studies Program  
 2012-13 Chair of search committee, Religious Studies Department  
 2012-13 Fulbright Fellowship Committee  
 2007-11 International Studies Steering Committee  
 1996-98, 2004-07 Advisory and Selection Committees, Japan Study Program (Earlham College)  
 2001-04, 05-06 Faculty Liason, Luce Scholars Program  
 2003-06 Grievance Committee  
 1995-2001, 03-06 International Education Advisory Committee

2002	Represented Kenyon College at planning meeting at ACM (Associated Colleges of the Midwest) offices in Chicago to discuss a new study-abroad program in China
2000-2002	History of Religions Committee, American Academy of Religion
2000-2001	Newman/Woodward Award Committee
1998-2000	Committee on Academic Standards
1997-2000	Chair, Department of Religion
1997-98	Chair, Faculty Lectureships Committee
1996-97	Resident Director, GLCA/ACM Japan Study Program; Associate Dean of the International Division, Waseda University, Tokyo
1990-92, 95-96	Faculty Lectureships Committee
1993-94	Chair, Resource Allocation Subcommittee of Faculty Executive Committee
1992-94	Faculty Executive Committee
1991-92	Faculty Affairs Committee
1987-91	Academic Computing Advisory Committee

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