

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Chipamong Chowdhury

### EDUCATION

- 2012 M.A. Religious Studies/South Asian Studies University of Toronto  
Thesis: *Merit Maker: Myth, Legend, Sacred Hagiography of Sivali-Saint in Theravada Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia.*
- 2010 M.A. Religious Studies, Naropa University, Boulder CO. USA  
Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Sanskrit Language  
Thesis: *Inception and Insight of Alayavijnana: A Theravada Interpretation and Critique.*
- 2005 M.A. Theravada Studies  
Post Graduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Thesis: *The Colors of Arahant: A Study in the Beauty and Fallacy of the Liberated One in Pali Buddhism*
- 2003 Diploma and B.A.  
International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, Myanmar.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theravada Studies; South and Southeast Asian Studies; Buddhist Philosophy; Rituals; Pali literature; Sexuality & Women Studies; Politics, Violence/ Non-Violence; Contemporary Monasticism; and Film studies.

### ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2012: Visiting Lecturer, Tallinn University  
Course Teaching currently: *Neo Buddha and New Buddhism: Religion, Politics, and Modern Society*
- 2012: Visiting Lecturer, Tallinn University  
Course Teaching Currently: *Enlightened Women: Buddhism, Women, Gender, Sexuality, and Female Asceticism*
- 2012: Teaching Assistant: *South Asian Religions.*  
University of Toronto. Mississauga Campus.
- 2010-11: Teaching Assistant: *Introduction to Buddhist Religious Traditions*  
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
- 2011: Teaching Assistant: *Introduction Buddhist Religious Traditions*  
University of Toronto. Mississauga Campus
- 2010: Teaching Assistant: *Asian Religions and Culture*

- University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus  
 2010: Teaching Assistant: *Introduction Buddhist Religious Traditions*  
 University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus  
 2010: *Introduction to World Religions*, New Vista High School, Boulder, Colorado,  
 USA. From March-May

#### INVITED TO GIVE LECTURES

- 2011: *What He Can/Can't Do: Bodhisattva in Jataka-Narratives and Contemporary Practices in Southeast Asia*. University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus  
 2011: *Buddhism Unlike Buddhism: Politics, Violence, and War Ideologies in Sri Lankan Buddhism*, University of Toronto, St. George Campus  
 2011: *Problems and Prospect: Theravada Monastic Practice in Asia and in Canada*, University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus  
 2010: *Authenticity of Pali Vinaya Literature and Its Evolution*. University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus  
 2009: *Robes and Begging Bowl: History, Origins, and Practices of Monastic Life of Monk in the South East Asia*. University of Colorado, Boulder  
 2008: *History of Buddhism in Bangladesh*. Colorado Christian University, Colorado  
 2005: *What was the Language of the Buddha?* Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

#### PUBLICATIONS: Articles and Book's Chapters

- 2013 (In preparation): "*What Buddhism does for Politics/What Politics do for Buddhism?: The Role of Diasporic Monastic Protests for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh)*" for edited volume.  
 2012: (In preparation ). *Monastic Migration and The Trans-Theravāda Buddhist Ritual Practice in Toronto*.  
 2010 "*Ethics of Non-Killing in Buddhist Thought*," In *Nonkilling History: Shaping Policy with Lessons from the Past*, edited by Antony Adolf. Honolulu: The Center for Global Nonviolence, pp. 195-209.  
 2010: *Did the Buddha Speak Pali: An Investigation of the Buddha-Vocana and Origins of Pali* ." Dhaka University of Journal of Linguistics, Vol. 2, No 4.  
 2007: "The King and the Philosopher: Historical and Textual Analysis of the Milinda-Pañha," *Journal of Nagarjuna Institute*, Vol. XI, Combined Issue, 2001-2007 pp.67-75.  
 2005: "*A Buddhist Empirical Response to September 11: Non-Violent Reaction as a Moral Weapon against Terror and Violence*." *The Buddhist Times*  
 2002: "*Universal Aspects of Buddhism*," *Annual Magazine*. Vol.3. ITBMU  
 2001: "*The Ancient Glory of Sri Lanka*." *Annual Magazine*, Vol. 2. ITBMU

#### PUBLICATIONS (Book Reviews)

- 2012: (At Press). Book Review of John C. Holt, *The Spirits of the Place: Buddhism and*

