

# Daniel Webster Kent

Whitman College  
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## Education

PhD in Religious Studies, University of Virginia, December 30, 2008  
Dissertation Title: *Shelter for You, Nirvana for Our Sons: Buddhist Belief and Practice in the Sri Lankan Army*  
MA in Religious Studies, University of Virginia, January 3, 2003  
BA with major in Asian Studies and minor in Japanese Language, Whitman College, January 1997

## Positions Held

2016-Present	Assistant Professor of Asian Religions, Whitman College
2010-2014	Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Religions, Whitman College
2009	Lecturer in Buddhist Studies, University of Virginia
2009	Lecturer in Religious Studies, Mary Baldwin College
2005	Visiting Instructor in Religious Studies, Western Kentucky University
2002-2003	Teaching and Technology Support Partner, University of Virginia
2000-2002	Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia

## Grants, Awards and Honors

2012	Ingram Lecturer, Pacific Lutheran University
Fall, 2011	Abshire Scholar Research Award, Whitman College
2007-8	Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
2006-7	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, Sri Lanka
2005	American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies Grant for Sinhala Language Study in Sri Lanka
2003-4	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Sinhala Language Study at Cornell University
2001-2	Seven Society Graduate Fellowship for Superb Teaching Honoree For excellence in teaching at the University of Virginia
2001-2	Class of 1985 Graduate Fellowship for Creative Teaching at the University of Virginia
2000-2004	Full Graduate Fellowship Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia
1998-2000	IIE Fulbright Fellowship, Universities of Peradeniya and Keleniya, Sri Lanka

## **Book Projects**

*In Times of War the Buddha Remains Silent: Buddhist Belief and Practice in the Sri Lankan Army.* Book in Progress

*The Monk Who Wouldn't Meditate: Religion and Globalization in Contemporary Sri Lanka.* Preliminary Fieldwork Completed

## **Journal Articles**

“Preaching in a Time Without Dharma: History and Ethical Transformation in Sermons to the Sri Lankan Army,” *Journal of Contemporary Buddhism*, March 2015

“Proof of Buddhism: Interpreting the Bodies of Sri Lankan Buddhist War Dead,” *Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities*, December 2010

## **Book Chapters**

“The ‘Insane’ Monk from Kanimahara” in Justin McDaniel, Jeffrey Samuels and Mark Rowe eds., *Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia*, University of Hawaii Press, 2016

“Corporal Monk: Venerable Sudinna’s journey from the Sri Lankan Army to the Buddhist Sangha” in Todd Lewis ed., *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism Through Biography*, Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2014

“Onward Buddhist Soldiers: Preaching to the Sri Lankan Army” in Mark Juergensmeyer and Michael Jerryson eds., *Buddhist Warfare*, Oxford University Press, 2010

## **Conference Presentations**

“The Remorse of Kings: Chronicling Reconciliation in Sri Lankan Buddhism” Buddhism and Law Conference, Buffalo, NY, September 2016

“Competing Buddhisms in Contemporary Sri Lankan Literature and Film” panel at Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2013

“Killing for a World of Perfect Morality: Buddhist Ethics in a Time of Declining Dharma” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2013

“The Stakes of Beef Consumption: Trading Karma for Buddhist Identity in the Sri Lankan Army.” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Asian Studies, San Diego, CA, March, 2013

“Protecting the Order: History and Nationalism in the Sri Lankan Army’s Annual Flag Blessing Ceremony.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2012

“To Protect the Innocent: Kollonawe Sumangala’s Message to the Sri Lankan Army.” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Asian Studies, Toronto, ON, March 2012

“Buddha with a Camera-phone: Youtube and the Ethnography of Asian Religions.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Anthropology of Religion Section, San Francisco, CA, November 2011

“Lying with Compassion: Caring for the Karma of Buddhist Soldiers.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion Pacific Regional Conference, Spokane, WA, May 2011

“In Times of War the Buddha Remains Silent: Buddhist Monks and the Ethics of Warfare.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Buddhism Section, Atlanta, GA, October 2010

“A Death in the Family: Sinhala Buddhist Strategies for Dealing with the Deaths of Soldiers in Battle.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2008

“Shelter For You, Nirvāna for Our Sons: Remembering Sri Lanka’s War Dead.” XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Atlanta, GA, August 2008

“Onward Buddhist Soldiers: Preaching to the Sri Lankan Army.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Buddhism Section, Washington, DC, November 2006

“The Genealogy of Gentleness: A Study of 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Representations of Sinhala Buddhists.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion Eastern-International Regional Conference, Ithaca, NY, May 2004

### **Invited Lectures**

“Preaching in a Time without Dharma” Lewis and Clark College, Guest Lecture for 400-level course on Religious Nationalism, March, 2016.

“Corporal Monk” Lewis and Clark College, Guest Lecture for 400 level course on Buddhist Monasticism, September, 2015.

“Killing Tigers, Killing Cows: The Karma of Killing Animals in the Sri Lankan Civil War.” Pacific Lutheran University, Ingram Lecture March, 2012

“Death on a Fullmoon Day: Memorial Bus Shelters for Sri Lanka’s War Dead.” University of Virginia Workshop on Religion, Culture and Conflict in Sri Lanka, February, 2009