

Dr. J. Abraham Vélez de Cea

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Full Professor

Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies

Keith 331

Eastern Kentucky University

Richmond, KY 40475

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Philosophy, Universidad Complutense 1996-2001 (November 2001)
Madrid, Spain (Director: Raimon Panikkar, emeritus UCSB)
- M.A. Religious Studies (Ciencias de la Religión), Universidad Pontificia de
Comillas 1993-1995
Madrid, Spain
- Licentiate Philosophy and Education, Universidad de Navarra 1986-1991
(5 years) Pamplona, Spain

OTHER FORMAL TRAINING

- Georgetown University Buddhist Ethics, Buddhist-Christian Mysticism
Postdoctoral fellow (2002-2004)
Visiting Assistant Professor (2004 – 2006)
Department of Theology
(Advisor: Prof. Francisca Cho)
- Central Institute of
Higher Tibetan Studies
(India) Sanskrit and Mahāyāna Buddhism
Research fellow (1999-2001)
(Advisor: Prof. K. Mishra)
- University of Peradeniya
(Sri Lanka) Pāli and Theravāda Buddhism
Special student (1995)
Department of Pāli and Buddhist Studies
(Advisor: Prof. Warnasuriya)
- Oxford University Pāli and Theravāda Buddhism
Special student (1992-1993)
Oriental Institute
(Advisor: Prof. Richard Gombrich)

DISSERTATION

“The Philosophy of the Buddha According to the Discourses of the Pāli Canon”

November 2001, Summa Cum Laude

Department of Philosophy III (Hermeneutics and Interdisciplinary Studies),
Universidad Complutense, Madrid.

Director: Prof. Raimon Panikkar (Emeritus University of California, Santa Barbara)

Internal Examiners: Prof. Manuel Maceiras (Universidad Complutense), Prof. Rafael Ramón Guerrero (Universidad Complutense).

External Examiners: Prof. Ana Agud (Universidad de Salamanca), Prof. Teresa Román (UNED), Prof. Luis O. Gómez (Emeritus University of Michigan).

The dissertation investigates contemporary interpretations of the Buddha’s doctrine of non-self. The first part explores the historical roots of interpretations that presuppose a true Self behind the Buddha’s doctrine of non-self. The second part follows the lead of Stephen Collins (*Selfless Persons* 1982) and Peter Harvey (*Selfless Mind* 1995), and argues that interpretations presupposing a true Self are problematic because they render the doctrine of dependent origination (*paṭiccasamuppāda*) unnecessary.

The thesis also provides a new interpretation of the silence of the Buddha. This new interpretation was published in English as a separate article, “The Silence of the Buddha and the Questions about the Tathāgata after Death.” *The Indian International Journal of Buddhist Studies* No 5, pp. 119-141.

FELLOWSHIPS

Postdoctoral

Georgetown University (July, 2002 – July, 2004), Washington D.C., USA.

Bilateral, Government of Spain and Georgetown University.

Pre-doctoral

Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (July, 1999 – July, 2001), Sarnath, India.

Bilateral, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Eastern Kentucky University	<u>Director of Asian Studies</u>	2020-Present
	<u>Professor</u>	2016-present
	<u>Associate Professor</u>	2011- 2016
	<u>Affiliated to the Honors Program</u>	2007- Present

	<u>Assistant Professor</u>	2006 - 2011
Berea College	<u>Lecturer of South Asian Religions</u>	Fall 2009
Georgetown University	<u>Visiting Assistant Professor</u>	2004 – 2006
	<u>Postdoctoral Fellow & Adjunct Professor</u>	2002 - 2004

TEACHING AT BEREA COLLEGE

Course taught

AST/REL 231 Religions of India and Tibet

TEACHING AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Courses designed and developed

Hon 308 Meditation, Compassion, and Science (with Prof. Winslow)
REL 370 Buddha, Jesus, and Dual Belonging
REL 370 Buddhist-Christian Dialogue
REL 365/Hon 308 Buddha and the Problem of Pluralism
REL 350 Buddhism
REL 360 Religion and Global Ethics

Other courses taught

REL 301 World Religions
REL 340 Religions of India
REL 345/ Hon 308 Religions of China and Japan
PHIL 110 Beginning Philosophy
PHIL 130 Beginning Ethics

TEACHING AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Courses designed and developed

