

David Buchta  
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Lecturer, Brown University, Department of Classics

### Education

- 2014: PhD, South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania  
Fields of Specialization: Classical Indian Literary Theory; Indian Philosophy; Hinduism, Ancient and Medieval  
Dissertation title: "Pedagogical Poetry: Didactics and Devotion in Rūpa Gosvāmin's *Stavamālā*."
- 2006: Fil. Mag. (MA), South Asia Studies (Indology), Uppsala University  
Thesis title: "Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa's *Siddhānta-darpaṇa* with the *Ṭippanī* of Nanda Mīśra: Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Polemics for the Canonicity of *Śrīmad-bhāgavata*."
- 1999: BA, Religion, Emory University.

### Professional Appointments

- 2012-Present Brown University, Department of Classics, Lecturer  
2008-2012: Rutgers University, Part-time Lecturer in Sanskrit  
2007-2008: University of Pennsylvania, Lecturer in Sanskrit (in lieu of TA service)

### Publications and Presentations

#### Book Chapters/Encyclopedia Entries

- 2014 "Dependent Agency and Hierarchical Determinism in the Theology of Madhva." In *Free Will, Agency, and Selfhood in Indian Philosophy*. Edited by Matthew Dasti and Edwin Bryant. New York: Oxford University Press. 2014: 255-78.
- 2010 "Rasa Theory." with Graham Schweig. In *Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism, Volume Two: Sacred Texts, Ritual Traditions, Arts, Concepts*. Edited by Knut Axel Jacobsen. Leiden: Brill. 2010: 623-29.

#### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2016 "Evoking *Rasa* through *Stotra*: Rūpa Gosvāmin's *Līlāmṛta*, A List of Kṛṣṇa's Names." *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 20 (December 2016): 355-71.
- 2016 "Devotion and Karmic Extirpation in Late Vedānta: Viṭṭhalanātha and Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa on *Brahmasūtra* 4.1.13-19." *Journal of Hindu Studies* 9.1 (May 2016): 29-55.
- 2014 "Instructing the Vernacular Mind through Song: Bhaktivinoda's Bengali Transcreation of Sanskrit *Stotras*." *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 23.1: 231-54.
- 2011 "Sītā at the Hands of Premchand's Rāma." *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 20.1 (Fall 2011): 157-72.
- 2010 "Gārgī Vācaknavī as an Honorary Male: An Eighteenth Century Reception of an Upaniṣadic Female Sage." *Journal of Hindu Studies* 3.3 (October 2010): 354-70.

- 2007 “Complexity in Hindu Biography: Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa’s Multi-regional Influences.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 15.2 (Spring 2007): 81-93.
- 2006 “Defining Categories in Hindu Literature: The Purāṇas as Śruti in Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa and Jīva Gosvāmī.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 15.1 (Fall 2006): 87-107.
- 2005 “Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa and the Vedāntic Refutation of Yoga.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 14.1 (Fall 2005): 181-208.
- 2003 “Gems from the Gītā-bhūṣaṇa.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 12.1 (Fall 2003): 127-147.

