

CHLOE ANNE VELJI MARTINEZ

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Employment

Claremont McKenna College

Associate Director of Programming for the Center for Writing & Public Discourse, 2023-present

Lecturer in Religious Studies, 2019-present

Program Coordinator at the Center for Writing & Public Discourse, 2019-2023

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2016-2019

Haverford College

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, 2014-2015

Visiting Instructor of Religion, 2012-2013

Swarthmore College

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Spring 2014

University of California, Santa Barbara

Teaching Associate, Dept. of Asian American Studies, 2010

Boston University

Instructor, Department of English, Spring 2005

Education

Ph.D. in Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2013 (Rowny Fellowship)

Dissertation: *The Searching Self: Religious Autobiography in Pre-Colonial South Asia.*

M.F.A. for Writers, Warren Wilson College, 2009 (Holden Scholar)

Advisors: Michael Collier, Brooks Haxton, James Longenbach, Heather McHugh

M.A. in Creative Writing, Boston University, 2007 (Teaching Fellowship)

Advisors: Louise Glück, Robert Pinsky, Derek Walcott

M.A. in Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2005

B.A. in Religion and English, Barnard College, *Cum Laude*, 2001 (Mellon Mays Fellowship)

Research & Teaching Interests

Poetry and Creative Writing; Autobiography and Religion; Poetry and Religion; South Asian Studies; Asian American Studies; Autobiography Studies; North India from the Mughal to the Colonial periods; Religious Histories of South Asia (Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jain, and Buddhist); Bhakti Traditions; Sufi Traditions; Religion and the Environment; Religion and Gender; Translation.

Publications

Book manuscripts in progress

Door Flung Open: Essays on Writing with ADHD (co-edited with Lisa Van Orman Hadley; proposal solicited by the University of Chicago Press; advance contract in progress).

Artifact (poetry collection).

Mirabai: new translations (poems in translation, with a scholarly introduction).

Arguing Autobiography: Religion, Authority and Polemic in South Asia (scholarly monograph).

Poetry Book

Ten Thousand Selves. The Word Works, 2021.

Poetry Chapbook

Corner Shrine. Backbone Press, 2020.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

"Notes on Translating Mirabai," *The Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 30.2 ("Women in Bhakti"; Spring 2022): 19-26. Print.

"The Autobiographical Pose: Life Narrative and Religious Transformation in the Mirabai Tradition," *South Asia: The Journal of South Asian Studies* 41:2 (June 2018): 418-434. Print.

"Gathering the Threads: Religious Autobiography in Pre-Colonial South Asia," *The Medieval History Journal* 18.2 (2015): 250-277. Print.

Encyclopedia Entry

"Jainism: History, Beliefs, and Practices," for *Gale Researcher: World History* (2017). Online.

Selected Poems in Magazines

The Iowa Review (forthcoming 2024): "Self-Portrait as the Ghent Altarpiece," "Sulk."

Cave Wall 18 (forthcoming Fall 2023): "The Whaling Museum," "Some Wednesdays There's Kinder Art Class on ...," "What No One Tells You."

Ecotone 34 (Spring/Summer 2023): "Frick."

Poet Lore 116 (Winter/Spring 2022): "A Year in...," "Giving-Up Ghazal with Eyes."

AGNI 95 (Spring 2022): "Chagall's A Wheatfield on a Summer's Afternoon."

TriQuarterly 161 (Winter/Spring 2022): "At the Prado," "Having Never Visited the Ghent Altarpiece."

Beloit Poetry Journal 71.2 (Spring 2022): "Woman Dancing," "Comet."

Radar 31 (October 2021): "The thing about the Getty is," "Beast Jesus," "In the Desert," "Alarmingly Humanoid Sheep."

Black Warrior Review, Boyfriend Village—The Ugly Boyfriend (Fall 2021): "Webcam."

Shenandoah 70.2 (Spring 2021): "Mandala of the Pile...," "Study Finds," "Motherhood: A Map."

Ploughshares 47.1 (Spring 2021): "The Weeds."

Iron Horse Literary Review 23.1 (Spring 2021): "Nazar na Lage."

Poetry Northwest, Poem of the Week, November 1, 2020: "The Moon."

The Penn Review 71 (Fall 2020): "Mandala of the Mountain Path."

RHINO 2020: "The Movement."

The Common 18 (Fall 2019): "The God Structure."

