

# University of Toronto Conference on South Asian Religions

October 8–9, 2015

## Dissertation Writing Workshop

October 10, 2015

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3rd Biennial Graduate Student Conference  
Supported by the Andrew W. Mellon John E. Sawyer Seminar on the  
Comparative Study of Cultures at the University of Toronto:  
**“Religious Materiality in the Indian Ocean World, 1300-1800”**

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We are pleased to invite submissions for the University of Toronto Graduate Student Conference on South Asian Religions, considering **“Religious Materiality in South Asia and the Indian Ocean World”** on October 8–9, 2015. Keynote addresses will be delivered by **Joyce Flueckiger**, Professor in the Department of Religion, Emory University and **Jamal Elias**, Walter H. Annenberg Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies and South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

This year, in addition to the conference, we will host a Dissertation Writing Workshop on October 10, 2015, led by our keynote speakers and Sawyer Seminar conveners.

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### Graduate Conference Guidelines

We invite presenters to consider the role of material culture in the religious life of devotional communities both in South Asia as well as diasporas and migrant networks across the Indian Ocean World. Themes that presenters may wish to address include:

- Pilgrims, patrons, and pathways
- Commodities, relics, and ritual paraphernalia
- Transformations and reuse of objects
- Objects of devotion, objects of revulsion
- Consecrations, desecrations, and contestations of sacred geography and sites
- Patterns and networks of circulation in the Indian Ocean World
- Consumption and austerity in devotional practices
- Aesthetics and the senses in religious life and experience

Students working on any other topic related to the study of South Asian religions are also strongly encouraged to apply.

**Submission Instructions:** Masters and PhD students should submit proposals of no more than 300 words, five keywords, and a CV to TorontoCSAR2015@gmail.com by July 1, 2015.

**Funding through the John E. Sawyer Seminar:** Limited funds may be available for conference participants to defray the cost of travel and accommodation, with preference given to students at Canadian institutions.

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### Dissertation Writing Workshop Guidelines

We invite advanced doctoral candidates to participate in a one-day Dissertation Writing Workshop. Though preference will be given to candidates working on the conference theme described above, all candidates working on South Asian religious traditions are strongly encouraged to apply. Participants will pre-circulate a draft chapter of their dissertation, which will be discussed by the workshop leaders and all selected workshop participants.

**Submission Instructions:** PhD candidates should submit a proposal of no more than 500 words, along with a CV to TorontoCSAR2015@gmail.com by July 1, 2015. The proposal should include a general overview of the dissertation along with a detailed description of the chapter that will be submitted for the workshop. Workshop participants will submit a completed chapter for the workshop no later than September 1, 2015 in order to be eligible for funding.

**Funding through the John E. Sawyer Seminar:** Full funding, including round-trip travel and accommodation, will be provided for North American dissertation workshop participants traveling to Toronto.