#### Book Reviews

- 2016 “Book Review: Into the Twilight of Sanskrit Court Poetry. The Sena Salon of Bengal and Beyond. By Jesse Ross Knutson.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 9.3 (November 2016): 364-66.
- 2015 “Book Note: *Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Philosophy: Tradition, Reason and Devotion*. Edited by Ravi M. Gupta.” *Religious Studies Review* 41.4 (October 2015): 210.
- 2011 “Book Review: *The Final Word*. By Tony Stewart.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 20.1 (Fall 2011): 209-13.
- 2011 “Book Review: *Unifying Hinduism*. By Andrew Nicholson.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 4.2 (July 2011): 216-18.
- 2011 “Book Review: *Extreme Poetry: The South Asian Movement of Simultaneous Narration*. By Yigal Bronner.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 4.1 (May 2011): 105-06.
- 2009 “Book Note: *Introducing Hinduism*. By Hillary Rodrigues.” *Studies in Religions* 38.2 (June 2009): 389.
- 2009 “Book Review: *An Ornament for Jewels: Love Poems for the Lord of Gods by Vedāntadeśika*. By Steven P. Hopkins.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 2.1 (May 2009): 127-28.
- 2008 “Book Review: *The Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Vedānta of Jīva Gosvāmī: When Knowledge Meets Devotion*. By Ravi M. Gupta.” *International Journal for Hindu Studies* 12.1 (April 2008): 89-91.
- 2007 “Book Review: *The Present Tense in Modern Hindi Fiction*. By Theo Damsteegt.” *Language and Literature* 16.3 (August 2007): 305-06.
- 2005 “Book Note: *Sleep as a State of Consciousness in Advaita Vedānta*. By Arvind Sharma.” *Studies in Religion* 34.3-4 (September 2005): 609.
- 2004 “Book Review: *First Steps in Vedānta: Vedantic Texts for Beginners*. By Neal Delmonico.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 13.1 (Fall 2004): 211-218.

## Papers Read

- 2017 “God and Her Grammarian: Grammatical Justifications in Śantanu’s Commentary on the Durgāsaptasatī.” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Indian and Chinese Religions Compared Unit panel: “The Art of Commentary,” November 18, 2017
- 2017 “Is Sanskrit a Language of Secrecy in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism?” Annual Meeting of the Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM), in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion on November 17, 2017
- 2017 “Building Vṛndāvana as a Locus of *Rasa*: The *Stotras* of Rūpa Gosvāmin.” Delivered at the workshop, “The Building of Vṛndāvana,” at Oxford University, September 2-3, 2017
- 2017 “Emotional Poetry/Devotional Poetry: Sanskrit Love Lyrics & Devotion to Krishna.” Invited lecture as part of the 2017 Hindu Studies Lecture Series at Princeton University. April 27, 2017.
- 2017 “Pedagogical Strategies in Jīva Gosvāmin’s *Harināmāmṛtavyākaraṇa*.” 227th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 17, 2017.
- 2016 “Pedagogical Strategies in Jīva Gosvāmin’s *Harināmāmṛtavyākaraṇa*.” Invited lecture at the University of Florida’s Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions (CHiTra). November 12, 2016.
- 2016 “The History of the *Virudāvalī* Sub-genre of the Sanskrit *Stotra*.” 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 21, 2016.
- 2016 “Preserving the World for the World-Preserver: Resources and Challenges for an Environmental Ethic in Vaiṣṇava Poetry, Myth, Commentary, and Theology.” Invited lecture at the University of Virginia. February 11, 2016.
- 2015 “(Sanskrit) Poetry as a Means of Self-betterment: Some Thoughts from India’s Classical Traditions” 2015 Patanjali Lecture at the Center for Indic Studies, UMass Dartmouth. May 1, 2015.
- 2015 “Vindicating the Ornate: *Citrakāvya* in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism.” 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 15, 2015.
- 2014 “Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa’s Three Levels of Eligibility for Knowledge of Ultimate Reality.” 32<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy and the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science. October 25, 2014.
- 2014 “*Bālānām Sukhabodhāya* – Teaching Sanskrit for the Easy Understanding of College Kids.” Fifth Annual South Asian Language Pedagogy Workshop. April 11, 2014.
- 2014 “Rethinking Karmic Extirpation in Late Vedānta.” 224<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 16, 2014.
- 2013 “Evoking *Rasa* through *Stotra*: Rūpa Gosvāmin’s Lists of Divine Names.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 25, 2013.
- 2013 “Harmonizing Poetic Expressivity and Craft: Rūpa Gosvāmin’s *Citrakavitvāni*.” 2013 New England Association for Asian Studies Conference. October 12, 2013.