Prairie Schooner 93.3 (Fall 2019): “Mandala of the Soapy Water,” “Arrangements.”
Four Way Review 14 (Fall 2018): “Mirror Room, Mehrangarh Fort.”
Waxwing XVI (Fall 2018): “Afterlife (Jaipur).”
Crab Orchard Review 17.2 (Fall 2012): “Sheep Meadow,” “First Night, New Bedford, MA.”
Another & Another: An Anthology from the Grind Daily Writing Series, ed. Matthew Olzmann
 and Ross White. (Durham, NC: Bull City Press, 2012): “Fable #6,” “Fable #7.”
The Collagist [now *The Rupture*] 26 (September 2011): “Zoomorphic.”
The Cortland Review 47 (May 2010): “Babur at Agra.”
The Normal School 3.1 (Spring 2010): “Fable,” “Apollo.”

Translations (and related prose) in magazines

The Hopkins Review (winner of the Anne Frydman Translation Prize; forthcoming 2024):
 Mirabai, “Eight Songs.”
Solstice (Winter 2022): Mirabai, “Mira’s Choices,” “Mira’s Stopped Speaking.”
POETRY (May 2022): Mirabai, “Mira’s Colors.” With a translator’s note.
The Guest 21 (January 27, 2022), column on poetry and translation by Robin Myers, *Palette
 Poetry*: Mirabai, “Mira with Exclamation Points.”
The Journal of Vaishnava Studies 30.2 (“Women in Bhakti”; Spring 2022): Mirabai, “Mira’s Hooked,”
 “Mira Loses It,” “Mira Has Some Advice,” and “Mira Decides,” with an essay, “Notes on
 Translating Mirabai.”

Selected Prose and Book Reviews

FENCE Digital (April 1, 2023): “Poem Without Beginning or End: on the Ramayana and Vivek
 Narayanan’s *After*.”
DMQ Review (August 2022): “Ars Poetica in Five Easy Pieces: on flashlights, bears, and
 disregarding your own advice.”
RHINO Reviews 4.9, Graphic Reviews Issue (September 2021): “*Atang* by Patrick Rosal.”
RHINO Reviews 4.8 (August 2021): “*Tethered to Stars* by Fady Joudah.”
RHINO Reviews 2.12 (June 2020): “Leah Huizar’s *Inland Empire*.”
RHINO Reviews 1.12 (May 2019): “*Cape Verde Blues* by Shauna Barbosa.”
RHINO Reviews 1.2 (July 2018): “*I’m So Fine* by Khadijah Queen.”
The Rumpus (November 23rd, 2011): “You Tell Me Its Underpinnings: Carol Ann Davis’ *Atlas
 Hour*.”

Selected Literary Honors & Awards

Winner, 2023 Anne Frydman Translation Prize, *The Hopkins Review*, judged by Tomás Q. Morín
 (eight poems of Mirabai)
 Alternate Candidate, 2022-23 U.S. Fulbright Scholar Fellowship, Portugal (creative writing)
 Finalist, 2021 Coniston Prize, *Radar Poetry*, judged by Yona Harvey (four poems)
 Finalist, 2021 Jeff Marks Poetry Prize, *december magazine*, judged by Carl Phillips (“True Story”)
 Grand Prize Longlist, 2021 Eric Hoffer Book Awards (*Corner Shrine*)
 Editors’ Selection, 2020 May Open Reading Period, The Word Works (book: “Ten Thousand Selves”)
 Pushcart Prize Nominee, 2010, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 (*The Normal School*, *The Indianapolis Review*, *The
 Common*, *West Trestle Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *The Word Works*)
 Best of the Net Nominee, 2020, 2021 (*Exposition Review*, *EcoTheo Review*)
 Finalist, 2020 Hilary Gravendyk Prize, Inlandia Books (book manuscript, “Universe Map”)
 Best New Poets Nominee, 2020 (*PANK*)
 Winner, 2019 Backbone Press Chapbook Competition, judged by Geoffrey Davis (“Corner Shrine”)
 Semi-finalist, 2020 Brittingham & Pollak Prizes (book manuscript: “Universe Map”)
 Finalist, 2019 Penn Review Poetry Prize, judged by Lynn Levin (“Mandala of the Mountain Path”)
 Finalist, 2019 Individual Award, Sustainable Arts Foundation.

