

*Curriculum Vitae**Linda Hess*Home:

1520 Blake Street
 Berkeley, CA 94703
 510-590-1874
 e-mail: lionda@stanford.edu

Office:

Dept. of Religious Studies
 Stanford University
 Stanford, CA 94305-2165
 Tel. 650-725-9732; Fax 650-725-1476

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley, 1980
 M.A. in Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley, 1974
 B.A. in English with Great Distinction, Honors in Humanities, Stanford University, 1964

EMPLOYMENT

2008-present: Senior Lecturer, Religious Studies, Stanford University
 1996-2008: Lecturer, Religious Studies, Stanford University
 2006-2009: Co-Director, Center for South Asia, Stanford University
 1995-97: Lecturer, Religious Studies, U.C. Davis
 1986-94: Assistant Professor, South and Southeast Asian Studies, U.C. Berkeley
 1984-85: Lecturer, Religious Studies, U.C. Davis
 Visiting Asst. Professor, Religion, Dartmouth College
 1982-83: Visiting Asst. Professor, Religion, Barnard College
 1970-74: Teaching Assistant, Teaching Associate, Comparative Literature, U.C. Berkeley
 1973: Lecturer, Indian Studies, Calif. State University, Sonoma
 1966-69: Asian Literature Program, Asia Society, New York
 1965-66: Lecturer in English, Elphinstone College, Bombay

ACADEMIC HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Stanford Institute for International Studies, Hewlett Grant for research in India (short-term), 2005
 American Institute of Indian Studies/National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship, 2002
 Citation from Government of India for contribution to Hindi literary studies, International Hindi Conference,
 London 1999.
 American Academy of Religion Research Grant, 1995
 American Institute of Indian Studies Summer Fellowship, 1995
 University of California Humanities Research Fellowship, 1992
 American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship, 1988-89
 University of California President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities, 1988-89
 Fulbright Scholarship, 1988 (declined)
 Fellow, Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College, 1985-86
 Social Science Research Council grant, 1983

Smithsonian Institution grant to India, 1978
 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship, 1975
 American Institute of Indian Studies Language Program Fellowship, 1973
 Graduate and undergraduate scholarships, including 1978 Phi Beta Kappa
 fellowship at Berkeley
 Fulbright scholarship to India, 1964-65
 Phi Beta Kappa
 Stanford B.A. with Great Distinction, Honors in Humanities;

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming: *Bodies of Song: Kabir Oral Traditions and Performative Worlds in Northern India.*
2011. Review of *The Memory of Love: Sūrdās Sings to Krishna* by John Stratton Hawley, in *The Journal of Asian Studies* (70:3), 868-870.
2009. *Singing Emptiness: Kumar Gandharva Performs the Poetry of Kabir.* Calcutta: Seagull Books. Distributed in the US by University of Chicago Press.
2009. "Fighting Over Kabir's Dead Body," in *From Ancient to Modern: Religion, Power, and Community in North India*, ed. Ishita Banerjee and Saurabh Dube. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- 2006 "Ramlila: The Audience Experience," in *The Life of Hinduism*, ed. John Stratton Hawley and Vasudha Narayanan. Berkeley: University of California Press, forthcoming. (Revised version of 1983c below.)
- 2003 "Kabir in Song," an introduction to Kabir oral traditions with translations and transliterations of 26 songs from the folk tradition of Malwa, Madhya Pradesh. Created for use in the "Kabir in Song" U.S. tour. (See under Service, Special Projects ..., Sept.-Nov. 2003.)
- 2002 *The Bijak of Kabir.* Translations by Linda Hess and Shukdev Singh, Essays and Notes by Linda Hess (new edition of 1983 book). New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2000 "Lovers' Doubts: Questioning the Tulsi *Ramayana*." In *Questioning Ramayanas: A South Asian Tradition.* Ed. Paula Richman. Berkeley: University of California Press, & New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- 1999a "Rejecting Sita: Indians Respond to the Ideal Man's Cruel Treatment of His Ideal Wife." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 67:1: 1-32.
- 1999b "Kabir in Translation," *Encyclopedia of Literary Translation*, ed. Olive Classe. London: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 1994a "The Ram Legend as Theatre," in *The Legend of Rama: Artistic Visions*, ed. Vidya Dehejia. Bombay: Marg Publications.
- 1994b "Marshalling Sacred Texts: Ram's Name and Story in Late Twentieth-Century Indian Politics." *Journal of Vaisnava Studies* 2:4: 175-206.
- 1994c *A Touch of Grace: Songs of Kabir.* Translated with Shukdev Singh, introduction by Linda Hess.