- 2013 “The Legacy of Bhāṣāsamaka Poetry.” 223<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 17, 2013.
- 2012 “Is *Arthāpatti* (Postulation) Distinct from *Anumāna* (Inference)?” 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy and the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science. October 20, 2012.
- 2011 “Devotion and the Extermination of *Karmic* Reactions: Reinterpreting *Vedāntasūtras* 4.1.13-19 in Late Medieval India.” 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy and the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science. October 22, 2011.
- 2011 “Fictionality, Semantic Modality, and the Reality of Divine Romance: A Vaiṣṇava Reading of *Gīta-govinda*.” 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Vaiṣṇava-Christian Dialogue. Rockwood Manor, Potomac, Maryland. April 8, 2011.
- 2011 “From *Bhārata* (India?) to *Āśreyaska* (Asia): Cosmology and Continents in Colonial India.” Rutgers Annual Conference on South Asia: Beyond Nation-States: Networks, Communities and Diasporas. Rutgers University, March 25, 2011.
- 2010 “Protecting the Yamunā River with Poetry: Putting a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Poem to Use Today.” Symposium: The Poetry and Politics of Water in African, South Asian, the Middle East, and the Americas. Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, November 3, 2010.
- 2008 “Grammar and the Rules of Purāṇic Exegesis: Viśvanātha Cakravartī’s Multivalent Reading of *Bhāgavata-purāṇa*’s First Stanza.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 2, 2008.
- 2008 “An Honorary Male or an Honorary Non-female? Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa on Gārgī Vācakanvī.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 1, 2008.
- 2008 “Portraying an Upaniṣadic Female Sage at the Cusp of Colonialism: Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa on Gārgī Vācakanvī.” Invited Lecture at Library of Congress, Washington DC, August 28, 2008.
- 2008 “Nala’s Prayers to Viṣṇu’s (Ekā-)daśāvātāras in *Naiṣadhīya-carita*.” Summer Sanskrit Academy, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July 14, 2008.
- 2008 “Śānti and Self-realization in *Bhagavad-gītā*: From Peace of Mind to World Peace.” Second Global Nonviolence Student Conference, Mahatma Gandhi Center at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, April 10, 2008.
- 2008 “Poetics as Theology in Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *Prathama Caitanyāṣṭaka*.” 2008 Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, April 4, 2008.
- 2007 “Internal Dynamics of Divinity: Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa’s *Viśeṣa* Theory and the Christian Trinity.” 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Baltimore, December 29, 2007.
- 2007 “Vaiṣṇava-Śākta Debates and the Date of the *Devī-bhāgavata*.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the ISKCON Academy of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia, December 17, 2007.
- 2007 “*Bhayānaka-rasa* as *Bhakti-rasa* in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism.” 5<sup>th</sup> Danam Conference, San Diego, November 17, 2007.

- 2007 “Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *Maddened Peacocks* and the Sacrality of Govardhana.” 36th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, University of Maryland, October 27, 2007.
- 2007 “Blurring the Border between Poetry and Theology in Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *Caitanyāṣṭakas*.” Religion on the Borders: New Challenges in the Academic Study of Religion, Södertörn University College, April 2007.
- 2007 “Poetics, Theology and Sacred Space: Some Implications of Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *Matta-mayūra*.” 7th Annual Graduate Humanities Forum Conference, University of Pennsylvania, February 23, 2007.
- 2006 “Multi-regional Influences on Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa.” 35th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, Seton Hall University, October 28, 2006. Also presented at the South Asia Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, October 5, 2006.
- 2006 “Novelty in *Bhāgavata* Exegesis: Viśvanātha Cakravartin’s five renderings of *Bhāgavata-purāṇa* 1.1.1.” 13th World Sanskrit Conference, University of Edinburgh, July 13, 2006.