Finalist, 2010 Willis Barnstone Translation Prize, 2010
Holden Scholarship, Warren Wilson College, 2007-2009
Writing Residency with scholarship, Vermont Studio Center, August 2008
Winner, Robert Fitzgerald Prize in Literary Translation, Boston University, 2006

Selected Academic Awards and Honors

President's Initiative on Anti-Racism Faculty Fellowship (for "Writing Against Racism" programming initiative), 2021-2023
EnviroLab Asia Research Lab grant (member of four-faculty group): religion, herbal medicine, and environmentalism in Vietnam, 2018-2019
Fellowship in Sikh Studies, Global Institute for Sikh Studies, 2016-2019
Mellon Mays University Fellows Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2012-2013
Research Grant, The Spalding Trust, 2008
Junior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies (declined), 2007-2008
Predoctoral Research Grant, SSRC-Mellon Mays University Fellows, 2004-2005
Hindi Language Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2003-2004
Foreign Language Area Study Award, Columbia University, 2003
Central Opportunity Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara, 2004-2005
Rowny Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara, 2001-2004
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Barnard College, 1998-2001

Selected Literary Readings and Panels

"Inheritance, Practice, and the Mystical Document of Poetry." Lit Youngstown Fall Literary Festival, October 21, 2023. With Ananda Lima, Glenis Redmond, and Jen Sperry Steinorth (confirmed).
Thinking Its Presence Conference, Pomona College, March 30, 2023. "Poets Reading Together." With Diana Khoi Nguyen, Vivek Narayanan, and Ali Raz.
AWP Seattle, March 11, 2023. "Attention! Writing with ADHD." With Patricia Caspers, Denise Delgado, Lisa Van Orman Hadley, and Daniel Jenkins.
AWP Offsite: *32 Poems*, *AGNI*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Unicorn Press*, and *Quarterly West*. Alibi Room, Seattle, WA, March 8, 2023. With Kemi Alabi, Taylor Byas, Michael Bazzett and others.
Mission Poetry Series, Santa Barbara, CA, November 5, 2022. With Sara Borjas and Rick Benjamin.
A Day of Poetry in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Central Library, August 13, 2022. A gathering of LA poets organized by LA Poet Laureate Lynne Thompson.
Grolier Poetry Bookshop, Cambridge, MA, July 22, 2022. With Moira Linehan and Oscar Oswald.
AWP Philadelphia, March 25, 2022. "Admit It, You're Writing a Poem: Ars Poetica and the Awkward Confession." With Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach, Diamond Forde, Matthew Olzmann, and Han VanderHart.
AWP Philadelphia, March 24, 2022. "Change of Plans: Writers' Paths Around, Through, or Away from Academia." With Sonia Greenfield, Pamela Hart, Sarah Kersey, and Andres Rojas.
Poets in Conversation: Dorianne Laux and Chloe Martinez (virtual). A Mighty Blaze, hosted by Allison Adair, October 28, 2021.
2021 Coniston Prize Reading, *Radar Poetry/White Whale Books* (virtual), October 20, 2021. With Michelle Bitting, Kristina Erny, Brianna Flavin and Grace MacNair.
Lit Youngstown Fall Literary Festival, virtual & Youngstown, OH, October 8, 2021. "Stone, Tree, Monument: Poets at the Intersection of History and Landscape." With Sandra Beasley and Molly Spencer.
Tell It Slant Festival, Emily Dickinson Museum, September 24, 2021 (virtual). "Things to See by Ear Unheard': Poets Expressing the Ineffable." With Erica Charis-Molling and Anna V.Q. Ross.

- Mercy Street Reading Series, March 7, 2021 (virtual). With Sandra Beasley, Éireann Lorsung, Jory Mickelson, Jennifer K. Sweeney, and Mark Wunderlich.
- Holden Scholars Panel, The MFA for Writers at Warren Wilson College. January 5th, 2021 (virtual). With A. Van Holden, R. Dwayne Betts, Tommye Blount, Krys Lee and Andrés Reconco.
- An AWP Offsite Finale (Hosted by *New South, Inch, Construction* and *Four Way Review*), Cider Riot. Portland, OR, March 30th, 2019. With Julia Dasbach, Amorak Huey, Keetje Kuipers, sam sax and others.
- Red Sofa Reading Series. Indy Hall, Philadelphia, PA, October 10th, 2014. With Patrick Rosal and Yolanda Wisner.
- Creative Writing Program Annual Faculty Reading. Boston University, Boston, MA, February 22nd, 2012. With Dan Chiasson, Leslie Epstein, Ha Jin, Sigrid Nunez, Molly Smith Metzler, Robert Pinsky, and Rosanna Warren.
- Voices in Contemporary Poetry. Swarthmore Public Library, Swarthmore, PA, April 28th, 2011. With Dilruba Ahmed, Megan Gillespie, and Iain Haley Pollock.