THEO 064 Buddhism and Social Action
THEO 049 Buddhist and Christian Mysticism

Other courses taught

THEO 167 Introduction to Buddhism
THEO 001 Problem of God

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS IN ENGLISH

- 2020 *Buddhist Responses to Religious Diversity: Theravāda and Tibetan Perspectives*. Edited together with Douglas Duckworth and Elizabeth J. Harris
Sheffield: Equinox
- 2013 *The Buddha and Religious Diversity*.
London: Routledge
(Routledge Studies in Asian Religion and Philosophy)

BOOKS IN SPANISH

- 2019 *En Palabras del Buddha*. (Translation of Bhikkhu Bodhi's anthology of Pali texts rendered directly from Pali into Spanish). Edited and translated together with Ricardo Guerrero and Aleix Ruíz Falqués. Barcelona: Clásicos Kairós.
- 2003 *Nāgārjuna: Versos sobre los fundamentos del camino medio* (Sanskrit text and Spanish translation of Nāgārjuna's *Mūlamadhymakakārikā*) Barcelona: Clásicos Kairós.
- 1999 *Majjhima Nikāya: Los Sermones medios del Buddha* (Anthology of 50 Pāli Suttas translated together with Amadeo Solé-Leris.
Barcelona: Clásicos Kairós.
- 2000 *Buddhismo* Madrid: Ediciones del Orto
- 1998 *Buddha*. Madrid: Ediciones del Orto.

JOURNAL ARTICLES IN ENGLISH

- 2014 "The Cross-Cultural Hermeneutics of Raimon Panikkar"
Cirpit Review (Intercultural center dedicated to Raimon Panikkar)
Vol 5 (2014) pp. 69-77
- 2013 "The Dalai Lama and the Nature of Buddhist Ethics"
Journal of Buddhist Ethics
Volume 20 (2013) pp. 499-540
- 2011 "Value Pluralism in Early Buddhist Ethics"
Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies Volume 33
Number 1-2 2010 (2011) pp. 211-237
- 2011 "A Cross-cultural and Buddhist-Friendly Interpretation of the Typology

Exclusivism, Inclusivism, Pluralism”

Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysical Theology and Ethics Volume 50 (3): 453-480

- 2010 “Interreligious Dialogue as a Method of Understanding: the Case of Raimundo Panikkar”
Journal of Interreligious Dialogue, Issue 3, Spring 2010, pp. 96-112
- 2006 “A New Direction for Comparative Studies of Buddhists and Christians: Evidence from Nāgārjuna and John of the Cross” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* Volume 26, pp.139-155
- 2005 “Emptiness in the Pāli Suttas and the Question of Nāgārjuna’s Orthodoxy.”
Philosophy East and West Vol. 55: 4, pp. 507-528
- 2004 “The Early Buddhist Criteria of Goodness and the Nature of Buddhist Ethics.”
Journal of Buddhist Ethics Vol.11, pp.123-142
- 2004 “The Silence of the Buddha and the Questions about the Tathāgata after Death.”
The Indian International Journal of Buddhist Studies No 5, pp. 119-141
- 2000 “The Significance of the Injunction to Hold Oneself and the Dhamma as an Island and Refuge in the Buddha’s Teaching.”
Buddhist Studies Review Vol.17, no. 1, pp.17-33

JOURNAL ARTICLES IN SPANISH

- 2000 “El significado de la exhortacion a tenerse a uno mismo y al dhamma como isla y refugio.” *Ilu Revista de Ciencias de las Religiones*, No. 5.
- 1998 “Nāgārjuna y la filosofía del Buddha.” *Contrastes*, Philosophical Review of the University of Málaga. Málaga.
- 1998 “La teoría budhista de los dharmas.” *Endoxa*, Philosophical Review of the UNED, Madrid.
- 1996 “Buddhismo : algunos malentendidos.” *Religion y Cultura* No. 192. Madrid.

BOOK CHAPTERS IN ENGLISH

- 2017 “The Buddha and the Religious Diversity” In *Buddhist and Christian Attitudes to Religious Diversity*. Edited by Hans-Peter Grosshans, Samuel Ngun ling, Perry Schmidt-Leukel. Ling’s Family Publication, Yangon,

Myanmar.

