

INDIRA VISWANATHAN PETERSON

CURRICULUM VITAE 2023

For a complete list of publications, see the document “Indira Peterson Publications April 2023”

Name: Indira Viswanathan Peterson
Professor of Asian Studies, Emerita
Mount Holyoke College, U.S.A.

Mailing address: 13 Burnett Avenue, South Hadley, MA 01075.

E-Mail: ipeterso@mtholyoke.edu, indira.p19@gmail.com

Degrees: Ph.D.* Sanskrit and Indian Studies, 1976, Harvard University, U.S.A.
A.M.* Sanskrit and Indian Studies, 1974, Harvard University, U.S.A.
*under the name Indira V. Shetterly
B.A. Honors; English Literature, 1971, Ruia College, Bombay
University, Bombay, India

Professional Employment:

2016 – Professor of Asian Studies, emerita, Mount Holyoke College
2004 – 2016 David B. Truman Professor of Asian Studies, Asian Studies Program,
Mount Holyoke College
2008-2012 Five College Fortieth Anniversary Professor, Five College Consortium of
Western Massachusetts
2002- 2004 Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Literature, Columbia University
1995- 2002 Professor of Asian Studies, Asian Studies Program, Mount Holyoke
College
1988 - '95 Associate Professor of Asian Studies, Asian Studies Program
Mount Holyoke College
1982- '88 Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, Asian Studies Program
Mount Holyoke College
1981- '82 Associate Professorial Lecturer, Department of Religion
The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
1976- '79 Five College Assistant Professor of South Asian Studies and Sanskrit
The Five-College Consortium of Western Mass.

Research Languages: (years of formal instruction in parentheses)

English (throughout); Tamil, (mother tongue, speaking, reading, writing and research, 12); Sanskrit (12), Hindi (13), Marathi (3), (German (2), Russian (4), French (1), speaking, reading, and research); (ancient) Greek (reading, 1).

Research Interests and Areas of Specialization:

Classical Sanskrit literature, classical, medieval and modern Tamil literature early modern Sanskrit, Tamil, and Marathi poetic texts; Hinduism, translation, comparative literature; European-Asian culture contact, German-Indian cultural exchanges (18th and 19th centuries), early modern South India's cosmopolitan social and cultural history, South Indian performing arts, especially dance and musical drama, and Karnatak classical music.

Selected Major Publications (books)

(**Articles** are not listed here; for a complete list of books and articles, see the document "Indira Peterson Publications April 2023"):

2017 *The Great Temple at Thanjavur: A Thousand Years 1010- 2010*. George Michell and Indira V. Peterson. Mumbai: Marg. Revised reprint. Originally published 2010.

<https://www.amazon.com/Great-Temple-Thanjavur-Thousand-1010-2010/dp/9380581017>

2016 *Arjuna and the Hunter*. The *Kirātārjunīya of Bhāravi*, edited and translated by Indira V. Peterson. First complete English translation (with *devanāgarī* parallel text) of a 6th- century Sanskrit court epic, *Murty Classical Library of India*, Harvard University Press, 2016. MCLI translation series No.9.

<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674504967>

2008a *Performing Pasts: Reinventing the Arts in modern South India*. Indira Viswanathan Peterson and Davesh Soneji, eds. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

<https://www.amazon.com/Performing-Pasts-Reinventing-Modern-South/dp/0195690842>

2008b *Tamil Geographies: Cultural Constructions of Space and Place in South India*. Martha A. Selby and Indira V. Peterson, eds. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2007, pp. 59-86. SUNY Series in Hindu Studies, Wendy Doniger, ed.

<https://www.sunypress.edu/p-4497-tamil-geographies.aspx>

2003 *Design and Rhetoric in a Sanskrit Court Epic: The Kirātārjunīya of Bhāravi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003.

