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Bya rog prog zhu, The Raven Crest

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CURRICULUM VITAE

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CURRENT ACADEMIC EMPLOYEMENT

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies

September 2009-Present

EDUCATION

Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities (Leiden, The Netherlands)

Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy, (defense scheduled for February 2, 2010).

Dissertation title: *Bya rog prog zhu, The Raven Crest. The Life and Teachings of gTer chen bDe chen 'od gsal rdo rje, Treasure Revealer of Contemporary Tibet.*

Promotor: Professor dr. Barend J. ter Haar

Copromotor: Dr. Peter C. Verhagen

External Reviewers: Prof. dr. Heleen L. Murre-van den Berg (Leiden University, NL)

Prof. dr. B.C.A. Walraven (Leiden University, NL)

Dr. Andrew M. Fischer (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, NL)

Dr. Robert Mayer (Oxford University, UK)

Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli, Italy Faculty of Humanities, Department of Asian Studies.

Masters of Arts May 1997, Laurea cum laude

Major in Tibetan Language, Literature and Buddhist Studies and Chinese Language and Literature. Minor in Japanese Language and Literature.

Courses and exams included Chinese Philology, Asian and East Asian Religions and Philosophy, Anthropology.

Master's thesis focused on a study of Tibetan Buddhist oracle tradition. MA dissertation title: *gNas chung: L'Oracolo di Stato Tibetano (gNas chung: The Sate Oracle of Tibet)*

Supervisor: Prof. Ramon N. Prats

STUDY ABROAD

Tibet University, Lhasa, TAR, People's Republic of China

Completed two long-terms in Tibetan Language and Culture Studies, July 1997-January 1999

Course work included both foreign students' classes in Tibetan language grammar, reading comprehension, general culture, calligraphy, and Tibetan students' classes in Buddhist epistemology and debate, History, and Genres of Tibetan Buddhist Literature. All classes were taught in colloquial Tibetan.

Beijing Language and Culture University (*Beijing yuyuan wenhua daxue*), Beijing, People's Republic of China, International Students' Department.

Completed two long-terms in Chinese Language and Culture Studies, February 1996-July 1997

Course work included colloquial Putonghua Chinese, literary Chinese, Newspaper Chinese readings, composition, and readings in contemporary Chinese literature.
Program grant offered by the *Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.

Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INaLCO), Paris, France

Completed one year of Tibetan Studies January 1995-December 1995

Course work included colloquial and literary Tibetan, poetry (Prof. Sangda Dorje), and Buddhism
Advisor: Prof. Heather Stoddard.

Funded by the ERASMUS scholarship of the Erasmus/Socrates Program of the European Union.

École Pratique des Hautes Études (ÉPHÉ) of Université Paris Sorbonne - Paris IV (Sorbonne University), Paris, France

Completed one year of Tibetan Studies January 1995-December 1995

Course work included History of Tibetan Medical Tradition (Prof. Fernand Meyer), Ancient History of Tibet (Prof. Spanien-Macdonald) and Readings of Tibetan Tantric Material (Prof. Anne-Marie Blondeau)

Advisor: Prof. Anne-Marie Blondeau

Scholarship offered by the ERASMUS program of the European Students' Network.

Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA), Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, India

Completed twenty months of Tibetan Language and Buddhist Studies August 1992-May 1994

Course work included colloquial and literary Tibetan, Buddhist terminology, Buddhist philosophy (all taught in colloquial Tibetan)

Beijing Institute of Economics (Beijing jingji xueyuan), Beijing, People's Republic of China,

Completed three months of Chinese Economic Language Studies May 1993-July 1993

Course work included colloquial Chinese, Chinese Economics, and Chinese economic terminology.

**Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, People's Republic of China
International Students' Department**

Completed six months of colloquial and literary Chinese Studies June 1990-December 1990

Course work included colloquial and literary Chinese, reading comprehension, composition, and Chinese calligraphy

ACADEMIC AWARDS, GRANTS, and FELLOWSHIPS

- **Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, NY, USA,** Shelley and Donald Rubin Resident Scholar, 2008-2009.
- **CNAS (Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies),** Research Fellowship, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. Textual research on 'Ja' tshon snying po (1585-1656)'s legacy in the Himalayas, titled: "Trans-boundary Lineages: A Study of Tibetan Buddhist Practices in Northern Nepal". October 2005 – October 2006
- **Research School CNWS (Centre for Asian, African, and Amerindian Studies, Leiden)** Research Assistant (AIO) Grant for Ph.D./Doctoral dissertation, 1999-2003
- **British Council,** First Certificate in English, Napoli 1997
- **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** Award Scholarship in Chinese Studies for one year-term at the Beijing Language and Culture University, 1996-1997
- **ERASMUS** scholarship of the Erasmus/Socrates Program of the European Union for a one year term in Tibetan Studies at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INaLCO) and École Pratique des Hautes Études (ÉPHÉ) in Paris, 1995

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **MODERN STANDARD TIBETAN**

- *Introduction to Tibetan Language*, Spring 2008. Part-Time Faculty, **Department of Religion, Eugene Lang College of the The New School, New York City, NY**
- *Instructor of Spoken Tibetan (Lhasa Dialect) for Undergraduate Students. January-May 2001.* Organized the course, provided textbooks, and graded exams
- *Instructor of Spoken Tibetan (Lhasa Dialect) for Undergraduate Students. January-May 2000.* Organized the course, provided textbooks, and graded exams
- **OTHER LANGUAGES**
 - *Instructor of Italian Language*, Academic year 1996-1997. **Predeparture Training Department BLCU (The Foreign Language Language Training Center BLCU). Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, People's Republic of China**
- **ASIAN RELIGIONS**
 - **Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Program, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL**
Visiting Assistant Professor, *Himalayan Cultures*, Winter 2009.
 - **Department of Religious Studies, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL**
Visiting Assistant Professor, *Topics in Asian Religions* - "Religions of Tibet," Winter 2009.
Visiting Assistant Professor, *Introduction to Hinduism* Spring 2010.
 - **Department of Religion, Eugene Lang College of the The New School, New York City, NY**
Part-Time Faculty, *The Shaman and the Buddha: Ecstatic Practices in Buddhist Societies*, Fall 2008.
Part-Time Faculty, *Buddhism and Politics in the Modern Era: Buddhist Militants, Militant Buddhists*, Spring 2009.
Part-Time Faculty, *Cultures of the Himalayas*, Spring 2008.
 - **Department of Religion, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ**
Part-Time Lecturer, *Tibetan Religions*. Fall 2007-Spring 2008
Part-Time Lecturer, *Buddhism*, Spring 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

- and Sarah Jacoby (eds). *Buddhism beyond the Monastery: Tantric Practices and their Performers in Tibet and the Himalayas. Proceedings of the Tenth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Oxford 2003*. Leiden: Brill, 2008.
- "Householders and Monks: A Study of Treasure Revealers and their Role in Religious Revival in Contemporary Eastern Tibet." In Sarah Jacoby and Antonio Terrone (eds), *Buddhism beyond the Monastery: Tantric Practices and their Performers in Tibet and the Himalayas. Proceedings of the Tenth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Oxford 2003*. Leiden: Brill, 2008, pp. 73-109.
- "Tibetan Buddhism Beyond the Monastery: Revelation and Identity in rNying ma Communities of Present-day Kham". In Monica Esposito (ed.), *Images of Tibet in the 19th and 20th Centuries*. Paris, École Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Coll. «Études thématiques» (22.2), 2008, pp. 746-779.

