

Karil J Kucera

Luce Associate Professor of Asian Visual Culture

Depts of Asian Studies and Art & Art History

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EDUCATION

PhD in Art History - History of Art Dept, University of Kansas, January 2002

Dissertation: "Cliff Notes: Text and Image at Baodingshan"

MA in Art History - University of Oregon, June 1995

Masters thesis – "Lessons in Stone: Baodingshan and Its Hell Imagery"

BA with Distinction in Asian Studies and French - University of Wisconsin, 1987

Senior Honors thesis: "The History and Efficacy of China's One-Child Policy and Potential Alternatives"

Certificate - National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, 1990-1992

Certificate - l'Institut Catholique, Paris, France, 1981-1983

EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Instructor of History – spring 2002

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Visiting Instructor of Art – summer and fall 2001

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Visiting Assistant Professor of Art – Academic year 2000-2001

Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon

Visiting Instructor in Chinese Art – summer 1999

University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Visiting Instructor in Chinese Art – winter and spring terms, 1999

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

Instructor in Asian Art – summer 1998

University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Instructor and Program Coordinator – 1987-1992

Language Training and Testing Center, National Taiwan University, Taipei, ROC

Courses Taught at St. Olaf College

Courses in Art and Art History

- Art 150 – World Art – team-taught with Nancy Thompson 2003-2013 [with sabbatical breaks]
- Art 210 – World Architecture
- Art 259 – Arts of China
- Art 260 – Arts of Japan
- Art 262 – Sacred Sites of Asia - *abroad*
- Art 265 – Art of India and Southeast Asia
- Art 350 – Methods of Art History
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Courses in Asian Studies

- AS 121 – Asian Cultures
- AS 202 – Topics: Sacred Sites of Asia
- AS 210 – Asian Conversations: Mapping Journeys – team-taught for two years with Rika Ito
- AS 212 – Asian Conversations: National Identity in China and Japan - *abroad*
- AS 215 – Asian Conversations: Experiencing Asia - *abroad*
- AS 270 – Visual Culture in Modern China
- AS 310 – Buddhism through Text and Image
- AS 399 – Senior Seminar in Asian Studies

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Refereed Articles and Books

Ritual and Representation at a Chinese Buddhist Site: Visualizing Enlightenment at Baodingshan from the 12th to the 21st Centuries. Amherst, NY: Cambria Press, 2016.

"Remembering the Unforgettable: The Memorial at My Lai",
Studies on Asia, spring 2008.

"Re-contextualizing Kanjingsi: Finding Meaning in the 'Emptiness' at Longmen",
Archives of Asian Art, vol. XVI, 2007.

"Hoping for Heaven, Landing in Hell: Lessons Learned at a Medieval Chinese Grotto", *At the Interface: Probing the Boundaries*, vol. 4, 261-282, Amsterdam: Rodolpi, 2006.

"Lessons in Stone: Baodingshan and Its Hell Imagery,"
The Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities no. 67 [1995]: 81-157.

Digital Publications

"Baodingshan - Virtual Appendices" - www.baodingshan.org, 2016.

"Chicken Feeding Girl", entry in digital database *Material and Visual Cultures of Religion*,
<http://mavcor.yale.edu/material-visual-cultures-religions>, 2013.

Project leader, *Image Database to Enhance Asian Studies* [IDEAS], 2003-present
url: <http://www.ideasproject.org>

Image editor and consultant, *Luce Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum*, 2004-present
ASIANetwork url: <https://ideasasia.omeka.net/collections/show/1>

Invited Articles and Entries

"Material Culture in the Study and Teaching of Asia", *Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum*,
Nietupski and O'Mara, eds., PA: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011.

"Wheel of Life", *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, 2011.

"Early Buddhist Art", "Nalanda", "Islam and Buddhist Art in Central Asia",
World History Encyclopedia, 2008.

"Virtual Collaboration", *ASIANetwork Exchange*, vol XIV, no. 1 (fall 2006): 25-26.

"Nuwa" entry, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women: Antiquity to the Sui*, (London: ME Sharpe, 2006) 54-57.