<https://www.sunypress.edu/p-3702-design-and-rhetoric-in-a-sanskr.aspx>

2001 Editor, Indian Literature (600 B.C. to the 20th century), *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 2nd Edition, New York: W.W. Norton, 2001. Volumes A-F.

https://www.amazon.com/Norton-Anthology-World-Literature-Vol/dp/0393924513/ref=pd_cp_14_1/145-2534964-8891326?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=0393924513&pd_rd_r=722a04fe-0071-4d3a-a4a3-73b24cb94517&pd_rd_w=Yk0xH&pd_rd_wg=mxvDi&pf_rd_p=0e5324e1-c848-4872-bbd5-5be6baedf80e&pf_rd_r=7NFBF6HJM52VA5XF5SKD&psc=1&refRID=7NFBF6HJM52VA5XF5SKD

1995 Editor, Indian literature (600 B.C. to the 20th century), in the Expanded Sixth Edition of *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2 volumes, 1995. Instructor's Guide, 1995. Maynard Mack, et al., eds. Responsible for selection, headnotes, annotation, ancillary materials (maps, timelines), and Instructor's Guide.

1989 *Poems to Śiva: The Hymns of the Tamil Saints*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989. Princeton Library of Asian Translations.

https://www.amazon.com/Poems-Siva-Saints-Princeton-Library/dp/0691609268/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Translation of 270 poems from the *Tēvāram*, a collection of Tamil Śaiva hymns from the sixth to the eighth centuries, along with a study of the hymns with reference to the contexts of Tamil literature, devotional religion (*bhakti*), temples, hagiography and musical performance.

1991 *Poems to Śiva: The Hymns of the Tamil Saints*. (Reprint, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass).

<https://www.amazon.com/Poems-Siva-Hymns-Tamil-Saints/dp/8120807847>

Book manuscripts and other writings in progress, mainly in relation to the larger project “Literature and Culture in Early Modern South India, 1685-1835”

1. Monograph in progress:

Tanjore Renaissance: King Serfoji II and South Indian Modernity.

On the fascinating interchanges among multiple Indian and European languages, cultures, knowledge systems, arts, and sciences under the leadership of the royal polymath and innovator Serfoji II, in a major Indian cultural center in the early nineteenth century.

2. “*Drama, the Court, and the Public in Early Modern South India.*”

On the rise of multilingual, popular dramatic literature and performance genres on themes of cultural encounter and cosmopolitanism in 17th-19th century South India. The book illuminates the social history of literary and cultural production in the shifting political and social landscapes of courts and publics in peninsular south India.

3. “An Enlightenment Library in Early Nineteenth-century India: The Personal Collection of King Serfoji II of Tanjore”.

On a rare early-19th-century Indian collection of books in European Enlightenment arts and sciences. The personal collection of King Serfoji of Tanjore played a key role in the bold dialogues that the royal polymath initiated between European and Indian knowledge systems in the early nineteenth century.

4. *Imagining the World in Eighteenth-century India: The Kuravañci Fortune-teller Dramas of Tamilnadu.*

Monograph focusing on my study and translation of “Kuravanji” (“fortune-teller”) dance dramas in Tamil and other languages, in relation to the polyglot and cosmopolitan cultural history of early modern South India.

5. An English translation of “Kalaimaṇi” Kothamangalam Subbu’s 1957-58 Tamil novel *Tillana Mohanambal*. Subbu’s novel treats the vanished world of South Indian performing arts and hereditary artists at the turn of the 20th century.

6. Chapter 21, “Literature, Art and Aesthetics”, Indian Literature from 800 B.C. to the 17th century. Introductions and selections, for *Sources of Indian Tradition*, third Revised edition, Volume 1, Columbia University Press. (I am also on the Editorial Board)

Fellowships and Grants:

2016-'18	ACE-Sloan Emeriti Capstone Research Fellowship, Mount Holyoke College.
2015-'16	American Institute of Indian Studies Short- term Senior Research Fellowship, supported by the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities
2013-'14	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship
2013-'14	Mount Holyoke College Faculty Research Fellowship
2005-'06	Mount Holyoke College Faculty Research Fellowship and Research Assistance grant
2002	Rockefeller Foundation Residency in Bellagio, Italy, for translating the Tamil dramatic poem “The Wandering Fortune-teller of Kurrālam” (<i>Kurrālak kuravañci</i> , 1715) of Tirikūtarācappa Kavirāyar
1999-2000	Mount Holyoke College Faculty Fellowship for Sabbatical Research
1998	Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan, short-term Library research grant
1995-96	National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship

- 1995-96 ACLS - Social Science Research Council Senior Research Fellowship
1993 Mount Holyoke College Faculty Grant for research in India and Germany.
- 1990-91 Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship for research at the Südasiens-Institut of Heidelberg University, Germany.
- 1989-90 NEH Travel to Collections Grant for research at Harvard University as Visiting Scholar in the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies.
- 1986-87 Mount Holyoke College Faculty Fellowship.
American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship.
- 1985 Mount Holyoke College Faculty Grant, with Mark A. Peterson, for developing a computer tutorial program for Sanskrit (Devanāgarī) script.
- 1979-80 National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship.
1978 Miner Crary Memorial Fellowship for Faculty Summer Research, Amherst College.
- 1975-76 Giles Whiting Fellowship for dissertation research, Harvard University.
1967-68 American Field Service International Scholarship for one year of (high school) study in the U.S.A.

Prizes, Awards, and Honors

Received

New England Choice Awards (NECA) 2023.

Award for Leadership in Arts and Culture, awarded by the Indian American Association of New England.

Five College Fortieth Anniversary Professorship, 2008-2012.

David B. Truman Endowed Chair in Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College, 2005 ff.

Meribeth E. Cameron Faculty Award for Scholarship, Mount Holyoke College, 2001.

Felicitatory Conference, November 2019. "New Cultural Histories of South India: Aesthetics, Social Change, and the Politics of Culture (A conference in Honor of Professor Indira Peterson). South Asia Center, The University of Pennsylvania, November 9-10, 2019.

<https://www.southasiacenter.upenn.edu/events/new-cultural-histories-south-india-conference-nov-9-10th>

Donated / endowed

Indira V. Peterson Award for Excellence in South Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College 2006 ff.

Major donor, Daniel H.H. Ingalls Memorial Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies.

Ph.D. committees

Supervised and examined Ph.D. theses at U.Mass, Amherst, the University of Texas, Austin, Madras University, Columbia University, University of Hong Kong, University of Chicago, 2003, University of Texas, Austin, Ph.D. 2008, University of Pennsylvania, George Washington University; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and other institutions.

Membership and Activity in Professional Organizations:

South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, 1995 – 1998

South Asia Book Reviews Editor (Humanities), *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 1998-2001

A.K.Ramanujan South Asia Translation Prize Committee of the Association for Asian Studies, 1995 - 2000. (Chair, 1997 ff.) and Chair, 2011-2012.

Member, American Oriental Society, Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Conference on Religion in South India, Society for South Indian Studies, International Association for Tamil Research, World Sanskrit Association, European Association for Modern South Asian Studies; donor, American Institute for Indian Studies.

Organizer and chair of panels, and paper presenter and discussant, at national and international meetings of the above (1976 - present), as well as at the Annual conference of the University of Wisconsin Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison

Committee Member of the Section on Religion in South Asia at the American Academy of Religion, 1989 - 91.

Fellowship reviewer for the Fulbright Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, The National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Institute for Indian Studies, and the American Council for Learned Societies. Ongoing.

Editorial Board, Revision of *Sources of Indian Tradition*, third Revised edition, Volume 1, Columbia University Press.

Invited lecture and presentation activity:

At universities, museums and other institutions, and Literary festivals in the U.S., India, U.K., Germany, Russia, and the Netherlands, including the Museum of Natural History (New York), the Franckesche Stiftungen, Halle, the Universities of Chicago, Washington, Berkeley; the Yale Art Gallery, the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (Pune) and the Universities of London, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Marburg, Munich, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Leiden, and Tübingen; Max Mueller Bhavan, Chennai, Indian Trust for Art and Cultural

Heritage (INTACH), Thanjavur, The Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, The India International Center, Delhi, ICCR Kolkata, Center for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta, The National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Bangalore International Centre, Delhi University, Central University, Hyderabad; Museum of Fine Arts, Texas, Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C., Lindenau-Museum, Altenburg, Germany; The Music Academy of Madras, The Nehru Museum and Library, Delhi, Government Museum, Chennai, National Museum, Delhi.

Selected List of Invited lectures, Keynote Lectures, special conferences, organizer of conferences (2003 ff.)