Boston: Shambhala Books.

- 1993 "Staring at Frames Till They Turn into Loops: An Excursion through Some Worlds of Tulsidas," in *Living Banaras: Hindu Religion in Cultural Context*, ed. C.A. Humes and B. Hertel. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- 1988a "The Poet, the People and the Western Scholar: Influence of a Sacred Drama and Text on Social Values in North India." *Theatre Journal*, 40: 236-53.
- 1988b "The Ramlila of Ramnagar: An Introduction and Day to Day Description." 55 pp. booklet (written at the request of the Maharaja of Banaras for use by visitors to the annual 30-day Ramlila performance). Rev. 1991.
- 1987a "Kabir's Rough Rhetoric," in *The Sants: Studies in a Devotional Tradition of India*, ed. Karine Schomer and W.H. McLeod. Berkeley: Religious Studies Series, and Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- 1987b "Three Kabir Collections: A Comparative Study," *The Sants: Studies in a Devotional Tradition of India*, ed. Karine Schomer and W.H. McLeod. Berkeley: Religious Studies Series, and Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- 1986a "Indian Religious Poetry," in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 11, ed. Mircea Eliade. New York: Macmillan.
- 1986b "South Asian Islamic Poetry" (with Annemarie Schimmel), in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 11, ed. Mircea Eliade. New York: Macmillan.
- 1986c "Kabir," in *Encyclopedia of South Asian History*, ed. Ainslie Embree. New York: Columbia University Press.
- 1983a *The Bijak of Kabir*. Translations by Linda Hess and Shukdev Singh, Essays and Notes by Linda Hess. San Francisco: North Point Press, and Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- 1983b "The Cow is Sucking at the Calf's Teat: Kabir's Upside-Down Language," *History of Religions* 22: 313-37.
- 1983c "Ramlila: The Audience Experience," in *Bhakti in Current Research, 1979 - 1982*, ed. Monika Thiel-Horstmann. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag.
- 1980 "Selections from the Bijak of Kabir," translated with Shukdev Singh. *Malahat Review* No. 54: 77-89.
- 1977 "The Ramlila of Ramnagar," with Richard Schechner. In *The Drama Review* 21: 51-82.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

February 2009. "A Village Folk Singer Embodies Living Kabir Traditions in Madhya Pradesh." Invitational conference, "Approaching the Gods: Indian Religiosity and the Experience of the Divine," sponsored by Princeton University's Center for the Study of Religions and Program in South Asian Studies.