"Ksitigarbha", *Encyclopedia of Holy People* (ABC-CLIO Publishers, 2004): 485-6.

Edited 8 St Olaf student encyclopedia entries – "Basho", "Empress Wu", "Ryonin", "Samantabhadra",
"Sengsten", "Shotoku", "Trisong Detsen", and "Yama", *Encyclopedia of Holy People* (ABC-
CLIO Publishers, 2004).

"Images of Hell" and "Bamiyan", *Encyclopedia of Buddhism* (Macmillan, 2003): 318-320 and 41-2.

Book Reviews

Book review, *Buddhist Stone Sutras in China - Sichuan Province* [vols. 1 and 2], *Journal of Chinese Religions* forthcoming summer 2016.

Book review, Surviving Nirvana: Death of the Buddha in Chinese Visual Culture, *Journal of the Asian Studies*, (Winter 2011): 1132-33.

Book review, Chinese Steles: Pre-Buddhist and Buddhist Use of a Symbolic Form, *CAA Reviews*, <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/860>, summer 2006.

Book review, Performing the Visual: The Practice of Buddhist Wall Painting in China and Central Asia, 618-960, *Journal of Asian Studies* (Summer 2004): 1074-6.

Book review, Summit of Treasures, *Artibus Asiae* (Spring 2004): 252-255.

Juried Presentations

“Continuing the Legacy of Yang Jialuo into the Digital Age,” 2nd International Academic Symposium of Dazu Rock Carvings, Chongqing, China, October 2014.

“Good Karma or Bad Kitsch? Visualizing the Afterlife at Kosanji”, International Convention of Asia Scholars, Macao, China, June 2013.

“Multimedia Approaches to Sacred Sites: A Chinese Case-Study”, Midwest Art Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio, March 2013.

“Baodingshan Beckons: Later Literati Impressions of a Song Dynasty Buddhist Site”, ASIANetwork conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2010.

“An Analysis of Later Audience at the 12th century Buddhist Site of Baodingshan” International Academic Symposium of Dazu Rock Carvings, Chongqing, China, October, 2009.

“An Analysis of Later Audience at the 12th century Buddhist Site of Baodingshan”, International Convention of Asia Scholars, Daejeon, South Korea, August 2009.

“Re-Presenting the Past: Photograph as Artifact at My Lai and Nanjing”, Association for Asian Studies conference, March 2008.

“Remembering the Unforgettable: The Memorial at My Lai”, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Northfield, Minnesota, October 2006.

“Not Permanent, Just Painful! Lessons Learned from Buddhist Hell Depictions at a Medieval Chinese Grotto,” Sixth Global Conference on Wickedness and Evil, Prague, Czech Republic, March 2005.

“IDEAS – Creating a Collaborative Image Database to Enhance Asian Studies,” NITLE conference, Lisle, Illinois, November 2004.

“When Visual Meets Verbal: Constructing an Image Database for Asian Studies”, ASIANetwork, Lisle, Illinois, April 2004.

“Text as Relic: Another Reading of the Baodingshan Inscriptions”, Association for Asian Studies conference, San Diego, California, March 2004.

“Universal Appeal: Transmitting the Dharma through Text and Image at Baodingshan”, American Academy of Religions conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2003.

Invited Lectures

“More than just Mao: 20th Century Chinese Prints in the St Olaf College Collection,” Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, Minnesota, April 2015.