- “Visions, Arcane Claims, and Hidden Treasures: Charisma and Authority in a Present-Day Gter ston.” In C. Klieger (ed.), *Tibet, Self, and the Tibetan Diaspora: Voices of Difference. Proceedings of the Ninth Seminar of the IATS*, 2000, Leiden: Brill 2002, pp. 213-228.
- “Living on the Peaks: Encounters with Tibetan Visionaries.” *CNWS Newsletter*, 23/2003, pp. 24-27.
- “The Tibetan Terma Tradition.” *The Center for Buddhist Studies Weblog*, at http://www.cbs.columbia.edu/weblog/2007/01/the_tibetan_ter.html. 11 January 2007. Also China Tibet Information Network at http://info.tibet.cn/en/culture/kig/t20070403_224284.htm
- “‘Anything Can Be an Appropriate Treasure Teaching!’ Authentic Treasure Revealers and the Moral Implications of Noncelibate Tantric Practice.” In Peter Schwieger and Saadet Arslan (eds), *Tibetan Studies: An Anthology. Proceedings of the Eleventh Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, 2006, Halle: International Institute for Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, 2009, pp. 397-426 (In Press).
- “Cyberspace Revelations: Tibetan Treasures, Information Technology, and the Transnational Imagined Reader”. In Anne Chayet, Cristina Scherrer-Schaub, Françoise Robin, Jean-Luc Achard (eds.), *Edition, éditions: l'écrit au Tibet, évolution et devenir / Publishing and Editing: the Evolution and Future of Writing in Tibet*, “Collectanea Himalayica,” Vol. 3, 2009 (In Press).

BOOK REVIEWS

- “Is Tibet (Really) Chinese”. A review of *Le Tibet est-il Chinois? Réponses à cent questions chinoise*. Anne-Marie Blondeau et Katia Buffetrille (eds.) Paris: Albin Michel (2002), 468 pp. In *IIAS Newsletter*, n. 31 July, 2003, p. 39.
- “A Cutting-Edge Manual for Spoken Tibetan”. A review of *Manuel de Tibétain Standard: langue et civilisation (+ 2 CDs)*, 1998. Nicolas Tournadre and Sangda Dorje. Paris: L’Asiathèque. In *IIAS Newsletter*, n. 29, November, 2002: 39.
- Review of *Sacred Spaces and Powerful Places in Tibetan Culture: A Collection of Essays*. 1999. Toni Huber (ed.) Dharamsala: Library of the Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA). In *The Tibet Journal*, Vol. XXVI, No. 3 & 4, Autumn & Winter, 2001: 231-32.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- (ed.) *Tibetan Visionaries and Their Revelations: Studies on gter stons and their gter mas*. To be published as a volume in the *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies (JIATS)*. Publication expected in 2010.
- “gTer chen bDe chen ’od gsal rdo rje and the gter ma Tradition in Contemporary Tibet”. In Antonio Terrone (ed.) *Tibetan Visionaries and Their Revelations: Studies on gter stons and their gter mas*. *JIATS*. Publication expected in 2010.
- “Tibetan Treasure Tradition: Soundings in the Field and Its History.” In Antonio Terrone (ed.) *Tibetan Visionaries and Their Revelations: Studies on gter stons and their gter mas*. *JIATS*. Publication expected in 2010.
- *Contemplation as Food and Fog as Clothing: Revealing and Practicing Buddhism in Twenty first-Century Tibet*. (Scholarly book in preparation)