Selected Scholarly Presentations

- “Making Race, Making Space: Bhagat Singh Thind beyond the Supreme Court Case.” (Invited speaker). Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline (SORAAAD) Workshop, Denver, CO, November 16th, 2018. (delivered in absentia). *Race (and Racialization) and the Analytical Study of Religion*, with Rudy Busto, Jolyon Thomas, Jens Kreinath and Kevin Gannon.
- “Experiments with Autobiography: Gandhi, Yogananda, and the 14th Dalai Lama.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., March 24th, 2018. *Telling Lives in Asian Studies: Auto-Biographical Narrative as Rhetoric, Technique and Pedagogy*, with Margaret Bodemer, Jessica Montez, Lianying Shang, and Po-Hsi Chen.
- “An eminent Mohammedan moulvie’: Autobiography and Conversion in Colonial Punjab” (Religion in South Asia Unit). Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 21st, 2017. *Constructing Powerful Selves: Autobiography in South Asia*, with Kristin Bloomer (chair), Janet Gyatso (respondent), Alyson Prude, J. Barton Scott, and Ben Williams.
- “Against Authenticity: What Fake Autobiography Can Tell Us About Real Religion in South Asia” (Religion in South Asia Unit). Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 19th, 2016. *New Directions in the Study of Religion in South Asia: Translation, Mediation, and Authenticity*, with Laurie Patton (respondent), Steven Vose (chair), Gregory Clines, Bhakti Mamtara, and Genoveva Castro.
- “Improvisation, Authority and Polemic: Religious Autobiography in Pre-Colonial South Asia.” Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 19th, 2014. *Texts and Literature in History*, with Priyasha Mukhopadhyay, Matthew Sellers, and Zahra Sabri.
- “Let me make my story known to all’: Religious Autobiography in South Asia.” Mellon Mays Fellows Professional Network Biennial Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 6th, 2014. *Religion, Region and Reaching Impact*, with Kyrak Malika Daniels (moderator), Nafeesa Haniyah Muhammad, and Silvia Catalina Mejia.
- “Mira’s puja: Images of Temple Worship in the Poetry of Mirabai.” International Conference on Meerabai, Jodhpur, India, January 7th, 2001.

Selected Literary Service & Workshops

- Visiting Editor, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, Fall 2022-present.
- Virtual Craft Conversation, Dilruba Ahmed’s The Writing Lab (virtual), February 3, 2023.
- “Following the Thread: Writing into the Poetry Manuscript.” With Annie Kim. WriterHouse, Charlottesville, NC (virtual), May 7, 2022.
- “A Conversation with Zadie Smith.” On-stage interview with Zadie Smith, Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, Claremont McKenna College, November 3, 2021.

“Writing Against Racism,” President’s Initiative on Antiracism Faculty Fellows Project, 2021-23,
Claremont McKenna College.
“Poetry Makes Something Happen: Using Poetic Tools to Make Your Writing Shine.” Appel Fellows
Summer Intensive, Claremont McKenna College, July 30-August 2, 2021, July 20-26, 2020.
Co-organizer, *The Sprawl: A Literary Reading Series*, Los Angeles, Fall 2018-Summer 2020.
Poetry Reader, *The Adroit Journal*, Fall 2018-Fall 2020.