- 2016 “An Alternative Conception of Multiple Religious Belonging: A Buddhist-Catholic Perspective” In *Buddhist-Christian Dual Belonging*. Edited by Gavin D’Costa and Ross Thompson. London: Asghate
- 2015 “Mindfulness and Religious Diversity: A New Pedagogical Application.” In *Buddhist Response to Educational Crisis*. Edited by Dion Peoples. Bangkok: The international Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU)
- 2014 “Mindfulness for Secular Purposes: Distortion or Adaptation of the Buddha’s Teachings?” In *The Importance of Promoting Buddhist Education*. Eds. Thich Nhat Tu and Thich Duc Thien, Phu Nhuan, Vietnam: Vietnam Buddhist University Publications, (2014) pp. 109-136.
- 2014 “The Buddha and the Dalai Lama on Religious Pluralism.” In *Understanding Religious Pluralism: Perspectives from Religious Studies and Theology*. Eds. Peter Phan and Jonathan Ray. Eugene, OR: WIPF and STOCK Publishers, (2014) pp. 46-65.
- 2012 “The Buddha and the New Atheists: On the Art of Teaching the Dhamma in the Bible Belt.” In *Teaching Dhamma in New Lands*. Eds. Ven. Khammai Dhammasami, Padmasiri de Silva, Sarah Shaw, Dion Peoples, and Jamie Creswell. Bangkok: The international Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU), (2012) pp. 151-173.
- 2007 “Interreligious Dialogue through Comparative Studies.” In *Ecumenics from the Rim: Explorations in Honour of John D’Arcy May*, edited by John O’Grady and Peter Scherle. Berlin: Lit Verlag, (2007) pp. 325-333.
- 2007 “Ethical Ambiguity and the Concept of Dark and Bright Action” E-Book *Revisioning Karma*. Published by the Journal of Buddhist Ethics. Charles Prebish, Damien Keown and Dale S. Wright (Eds)

BOOK CHAPTERS IN SPANISH

- 2005 “Introducción a la psicología budista.” In *Psicópolis*. Barcelona: Kairós. In J.L. Pinillos, A. Jodorowsky, and others. Edited by J.L. Romero Cuadra.
- 2004 “Paz y violencia en el budismo.” In *Paz y violencia en las religiones*. Navarra: Verbo Divino. In Agud, A / Vélez de Cea, A / Tamayo-Acosta, J.J. / Piñero, M / Borreguero, E.
- 2003 “No-identidad y ética de la compasión en el budismo.” In *La aportación de las religiones a una ética universal*. Madrid: Dickinson. Boff, L. / Peces-Barba, G. / Tamayo-Acosta, J.J. / Agud, A. / Vélez de Cea, A. / García-Baró, M. / Abumalham, M. /

- 2001 “Budismo.” In *Dios tiene más de un nombre*. Barcelona: Claret. In Sternschein, V/ Merlo, V. / Vélez de Cea, A. / Vallverdú, M. / Ricart, I.
- 1999 “La experiencia religiosa del Buddha” and “El camino medio budista.” In *Hinduismo y Budismo: Introducción filosófica*. Madrid: Etnos. In Gómez de Liaño, I./ Vélez de Cea, A./ Cavallé, M.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- 2008 “Buddha”
Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Teaching Buddhist Ethics through the Life of the Buddha”
Panel on Buddhist Approach to Global Education in Ethics
The 16th United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration
May 12-14, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2019 “Preventing Interreligious Conflict: A Buddhist Contribution”
Lecture at the 4th International Academic Conference (MIAC) on
“Buddhist Responses to Contemporary Issues”, organized by MCU
Graduate School. May 17th, MCU, Ayutthaya, Thailand
- 2019 “Why Did the Buddha Attained Parinibbāna?”
Lecture at Shan State Buddhist University.
May 27th, Taunggyi, Myanmar
- 2019 “Interpreting the Deaths of Buddha and Jesus”
European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies
June 27th-July 1st, St. Ottilien/Munich, Germany
- 2015 “Are Buddhist Supremacist Claims Really Buddhist?”
Panel on Buddhist Responses to Religious Pluralism
Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group
American Academy of Religion Annual Conference
November, Atlanta, USA
- 2015 “Discipleship and the Possibility of Buddhist-Christian Belonging”
Exploratory session on Multiple Religious Belonging
American Academy of Religion Annual Conference
November, Atlanta, USA
- 2015 “Can There Be a Theravāda-Buddhist Pluralism?”
Buddhist and Christian Attitudes to Religious Diversity
An International Symposium organized by the *Myanmar Institute of
Theology (MIT)* and the *Protestant Faculty of Theology/University of*