- “Chinese Culture Reflected in Art: Modern Lessons from the Terracotta Warriors,” China Town Hall Forum, Lacrosse, Wisconsin, October 2012.
- “Rethinking Mobile Learning Models in Education Abroad: Where Theory and Practice Meet – Asian Conversations at St Olaf”, Forum on Education Abroad, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2011.
- “What to Do with What We Have – A Look at Uses of the Luce Asian Art Database”, ASIANetwork plenary, Chicago, Illinois, April 2011.
- “Quest for Enlightenment: Buddhist Monks in Medieval China”, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, February 2011.
- “Preserving Pain, Promoting Peace: Learning from the Memorials at Hiroshima, Nanjing and My Lai”, Dickinson College, Dickinson, Pennsylvania, March 2010.
- “The Afterlife of the AN/Luce Asian Art Consultancy Project”, ASIANetwork conference, Lisle, Illinois, March 2009.
- “Access and Use of the Asian Art On-Line Image Database”, ASIANetwork conference, San Antonio, Texas, March 2008.
- “Digital Collections in Teaching: Linking Local Special Collections to On-line Digital Resources”, co-presented with Kris MacPherson, CIC-NITLE Transformation of the Library workshop, Portland, Oregon, March 2007.
- “Buddhist Art in the Collection of the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts”, Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, November 2005.
- “Getting IDEAS: Art Beyond Art History” and “Going Digital, Going Wild at St Olaf College”, MITC State of Art History conference panel and poster session, Grinnell College, October 2005.
- “The AN/Luce Arts Consultancy Project: a Work in Progress”, plenary session ASIANetwork, April 2005.
- “Digital Access to Asia – IDEAS”, Freeman Faculty Symposium, St Olaf College, February 2005.
- “Text as Relic in 12th-century Sichuan”, University of Chicago Visual Arts Workshop, Department of Art History, May 2003.
- Panel and Seminar Participation***
- Chaired panel – “Creating Art from a Chinese Buddhist Imagination,” ASIANetwork conference, April 2010.
- Chaired panel – “Buddhist Art and Its Functions for Temples, Local Communities, and the State,” Association for Asian Studies conference, Philadelphia, March 2010.
- Chaired panel – “Apprehension and Appreciation of Evil and Sorrow,” Sixth Global Conference on Wickedness and Evil, Prague, Czech Republic, March 2005.
- Chaired panel – “Changing the Paradigm: Moving Beyond Center and Periphery in the Buddhist Art of Sichuan,” Association for Asian Studies conference, San Diego, California, March 2004.
- Midwest Instructional Technology Center, participant in three-day workshop on creating new digital assets and teaching with technology, Lawrence University, Wisconsin, June 2003.

SERVICE

Exhibitions Curated

[*Evolution: Yoshida and Friends*](#) [in conjunction with *Arts of Japan* students, 2006].

[*Earth, Water, Fire*](#) [in conjunction with *Visual Culture in Modern China* students, 2011].

[*Mixed Messages – Twentieth Century Chinese Prints*](#) [in conjunction with *Visual Culture in Modern China* students, FLAC and Professor Ka Wong, 2013]

College Leadership Positions

Director, Asian Conversations Program, 2008-2013

Chair, Asian Studies Department 2013-17 [gone 2015-16 for sabbatical]

Manuscript Reviewer

University of Hawai'i Press

Program Reviewer

Augustana College – Dept of Art and Art History - 2013

Colorado College - 2014

Carthage College – Dept of Art - 2016

Lafayette College – Dept of Asian Studies – 2016

Honors, Awards, Grants

- *Mellon Digital Humanities Grant*, to finalize book manuscript website, interim 2016.
- *Mellon Bridging Grant*, to assess collection of Asian art donated to the College, summer 2015.
- *Mellon Digital Humanities Seed Grant*, to begin work on digitizing book, summer 2012.
- *Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment*, with AS Dept colleagues, spring 2012.
- *Japan Foundation Grant for Asian Conversations*, for students' interim travel, spring 2012.
- *CILA Teaching with Technology Fellow*, St Olaf College, fall 2007.
- *Japan Study Individual Research Grant*, summer 2007.
- *Freeman Curriculum Development Grant*, January 2008, travel grant for course development on sacred sites of South Asia.
- *Summer Faculty Development grant*, 2006, research on Asian memorial sites.
- *Silk Road Foundation*, grant for on-site Silk Road research, summer 2004.
- *Freeman Curriculum Development Grant*, summer 2004, travel grant to Korea to develop Korean course materials and develop Yonsei University exchange.
- *Midwest Instructional Technology Center*, 2004-2005, \$65,000 grant for collaborative work on an image database for Asian Studies [IDEAS project].

Professional Memberships

Midwest Art History Society – Board Member 2009-12

ASIANetwork – Board Member 2012-15

Association of Asian Studies