

December 2009

**PAULA KANE ROBINSON ARAI**  
*curriculum vitae*

**Office Address:**

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525 Ursuline Dr.  
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**Education**

Ph.D. 1993 Harvard University (Study of Religion)  
Dissertation: "Zen Nuns: Living Treasures of Japanese Buddhism"  
Advisor: Masatoshi Nagatomi  
M.A. 1987 Harvard University (Study of Religion)  
M.T.S. 1985 Harvard Divinity School (History of Religions)  
B.A. 1983 Kalamazoo College (Honors in Religion, Music)  
1980-81 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (Japan Studies Program)

**Professional Experience**

*Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies (Buddhism), Asian Studies, and Women & Gender Studies, Louisiana State University, 2007-*  
*Assistant Professor of Religion, Asian Studies, Carleton College, 2002-2007*  
*Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Women's Studies Program, East Asian Studies Program Vanderbilt University, 1994-2002*  
*Visiting Research Scholar, Nanzan Institute for Religion & Culture (Nagoya, Japan), May 98-May 99*  
*Assistant Professor in Humanities, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, July 1993-July 1994*  
*Lecturer, Brown University, 1991 & 1993*  
*Tutor, Harvard University, 1991-92*  
*Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, 1986-93*  
*Teaching Associate, Brown University, 1988*  
*Associate Director, (and institutional founder of) Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, 1991-1993*  
*Conference Organizer, "Current Buddhist Research: In Honor of Prof. Masatoshi Nagatomi," Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, Harvard University, March 1996*  
*Associate Researcher, Nanzan Institute for Religion & Culture (Nagoya, Japan), 1990*  
*Research Assistant, Prof. Sharon Parks, "Spiritual Development in Young Adults," Harvard University, 1984-85*  
*Research and Administrative Assistant, Prof. James Luther Adams, Harvard Divinity School, 1984-1987*

*Administrative Assistant*

Antioch College, Buddhist Studies Program in Bodh Gaya, India, 1987

***Research Grants***

ATLAS (Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars) Louisiana Board of Regents, 2008-09  
 Mellon Faculty Fellowship through Carleton College, 2005  
 American Academy of Religion Research Assistance Grant, 2004  
 Carleton College Targeted Opportunity Grant, 2003  
 Vanderbilt University Research Council Direct Research Grant, 2000  
 Fulbright Senior Scholar Grant, 1998  
 American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, 1998  
 Vanderbilt University Research Council Direct Research Grant, 1998  
 Vanderbilt University Research Council Summer Research Grant, 1995  
 Vanderbilt University Research Council Direct Research Grant, 1995  
 Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Research Grant, 1993-94  
 Fulbright Dissertation Grant, 1989-90  
 Edwin O. Reischauer Institute Summer Research Grant, 1989  
 Lilly Foundation Research Grant to study Asian-American Christians, 1988-89

***Travel Grants***

Office of Research and Economic Development Faculty Travel Grant, LSU, 2008

***Teaching Grants***

Vanderbilt University Venture Fund Award for Teaching, 2000  
 Vanderbilt University Venture Fund Award for Teaching, 1995

***Scholarships and Prizes***

Japanese American Citizen's League Scholarship, 1986  
 Fan E. Sherwood Memorial Prize in Music, 1982, 1983  
 Marion H. Dunsmore Prize in Religion, 1983

***Published Works******Books***

*Women Living Zen: Japanese Sōtō Buddhist Nuns*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

***Articles in Academic Journals (Peer Reviewed)***

"The Dead As 'Personal Buddhas': Japanese Ancestor Rites as Healing Rites."  
*Pacific World* Third Series, No. 5 (Fall 2003): 3-17.  
 "Discovering Sōtō Zen Nuns' Contributions to Japanese Buddhism and Culture,"  
*Zen Kenkyūjō Kiyō* [Journal of the Institute for Zen Studies Aichigakuin  
 University] No. 28 (1999): 246-230.  
 "Exploring Strategies for Research on Buddhist Women," *Hikaku Shisō Kenkyū* [Studies in  
 Comparative Philosophy] No. 25 (May 1999): 13-23.  
 "Nuns: Japanese Buddhism's Living Treasures," *Hikaku Shisō Kenkyū* [Studies  
 in Comparative Philosophy] No. 17, (1990), pp. 189-184.

