

Curriculum Vitae

Matthew S. LoPresti

Program Chair, Asian and Pacific Studies,
Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2008
M.A., Philosophy, University of Toledo, 1999
B.A., History, University of Toledo, 1997
B.A., Philosophy, University of Toledo, 1996

Dissertation:

"Religious Pluralism in Analytic, Process, and South Asian Philosophies of Religion: An Essay Towards a Comparative Metaphysics of Religion"

SPECIALIZATIONS:

Comparative Philosophy, Classical Indian and Buddhist Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Process Philosophy

COMPETENCIES:

East Asian Philosophy, Existentialism, History of Modern Western Philosophy, Metaphysics, Phenomenology, World Religions

Language:3
Sanskrit

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2010- **Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities**, Hawaii Pacific University (=HPU)
2008-2010 **Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities**, HPU
2007-2008 **Visiting Instructor of Humanities**, HPU
2003 **Lecturer of Buddhist Philosophy**, Antioch College, Buddhist Studies in India Program (Bodh Gaya, India & London, England)

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS

- 2004-2005 **Pre-Doctoral Fellow**, Department of Philosophy, West Virginia University
- 2003 **Language Fellow**, *Advanced Sanskrit Language Program*, American Institute of Indian Studies: Deccan College (Pune, India)
- 2003 **Infinity Foundation Graduate Fellowship** for studies in Indian Philosophy, Infinity Foundation, Inc., 2003

ADJUNCT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chaminade University of Honolulu | (Spring 2006) |
| Hawai'i Pacific University | (Spring 2004-Summer 2007) |
| Kapi'olani Community College | (Summer 2006) |
| University of Hawai'i at Mānoa | (Fall 2002, Spring 2003) |
| University of Toledo | (Fall 1999) |

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming* – LoPresti, Matthew S. "Anonymous Hindus: Pluralist and Absolutist Renderings of the Religious Other in the *Bhagavad Gītā*." *Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion* (London: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Forthcoming* - LoPresti, Matthew S. 2014. "Closer Looks in Philosophy." In *MySearchLab*. MySearchLab.com. Pearson.
- *MySearchLab to accompany The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically about Profound Ideas, Fourth Edition*, by John Chaffee. Pearson, 2013
- LoPresti, Matthew S., "Poiesis, Fides et Ratio in the Absence of Relativism." In *Theopoetic Folds: Philosophizing Multifariousness*, ed. by Roland Faber and Jeremy Fakenthal (New York: Fordham University Press, Perspectives in Continental Philosophy Series, ed. by John Caputo, 2013), 81-96.
- LoPresti, Matthew S., "Profaning the Sacred: The Challenge of Religious Diversity in 'This Week in God.'" In *The Ultimate The Daily Show and Philosophy: More Moments of Zen, More Indecision Theory*, ed. by Jason Holt. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, William Irwin, General Editor (Chicago: Blackwell Press, 2013), 211-230.
- LoPresti, Matthew S., "The Inappropriate Tenderness of the Divine: *Mono No Aware* and the Recovery of Loss in Whitehead's Axiology." In *Butler on Whitehead: On the Occasion*, ed. by Roland Faber, Michael Halewood, and Deena Lin (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012), 259-272.

LoPresti, Matthew S., "Inter-religious Dialogue and Religious Pluralism: A Philosophical Critique of Pope Benedict XVI and the Fall of Religious Absolutism." In *Philosophical Basis of Inter-religious Dialogue: The Process Perspective*, edited by Mirosław Patalon. (Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009): 66-94.

LoPresti, Matthew S., "The Challenge of Religious Diversity in 'This Week in God.'" In *The Daily Show and Philosophy*, edited by Jason Holt. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, William Irwin, General Editor (Chicago: Blackwell Press, 2007): 161-174.

LoPresti, Matthew S., "Sanātana Dharma as a Whiteheadian Religious Pluralism?" *Process Studies* 36.1 (Spring/Summer 2007): 108-120. Corrigenda in *Process Studies* 36.2.

LoPresti, Matthew S., "Existential Freedom (A One Act Play)," *Φ Philosophical Writings* 11 (Summer 1999): 105-110. (Co-authored with J. S. Macdonald, and R. R. Stonecipher.)

BOOK REVIEWS:

Forthcoming – LoPresti, Matthew S., *Education for Fullness: A Study of the Educational Thought and Experiment of Rabindranath Tagore*, by H. B. Mukherjee (New Delhi: Routledge, 2013). Review in *Journal of South Asian History and Culture* (June, 2014).