Muenster (WWU)
2 – 6 August, Yangon, Myanmar,

- 2014 “Interreligious Mindfulness: A New Pedagogical Application”
Panel on Buddhist Pedagogy: Applying Buddhist Principles to
Teaching. Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group.
American Academy of Religion Annual Conference
November 22-25, San Diego, USA
- 2014 “The Possibility of Dual Buddhist-Christian Belonging”
Symposium on Dual Religious Belonging
June 28-29, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
- 2014 “Teaching Mindfulness for Secular Purposes: Distortion or Adaptation of
the Buddha’s Teachings.” Workshop 5 The Importance of Promoting
Buddhist Education. The 11th United Nations Day of Vesak
May 7-11, Ninh Binh, Vietnam
- 2013 “The Cross-Cultural Hermeneutics of Raimon Panikkar”
Raimon Panikkar Symposium, Society for Asian and Comparative
Philosophy, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference
November 22, Baltimore, USA
- 2013 “Comparative Theology of Religions and the Virtue of Interreligious
Openness.”
30 Years of the Theology of Religions Theology: Retrospective and
Future Prospects Conference
September 9-10, The University of Winchester, UK
- 2012 “Buddha and the New Atheists: On the Art of Teaching the Dhamma in the
Bible Belt.”
Panel Teaching the Dhamma in New Lands
The 2nd International Association of Buddhist Universities Conference
May 31- June 2, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2012 “The Buddha and the Dalai Lama on Religious Pluralism”
Panel Asian Traditions and Religious Pluralism
Understanding Religious Pluralism: Perspectives from
Religious Studies and Theology
Georgetown University
May 23-23, Washington D.C., USA
- 2011 “Is There Salvation outside the Buddha’s Dispensation: Exclusivist and
Inclusivist Interpretations of the Pāli Nikāyas”
Panel on Early Buddhism
XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies.
Dharma Drum Buddhist College
June 20-25, Taiwan

- 2009 “Buddha and Ethics of Sustainable Dialogue”
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division,
International Society for Buddhist Philosophy
Panel on Buddhist Ethics
New York, December 27-30
- 2009 “Interreligious Dialogue and the Typology Exclusivism, Inclusivism,
Pluralism.” Panel on Program and Policy Development
Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue
Seoul (South Korea) September 23-25
- 2008 “Pluralistic Approaches to Virtue Ethics: A Comparison of Christine
Swanton and the Dalai Lama.”
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division
Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
Panel on Moral Agency and Applied Ethics in Asian and Comparative
Thought
Philadelphia, December 27-30
- 2008 “Toward a Pluralistic Understanding of Dharma Practice: A Panikkar-
Inspired Buddhist “Theology” of Religions.”
American Academy of Religion, Buddhist Critical-Constructive
Reflection Group
Panel on Buddhist Constructive Thought and Critical Frameworks for
Praxis
Chicago, November 1-3
- 2008 “Pluralism and the Foundations of Early Buddhist Ethics”
XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies.
Panel on Indian Buddhist Metaethics
Atlanta, June 23-28
- 2007 “Interreligious Dialogue through Comparative Studies” in the panel on
Education and Academic Cooperation
Third Asia-Europe Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue.
Nanjing (China) June 17-20
- 2007 “From Buddhist Inclusivism to Buddhist Pluralism”
Seventh Conference of the European Network of Buddhist-Christian
Studies: Buddhist Attitudes to Other Religions
St. Virgil/Salzburg (Austria), June 8-11
- 2006 “The Ethical Functions of Emptiness in Nāgārjuna”
International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
Panel on Buddhist Ethics,
New York, Fordham University, October 20-22

- 2005 “Dark and Bright Karma: A New Reading”
Online conference on Revisioning Karma. Organized by Journal of Buddhist Ethics. October 17-22
- 2005 “Pluralism and Interfaith Harmony” in the panel on
Barriers to Interfaith Harmony
First Asia-Europe Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue.
Bali (Indonesia) July 21-22
- 2005 “Ethics and Emptiness: A Comparative Study of John of the Cross and Nāgārjuna”
Seventh International Buddhist-Christian Dialogue Conference
Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University, June 3-8
- 2004 “Emptiness in the *Pāli Suttas* and the Question of Nāgārjuna’s Orthodoxy”
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Program.
Chicago. April 2004.
- 2003 “The Need for a More Realistic Understanding of Religious Ethical Traditions”
American Academy of Religion.
Atlanta, November 2003.
- 2003 “Preventing Religious Conflict in the Era of Globalization: A Buddhist Contribution”
International Conference: Religion and Globalization.
Chiang Mai (Thailand), July 2003.
- 2002 “No identidad y ética de la compasión en el Dalai Lama” (Non-identity and Ethics of Compassion in the Dalai Lama).
Annual Meeting of the Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones (SECR). Valencia, April 2002.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Buddhist Ethics (Conflict prevention and resolution)
Buddhist attitudes to religious diversity
Buddhist-Christian dialogue
Theravāda-Mahāyāna dialogue

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion
- Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
- Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

LANGUAGES

English
Spanish
Pāli