

# CHRISTIAN COSERU

Department of Philosophy  
College of Charleston  
66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424  
Citizenship: USA, Romania, Australia (permanent resident)

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## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

College of Charleston	Associate Professor	2011-present
	Assistant Professor	2005-2011
Australian National University	Lecturer	2002
	Principal Investigator, ARC Grant	2000-2001
	Teaching Assistant	2000-2004
University of Sydney	Teaching Assistant	2003
Asiatic Society of Calcutta	Research Fellow	1995-1996

## VISITING SCHOLAR

University of Cambridge, Queens' College	2000
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## EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Philosophy & Asian Studies, Australian National University, 2005  
Dissertation title: *Sensation, Perception, and Imagery: A Study of the Buddhist Epistemology of Perception*

Maîtrise ès lettres, Philosophy, University of Bucharest, 1993  
Thesis title: *An Essay on the Genesis and Accession of the Soul in Neoplatonism*

Licence ès lettres, Philosophy, University of Bucharest, 1992

## RESEARCH AREAS

Specialization: Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Buddhist Philosophy  
Competence: Metaphysics, Phenomenology, Classical Greek and Indian Philosophy, Moral

## Psychology

### AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, and GRANTS

- NEH Summer Institute Grant (with Jay Garfield and Evan Thompson), 2017-2018; project title “Self-knowledge in Eastern and Western Philosophies” (\$164,585)
- NEH Summer Institute Grant (with Jay Garfield and Evan Thompson), 2011-2012; project title “Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives” (\$158,931)
- Awarded Sabbatical Leave 2011-2012
- Faculty Research and Development Award, College of Charleston 2006, 2008
- Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Australian National University 2000-2004
- Australian Research Council (ARC) Grant, for developing an Interlingua based proof of concept for parsing Sanskrit 2000 (\$12,000)
- ANU Fieldwork Research Grant (\$8,000)
- Asiatic Society of Calcutta Fellowship 1995-96
- Soros Foundation Grant 1993-1995

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

- *Perceiving Reality: Consciousness, Intentionality, and Cognition in Buddhist Philosophy* (OUP 2012, pbk 2015)
  - nominated for the American Philosophical Association Younger Scholar Book Prize, Spring 2013.
  - reviewed in *Mind*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Philosophy in Review*, *Sophia*, *H-Buddhism*, *Universa: Recensiononi di Filosofia*, *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde Südasiens*.
  - APA author meets critics symposium proceedings in *Journal of Consciousness Studies*.
- *Moments of Consciousness: An Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy of Mind* (under contract with OUP, ms due June 2018)

- *Sense, Self-Awareness, and Sensibility* (book ms in progress on cognitive and affective phenomenology)

ACCEPTED AND PUBLISHED PAPERS  
(PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS AND VOLUMES)