LoPresti, Matthew S., *Toward a True Kinship of Faiths: How the World's Religions Can Come Together*, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama (New York: Doubleday Religion, 2010). Review in *Janua Sophia* 12 (Fall 2010).

LoPresti, Matthew S., *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore*, by Kalyan Sen Gupta, Ashgate World Philosophies Series (London: Ashgate, 2005). Review in *Philosophy East and West: A Quarterly of Comparative Philosophy* 58 (1) (January 2008): 147-152.

EDITORIAL PUBLICATION:

LoPresti, Matthew S., "Progressive Catholics are Not Hypocrites." Editorial. *Honolulu Civil Beat* [Honolulu, HI] 24 Feb. 2012.

CONFERENCE & COLLOQUIA PAPERS

“Overcoming Pluralistic Stereotypes of Indian Philosophy.” *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, session 1* at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division conference, 2014, San Diego, CA, April 17, 2014.

“Building a Philosophy of Global Citizenship: An Open Shared Inquiry.” *Global Issues Lecture Series*. HPU Honolulu, HI. November 14, 2012.

“Two World Views: Using a Fictional Classroom Debate between Osama bin Laden and Mohandas Gandhi to Explore Ethics, Moral Choices and World Revolution in Our Time” with Dr. Marc Gilbert, NEH Endowed Chair for World History. *Faculty Scholarship Day*, Hawaii Pacific University. Kaneohe, HI. August 30, 2012.

“The Idea of a Unified ‘Hinduism’ in Indian Intellectual History.” *From APEC to Polynesia: Regionalism in World History*. The First Annual Conference of the World History Association of Hawaii. Honolulu, HI. October 15, 2011.

“Theopoetics of Pluralism as the Logical Consequence of Faith.” *Theopoetics and The Divine Manifest: Towards Process Theologies of Multiplicity*. Claremont School of Theology and Center for Process Studies. Claremont, CA. April 22-24, 2010.

“Translating Kṛṣṇa: Meta-theological Implications of *Bhagavad-Gītā* IX.23.” *Center for South Asian Studies Colloquia Series*. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 29, 2009.

“Comparative Metaphysics as Framework for a Genuine and Viable Religious Pluralism.” *7th International Whitehead Conference*, panel session on Whitehead, Religious Pluralism, and the South Asian Tradition. (I organized the panel; participants included: Christopher K. Chapple, John B. Cobb, Jr., and Robert C. Neville.) Christ University and Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, January 2009.

“A Philosophical Critique of Pope Benedict XVI on Religious Pluralism: Finding a Basis for Inter-Religious Dialogue in Whitehead.” *The Philosophical Basis of Inter-Religious Dialogue*. The Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow, Institute of Philosophy at University of Silesia, Franciscan Seminary OFM in Katowice, and the Whitehead Metaphysical Society. Franciscan Seminary OFM, Katowice, Poland, May 2008.

- “Religious Ultimates and the Prejudice of Mutual Exclusivity: A Pluralistic Problematique.” *Department of Philosophy Colloquium*, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, April 2008.
- “Thoughts on Comparative Philosophy” (with Jeremy Henkle). *2008 Uehiro Cross-Currents Philosophy Conference*. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i, March 2008.
- “Re-Examining ‘Pluralism’ and ‘Pluralistic’ Theologies in Anglo-American Philosophy of Religion: Griffin, Hick, Runzo, and Cobb.” *American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting*. Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California, March 2007.
- “Papal Blinders: Making Sense of Pope Benedict XVIth's View of Religious Pluralism and its Implications for Inter-Religious Dialogue.” *6th International Whitehead Conference*, panel session on Inter-Religious Dialogue. Universität Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria, July 2006.
- “*Sanātana Dharma* as a Whiteheadian Religious Pluralism?” *6th International Whitehead Conference*, panel session on Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. Universität Salzburg: Salzburg, Austria, July 2006.
- “The Problem with Whitehead’s Problem of Evil.” *Department of Philosophy and Humanities Colloquium*, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, February 2005.
- “Witness Consciousness in Advaita Vedānta and Western Phenomenological Notions of Transcendental Subjectivity.” Group Program: *Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion*, panel session on Consciousness and Self-consciousness. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, December 2004.
- “Critiquing ‘God/ess’ in Feminist Theology.” *Department of Philosophy and Humanities Colloquium*, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, December 2004.
- “Buddhism Without Rebirth?” *Fifteenth Annual Graduate Student Conference*. School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i, March 2004.
- “Pragmatics of Praxis: Yoga and Christianity in Pascal’s Wager.” *Cross Currents: New Intersections in Comparative Philosophy*. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i, March 2003.