- March-May 2009. Convenor, North American tour of Kabir music performance and documentary films, in collaboration with Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Government of India.
- March 2008. "This Tambura is Going to London: Kabir's Boat Sails from the Channels of Local Folk Tradition across Streams of Mass Media into the Sea of Global Flows." Invitational conference on performance in South Asia, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
- September 2007. "Kabir's Songs of the Body." Invitational conference, "Yoga Traditions in North Indian Literature and Religion." El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City.
- March 2006. "Kabir Says, *Listen!*—Bringing the Oral-Performative into Textual Studies in India." Invited by the Dept. of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- April 2005. "Listening to Kabir: A Saga of Religious Transmission in India and Beyond." The Goodspeed Endowed Lectureship in Philosophy and Religion at Denison University, Granville, Ohio.
- October 2004. "The Goddess in India," public lecture, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.
- September 2004. "Political Kabir Meets Religious Kabir in Madhya Pradesh" Lecture at Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi.
- November 2003. "Political/Spiritual Kabir." Paper presented at American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta.
- October 2003. "True Words of Kabir: Bringing Together Oral, Written, and Multimedia Traditions." Paper presented at annual South Asia Conference, Madison, WI.
- September 2003. "America Janewale Kabir" ("Kabir Goes to America"). Lecture in Hindi at Hindi Sahitya Samiti, Indore, co-sponsored by Kabir Jan Vikas Samuh.
- August 2002. "Oral Kabir, Written Kabir." Lecture at Sahitya Akademi (national literary academy), New Delhi, co-sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University.
- November 2000. "Wendy Doniger: A Retrospective." Paper presented at American Academy of Religion annual meeting.
- December 1999. "'Kabir Says...': 600 Years of Voices." Invitational conference hosted by the Sahitya Akademi (India's national academy of letters), Varanasi, India.
- September 1999. "Introduction to Sikhism," public lecture, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.
- June 1999. "Kabir Goes Global." Invitational conference: The 600th Anniversary of Kabir's Birth. South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- November 1998. "Oral Tradition Goes Global: 'Kabir Says,' from Sadhus to CDs to the Minnesota Symphony." Religion in South Asia Section, annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion.

- October 1998. "Rejecting Sita: Indians Respond to the Ideal Man's Cruel Treatment of His Ideal Wife." Paper presented at annual South Asia Conference, Madison, WI.
- May 1998. Invited presenter at Columbia University's "Sita Symposium."
- July 1997. Lecturer at NEH summer institute for secondary teachers on "The *Ramayana* and Indian Culture," Syracuse University.
- January 1996. "The Space of a Poem: What Happens When You Sing Kabir?" Invited lecture at University of Pennsylvania South Asia Seminar.
- November 1995. "After Dec. 6, 1992: How Indian Intellectuals are Looking at Secularism." Panel on "Religion and Secularism in India," annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia.
- June-July 1995. Lectures on Indian literature in NEH Institute for elementary and secondary school teachers, Casper, Wyoming.
- April 1995. Invited lectures at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio (see October 1994).
- October 1994. "God Stays Here for a Month: The Ramlila of Ramnagar," and "Marshalling Sacred Texts: The Ramayana in Late Twentieth-Century Indian Politics"--two invited lectures at Bard College, Annandale, New York.
- July 1994. "Living the *Ramayana* in Banaras: Ramlila Performance and its Meanings." Full-day presentation at NEH summer institute for high school teachers, Syracuse University.
- April 1993. "Lovers' Doubts: A Way of Questioning the Tulsi *Ramayana*." Panel on "Questioning the *Ramayana*" at annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Los Angeles, California.
- February 1993. University of Wisconsin South Asia Proseminar in Culture, Gender, and Religion: one-week residency with three public lectures on Ramlila performance.
- July 1992. "What is the West?," 30-minute radio presentation on *Social Thought*, broadcast on KALW, KQED, and other NPR stations across the country.
- November 1991. "I Swear to Rid the Earth of Demons: The Tulsi *Ramayana* and Ram *Bhakti* in the *Ram-janma-bhumi* Movement." American Academy of Religion, Kansas City.
- September 1991. "Every Living Being Was Once Your Mother: Interconnectedness and Nonviolence in Indian Religions." Invited lecture in public series sponsored by Peace and Conflict Studies, U.C. Berkeley.
- May 1991. "Uses of the *Ramayana* in Twentieth-Century Indian Political Movements." Invitational conference on *bhakti* and society, El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City.
- Oct. 1989. "The *Mahabharata* on Indian Television." Invitational conference on Modern Popular / Performative Contexts for the *Mahabharata* . Southern Asia Institute, Columbia University.