- “Rationalizing Ritual: The Mahāyoga Class in the *Rin chen gter mdzod*.” (In preparation)
- “Trans-boundary Lineages: A Study of Tibetan Buddhist Practices in Northern Nepal associated with the Revelations of ‘Ja’ tshon snying po (1585-1656)” (In preparation)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Buddhist Teachings from the Cyberspace: Reflections on the Internet Technology and the Apparitions of Tibetan Visionaries’ Websites in China.” Paper read at the American Academy of Religion, Montréal, Canada, 7-11 November 2009.
- “The Hook of Compassion: A “Moment of Death” Ritual in the Tibetan Buddhist Revelation Tradition.” Paper read at *Buddhists at the End of Life*, University of California in Santa Cruz, May 1-3, 2009.
- “Cyberspace Revelations: Tibetan Treasures, Information Technology, and the Transnational Imagined Reader”. Paper read at *Edition, éditions: l’écrit au Tibet, évolution et devenir / Publishing and Editing: the Evolution and Future of Writing in Tibet*, Paris 29-31 May 2008.
- “Finding Buddhism in the Twenty-First Century: Treasure Revelation and Religious Authority in Present-day Tibet” AAR, San Diego, CA. 16-20 Nov. 2007.
- “The New Chinese Journey to the West: The Influence of Chinese Buddhist Devotees in the Development of Tibetan Buddhism” AAR, San Diego, CA. 16-20 Nov. 2007.
- “*Anything is an Appropriate Treasure Teaching!*: Authentic Treasure Revealers and the Moral Implications of Noncelibate Tantric Practices”. *The Eleventh Seminar of the IATS*, Königswinter, Germany, 26 August – 2 September, 2006.
- “Rebuilding Buddhist Institutions in Tibet.” *Buddhist and Daoist Practice in the People’s Republic of China*, a workshop organized by the “Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion or Belief,” Oslo, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, September 15-16, 2005
- “Remembering the Past to Benefit the Present: Religious Expression in Today’s Tibet”. *Jornades Sobre El Tibet*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. March 10-11, 2004.
- “Householders and Monks: A Study of Treasure Discoverers in Contemporary Kham”. *Tenth Seminar of the IATS*, Oxford, UK, September 6-10, 2003.
- “A Chos mKhan po: the Monk and the Visionary.” *2001 Beijing Seminar on Tibetan Studies*, Beijing, PRC, July 24-28, 2001.
- “Identity and Self-Representation in Treasure Movements of Contemporary Tibet.” *XXVIII Deutscher Orientalistentag*, Bamberg, Germany, March 26-30, 2001.
- “Visions, Arcane Claims, and Hidden Treasures: Charisma and Authority in a Present-Day *Gter ston*.” *The Ninth Seminar of the IATS*, Leiden, the Netherlands, June 24-30, 2000.

GUEST LECTURES

- “Treasure Revealers, the Internet, and the Digitalization of Buddhist Scriptures: An overview of a Global Phenomenon.” Numata Lecture Series, University of Toronto (CA), Department of Religion, March 5-6, 2009.

- “bDe chen ’od gsal rdo rje and Treasure revelation in Contemporary Khams”. Guest lecture at the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (TBRC) at the Rubin Museum of Art, New York, USA, December 3, 2008.
- “Buddhist Practice in Present-day Tibet: The Case of Treasure Discoverers (*gter ston*) in Khams”. Guest lecture at the Institute of Asian and African Studies (IAAS) of the University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland. April 26, 2004. Funded by the IAAS.
- “Treasure Movements in Contemporary Tibet”. Research School CNWS Center for African, Asian and Amerindian Studies, October 8, 1999.
- “Tradition and Modernity in Contemporary Tibet”. Leiden University, The Netherlands, May 7, 1999.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Tibetan Culture Adviser and Tibetan/Chinese/English/Italian Interpreter at “Meetings with Tibetan Civil Society” a mission to China and Tibet by the Economic and Social Commission of the European Union, Beijing and Lhasa, September 10-16 2009.
- “Tibetan Culture in the Diaspora,” organizer and leader of a Summer Study Program in Dharamsala (HP), India. Eugene Lang College of the New School for Liberal Arts in New York City.
- Shelly and Donald Rubin Resident Scholar at the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City. Academic Year 2008-2009.
- “Revealed Buddhism: Studies in gTer ma (Treasures) and Their Revealers”. Organized and chaired Panel for the *Eleventh Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, Königswinter, Germany, August-September 2006.
- Organizer of CNWS Guest Lecture given by Prof. Ramon N. Prats d’Alos Moner “The Dream of Dreams: A New Focus on the Tibetan Book of the Dead”, Leiden, November 21, 2002.
- *Book of Abstracts of the Ninth Seminar of the IATS*. Leiden: IAS, 2000. Translation and Edition of Tibetan and Chinese language abstracts.
- Organizer of the symposium “The Status of Tibet in the People’s Republic of China”. Istituto Universitario Orientale of the Università degli Studi di Napoli. November 17, 1994.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- **Khumbu** (Northern Nepal) **10-22 October 2006**
Namche Bazaar, Thangboche Monastery, and Thang smad Monastery. Fieldtrip for a research in progress for the Centre of Nepal and Asian Studies of Tribhuvan University.
Advisor: Prof. Nirmal Thuladar.
- **Nepal** (Kathmandu). I have recently spent a total of two years (**October 2004-October 2006**) based in Kathmandu where I have conducted both anthropological and textual Buddhist studies. One year of this time I have been associated to the CNAS of Tribhuvan University as Research Fellow.
Advisor: Prof. Nirmal Thuladar.
- **Eastern Tibet** (Qinghai and Sichuan Provinces of the PRC)