#### In Press

- “Jīva Gosvāmin.” Entry for *Oxford Bibliographies: Hinduism*. (Accepted for publication with minor revisions suggested)

#### Work in Progress

- Revision of Walter Harding Maurer’s *The Sanskrit Language: An Introductory Grammar and Reader*, under contract with Routledge.
- “The Structure and History of *Virudāvalī* Poetry.” Article under preparation for submission to the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.
- “Building Vṛndāvana as a Locus of *Rasa*: The *Stotras* of Rūpa Gosvāmin.” Preparing paper for a publication in a volume of the proceedings of the Oxford workshop, in a venue yet to be determined.
- Edition and translation of Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa’s *Kāvyakaustubha*, a work on poetic theory.

#### Grants

##### Completed Grants

- 2011-12 Briton Martin Dissertation Completion Grant, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2008 Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship, Asian Division of the Library of Congress. Grant for two-week research project at the Library of Congress. (Grant led to 2010 publication). \$930.

#### Service

##### to the University

- Judge for the Undergraduate Prize for Excellence in Library Research, 2017.
- Speaker for Alpha Delta Phi’s annual Speaker Tea, “Playing with Words: Sanskrit Ornate Poetry,” November 3, 2017.
- Speaker on Hinduism for the Religious Literacy Project organized through the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life, April 15, 2017.

- Member of the committee for developing the Classics department's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, 2016.
- Served as Guest Lecturer in courses by colleagues in my own and other departments on five occasions: CLAS 2000, 11/16/17 & 11/15/16; HMAN 1972H, 4/12/17; HMAN 1972I, 10/17/16; ENGL 1030D, 2/10/16
- Reader at Classics Department's Latin Carols Event, 2016, 2014, 2012
- Session Leader for First Readings program, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013
- Represent the Classics Department and Sanskrit program at the Academic Expo, Concentration Fair, and ADOCH Academic Department Fair, 2012-2017.
- Represented Classics and Egyptology & Assyriology at the Brown Language Festival organized by the Center for Language Studies, 2015.
- Participated in Advisory Meetings regarding Classics department contributions to the development of the Contemplative Studies Concentration, June 16, 2015.
- Worked with Prof. James Fitzgerald to draft a revision of the tracks for the Classics concentration so as to make tracks involving the study of Sanskrit feasible for students, 2013-14. (Proposal accepted by CCC in Fall '14.)
- Participated in meeting exploring Brown's possible collaboration with RISD's Kirloskar Visiting Scholar in Painting program. December 2014.
- Met with donors from the Global Education and Leadership Foundation (tGELF) representing the Sanskrit program at Brown in connection with a proposed Center for Ethical Leadership, May, 2014 and November, 2014
- Session leader for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opening Celebration's "Day of Academic Discovery & Exploration," March 7, 2014
- Reader at World Poetry Day event sponsored by the Program Committee in Center for Language Studies, April 4, 2013

to the profession

- Judge for the DK Award for the Outstanding Doctoral Thesis on Sanskrit, International Association of Sanskrit Studies, 2017-18.
- Served as peer-review referee for the following journals: *Philosophy East & West* (2017), *Religion* (2016), *The International Journal of Hindu Studies* (2015), *The Journal of the American Oriental Society* (2014), *International Journal of Dharma Studies* (2014), and *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice* (2014).
- Served as peer-review referee for the following book publishers: Oxford University Press (2017, twice), Routledge (2016)
- Conference Panel Organizer, Respondent, or Chair
  1. Convener of the Vaiṣṇavism and Śaivism section of the 17<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, to be held July 9-13, 2018.
  2. Co-organizer: "Secrecy in Sahajiyā and Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Bhakti Theologies." Panel for the Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM) in conjunction with the 2017 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 17, 2017.
  3. Chair: "Poets, Poetry, and the Languages of Poetry." 226<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 21, 2016.
  4. Chair: "Text, Language, and Linguistics." 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society. March 16, 2015.
  5. Organizer: "A Permeable Membrane: The Interaction between Theology and Literary Theory in Sanskrit Literature." 2008 Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta. April 4, 2008.