“The Indian Artist as Ethnographer: Caste/Jati in Tanjore Company Paintings”. Master Class Lecture, Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore, India, Monday, January 23, 2023.

<https://bangaloreinternationalcentre.org/event/the-indian-artist-as-ethnographer/>

“Mobilising Chola and Maratha Pasts in colonial India: King Serfoji's Reinvention of the Great Temple at Thanjavur” Master Class Lecture, Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore, India, Monday, January 23, 2023.

<https://bangaloreinternationalcentre.org/event/mobilising-chola-and-maratha-pasts/>

“Violins and Veenas: European and Indian music at the Court of King Serfoji of Tanjore”.

Master Class Lecture, Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore, India, Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

<https://bangaloreinternationalcentre.org/event/violins-and-veenas/>

“Intersecting Ethnographies: Local Discourses on Caste in Tanjore Company Paintings Center for Global India, Princeton University
September 27, 2022.

Curator, with Robert Eisenstein, Director, The Folger Consort, Folger Shakespeare Library, of the collaborative Concert, and author of the program notes on Carnatic music:

“The Last Raj: Baroque and Carnatic Music at the Court of Tanjore”.

Performances on September 23, 24, 25, 2022, St. Mark’s Church, Washington, D.C.

“Music for The Last Raj: Baroque and Carnatic Music at the Court of Tanjore”. Pre-concert Zoom seminar lecture for the above concert, 6.00 pm, Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

“Representing Tamil Communities in Tanjore Company Paintings: Indigenous and Intersecting Ethnographies”, Chicago Tamil Forum, Friday, October 9, 2020.

“The library of Serfoji II: A European Library in Nineteenth -Century India”. Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore, India, Thursday, February 13, 2020.

“The Wandering Kuravanji Fortune-teller: The Folk and Courtly Worlds of a South Indian Dramatic Genre”, Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore, India, Friday, February 7, 2020.

“Translating a classical Sanskrit epic (Bharavi’s *Kiratarjuniya, Arjuna and the Hunter*)”, Presentation, Kala Ghoda Literary Festival, Mumbai, India, panel for the Murty Classical Library of India. January 5, 2020.

“O Madman with the Moon-crowned Hair: The poetry of the Tamil Shaiva Saints”. Presentation, Mystic Kalinga Literary Festival, Bhubaneswar, India, January 2019.

“Temples, Sanskrit, and Tamil in the Karnatak Songs of Muttusvami Dikshitar.” Center for the Arts Graduate Colloquium lecture, Wesleyan University, October 11, 2018.

“Sir Alexander Johnston, Raja Serfoji of Tanjore, and the New Orientalism of the Royal Asiatic Society (1823-1840)”, Lecture at The Royal Asiatic Society, London, May 17, 2018.

“Temples, Sanskrit, and Tamil in Muttusvami Dikshitar’s Songs: The Tiruvarur and Thanjavur Kritis”, in Guruguha: A Symposium on Muttusvami Dikshitar (1775-1835), University of California, Davis, April 7, 2018.

“An Enlightenment Library in Nineteenth-Century India: The Personal Collection of King Serfoji of Tanjore.” Lecture, Centre for the study of social sciences, Calcutta, Kolkata, India, February 28, 2018.

Two Presentations, in Panels on Biography; and on The Court of Serfoji II of Tanjore. Jaipur Literary Festival, Jaipur, India, January 2018.

“The Marathi and Sanskrit Press of Serfoji II: The Printed Book and Vernacular Modernity in Colonial Tanjore”. University of Pennsylvania South Asia Colloquium lecture. Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

“Classics in the vernacular world: The *Pañcatantra* and Aesop in Translation in Colonial India”. Paper delivered at the first *James Loeb in Munich Biennial Conference*, “Translation and the Transformation of Antiquity: Access, Appropriation and Cultural Connections,” Munich and Murnau, Germany May 18 to May 21, 2017.

“*Ganga-Kaveri Samvad*: Multilingual Dance dramas and cultural pluralism at the Thanjavur Maratha court”, lecture at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, January 11, 2017.

The Prof. R. N. Dandekar Memorial Lecture, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute,

Pune, India, Monday, December 12, 2016.