1. “Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem in Indian Philosophy” in *Handbook of Consciousness*, edited by R. Gennaro, London: Routledge, *forthcoming*.
2. “Consciousness, Physicalism, and Human Flourishing,” in *Naturalism and Asian Philosophy: Owen Flanagan and Beyond*, edited by Eric Nelson. New York: SUNY Press, *forthcoming*.
3. “Presence, Horizon, and Temporality: Coming to Terms With Phenomenal Consciousness,” In Sen, M. ed., *Problems of the Self: Debates in Consciousness Subjectivity and Otherness*, Delhi: Aakar Books, *forthcoming*.
4. “Consciousness, Personal Identity, and the Self, No-self Debate” *The Philosophy Journal* (*Filosofskiy zhurnal*, in Russian), *forthcoming*.
5. “Interpretations and Interventions: Indian Philosophy and the Cosmopolitan Approach,” in *History of Indian Philosophy*, edited by P. Bilimoria. London: Routledge, 2018.
6. “Are Reasons Causally Relevant for Action? Dharmakīrti and the Embodied Cognition Paradigm” in S. Emmanuel (ed.), *Buddhist Philosophy: A Comparative Approach*, Wiley: Blackwell, 109–122, 2017.
7. “Breaking Good: Moral Agency, Neuroethics, and the Spontaneity of Compassion” in J. Davis, O. Flanagan, and C. Kelley, *A mirror is for reflection: understanding Buddhist ethics*, New York: Oxford University Press, 109–128, 2017.
8. “Personal Identity and Cosmopolitan Philosophy,” *Philosophical Studies*, 2016, DOI: 10.1007/s11098-016-0829-6
9. “Consciousness and Causality: Dharmakīrti Against Physicalism,” In *Proceedings of the Fifth International Dharmakīrti Conference, Heidelberg, August 26-30, 2014*, edited by S. McClintock, H.Lasic, P. McAllister, and B. Kellner. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2017
10. “Introduction to Symposium on Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy by Evan Thompson,” *Philosophy East and West* 66 (3): 923–926.
11. “Freedom from Responsibility: Agent-Neutral Consequentialism and the Bodhisattva Ideal,” in *Buddhist Perspectives on Free Will: Agentless Agency?* edited by R. Repetti, London: Routledge, August 2016.

12. "Consciousness and Causal Emergence: Śāntarakṣita Against Physicalism" in J. Ganeri, ed. *The Oxford Handbook to Indian Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, June 2016. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199314621.013.24
13. "Perception, Causally Efficacious Particulars, and the Range of Phenomenal Consciousness," in *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 22 (9-10): 55-82.
14. "Précis of *Perceiving Reality*," *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 22 (9-10): 9-24.
15. "Dignāga and Dharmakīrti on Perception and Self-Awareness." In Powers, J. ed. *The Buddhist World*, London: Routledge, 2015.
16. "Taking the Intentionality of Perception Seriously: Why Phenomenology is Inescapable." *Philosophy East and West* 65/3 (2015).
17. "Buddhism, Comparative Neurophilosophy, and Human Flourishing," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, Fall 2014.
18. "Reason and Experience in Buddhist Epistemology." In Emmanuel, S. (ed.), *A Companion to Buddhist Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2013, 241-255.
19. "Mind in Indian Buddhist Philosophy," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2009, Winter 2012 Edition, revised), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2012/entries/mind-indian-buddhism/>>.  
❖ Reprinted in *Indian Philosophy*, edited by J. Ganeri, Routledge, 2016.
20. "Naturalism and Intentionality: A Buddhist Epistemological Approach," *Asian Philosophy* 19/3 (2009): 239-264.
21. "Buddhist 'Foundationalism' and the Phenomenology of Perception," *Philosophy East and West* 59/4 (2009): 409-439.
22. "Karma, Rebirth, and Mental Causation," in Prebish, C., Kewon, D., & Wright, D. S. (eds.), *Revisiting Karma* (2007): 133-154.
23. "Essay on the Ascension of the Soul in Neoplatonism, part I," *Origins* 6/1-2 (2003): 156-67.
24. "Hermeneutics in a Buddhist Perspective," *Origins* 5/1 (2002): 145-50.
25. "The Continuity between the Madhyamaka and the Yogācāra Schools of Mahāyāna Buddhism in India," *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, 37/2 (1996): 48-83.

## BOOK REVIEWS

26. "Selves: Subpersonal, Immersed, and Participating. A Review Essays of Jonardon Ganeri, *The Self: Naturalism, Consciousness, and the First-Person Stance, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 2014.