### **Book Chapters (Peer Reviewed)**

- “Women and Dōgen: Rituals of Empowerment and Healing” in *Zen Ritual*. Ed. By Steve Heine and Dale Wright. NY: Oxford University Press, 2007: 185-204.
- "Medicines, Healing, and Spiritualities: A Cross-Cultural Exploration" in *Teaching Religion and Healing*. Ed. by L. Barnes & I. Talamantez. NY: Oxford University Press, 2006: 207-218.
- “Japanese Buddhist Nuns’ Ritual of Gratitude and Empowerment” in *Women’s Buddhism, Buddhism’s Women: Tradition, Revision, Renewal*. Edited by Ellison Findley. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2000: 119-130.
- 曹洞禪の尼僧—日本仏教と文化への貢献 “Sōtō Zen no Nisō—Nihon Bukkyō to Bunka e no Kōken,” [Sōtō Zen Nuns: Contributions to Japanese Buddhism and Culture] in *Zen no Sekai*. Edited by Aichi Gakuin Zen Kenkyujo. Nagoya: Kikodo Shoten, 2000: 443-474. [Japanese translation of excerpts from *Women Living Zen*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1999]
- “A Case of Ritual Zen: Gratitude to Ānanda,” in *Innovative Buddhist Women: Swimming Against the Stream*. Edited by Karma Lekshe Tsomo. Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 2000: 123-129.
- “Japanese Buddhist Nuns: Innovators for the Sake of Tradition,” in *Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations*. Edited by Karma Lekshe Tsomo. New York: State University of New York Press, 1999: 105-122.
- “Sōtō Zen Nuns in Modern Japan: Keeping and Creating Tradition,” *Religion & Society in Modern Japan*. Edited by Mark Mullins, Shimazono Susumu, and Paul Swanson. Berkeley: Asian Humanities Press, 1993: 203-218.

### **Other Academic Publications**

- “Shintō and Christianity” in *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, ed. By Daniel Patte. (forthcoming)
- “Healing Zen: Japanese Buddhist Women’s Rituals of Transformation” in *American Academy of Religion Religious Studies News*. Fall 2006: 37 & 46.
- “Medicines, Healing, and Spiritualities: A Cross-Cultural Exploration” in *American Academy of Religion Religious Studies News Spotlight on Teaching*. May 2004: x. (excerpts from chapter in edited volume *Teaching Religion and Healing*)
- “To Marry or Not: Japanese Male Clerics Say ‘Yes!’” Book review for *H-Buddhism* of Richard M. Jaffe. *Neither Monk Nor Layman: Clerical Marriage in Modern Japanese Buddhism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.
- “Zen,” in *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women: Global Women’s Issues and Knowledge*. Edited by Cheris Kramarae and Dale Spender. New York: Routledge, 2000.

### **Articles in Non-refereed Journals**

- ブッダガヤの隠れた宝物 “Buddagaya no Kakureta Takaramono” (in Japanese) [“A Hidden Treasure in Bodh Gaya”], おたより *Otayori*, 105, (Winter 1995): 22-26.
- “In Memory of an Invincible Nun: Kojima Kendō (1898-1995),” *Newsletter on International Buddhist Women’s Activities*, Vol. 12 No. 1 (Oct.-Dec. 1995): 14-15.
- “Japan: Monastic Women in Cultural and Historical Context,” *Seeds of Peace*. Vol. 10 No. 1 (Jan. -Apr. 1994): 17-19.
- “Glimpses of a Zen Community of Women,” *Dharma World*, Vol. 21 (Mar/Apr 1994): 33-40.
- 我が尼僧感 “Waga Nisōkan” [“My Perspective on Buddhist Nuns”], おたより *Otayori*, 100th Commemorative Volume, (Summer, 1992): 12-15. (in Japanese)

### ***Books in Progress***

- Healing Zen: Japanese Buddhist Women's Rituals of Transformation.* With Foreword by Nara Yasuaki. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, under contract.
- Painting Emptiness: Buddhist Scripture for the Modern World.*
- Married to the Enemy: A War Bride's View of U.S.-Japan Relations.*