“Scholar-king Serfoji II (1798-1832) of Tanjore: Transforming Tradition, Shaping Modernity”, Lecture, Jnanapravaha, Mumbai, December 9, 2016.

“King Serfoji and the Thanjavur temple: Chola and Maratha heritage in colonial south India”, Lecture, National Museum of India, New Delhi, October 21, 2016.

“Drama, the Court, and the Public in Maratha Thanjavur: The Multilingual Yakshaganas of Shahji II”, Lecture, Centre for Historical Studies (CHS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, October 19, 2016

“A European Library in 19th-century India: The Enlightenment World of Serfoji II of Tanjore”, Lecture, India International Centre, New Delhi, October 18, 2016.

“King Serfoji II of Thanjavur: Orientalist and Patron of Sanskrit Learning”. R.N. Dandekar Memorial Lecture, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India, December 6, 2016.

“Ganga-Kaveri-samvad: The Hybrid Culture of the Maratha court of Thanjavur.” Tilak Memorial Lecture 2016. Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India, October 17, 2016.

“Raja Serfoji’s Cholanadu Pilgrimage and Kaveri Delta Temple Networks”. Lecture delivered at Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai, India, Feb.16, 2015.

“Mobilizing Chola and Maratha Pasts in Colonial South India: King Serfoji II’s Reinvention of the Great Temple at Thanjavur”
Yale University Religious Studies Lecture, Thursday, September 26, 2013.

“Marathi Inscriptions, Imprints, and Historical Texts in 19th-century Tanjore: Raja Serfoji II and Multiple Modalities of Writing, Culture and Power.”
Paper delivered at the Workshop “Writing and the Inscription of Power in South Asia”.
Duke University Center for South Asia Studies, Saturday, April 6, 2013.

International Women’s Association Annual Endowment Lecture.

“The Monuments of King Serfoji II: European Sculpture & Architecture at the Thanjavur Maratha Court”. Government Museum, Madras, Chennai, India. January 11, 2013.

Lecture-demonstration, Music Academy of Madras, “King Serfoji and European Music”. December 29, 2012.

Published in the *Journal of the Music Academy of Madras*, 2013.

“Shiva and the Goddess in Myth and Poetry”.

Keynote address for “Manifestations of Shiva: Hinduism’s Great God in Myth, Art and Poetry”, a symposium I organized for Samskriti Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Saturday, December 1, 2012.

Convenor and academic organizer, “Manifestations of Shiva: Hinduism’s Great God in Myth, Art and Poetry”, symposium sponsored by Samskriti Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Saturday, December 1, 2012.

“Scientific Dialogues in Colonial India: King Serfoji II and the European Enlightenment”.

Jackie Pritzen Distinguished Lecture, The Five College Consortium of Western Mass. Mount Holyoke College, Thursday, March 29, 2012.

“King Serfoji II of Tanjore: Envisioning Modernity in Nineteenth-century India.”

Lecture for the exhibition *Indien als Bilderbuch: Die Konstruktion der Pittoresken Fremde: Einhundert indische Gouachen um 1800 aus Lindenaus Kunstbibliothek*, Lindenau-Museum, Altenburg, Germany, July 2011.

“The Lovesick Lady and the Wandering Kuravanji Fortune-teller: Representing women in an Indian Dance-drama genre”, University of California Davis

The Second Annual Indian Studies Lecture, University of California Davis, Departments of Religious Studies, Comparative Literature, History, English and Music, and Program in Middle East / South Asian Studies, Davis Humanities Institute, Thursday, May 5, 2011.

“The Lovesick Lady and the Wandering Fortune Teller: Gender, Genre and

Representation in the Tamil Kuravanci Drama”, in “Articulating cultural traditions in India, 12th -19th centuries”, South Asia Workshop, Penn State University, April 30, 2011.

“Scientific Dialogues in Nineteenth-century Tanjore: King Serfoji II’s Initiatives in Enlightenment and Indic Knowledge Systems.”

Keynote address for “Tamil and Tamil Akam at the Crossroads”, an International conference held by the French Institute of Pondicherry, The University of California Davis Humanities Institute, and the University of California Department of Comparative Literature, Pondicherry, India, December 17, 2010.