27. The Cowherds, *Conventional Truth in Buddhist Philosophy*, forthcoming in *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*
28. Owen Flanagan, *The Bodhisattva's Brain: Buddhism Naturalized*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, January 2012.
29. Simon P. James, *Zen Buddhism and Environmental Ethics*, in *Sophia*, 47/1 (2008): 75-77.
30. David E. Cooper and Simon P. James, *Buddhism, Virtue, and Environment*, In *Sophia* 46/2 (2007): 207-209.
31. "A Restricted Interpretation of Dharmakīrti's Philosophy," Review of John Dunne, *Foundations of Dharmakīrti's Philosophy, H-Buddhism Reviews*, (March 2006) (PDF version pp. 1-4).
32. Daniel Goleman, "A Review Essay of *Destructive Emotions: How Can We Overcome Them? A Scientific Dialogue with the Dalai Lama*," *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 11 (2004) 111-122.

#### WORKSHOPS ON MY WORK

*Consciousness and Intentionality Workshop* on my *Perceiving Reality* book, National Chengchi University, Department of Philosophy, Taipei, Taiwan, March 2013

#### NAMED LECTURES

Jerry Balmuth Lecture, December 2013, Colgate University

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

- "Whose Consciousness: Reflexivity and the Problem of Self-Knowledge"
- "On Why It Is There Is Something It Is Like"
- "Reflexive Sensibility and the View From Nowhere".

#### TALKS

1. "Consciousness and Causality," Center for Applied Philosophy and Ethics, Kyoto University, May 17, 2017.
2. "Consciousness, Naturalism, and the Problem of Self-Knowledge," Seoul National University, May 11, 2017.
3. "Consciousness and Causal Emergence: Challenges to Physicalism," Seoul National University, May 11, 2017.
4. "Free Will and Moral Responsibility: Agent-Neutral Consequentialism and the Bodhisattva Ideal," Seoul National University, May 8, 2017.

5. "Do Physicalists Have The Buddha Nature?" Pacific APA author meets critics on Mark Siderits' *Buddhist Philosophy*, Seattle, April 2017.
6. "Freedom from Responsibility" Department of Philosophy, Union College, February 16, 2017.
7. "Consciousness, Personal Identity, and the Self/No-Self Debate," Keynote Address, Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, November 7, 2016.
8. "Does Altruism Makes Us All Too Human" What Makes Us Human? Ronald E. Moore Symposium, Texas Christian University, November 5, 2016.
9. "Does Introspective Attention Change What We Perceive?" Accountability for Attitudes, Harvard University, May 1, 2016.
10. "Consciousness, Naturalism, and Human Flourishing" Central APA, May 1, 2016.
11. "Whose Consciousness, Which Cognition, Philosophy Department, National Chengchi University, Taipei, March 12, 2016.
12. "Perception, Particulars, and the Range of Phenomenal Consciousness" Author meets critics panel on *Perceiving Reality*, Pacific APA, Vancouver, April 4, 2015.
13. "Reflexive Sensibility" Philosophy Workshop, College of Charleston, January 2015.
14. "Self-Awareness, Subjectivity, and No-Self," Invited Commentator, Eastern APA, Philadelphia, December 28, 2014.
15. "Śāntarakṣita Against Physicalism," The 5th International Dharmakīrti Conference, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany on August 28, 2014.
16. "Reflexive Sensibility and the Mādhyamika's View From Nowhere," Panel on Buddhist Philosophy of Mind, The 17th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna, Austria, August 18 - 23, 2014.
17. "Buddhist Philosophy of Mind in the Age of Brain Science," Buddhism, Mind, and Cognitive Science, University of California, Berkeley, April 26, 2014.
18. "Reflexive Sensibility: The Bedrock of Consciousness," Toward a Science of Consciousness Conference, Tucson, Arizona, April 21, 2014.
19. "A Buddhist View of Cognitive Phenomenology," Marquette University, Milwaukee, April 10, 2014.
20. "Consciousness and Causal Explanation," Ronald E. Moore Humanities Symposium on Consciousness, Texas Christian University, March 28, 2014.
21. "Irreflexive Thoughts, Selfless Persons, and Other Philosophical Curiosities," Jerry Balmuth Lecture Series in Philosophy, Colgate University, December 2013.
22. "The Ineliminable Character of Reflexivity: What is at Stake in a Debate on Consciousness?" University of Chicago, Chicago, November 6.