Selected Scholarly Service and Mentoring

Panelist, “The President’s Initiative on Anti-Racism and Black Experience in America: 2021-22
Faculty Fellows Showcase,” CMC Athenaeum, November 28, 2022.
Poetry Editor and Board Member, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Fall 2022-present.
Faculty Coordinator, Appel Fellowship Program, Claremont McKenna College, Fall 2022-present.
Interviewer, Fulbright Campus Committee, Claremont McKenna College, Fall 2022.
Book proposal peer reviewer, Routledge, Spring 2022.
Mentored three Appel fellows, Claremont McKenna College, Summer 2021.
“Free Food for Thought: The Professor Series.” CMC student podcast interview with Nathaniel
Worley, April 27, 2021.
Mentored two Appel Fellows, two Gould Fellows, one Soll Center-funded project, Claremont
McKenna College, Summer 2020.
Panelist, “What is the role of the Humanities in studying the environment?” Language, Culture and
EnviroLab Colloquium, Pomona College, April 17th, 2019.
Guest speaker, MMUF Seminar. Mellon Mays Fellows of the Claremont Colleges, Honnold/Mudd
Library, March 28th, 2018.
Panel co-organizer (with Ben Williams), *Constructing Powerful Selves: Autobiography in South Asia*
(Religion in South Asia Group). AAR Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 21st, 2017.
Workshop facilitator, “Comparative Hagiology: Cross-cultural Approaches to Religious Life
Writings.” Pre-conference workshop, AAR Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 17th, 2017.
Panel Chair, *Texts & Literature in History*. Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 19th, 2014.
Panel Chair, *Improvising Religion in South Asia*. Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 17th,
2014. With Nancy Martin, Kristen Bloomer, Kerry San Chirico and Drew Thomases.
Speaker, “Recent Ph.D. Panel.” Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Barnard College,
New York, NY, April 25th, 2014.
Speaker, “Mentoring: Best Practices for Supporting and Supervising Students.” Spring Break Skills-
Sharing Workshop for Staff and Faculty, Haverford College, Haverford, PA, March 10th, 2014.

Courses Taught

Claremont McKenna College, 2016-2023

Intro to South Asian Religions
Devotional Worlds of South Asia
Hinduism and South Asian Cultures
Sikhism
The Ramayana: Literature, Religion and Politics
Freshman Humanities Seminar: Religion and Poetry
Freshman Humanities Seminar: Autobiography and the Construction of the Self

Haverford College, Spring 2012-Spring 2015

Introduction to Hinduism
South Asian Religious Cultures
Religion and Poetry
Poetics of Religious Experience in South Asia

Totally Epic: Ramayana as Literature, Discourse, and Performance
Seminar in Religious Autobiography

Independent studies overseen: South Asian Communalism (Summer 2013)
Gender in South Asia (Summer 2014)

Swarthmore College, Spring 2014

History, Religion & Culture of India II: Muslim, Hindu, Sikh & Dalit in N. India
Religion and Poetry

UC Santa Barbara, Spring-Summer 2010

Introduction to Asian American Literature
Introduction to Asian American Poetry

Boston University, Fall 2005

Introduction to Creative Writing

UC Santa Barbara, Fall 2002-Fall 2009

Teaching Assistant for various courses in Religious Studies; Asian American Studies; Film Studies;
Black Studies; and Law and Society.

Speakers Hosted at CMC

Ada Limón, February 27, 2024 (confirmed)
Carribbean Fragoza, September 26, 2023 (confirmed)
Angie Cruz, April 6, 2023
Jennifer Acker, Virtual Residency, March 20-22, 2023
Charmaine Wilkerson, February 8, 2023
Elizabeth Ito, October 19, 2022
Linda Sue Park, October 5, 2022
Lynda Barry, September 22, 2022
Ross Gay, Virtual Residency: March 8-9, 2022
Cynthia Dewi Oka, February 8, 2022
Zadie Smith, November 3, 2021
Charles Yu, October 27, 2021
Sameer Pandya, September 23, 2021
Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Virtual Residency: March 23-April 5, 2020
Reginald Dwayne Betts, February 12, 2020
Viet Thanh Nguyen, February 4, 2020
Jericho Brown, October 28, 2019
Reyna Grande, October 8, 2019
Tara Westover, September 16, 2019

Research & Study in India

Archival research (Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Mumbai), Fall 2008
Course in manuscript conservation, Mahavira Digambara Jain Pandulipi Sanrakshan
Kendra (Jaina Vidya Sansthan), Jaipur, Rajasthan, January-February 2004
American Institute of Indian Studies Hindi Language Program, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2003-2004
Co-founder/-editor of *Chaya*, a literary journal in Hindi/English, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2003-
2004
UCSB/Columbia Summer Program in Punjab Studies, Chandigarh, Punjab, Summer 2003

Research on Mirabai in Delhi, Jodhpur, Bangalore and Mumbai, Winter 2001
Fieldwork at Charbhuj Temple, Merta, Rajasthan, Fall 1998
University of Virginia/Emory University Semester-in-India, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Fall 1998

Languages

Proficient: Hindi, Sanskrit, Braj Bhasa
Reading knowledge: French, Latin, Spanish, Punjabi, Urdu

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religions
Association for Asian Studies
International Auto/Biography Association
Association of Writing Programs
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association