“Establishing Stance: Thickening the Encounter with Place.” *Ninth Annual May 4th Philosophy Graduate Student Conference*. Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, March 2002.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Trustees Scholarly Endeavor Program, *grant for course release to work on scholarship*, Hawai'i Pacific University, Spring 2012.

NEH Faculty Development Grant *for scholarship at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern and Western Divisional Meetings*. Hawai'i Pacific University, December 2009 – March 2010.

Trustees Scholarly Endeavor Program, *grant for course release to work on book proposals*, Hawai'i Pacific University, September 2009.

NEH Faculty Development Grant *for scholarship in Bangalore, India*, Hawai'i Pacific University, January 2009.

Ruth Kleinfeld-Lenney Award *for scholarship in Poland*, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, May 2008.

Uehiro Award for Innovation in Philosophy (with Jeremy Henkle) *for work in Comparative Philosophy*, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, March 2008.

Distinguished Teaching Award, Hawai'i Pacific University, 2007 (Golden Apple Award for Distinguished Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member), April 2007.

Hawai'i Pacific University's Technology Grant *for making university-wide improvements in online education*, Hawai'i Pacific University, 2007.

Watumull Foundation Grant for Study in India, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2003

Teaching Assistantship, University of Toledo, Department of Philosophy, 1998-1999, 2000-2002.

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC PROFESSION (SELECTED)

Review Board, *Journal of South Asian Studies: An Open Access International*.

February 15, 2013 - February 14, 2015. I am to review 3-4 articles per year.

Journal Portfolio: *Journal of South Asian Studies* is an open access peer-reviewed international academic covering the study area of modern South Asia pertaining to its politics, history, literature, arts, cultural and social studies, economy and security matters, and international affairs with linkage of immediate Asian regions. Articles on theoretical, comparative studies and case studies, empirical analyses, commentaries and reviews concerning the growing strategic significance of modern South Asian region and its relevance with other Asian regions (Central Asia, Southeast Asia, West Asia, and Middle East) are accepted for publication.

Publisher: eSci Journals Publishing (Intl.)

Journal Website: <http://escijournals.net/JSAS>

Publisher Website: www.eSciJournals.net

Chair, *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Session 1* at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division conference, 2014, San Diego, CA, April 16 to 20, 2014.

Article Referee, *College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies*. West Chester University, New York, USA. 2014-present.

Article Referee, *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA. 2013-present.

Article Referee, *Toronto Journal of Theology*. Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto Press, Ontario, CANADA. Fall 2011-present.

Co-Founder and Conference Co-Chair, *Hawaii Undergraduate Philosophy Conference*.

- The *HUPC* is an annual collaboration between the Philosophy faculty of three of the largest universities in the State of Hawaii to provide our undergraduate students with the vital experience and opportunity to showcase their strengths in the sort of conferences that their peers have readily available to them on the mainland.

4th Annual *HUPC*, UH-Mānoa, 2014

3rd Annual *HUPC*, UH-West O'ahu, 2013

2nd Annual *HUPC*, HPU, 2012

1st Annual *HUPC*, UH-Mānoa, 2011

Article Referee, *Comparative Philosophy: An International Journal of Constructive Engagement of Distinct Approaches toward World Philosophy*. Center for Comparative Philosophy and the University Library at San Jose State University, California, USA. Fall 2010-present.

Article Referee, *Janua Sophia: Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy*. Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, USA. Spring 2010-2012.

Chair, Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Panel. *Subjectivity in Indian Philosophy.* APA, Eastern Divisional Meeting, New York, NY, December 2009.

Panel Organizer and Chair, 7th International Whitehead Conference. Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram and Christ College, Bangalore, India, January 2009.