“A Home for Sarasvati in South India: Cosmopolitanism, Learning and Literature at the Thanjavur Maratha Court”

Keynote address for the conference: “Literature and the Arts at Maratha Thanjavur 1675-1855: A Confluence of Cultures”, a conference I organized for Samskriti Houston and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, July 10, 2010.

Convenor of the conference: “Literature and the Arts at Maratha Thanjavur 1675-1855: A Confluence of Cultures”, sponsored by Samskriti Houston and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, July 10, 2010.

“Religions and Cultures in Conversation: The Tamil Protestant Poetry of Vedanayaka Sastri”.

Inaugural Lecture, South Asian Religions Distinguished Lectureship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Friday, March 6, 2009.

“Envisioning the Goddess: Kālidāsa’s Language of Metaphor in the *Kumārasambhava* (The *Birth of the Prince*)”. Dean’s lecture, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 25, 2008.

“Rival Wives, Lovesick Ladies, and Kuravanji Fortune-tellers: Women in Dance Dramas from the Thanjavur Maratha court”. *Devadasi*: INDANCE International Symposium on the Devadasi, Toronto, June 9, 2007.

“Invoking Chola and Maratha Pasts in Colonial Thanjavur: King Serfoji II and the Brihadisvara Temple”. INTACH, Thanjavur, India, January 11, 2007; and the Roja Muthia Research Library in Chennai, India, on 18, 2007.

“Noah’s Ark in Nineteenth Century Thanjavur: Enlightenment Science and Geography in poems by King Serfoji and Vedanayaka Sastri”. Lecture delivered at the Goethe Institute and Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India, January 18, 2007.

“Facing the Modern in Nineteenth Century Thanjavur: Frontality as Sign in Maratha Royal Portraits”. Invited paper, presented at the conference “The Art of Exchange: Circulation of Visual Culture in Colonial India”, Columbia University, New York, October 28, 2006.

Becoming a Chola Monarch in 19th century Thanjavur: The Maratha ruler Serfoji II and the Brihadisvara Temple”, paper delivered at the conference “The Time of the Cholas: 900-1300 C.E”, University of California, Berkeley, April 22, 2006.

Convenor, Barbara Stoler Miller Conference, “Performing Pasts, Imagining Futures: Nationalism, Globalization and the Performing Arts in Modern South Asia”, Columbia University and Barnard College, Feb. 20-22, 2003.

Mount Holyoke College Art Museum lectures:

In connection with the exhibition “Petals and Plumage: Indian Textiles” (2005) (lecture title—“The Song of the Seven colored shawl: Cloth in Indian myth and poetry”;
“Cooking for the Gods” Exhibition, 1998. Concert of Karnatak music, and lecture: “Tales the Water-pot tells”.

Convenor of the conference “Love and the Erotic in Indian poetry and performing arts”, Mount Holyoke College, March 2007.

Selected list of papers presented and panels organized, related to ongoing projects, presented at meetings of professional workshops

“Performing Tamil Saiva Community: The Ōtuvār Singer of Tirumuṟai Hymns and Modern Tamil Religious Identities”. For the Conference “Caste, Community, Capital: New Research on the Performing Arts in Modern South India”, University of Pennsylvania, September 10, 2022.

“Performing Tamil Śaiva Selfhood: The Ōtuvār Singer in Modern Tamilnadu”. Paper delivered at the Wisconsin South Asia Conference, for the panel “Sounding Śaivism”, Madison, Saturday, October 19, 2019.

“New Orientalisms, New Orientalists: Serfoji II of Tanjore and the Royal Asiatic Society”, in the panel “Producing India: Antiquarian Practices and Knowledge Circuits 1755-1900”, Organizer and Chair, University of Wisconsin South Asia Conference, Friday, October 27, 2017.

“The Co-wives’ Quarrel as Gendered Trope in Eighteenth-century South Indian Dramas”. Delivered at the Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 2015.

“ A new map for Tamil temples: Chola geography in an 18th-century Sanskrit text”, in the panel “Remapping temple networks: New histories of place-making and pilgrimage in Tamilnadu”, Organizer and Chair, Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Chicago, March 28, 2015.