### ***Invited Presentations***

- "Living Zen: Gratitude, Empowerment, and Healing," Puget Sound Zen Center, Vashon Island, WA. Sept. 2008.
- "How a Ritual of Gratitude Empowers Nuns to Actualize Dogen's Teachings," Buddhist Seminar for University of New Mexico, Jemez Springs, NM. June 2008.
- "Healing Zen," Buddhist Seminar for University of New Mexico, Jemez Springs, NM. June 2008.
- "The Dead as 'Personal Buddhas:' Japanese Ancestral Rites as Healing Rites," Buddhist Seminar for University of New Mexico, Jemez Springs, NM. June 2008.
- "Domestic Zen: Laywomen's Household practices in Contemporary Japan," Buddhist Seminar for University of New Mexico, Jemez Springs, NM. June 2008.
- "Healing Zen," Kalamazoo College, May 4, 2006.
- "Healing Zen," Luther College, May 2, 2006.
- Keynote Address: "Healing Buddhist Women" at Sakyadhita International Buddhist Women's Conference, Seoul, Korea, June 27-July 4, 2004.
- "Ancestors as Healers in Japanese Buddhism," Eastern Buddhist League, Minneapolis, MN, September 2004.
- "Women's Use of Dōgen's Teachings," Zen Mountain Monastery Conference on Dōgen, Mt. Tremper, NY, July 8-11, 2004.
- "Women and Dōgen: Teachings and Practices on Equality," Traces of Dōgen Conference at Emory University, Oct. 27-29, 2000.
- "Zen Buddhist Women's Rituals," San Francisco Zen Center Conference on Women and Lineage Ritual, May 2000.
- "Female Buddha Bodies," Social Construction of the Body Series, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, April 11, 2000.
- "Healing Buddhist Women," Harvard University Study of Religion, Nov. 19, 1999.
- "Buddhist Women Healing," Vanderbilt University Faculty Forum, Oct. 25, 1999.
- "East/West Dialogue on Spirituality and Healing," Vanderbilt Divinity School Forum, Sept. 13, 1999.
- "Women's Buddhist Healing Rituals: Research Methods," Nanzan Institute for Religion & Culture, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan (in Japanese) April 1999.
- "Methodological Considerations in Buddhist Studies," Comparative Philosophy Conference, Tokai Division, Nagoya, Japan (in Japanese) November 1998.
- "Sōtō Zen ni Ikiru: Shuson no Oshie to Gendai no Nisō Seikatsu," Zen Research Institute Forum, Aichi Gakuin University, Nagoya, Japan (in Japanese) April 1999.
- "Women Living Zen Retreat With Paula Arai," 2-day workshop at Zen Mountain Monastery, Mt. Tremper, NY, March, 1998
- "Sōtō Zen Nuns and Their Practices Today," Columbia University, November 14, 1997.
- "Women in Japanese Buddhist History," Women's History Month at MTSU, March 1997.

- “Chichibu Kannon Pilgrimage,” Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum Conference, Harvard University, March 1996.
- “Women Living Zen,” Smith College, March 1996.
- “Zen Nuns: Strength and Gratitude Through Ritual,” Swarthmore College, April 1995.
- “Glimpses of Asian Religiosity,” Middle Tennessee State University African Studies Program and Multi-Cultural Affairs, April 10, 1995.
- “Keeping and Creating Tradition: Zen Nuns in Modern Japan,” Tennessee Consortium for Asian Studies Conference on Contemporary Trends in Japan, The Japan Center of Tennessee, April 1, 1995.
- “Strategic Methods for Studying Japanese Buddhist Women,” Nihon no Josei to Bukkyō Gakkai [Japanese Women and Buddhism Conference] Tokyo, (in Japanese), Aug. 1993.
- “Living Dharma: Zen Nuns’ Motivations, Commitments, and Self-Perceptions,” Institute of Buddhist Studies Symposium on Women and Japanese Religion, April 1993.
- “Japanese Spiritual Female Leaders,” Celebration of 100 Years of Women at Brown University, 1991.
- “Zen Nuns: Living Treasures of Japanese Buddhism,” Harvard Buddhist Studies Forum, 1990.
- “Nisō no Rekishi to Seikatsu” [The History and Lifestyles of Nuns in Modern Japan], Nihon no Josei to Bukkyō [Women and Japanese Buddhism Conference] Nagano, Japan (in Japanese), 1990.
- “Anthropological Survey of Zen Nuns,” Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan, (in Japanese and English), 1990.

### ***National and International Conference Presentations***

- With Sascha du Lac, Salk Institute, “The Body/ Mind: Buddhist Bowing and Neuroscience,” Cognitive Science, Religious Practices, and Human Development: Buddhist and Christian Perspectives, American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL Nov. 2008.
- “Domestic Zen: Laywomen’s Household Practices in Contemporary Japan,” Sakyadhita International Association of Buddhist Women, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, July 2008.
- “Practices of Japanese Lay Women,” American Academy of Religion, Zen Seminar, San Antonio, TX Nov. 2004.
- “Current Research in Japanese Religions, respondent, American Academy of Religion, Japanese Religions Group, San Antonio, TX Nov. 2004.
- “Researching and Interpreting Buddhist Women,” Panel on Researching Buddhist Nuns in Korea: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, 2002.
- “Japanese Buddhist Women Healing Rituals,” Sakyadhita International Buddhist Women’s Conference, Nepal, February 2000.
- “Zen Healing Rituals,” American Academy of Religions Maritime Regional Conference, Boston, MA, April 17, 1998.
- “Nuns’ Ritual to Ānanda” International Conference on Buddhist Women, Phnom Phen, Cambodia, 1997 (presented *in absentia*).
- “Hidden Agendas: The Ascetic Impulse and Women’s Spiritual Practices,” panelist, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Francisco, 1997.
- “Buddhist Nuns’ Vision of Women and Japanese Society,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, 1995

“Submissive or Expedient? Interpreting Japanese Buddhist Women’s Activities,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Philadelphia, 1995.

