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Date of birth: 31 July 1957, Edinburgh
Nationality: British

Employment

- 2009– Professor of Buddhist Studies
Department of Religion and Theology, University of Bristol
- 2005–09 Reader in Buddhist Studies
Department of Theology of Religious Studies, University of Bristol
- 1999–2005 Senior Lecturer in Indian Religions
Department of Theology of Religious Studies, University of Bristol
- 1987–99 Lecturer in Indian Religions
Department of Theology of Religious Studies, University of Bristol

Other positions

- 2020 Khyentse Foundation Visiting Professor, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies,
Savitribai Phule Pune University
- 2016–17 Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Research Fellow in Buddhist Studies
- 2013 Visiting Professor, International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, Tokyo
- 2008 Numata Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies, University of California Berkeley
- 2003– President of the Pali Text Society

Academic qualifications

- 1980 BA (Hons) in the Faculty of Theology, University of Manchester
- 1982 MA Buddhist Studies, University of Manchester
- 1987 PhD: 'The Path to Awakening: A study of the thirty-seven *bodhipakkhiyā dhammā* in the Nikāyas and Abhidhamma', Department of Comparative Religion, University of Manchester

Principal publications

I BOOKS

- The Buddhist Path to Awakening: A Study of the Bodhi-Pakkhiyā Dhammā* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1992);
xii, 382 pp; 2nd edition, with minor corrections (Oxford: Oneworld, 2001), xv, 382 pp.
- with R. P. Wijeratne (trans.), *Summary of the Topics of Abhidhamma (Abhidhammatthasaṅgaha) and
Exposition of the Topics of Abhidhamma (Abhidhammatthavibhāvinī)* (Oxford: Pali Text Society,
2002), xxi, 415 pp.
- The Foundations of Buddhism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). xviii, 333 pp.

Sayings of the Buddha: A Selection of Suttas from the Pali Nikāyas, Oxford World's Classics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008); lvi, 307 pp.

II ARTICLES IN EDITED BOOKS

- ‘The Mātikās: Memorization, Mindfulness and the List’ in *In the Mirror of Memory: Reflections on Mindfulness and Remembrance in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism* edited by J. Gyatso (Albany: State University of New York, 1992), pp. 149–72.
- ‘Bhavaṅga and Rebirth According to the Abhidhamma’ in *The Buddhist Forum*, Vol. III, edited by T. Skorupski and U. Pagel (London: School of Oriental and African Studies, 1994), pp. 11–35.
- ‘The Resurrection and Buddhism’ in *Resurrection Reconsidered* edited by Gavin D’Costa (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1996), pp. 201–216.
- ‘Buddhist Monks, Buddhist Kings, Buddhist Violence: On the early Buddhist attitudes to violence’ in *Religion and Violence in South Asia* edited by John Hinnells and Richard King (London: Routledge, 2007), pp. 62–82.
- ‘Tales of Miraculous Teachings: Miracles in Early Indian Buddhism’, in *The Cambridge Companion to Miracles*, ed. by Graham H. Twelftree (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 216–34.
- ‘Achtsamkeit, Meditation und Therapie’, in *Achtsamkeit: Ein buddhistisches Konzept erobert die Wissenschaft*, ed. by Michael Zimmermann, Christoph Spitz and Stefan Schmidt (Bern: Verlag Hans Huber, 2012), pp. 37–48.
- ‘Was Buddhaghosa a Theravādin? Buddhist Identity in the Pali Commentaries and Chronicles’, in *How Theravāda is Theravāda? Exploring Buddhist Identities*, ed. by Peter Skilling, Jason A. Carbine, Claudio Cicuzza and Santi Pakdeekham (Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2012), pp. 1–63.
- ‘Keeping the Buddha’s Rules: The View from the Sūtra Piṭaka’, in *Buddhism and Law: An Introduction*, ed. by Rebecca Redwood French and Mark A. Nathan (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 63–77.
- ‘Buddhist conceptualizations of Mindfulness’ in *Handbook of Mindfulness: Theory, Research, and Practice* ed. by K. W. Brown, J. D. Creswell and Ryan, R. M. (New York: Guilford Publications, 2015), pp. 9–41.
- ‘The Buddhist Faith of Non-Buddhists: From Dual Belonging to Dual Attachment’ in *Buddhist-Christian Dual Belonging: Affirmations, Objections, Explorations*, ed. by Gavin D’Costa and Ross Thompson (Farnham: Ashgate, 2016), pp. 179–195.
- ‘Abhidharma/Abhidhamma Literature’ in *Oxford Bibliographies in Buddhism* edited by R. Payne (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 33 pp.
- ‘The *jhānas* in the Buddhist path to liberation: the Theravāda perspective’ in *Meditación y contemplación: Caminos hacia la paz (Budismo Theravada y mística teresiana): Meditation and contemplation: Pathways to peace (Theravada Buddhism and Teresian Mysticism)*. Sancho Fermín, F. J. (ed.). (Burgos: Grupo Editorial Fonte, 2019), pp. 177-206 30 p.
- ‘Reading Repetitions in the Saṃyutta-nikāya and Early Abhidhamma: from the Mahāvagga to the Dhammasaṅgaṇi’ in *Research on the Saṃyukta-āgama*, ed. by Dhammadinnā (ed.). (Taipei: Dharma Drum Publishing Corporation, 2020), pp. 109-169.
- ‘Schemes of the Buddhist Path in the Nikāyas and Āgamas’ in *Mārga: paths to liberation in South Asian Buddhist traditions: Papers from an international symposium held at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, December 17–18, 2015*. ed. by Pecchia, C. and Eltschinger, V. (Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences, 2020), pp. 5-77.

III ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

- ‘The Five *khandhas*: Their Treatment in the Nikāyas and Early Abhidhamma’, *Journal of Indian Philosophy* (Dordrecht) 14 (1986), 35-53.
- ‘Cosmology and Meditation: From the Aggañña-Sutta to the Mahāyāna’, *History of Religions* 36 (1997), 183–219.
- ‘Can killing a living being ever be an act of compassion? The analysis of the act of killing in the Abhidhamma and Pali commentaries’, *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 11 (2004), 167–202.
- ‘He who sees *dhamma* sees *dhammas*: dhamma in early Buddhism’, *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 32 (2004), 513–42.
- ‘Wrong View (*micchā-ditṭhi*) and Right View (*sammā-ditṭhi*) in the Theravāda Abhidhamma’, *Contemporary Buddhism*, 5 (2004), 15–28
- ‘On the Practice of Buddhist Meditation According to the Pali Nikāyas and Exegetical Sources’, in *Buddhismus in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 10 (2004), 17–37.
- ‘On the Nature of Dhammas: A Review Article’, *Buddhist Studies Review*, 22 (2005), 175–194.
- ‘Mythology as Meditation: From the Mahāsudassana Sutta to the Sukhāvātīvyūha Sūtra’, *Journal of the Pali Text Society* 28 (2006), 63–112.
- ‘What’s in a Repetition? On Counting the Suttas of the Saṃyutta-Nikāya’, *Journal of the Pali Text Society*, 29 (2007), 365–387.
- ‘On Some Definitions of Mindfulness’, *Contemporary Buddhism*, 12 (2011), 263–79.
- ‘A note on the *Mahākammavibhaṅga-sutta* and its commentary’, *Journal of the Pali Text Society*, 32 (2015), 241–260.
- ‘Body, Mind and Sleepiness: on the Abhidharma understanding of *styāna* and *middha*’, *Journal of the International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies* 21 (2017), 1–39.
- ‘Emptiness and Unknowing: an essay in comparative mysticism’, *Buddhist Studies Review* 35 (2018), 81–96.

Current research

I am currently working on a book with the provisional title *Buddhist maps of the mind and body: a study of Indian Buddhist thought in the Abhidharma of the Theravāda, Sarvāstivāda, and Yogācāra schools*, to be published by Oxford University Press.