6. Organizer: "Sacred Destinations: Pilgrimage in South Asia." 36th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, University of Maryland, October 27, 2007.
  7. Respondent: "Poetic Travel." Undergraduate Humanities Forum 8th Annual Research Conference, University of Pennsylvania, March 30, 2007.
- Consultant for the Institutional Review Board of Brown's Human Research Protection Program, 2016.
  - Sanskrit editor for *Free Will, Agency, and Selfhood in Indian Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 2014.

### Honors and Fellowships

2011-12	Briton Martin Dissertation Completion Fellowship.
2008-09	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship.
2006-11	Ben Franklin Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.

### Teaching

#### Courses Taught

#### Brown University

##### Spring 2017

- SANS 0200 Elementary Sanskrit II – 1 student
- SANS 1600 Sanskrit Belles Lettres – 3 students
- CLAS 0990 Concepts of the Self in Classical Indian Literature – 3 students

##### Fall 2016

- SANS 0100 Elementary Sanskrit I – 3 students
- SANS 0300 Sanskrit Epic Narrative – 4 students
- CLAS 0855 The Bhagavad Gita – 14 students

##### Spring 2016

- SANS 0200 Elementary Sanskrit II – 3 students
- SANS 0400 Classical Sanskrit Story Literature – 4 students
- SANS 1400 The Sanskrit Grammatical Tradition – 2 students

##### Fall 2015

- SANS 0100 Elementary Sanskrit I – 3 students
- SANS 0300 Sanskrit Epic Narrative – 4 students
- CLAS 0995 The Performing Arts in Classical South Asia – 5 students

##### Spring 2015

- SANS 0200 Elementary Sanskrit II – 4 students
- SANS 1800 Classical Schools of Indian Philosophy – 3 students
- CLAS 0990 Concepts of the Self in Classical Indian Literature – 6 students

##### Fall 2014

- SANS 0100 Elementary Sanskrit I – 5 students
- SANS 1020 Early Sanskrit Philosophy and Religion – 2 students
- CLAS 1160 Classics of Indian Literature – 4 students

##### Spring 2014

- SANS 0200 Elementary Sanskrit II – 3 students
- SANS 0400 Classical Sanskrit Story Literature – 2 students
- CLAS 1140 Classical Philosophy of India – 2 students (Banner glitch contributed to low enrollment)

Fall 2013

SANS 0100 Elementary Sanskrit I – 7 students

SANS 0300 Sanskrit Epic Narrative – 2 students

SANS 1600 Sanskrit Belles Lettres – 1 student (+1 grad student auditing)

Spring 2013

SANS 0200 Elementary Sanskrit II – 1 student

SANS 1400 The Sanskrit Grammatical Tradition – 2 students

Fall 2012

SANS 0100 Elementary Sanskrit I – 4 students

SANS 0300 Sanskrit Epic Narrative – 2 students

CLAS 1160 Classics of Indian Literature – 4 students

Rutgers University

Spring 2012

Elementary Sanskrit II – 6 students

Advanced Sanskrit II – 4 students

Fall 2011

Elementary Sanskrit I – 13 students

Advanced Sanskrit I – 6 students

Spring 2011

Elementary Sanskrit II – 5 students

Intermediate Sanskrit II – 6 students

Number of Students advised

2017-18 4 First-year advisees and 1 Sophomore advisee

2016-17 2 First-year advisees and 2 Sophomore advisees

2015-16 3 First-year advisees and 3 Sophomore advisees

2014-15 3 First-year advisees and 6 Sophomore advisees (1 transfer student)

2013-14 5 First-year advisees

Honors theses directed/read

2016-17 Director on Honors thesis (winner of the Classics department's James Aldrich Pirce Prize)

2013-14 Second Reader on Honors thesis (winner of the university's Distinguished Senior Thesis Award and the Comp. Lit. department's Rosalie Colie Prize)