- Shar mda' (Nang Chen, Yushu TAP), **September 2009.**
- mGo log, sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), and Shar mda' (Nang chen) in Khams (Qinghai and Sichuan Provinces of the PRC)
July-August 2007
- mGo log, sKye rgu mdo (Yushu) and Shar mda' (Nang chen) in Khams. (Qinghai and Sichuan Provinces of the PRC)
June-August 2006
- dKar mdzes, sDe dge, gSer rta, Padma, sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen), Lhasa. (Qinghai, Sichuan, and TAR Provinces of the PRC)
November 2005-January 2006
- mGo log, sKye dgu mdo (Yushu), and Shar mda' (Nang chen) in Khams (Qinghai and Sichuan Provinces of the PRC)
May-July 2005
- dKar mdzes, sDe dge, Lhasa. (Sichuan and TAR Provinces of the PRC)
October-December 2004
- sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen), and Beijing. (Qinghai Province of the PRC)
July-September 2004
- sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen) (Qinghai Province of the PRC)
June-September 2002
- sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen), and Beijing. (Qinghai Province of the PRC)
Funded by the CNWS/Leiden University.
August-September 2001
- sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen), and Beijing. Eastern Tibet (Qinghai Province of the PRC) and Nepal (Kathmandu)
Funded by the CNWS/Leiden University.
July 2000-January 2001
- sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen), Xining and Beijing. (Qinghai Province of the PRC)
June-September 1999
- Lhasa, sKye rgu mdo (Yushu), Shar mda' (Nang chen), Riwoche, Xining. (Qinghai and Lhasa Provinces of the PRC)
June-September 1998
- **Lhasa** (Tibet University). During an overall period of eighteen months (**July 1997-January 1999**) spent at the University I have also conducted research in the field of modern and contemporary literature of Tibet using both Chinese and Tibetan sources for a history of modern Tibetan literature in the TAR and focusing on the translation of some short stories of Tshe ring gnam ngon (see Works in Progress).

- **Taiwan, Republic of China** (Taoyuan and Taibei)
November 2002
- **Dharamsala, India** (Himachal Pradesh)
April-May 2001
- **Dharamsala, India** (Himachal Pradesh). During an overall period of twenty months (**August 1992-May 1994**) spent in Dharamsala completing a long term of Tibetan language and culture studies I conducted several months of ethnographic and Buddhist textual research on Tibetan oracles and spirit-mediums and specifically on the current medium of the gNas chung Oracle at the gNas chung monastery in Gangchen Kyishong, seat of the Tibetan Government in Exile.
- **Lhasa** (Tibetan Autonomous Region) gNas chung monastery
June 1993

MEMBERSHIP IN ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

International Association of Tibetan Studies (IATS)
American Academy of Religion (AAR)