- Organized a panel of the world's leading scholars of Whitehead, Religious Pluralism, and South Asian Philosophy to share novel scholarship in Comparative Philosophy at the 7th IWC in Bangalore, India.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AT HPU

Chair, Asian and Pacific Studies program. Fall 2013-Present

Chair, Asian Studies program. Spring 2011-2013

- Oversaw a two-year long major curricular overhaul of the entire Asian Studies program from the Department of International Studies to the Department of Arts and Humanities. As chair part of my task was to guide a transparent, collaborative redevelopment of the inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental major to be more inclusive of the humanities and to integrate Pacific Studies with Asian Studies. As of Fall 2013, both are fundamental to the new major and students may specialize in East Asian, South and Southeast Asian, or Pacific Studies.
- Advise all undergraduate majors in Asian and Pacific Studies. I encourage each of them to meet with me to discuss the progress they are making in their degree programs and to ensure that their current course of study is satisfying their personal learning objectives.
- Conducted a Program Sustainability Analysis of this major for its constant improvement, growth, and flexibility to meet the needs of students with current and potential university resources.
- Conduct yearly Program Review reports, form course map and multiple four-year course plans.
- Work closely with Academic Advising to develop a variety of four-year course plans to encourage double major and minor options to significantly grow the program.
- Enrollment Management: attend HPU's Preview Day once a year to discuss the program with prospective students and their parents and meet with national and international student recruitment staff to update them about program development.

- In 2014, I formed an Asian and Pacific Studies Advisory Board comprised of a representative faculty member from each of the various academic departments that serve this program (Arts and Humanities, English, History, Modern Languages, and Social Sciences). The board serves to advise and collaborate across disciplines and departments to conduct strategic planning, program review, and course offerings and development.
- Initiated an Asian and Pacific Studies Lecture Series in 2012 where experts from outside the university come to campus to share research and scholarship that enriches the intellectual life of the program for the students, faculty, and university.
- Work to expand study abroad opportunities for majors.
- Formulate new courses to serve this major.
- Schedule courses

Faculty Co-Advisor, Secular Student Alliance Club. Fall 2013-Present

- Mentor a humanist, free thought, agnostic student group committed to examining the Church and State separation in government policy and society. The group holds regular discussion meetings where we read and ruminate on readings agreed upon in advance.
- Students have also conducted humanitarian fundraising for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in Fall 2013.

Focus Group Member, Strategic Plan for Athletics. Fall 2012

- Examined strengths, weakness, and opportunities for intercollegiate and intermural athletics in ways that best serve the university's mission, builds a campus community, and has buy in from faculty and provides shared resources for academics.
- Advocated for more intramural events to build a greater sense of community for what is largely a commuter campus experience for most of our students and for our faculty as well.

Chair, Learning Assessment Committee. 2011-2012 (member 2010-2011)

- My chief accomplishment as chair of this university-wide committee was to advocate for more robust "critical thinking" learning outcomes across the curriculum, with particular emphasis on capstone courses. The bulk of this work came from my serving as lead advocate for a proposal that altered the curriculum in every undergraduate program offered by the university to ensure that each program require a capstone experience for students in their final year. Capstone experiences are meant to provide students with the opportunity to draw from their educational experience and produce tangible work that prepares them for post-graduate success in whatever endeavor they wish to pursue. As chair, I shepherded the

capstone proposal through numerous faculty committees, the Faculty Council, and eventually the entire Faculty Assembly where it was debated and passed as a permanent improvement of added value to all undergraduate degrees earned at Hawaii Pacific University.

- Oversaw the formation of a proposal for a bi-yearly Capstone Symposium on multiple campuses. The Capstone Symposium was implemented by the committee in Spring 2013.
- Re-worked student course evaluations university-wide (in part to account for online and hybrid learning and to increase student responses for both).
- I also conducted extra service for the university stemming from my work on the Learning Assessment Committee as a member in 2010-11. The focus was on critical thinking at the upper division level across the curricula. My task was to evaluate every capstone course offered in every major to determine the sort of critical thinking taking place, what aspects distinguish capstone courses in various degree programs in addition to several other metrics. This culminated in a Fall 2011 presentation of my independent institutional research to the university. Moreover, this research, lead to my passionate advocacy to implement the capstone experience curricular changes noted above.

Member, Faculty Council. 2011–2012

- As chair of a university-wide committee at this time, the Learning Assessment Committee, I also had the duty and privilege to serve as voting member of the university's Faculty Council.
- Faculty Council is the governing and advisory body of the university's Faculty Assembly.

Faculty Advisor for programs in Asian and Pacific Studies program and Humanities program. Fall 2009-Present

- Responsible for advising all undergraduate majors in both programs. I encourage each student to meet with me to discuss the progress they are making in their degree programs and to ensure that their current course of study is satisfying their personal learning objectives.
- This includes advising students with Humanities degree concentrations in Philosophy, Religious Studies, Art History, and Classical Studies as well as students who have majored in past majors including East-West Classical Studies.