23. "The Ineliminable Character of Reflexive Awareness: What is at Stake in Contemporary Debates?" University of Bucharest, May 22, 2013.
24. "Comments on Flanagan's The Bodhisattva's Brain: Buddhism Naturalized." Authors Meets Critics Panel, Pacific APA, San Francisco, March 2013 (panel organizer).
25. "Consciousness and Intentionality: Preliminary Observations," National Chengchi University, Taipei, March 2013.
26. "Self-Awareness and the First-Person Stance: Charting the Phenomenology of Svasamvedana," National Chengchi University, Taipei, March 2013.
27. "Who's Afraid of Naturalism? Non-eliminative Reductionism and the Enlightened Mind," National Chengchi University, Taipei, March, 2013.
28. "Reflexivity and the First-Person Stance: Coming to Terms with Phenomenal Consciousness," Central APA, New Orleans, February 2013.
29. "Presence and Temporality." Central APA, New Orleans, February 2013.
30. "How Thoughts Feel: The Cross-modality of Cognitive Phenomenology." Toward a Science of Consciousness Conference, Tucson, April 2012
31. "How Thoughts Feel: The Cross-modality of Cognitive Phenomenology." NEH Summer Institute: Investigating Consciousness, Charleston, May 2012.
32. "Are Reasons Causally Relevant for Action? Dharmakīrti's *kāryānumāna* Argument and the Embodied Cognition Paradigm," Central APA, Chicago, February 2012.
33. "How Embodiment Shapes Consciousness and Cognition," Eastern APA, Washington, D.C. December 2011.
34. "Reflexivity Without a Self: How do Buddhists Explain Consciousness?" Colgate University, Department of Philosophy Colloquia, December, 2011.
35. "Practical Reason and the Spontaneity of Compassion," Contemporary Perspectives on Buddhist Ethics: Freedom and Responsibility, Columbia University, October 6-7, 2011.
36. "Reasons and Causes: Dharmakīrti's *kāryānumāna* Argument and Naturalized Epistemology," XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taipei, Taiwan, June 2011.
37. "Buddhist Philosophy and Discourse Analysis," Eastern APA, Boston, December 2010.
38. "Taking the Intentionality of Perception Seriously: Why Phenomenology is Inescapable," Invited talk. Columbia University Seminar on Comparative Philosophy, New York, December 2010.
39. "The View from Everywhere: Consciousness, Intentionality, and Naturalized Phenomenology," Toward a Science of Consciousness Conference, Tucson, AZ, April 2010.

40. "Naturalism and Intentionality: A Buddhist Epistemological Approach," Pacific APA, Vancouver, April 2009.
41. "Naturalizing Buddhist Epistemology," Paper presented at the XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, June 2008.
42. "Perception, Particulars, and the Question of Foundationalism in Buddhist Epistemology," Pacific APA, San Francisco, April 2007.
43. "Buddhist theories of valid cognition (*pramānavāda*) in India and Tibet," Panel on Buddhist logic and epistemology, University of West, Los Angeles, October 2006.
44. "Buddhist Hermeneutics," Eastern APA New York, December 2005.
45. "Epistemic Expressions and the Rhetoric of Reason," AAP, Sydney, July 2005.
46. "Passionate Enlightenment: Couples in Indian Buddhist Iconography," The Art Gallery of New South Wales, June 3, 2005.
47. "Mental Imagery and the Buddhist Epistemology of Perception," Eastern APA, Boston, December 2004.
48. "Is Perception Non-Erroneous or Non-Deceptive?" AAP, South Molle Island, July 2004.
49. "Buddhist Epistemology and the Mind-Body Problem," Australasian Association of Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Melbourne, July 2002.
50. "Priest and Dharmakīrti on Motion," Joint presentation with Chris Mortensen and Graham Priest, Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Hobart, July 2001.
51. "Psychologizing Logic: The Triple Inferential Mark and Its Epistemological Significance," AAP, Hobart, July 2001.
52. "Continuity between the Madhyamaka and the Yogācāra Schools of Indian Buddhism," Asiatic Society of Calcutta, Calcutta, August 1996.
53. "The Hermeneutics of the Two Truths," Indian Philosophical Congress, Haridwar, November 1995
54. "The *Āgama-sūtras* of Gauḍapāda: Buddhist Influences on the Early Vedāntic Doctrine of Non-duality," All India Oriental Conference, Poona, May 1993.