- Lao Religious Culture*, The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University.
- 2012: Book Review of Guillaume Rozenberg, *Renunciation and Power: The Quest for Sainthood in Contemporary Burma*. Journal of Religion and Popular Culture.
- 2012 Book Review of James A. Benn, Lori Meeks and James Robson (edited) *Buddhist Monasticism in East Asia: Places of Practice*, Studies in Religion/ Sciences Religieuses.
- 2012: Book of Review of Jeffrey Samuels, *Attracting the Heart: Social Relations and Aesthetics of Emotion in Sri Lankan Monastic Culture*. Contemporary Buddhism: Interdisciplinary Journal. Vol. 13. No 1. May 28.
- 2012: Book Review of Michael K. Jerryson and Mark Juergensmeyer (edited), *Buddhist Warfare*. Journal of Religion and Culture, vol. 23.
- 2011: Book Review of Anne Blackburn, *Locations of Buddhism: Colonialism & Modernity in Sri Lanka*. Annual Graduate Symposium, University of Toronto.
- 2010 Book Review of Stephen C. Berkwitz, *South Asian Buddhism: A Survey*. Buddhist Studies Reviews, Journal of the UK Association of Buddhist for Studies. Vol. 27, No 2.
- 2007: Book Review of Zobaida Nasrin, “*Muktijuddhe Parbatya Nari (Indigenous Women in Liberation War)*”, Daily Star.

#### RESEARCH PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

- 2012: *Marma of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Historical/ethnic relationship to Burma*. The 10<sup>th</sup> International Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, USA, October 5-7
- 2012: *Bangladeshi Buddhist Dilemma and Their diaspora in Toronto*. Eastern International Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion, University of Waterloo/ Wilfrid Laurier University, May 4-5
- 2012: *Neglected Saint: Arahant Sivali and Its Worships in Theravāda Buddhism*. University of California, Santa Barbara. April 19-20
- 2012: *What Buddhism does for Politics/What Politics do for Buddhism?: The Role of Diasporic Monastic Protests for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh)*, University of Toronto, April 13-15
- 2012: *Who Betrays Buddhism? Buddhist Monastic Politics and Sinhala Nationalism in Contemporary Sri Lanka*, Toronto. AAS: Association for Asian Studies, March, 17.
- 2011: “*Paritta: Theravada Buddhist Ritual Texts, Interpretation, and Contemporary Practices*,” Concordia University, Montréal, Québec, Canada, March 23-24
- 2011: “*Emergence of the Buddhist Monastic Political Party in Contemporary Sri Lankan Buddhism*” (The Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion), Syracuse University, New York. May 6-7.
- 2011: “*Simplicity and Complexity: Buddhist Diaspora and Monastic Migration*” at Wilfrid Laurie University, Canada. May 19-20.
- 2009: “*Practicing Non-Violent and Working on Peace*,” Columbia University, NY. December 8-9.
- 2009: “*Sexual Spirituality and Gender Identification: A Buddhist Interpretation*,” George Mason University. September 26.

2009. “*Contemplative Language of the Buddha: The Polemic Views of Language in the Buddhist literature.*” The 3rd SSEASR (International Conference of South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion/(IAHR): International Association for the History of Religions) Conference at Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) and Universitas Hindu Indonesia (UNHI) Bali, Indonesia. June 3-6. (Notes: Unable to participate).
- 2008: “*Feminine Spirituality and Its Dignity: History of Buddhist Feminine Philosophy*”. 11th Annual Conference of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies (HumanDHS) in Oslo, Norway. June/July.
- 2008: “*Inner Peace and Outer Peace: A Buddhist Contemplative Perspective*” Columbia University, NY December 8-9
- 2007: “*Alcoholism, Buddhism and Social Ethics: A Social Problem-Solving*,” Training Seminar on Drug Abuses Prevention and Treatment of the Abuser. Organized by Nepal Association for Humphrey Fellows (NAHF), Hotel Himalaya, Nepal.
- 2006: “*Backward Buddhists: A History of Marma Buddhist in Bangladesh*,” the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Buddhist Studies Conference, Organized by Sri Lankan Association For Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2012: Research Assistant for Professor Christoph Emmrich, Historical Studies, University of Toronto
- 2010-11: Research Assistant for Professor Christoph Emmrich, Historical Studies, University of Toronto
- 2004-05: Cataloguing and Surveying Buddhist Texts, PGIPBS, University of Kelaniya Colombo, Sri Lanka

#### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2011: Graduate Conference Travel Grant, University of Toronto.
- 2010: Rev. Mind-Chi Memorial Education Fund, CA. U.S.A.
- 2010: Graduate Conference Travel Grant, University of Toronto.
- 2007-10: Monastic Scholarship, Naropa University.
- 2007: Travel Grant for Conference, Mahidol University, Thailand.
- 2004: Rev. Mind-Chi Memorial Education Fund, CA. U.S.A.
- 2000-03: ITBM University fellowships, Yangon, Myanmar/Burma.

#### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- The HumanDHS Global Core Team Dignity and Humiliation Studies
- International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS)
- Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies (SLABS)

#### COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Founder and President: Karuna Association
- Co-coordinator: The HumanDHS of the World Gender Association For Equal Rights (WGenderRED Project)

Board Member: The Alumni Association of PGIPBS, University of Kelaniya,  
Sri Lanka  
BENO: Buddhist Education Network of Ontario, Canada.  
Social Coordinator for Graduate Student Association, Department for the  
Study of Religion, University of Toronto

#### SERVICES

2012- Senior Spiritual Adviser to Academy of Wisdom and Enlightenment  
2011- Present Consultant/Adviser to the Zenji Buddhist Museum Project in Toronto

#### LANGUAGE TRAINING

Pali (Three Years), ITBM University, Yangon, Burma.  
Pali (One Year PGIPBS), University of Kelaniya. Sri Lanka.  
Sanskrit (Three Years), Naropa University, Boulder, CO. USA.  
Classical Tibetan (One Semester), Naropa University, Boulder, CO. USA.  
Burmese (Three Years), ITBM University, Yangon, Burma.  
Sinhala (Non-Credit Sri Lankan language, two years at the local monastic institution  
Sri Lanka).

#### SPOKEN FLUENTLY

English, Bengali, Sinhalese, Hindi, Burmese, Urdu, Marma and Chakma

#### CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATED

2012: Theravada Civilization: University of Toronto.  
2009: Sex and Texts: Representations of Sexuality in Asia Religious Traditions  
Conference. University of Colorado, Boulder.  
2008: UNPFII: Seventh Sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on  
Indigenous Issues, U.N. Headquarters, New York, 21 April - 2 May.  
2008: Women in American Buddhism (Organized by Buddhist Studies Institute,  
Berkeley, and Tri-state Buddhist Temple), Denver, Tri-State Buddhist Temple  
2007: International Conference on Buddhism and Science and Practical Workshop  
Mahidol University, Thailand.  
2007: Lokasanskriti Karmashala: Lokogyane Pravada and Pravachaner Bhumika (In  
Bangla). Dhaka, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.  
2006: Korea-Sri Lanka Buddhist Academic Conference: A Vajrayana Seminar Colombo,  
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.  
2005: The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Buddhist Studies, University of Colombo  
2005: International Conference on Portuguese Encounter, Colombo, BMICH.  
2002: Buddhist Metta and HIV Projects in Burma (Organized by UNDP), Yangon,  
Myanmar.

#### EVENTS ORGANIZED/CONFERENCES COORDINATED

2011: *Solidarity Walk for Marma People in the Chittagong*. Toronto.  
2010: *Peace Walk Against Religious Persecution and Protection of Marma Ethnic  
Minority in the Chittagong*. Boulder, Colorado.

- 2007: *Vigil for Burma: A Kindle Prayer for Burma*. Boulder, Colorado.
- 2007: *From Boulder To Burma: A Silent March in Solidarity with Aung San Suu Kyi and The Burmese People in their Quest for Freedom and Democracy*. Boulder, Colorado.
- 2006: *2555th Buddha-Jayanthi Celebration and Sri Lankan Buddhist Cultural Performance*. London, UK.
- 2006: *Musical Voice of Buddhism: A Musical program*. Colombo, BMICH, Sri Lanka.
- 2005: *The Global Buddhist Conference: Buddhist Humanitarian Services in a Post-Tsunami Context*, BMICH, Sri Lanka.

#### TEACHING IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

- 2008-09: *Introduction to Buddhism*, Laos Buddhist Temple, Colorado
- 2006-7: *Pali Language*, Vishwa Shanti Bauddha Shikshalaya (World Peace Buddhist Institute), Kathmandu, Nepal (December to February)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCES

- 2008-2010 Library Assistant: Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- 2008-9: Interpreter for Burmese Refugees (Voluntarily) Denver, Colorado.
- 2005: Tsunami Housing Project (Voluntarily). Sri Lanka.
- 2005: Water Harvesting Project (Voluntarily) Sri Lanka.
- 2004-05: Compassion Buddhist Institute, Sri Lanka.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

- Book: *Introductory Guide to the Pali Buddhist Texts* (pp.100).

#### PUBLIC TALKS

- 2008: *Significant of Five Precepts: A Contemporary Perspective*. Shambhala Mountain Center, Colorado.
- 2008: *Freedom Through Meditation*. Rocky Mountain Insight Meditation Center. Colorado Spring, USA.
- 2008: *Buddhist Moral Philosophy and Ethics: Classical Doctrinal Perspective*. Community for Spiritual Living, Colorado Spring, USA.

Updated: 13/06/12.