“Agastya for the New Age? Medical and Vernacular Translation at the Court of King Serfoji II of Tanjore”.

Paper delivered at the panel on Translation in premodern South Asia, Association for Asian Studies, National Meeting. Philadelphia, March 2010.

“The Marathi *Aesop* of King Serfoji II of Thanjavur and the Printed Book in Early 19th century India.”

Paper delivered in the panel “Books, Texts, Print: Material and Intellectual Transactions in Colonial India”, organizer and chair, Association for Asian Studies, National Meeting. Chicago, March 2009.

“Facing the Public: Maratha Court Portraits and Bazaar Styles in Nineteenth-Century Thanjavur”, In “Artful Negotiations: Circulation and the Reshaping of the Visual Arts in Colonial India”. Panel Organizer and chair, University of Wisconsin South Asia Conference, Friday, October 17, 2008.

“Invoking Chola and Maratha Pasts in Colonial Thanjavur: King Serfoji II and the Brihadisvara Temple”. Paper presented at the Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, at the panel “Monuments, Narratives, and Reinventions of the Past”, Indira Peterson, Organizer and Chair, March 24, 2007.

‘Court theater and cultural politics in Maratha Tanjavur: “The Argument between Ganga and Kaveri (*Gaṅgākāverī-saṃvād-nāṭak*)”’. Organizer and chair, panel on “Texts, Discursive Practices and Court Culture in Premodern India”, 33rd annual South Asia conference, Madison, Wisconsin, October 17, 2004.

“Staging Smārta religion in Maratha Tanjavur: King Tulaja’s drama of the wedding of the Goddess at the Mahadevapatnam Vishnu temple.”
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, March 2004.

“Beyond Tanjore City Walls: Serfoji II’s Improvisations on Kingship in his 1820-22 Pilgrimage to Benares”. Paper delivered in the panel ‘Kingship in a Changing World’, University of Wisconsin South Asia conference, October 2002.

“Reading the Devadāsī as Sati: From South Indian Temple legend to Goethe's poem "Der Gott und die Bajadere". Paper presented in the panel "Literary and Cultural Transformations of the Dancer/Courtesan” (also panel Organizer and chair), The Association of Asian Studies National Meeting, San Diego, March 2000, San Diego.

“Intersecting Ethnographies: Tanjore Company Paintings of Castes and Occupations and 18th-century South Indian Discourses of Social Identity.”
For the panel "Imagining Communities: Indigenous Constructions and Representations of Social Identity in Colonial India. 26th Annual South Asia conference, Madison, Wisconsin, October 18, 1997, Panel organizer and chair.

“When the Love-God Smiles: The problem of satire in Sanskrit *bhāṇa* temple dramas from 18th-century South India.” Association of Asian Studies Annual meeting, Honolulu, 1996.

Other Professional Activities:

External evaluator of scholarship for candidates for tenure and promotions at universities in the US and abroad.

Reviewer of book manuscripts for University and trade publishers, including Columbia University Press, Oxford University Press (New York), Princeton University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press (Delhi), Wesleyan University Press, State University of New York Press, University of Washington Press, Orient BlackSwan, State University of New York Press.

Referee and reviewer of manuscripts for academic presses and journals, and reviewer of books for journals.

Outreach lecturer at high schools and South Asian arts and culture organizations.

Exhibitions, Art Museum conferences organized, and Catalog:

Academic organizer and Keynote Speaker,
“Manifestations of Shiva: Hinduism’s Great God in Myth, Art and Poetry”,
A symposium sponsored by Samskriti Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston,
Saturday, December 1, 2012

Academic Organizer and Keynote speaker for the conference:
“Literature and the Arts at Maratha Thanjavur 1675-1855: A Confluence of Cultures”,
sponsored by Samskriti Houston and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston,
Texas, July 10, 2010.

"Faces of the Goddess: Folk Images of Female Divinity in India", The Mount Holyoke
College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA, 1988 (co-curator, with Georgana Foster,
collector). Author of the Exhibition Catalog.

Concerts and demonstrations of South Indian classical Music (vocal) in academic
contexts

Recorded in concert by WGBH Radio, Boston, World Music Program, May 1, 1977.