

FACULTY PROFILE



George Pati, Assistant Professor of Theology

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Education

Ph.D. - Boston University, 2006

Area of Specialization

History of Religions, Hinduism, Colonial India, Kerala, Malayalam Language and Literature, South Asian Languages and Cultures, Rituals and Performances.

Courses Taught

Religions of South Asia; Hinduism; Perspectives on Religious Quest; Devotional Traditions of Hinduism; Passage to Contemporary India (IS); Goddess, Saints, and Women of India (IS); Religions of China and Japan

Currently Teaching

- Hinduism (THEO 360/560)
- Perspectives on Religious Quest (THEO 369/569)

Coming Fall 2009

- Indian Religions and Culture (THEO 361/561)
- Religions of China and Japan (THEO 363/563)
- Topics in South Asian Religions: Religions, Rituals and Performances (THEO 367/567)

Research Interests

Teaching and Research Interests George Pati's primary research

Department of Theology - Valparaiso University
and teaching interests lie in historical study of south Asian religions, with special emphasis on Kerala, south India. His current research focuses specifically on the mediation of religion in modern Kerala through texts, traditions, and theatrical performances. More generally, he has strong interest in theoretical issues in the History of Religions, and is also working on a manuscript exploring articulations of religion, identity, tradition and modernity in Kerala during colonial period. His doctoral dissertation entitled, "Experience, Expression, and Emancipation: Encountering Bhakti in Kumaran Asan's Malayalam Poem," examined Hindu religious aspects (bhakti) in Malayalam poetry and poetic imagination with reference to Kumaran Asan's (1873-1924) poems.

Professional Affiliations

- American Academy of Religion
- Association for Asian Studies
- American Oriental Society
- Modern Language Association
- Kerala Council for Historical Research

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