“Japanese Buddhism: The Critical Edge,” panel organizer and moderator for American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Philadelphia, 1995.

“A Case of Ritual Zen: In Gratitude to Ānanda,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago, 1994.

“Japanese Monastic Women in Historical & Cultural Context,” Third International Sakyadhita Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Oct. 1993.

“Sōtō Zen Nuns,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Kansas City, 1991.

### ***Television, Radio, and Magazine Interviews***

“Japanese Buddhist Mourning Rituals” on “Strictly Seniors” cable television, Roland Minda, Producer/Host, September 2005.

“Interview with Dr. Paula Arai,” *Kokoro no Jidai* [The Era of the Heart and Mind]. Radio Broadcast in Tokyo, Japan, January 19, 1994. (in Japanese)

“A Sober View of Japan from an International Perspective: Interview with Paula Arai,” *Moku: Magazine for Inspiring Leaders*, No. 12 (December 1993), pp. 60-63. (in Japanese).

### ***Community Service Presentations***

“Buddhist Meditation,” House of Hope, Minneapolis, February, 2006.

“Zen Healing Arts,” House of Hope, Minneapolis, April, 2005.

“Zen Women,” Clouds in Water Zen Center, St. Paul, December, 2003.

“Parents and Children of Intercultural Relationships,” panelist and chair, 1995 International Awareness Festival, Nashville, March 28, 1995.

“Overview of Asian Religions,” Congregation Ohobai Sholom, Nashville, April 1995.

“Introduction to Buddhist Teachings,” West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, Mar, 1995.

“Introduction to Japanese Buddhism,” Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville, Feb, 1995.

“Introduction to Indian Buddhism,” Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville, Jan. 29, 1995.

“Faculty and Faith,” Vanderbilt University Sarratt Student Center, November 1994.

“Fireside Chat with Faculty,” Vanderbilt University McTyeire Language Hall, December 1994.

### ***Areas of Interest and Teaching Competence***

East Asian Religions

Buddhism

Field Research Methodology and Theory

Lived Religion in Contemporary Society

Healing, Medicine, and Religion

Religiosity in Japan

Ritual Studies

Women and Religion

Comparative Religion and Religious Dialogue

### ***Professional Activities***

Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship, Humanities Panel Reviewer

American Academy of Religion

History of Religions Jury

Program Unit Chair Advisory Council

Japanese Religions Group, Co-chair  
 Zen Seminar, Steering Committee Member  
 Religions, Medicines and Healing Group, Steering Committee Member  
 Sakyadhita: International Buddhist Women's Organization, vice-president  
*Religion Compass*, Editorial Board member  
*Academic Publication Reviewer*: State University Press of New York, University of Hawaii  
 Press, Asian Humanities Press, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*  
 Association for Asian Studies, member  
 Society for the Study of Japanese Religions, member  
 National Women's Studies Association, member

### ***Musical Performances***

Japanese Taiko Drum, "Passing the Beat: Mu Daiko Recital," The Southern Theatre,  
 Minneapolis, MN, July '03, '05, '06, '07.  
 Violin, Abbastanza Bene String Quartet, Northfield, MN community performances, 2003-  
 Koto (Japanese 13-stringed zither), Hiratsuka Traditional Japanese Music Ensemble (from  
 Nagoya, Japan), 5-concert tour of North America (Vancouver and White Rock, B.C.,  
 Kalamazoo College, Cranbrook Institute, Harvard University), April/May 1989.  
 Violin, Longwood Symphony Orchestra, Concerts at Jordan Hall (Boston, MA), numerous  
 performances including two with soloist Yo-Yo Ma, 1985-1993  
 Violin, Longy School of Music Chamber Orchestra (Cambridge, MA), numerous performances,  
 1983-85  
 Violin, Solo Recital at Kalamazoo College, May, 1983  
 Koto, Solo Recital at Kalamazoo College, March, 1983  
 Violin, Waseda University Orchestra (from Tokyo, Japan), 15-concert tour of West Germany  
 (including performance at Berlin Philharmonic Hall), Feb/Mar, 1982  
 Violin, Kalamazoo College Chamber Orchestra, numerous performances, 1978-1983  
 Violin, Michigan Youth Symphony, numerous performances throughout Michigan, 1974-1978