- July 1989. "Research on Tulsidas," All India Radio interview (in Hindi), New Delhi.
- Jan. 1989. "Women and the *Ramayana*" (in Hindi). Lecture at Women's College of Banaras Hindu University, India.
- Dec. 1988. "Research on *Ramayana* and Ramlila" (in Hindi). Fourth International Ramayana Sammelan, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- May 1988. "The Poet, the People, and the Western Scholar: Values in the Tulsi *Ramayana*." Invitational conference: Reconceptualizing the Individual in South Asian Culture and Society, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, U.C., Santa Barbara.
- March 1988. "Religion and Politics in the History of the Ramlila of Ramnagar." Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, San Francisco.
- Sept. 1987. "From Text to Performance: How the Ramnagar Ramlila Was Created." Conference on Modern *Ramayana* Traditions, Friedrich-Wilhelms Universitat, Bonn, Germany.

SERVICE, SPECIAL PROJECTS, PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- March-May 2009. Organizer of and participant in two-month tour of Kabir documentary films by Shabnam Virmani and Kabir singers, with screenings and performances in about 25 universities in the US and Canada. Co-sponsored by Indian Council of Cultural Relations (Government of India).
- Faculty leader, Stanford Overseas Seminar, "Gandhi and his Legacy in India, the US, and the World," Aug-Sept. 2008. Co-leading a group of 16 students to India with M.L. King expert, Prof. Clayborne Carson.
- Member, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Indian Studies
- Faculty leader, Stanford Alumni Study-Travel trips to India, November 2007 and December 2008.
- Associate Director, Pan-Asian Music Festival, Stanford University, Feb. 2006.
- Faculty advisor, Hindu Student Association at Stanford.
- Sept-Nov. 2003: Organizer of and participant in "Kabir in Song," a two-month tour of Kabir singers in the U.S., with more than 30 performances in eight states, co-sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations and many U.S. universities.
- Member, American Academy of Religion
Elected member of Steering Committee, Religion in South Asia Section of the American Academy of Religion, 2004-07.
Elected national co-chair, Religion in South Asia Section of the American Academy of Religion, 2004-07; declined.
Elected and served as Chair, 1992-95, Religion in South Asia Section of the American Academy of Religion.

Member, Association of Asian Studies

Organizer of three conferences under the Evans-Wentz Lectureship in Asian Philosophy, Religion, and Ethics at Stanford University:

October 1999: "Early Indian Religions: Interactions."

May 2005: "Krishna in Springtime," an academic symposium and Odissi dance performance.

February 2006: "Sufi Music: South Asian Qawwali and Debates on Music in Islam."

Organizer of lecture series, "Religious Identities and Communities in Modern South Asia," Stanford University, spring 2000.

Coordinator of South Asia Initiative Public Events, Stanford University, 1999-2001

COURSES TAUGHT

Courses on South Asian religion and culture: Hinduism; Religions of India; Gandhi and Nonviolence; Religion and Music in South Asia; *Ramayana* Traditions; The *Mahabharata* Epic; Hindus and Muslims in South Asia; Goddesses and Gender in Hinduism; Indian Religious Poetry; Religious Classics of South Asia; Religious Identity, Community, and Conflict in Modern South Asia; Introduction to the Civilization of India; Great Books of India.

Comparative/cross-cultural courses: Introduction to Humanities; Introduction to Religion; Religion and Performance; Myth, Ritual, and Symbol; Pilgrimage; Mysticism; Religious Drama; Religious Ritual; Major Topics in the Study of Religion; Introduction to Eastern Religions.

Graduate seminars: Textwork/Fieldwork in South Asia; The Lives and Uses of South Asian Texts; Issues of Representation in South Asian Studies.

Language teaching: advanced Hindi, introductory French.