Viewpoints Film Series, committee member and post-film discussion facilitator. Fall 2007-present.

- Select and moderate films to create a campus dialogue on contemporary local, national, and global issues. We put on approximately twenty films every academic year.

- Films moderated by me include: *Paradise Now* (2007), *God on Trial* (2009), *Consuming Kids* (2010), *Inside Job* (2011), *Gasland* (2012), *The Invisible War* (2013).

Debate Team, Faculty Volunteer and Judge, Spring 2008-present.

First-Year Seminar, committee and faculty member (Intro. to World Philosophies; Great Books East and West), Fall 2008-2013.

Chair & Founder, Distance Education Group, Spring 2009-Fall 2010.

I lead a group of concerned faculty working to ensure quality in distance (online) education. Among our actions and accomplishments:

- Sponsored a successful resolution in Faculty Assembly to ask that the university administration institute a rigorous faculty mentorship program to properly train online instructors.
- Leading the way in reviewing the quality of online course offerings to ensure parity of quality between online and face-to-face education.
- Sponsored faculty roundtable for faculty who have taught online to discuss some of the pedagogical challenges that are encountered in online courses.

Online course consultant and Quality Matters reviewer, Spring 2010-Fall 2010.

- Evaluated online courses to improve quality of pedagogy, format, and student-student, instructor-student, and student-content engagement in an asynchronous learning environment.
- Reviewed the MBA and Management online degree programs.

Co-Founder and Co-Director, WEB CT Users Group. Fall 2007- Spring 2008.

- Organized interdisciplinary workshops of and for faculty, staff, and administrators to discuss opportunities for technological and pedagogical solutions to the challenges of utilizing the Internet as either a primary or supplemental tool for college instruction.

Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee. 2007.

Faculty Scholarship Day, Session Chair. Spring 2007.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AS AN ACADEMIC

Judge, *Debate on Drone Warfare*, a public debate sponsored by the Sea Warrior Debate Society in conjunction with the British National Debate Team and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Hawaii State Capitol Building, November 2012.

- Fellow judges on panel included Hawaii Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, member of the United States House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

Guest Facilitator, *Process Forum*. December 2010.

- A series of community discussion centered on the myriad relevancies of process thought to science, religion, art, poetry, and ecology.
- Forum is sponsored by the Lutheran Church of Honolulu.
- Subject in December 2010 was Deep Ecology and Process Thought.

Panelist, *Soldiers of Conscience*, discussed subject matter of a documentary film of U.S. military personnel, who have applied for conscientious objector status after serving tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. April 2010.

- An Army Lieutenant Colonel, an ROTC Army Cadet, a U.S. Army combat veteran cum conscientious objector, and a Catholic campus minister were the other panelists.
- Sponsored by Newman Catholic Center and Centurion's Guild.

Debater/Panelist, *Personal Privacy, Surveillance, and Counter Terrorism Monitoring Systems*, a public debate sponsored by the Sea Warrior Debate Society, November 2009.

- Hawaii State Assistant Attorney General, Jarod Buna, was the opposing debater/panelist.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Philosophical Association
Center for Process Studies
Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
World History Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Vice-Chair, Executive Committee of the Sierra Club's Oahu Group, elected 2011-2013, re-elected 2013-2015. The Sierra Club is "America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization" and the Oahu Group is its local arm, serving over one-million people in a state with one of the most active environmentally conscious populations in the United States. In addition to my service as a regular board member on the Executive Committee my first term,

I also served a time as Chair of the Political Committee and Chair of the City Council Committee.

Candidate for Hawaii State House of Representatives, District 41. August 2012.

Elected Official, Treasurer, *Ewa Neighborhood Board*. The neighborhood board system is an extension of the government of the City and County of Honolulu. The eleven member board serves well over 60,000 people on the Ewa Plain on the island of O'ahu. Elected Term: 2011-2013, though I stepped down midterm to give more time and attention to my leadership position in the Sierra Club.

Volunteer with Ewa Beach Weed and Seed, *Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii & Honolulu Police Department*, Hale Pono Ewa Beach & City and County of Honolulu. 2011.

President and Board Member, Townhomes at Ka Makana at Hoakalei. 2010-Present. While I hesitate to include this here, I do so only because it demonstrates a very real and very practical experience repeatedly managing a yearly budget in excess of half a million dollars.

Candidate for Honolulu City Council, District 1 Special Election, City and County of Honolulu. December 2010.