## THESIS DIRECTION AND ADVISING

### Ph.D Thesis Supervision

- Rick Wilson, California Institute of Integral Studies, in progress (committee member, with Daniel Deslaurens and Richard Tarnas).



- Neil Hamley, Monash University, 2007, *A Study of the Undescended Soul in the Enneads* (external examiner).

Bachelor's Essay Supervision (College of Charleston)

Authenticity and Mass Media (2008)

Gadamer's Philosophical Hermeneutics (2010)

Constructing and Deconstructing the Self in Buddhism (2011)

Embodiment in Action (2014)

LANGUAGES

French & Romanian (fluent), Italian (reading knowledge, some speaking competence), Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, and Pāli (professional-level reading knowledge), German (basic reading knowledge)

TEACHING

*At the College of Charleston*

Seminar: Debates in Consciousness Studies (2016)

Seminar: Consciousness, Perception, and Intentionality (2013)

Seminar: Consciousness, Intentionality, and Cognition (2009)

Metaphysics (2006, 2009, 2013)

Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind (2014)

20th Century Continental Philosophy (2007)

Knowledge and Reality (2016)

Eastern Philosophy (2006-2008, 2012, 2015)

Philosophy of Religion (2006, 2008)

Honors Introduction to Philosophy (2009-2010, 2013, 2016-2017)

Introduction to Philosophy (2005, 2009-2010, 2014, 2017)

Colloquium in Western Civilization (2006-2008, 2012-2013, 2015)

*At the Australian National University*

Individual and Society in Asia (Spring 2004)

Indian Buddhist Philosophy (Fall 2003)

Philosophy of Religion: East and West (Spring 2012)

Modern Indian Thought (Fall 1999)

*At the University of Sydney*

Second Year Sanskrit (2004)

SERVICE

Organizer

- Director, NEH Summer Institute, Self-knowledge in Eastern and Western Philosophy, College of Charleston, 2017-2018
- Director, NEH Summer Institute, *Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives*, College of Charleston, 2012-2013
- Chair, International Society for Buddhist Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, Eastern & Pacific Divisions (2011-present)

Referee

- *Press*: Oxford University Press, MIT Press, Routledge, Broadview, Lexington, Springer, King's College Publications
- *Journals*: Philosophy East and West, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Sophia, Dialectica, The Southern Journal of Philosophy, Ratio, Comparative Philosophy, Journal of Buddhist Ethics
- *Grants*: National Endowment for the Humanities, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Templeton Foundation
- *Organizations*: Mind and Life Institute, Humanities Initiative, Harvard University, 2012
- *Conferences*: Canadian Philosophical Association, 2013

Editor

- *Philpapers*; category: Indian Philosophy; technical editor: *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* (2005-06)

Editorial Board

- *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*

Education Officer

- Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (2000-2004)

University and Department Service at the College of Charleston

- Research and Development Committee, 2006-2007
- Academic Planning Committee, 2008-2009
- Curriculum Committee, 2007-2008
- Departmental Senator, 2014-2015
- Hiring Committees for Philosophy and Asian Studies, 2012-present
- Honor Board Committee, 2010-2011
- Library Committee, 2016-2017

PROFESIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, American Academy of Religion, International Association of Buddhist Studies, International Society for Buddhist Philosophy