

STEVEN TSOUKALAS, Ph.D.
(859) 553-5213
steven.tsoukalas@wheaton.edu

Education

- Ph.D.** THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, Birmingham, UK, 2004
- Th.M.** HARVARD UNIVERSITY, THE DIVINITY SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA 2001
- M.Div.** GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, S. Hamilton, MA 1990
- B.S.** UNIVERSITY OF LOWELL, Lowell, MA 1978

Publications

Forthcoming: "Who Qualifies and What Is Brahman? A Comparative Study on Vedanta Sutra 1.1.1." *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*

"Om in the Bhagavad Gita: Meaning and Significance." *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, 24.2 (Spring 2016): 39-63.

Bhagavadgita: Exegetical and Comparative Commentary with Sanskrit Text, Translation, Interlinear Transliteration with Parsing, Mini Lexicon, and Text-Critical Notes. Vol. 6 (501 pages). Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2015.

Studies in the Ontology of the Bhagavad Gita: What Is One's View of God, the Universe, and the Soul? Editor. With Gerald Surya, associate editor. Lewiston, N.Y. The Edwin Mellen Press, 2015.

"Gita Ontology: a Brief Essay." In Steven Tsoukalas, ed., and Gerald Surya, assoc. ed., *Studies in the Ontology of the Bhagavad Gita: What Is One's View of God, the Universe, and the Soul?* Lewiston, N.Y. The Edwin Mellen Press, 2015.

"Sankara's Gita Ontology." In Steven Tsoukalas, ed., and Gerald Surya, assoc. ed., *Studies in the Ontology of the Bhagavad Gita: What Is One's View of God, the Universe, and the Soul?* Lewiston, N.Y. The Edwin Mellen Press, 2015.

"The Nation of Islam: History, Beliefs and Practices." In Terry C. Muck, ed., *Handbook of Religion*, pp. 500-504. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

"The Nation of Islam: Theological Exchanges, Current Issues." In Terry C. Muck, ed., *Handbook of Religion*, pp. 505-509. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014

"Freemasonry: History, Beliefs and Practices." In Terry C. Muck, ed., *Handbook of Religion*, pp. 690-93. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

"Freemasonry: Theological Exchanges, Current Issues." In Terry C. Muck, ed. *Handbook of Religion*, pp. 694-98. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Bhagavadgita: Exegetical and Comparative Commentary with Sanskrit Text, Translation, Interlinear Transliteration with Parsing, Mini Lexicon, and Text-Critical Notes. Volume 5 (355 pages). Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2012.

Bhagavadgita: Exegetical and Comparative Commentary with Sanskrit Text, Translation, Interlinear Transliteration with Parsing, Mini Lexicon, and Text-Critical Notes. Volume 4 (406 pages). Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2010.

“Is the Bhagavad Gita Pluralistic? No and Yes!” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, 19.1 (Fall 2010): 93-107.

Bhagavadgita: Exegetical and Comparative Commentary with Sanskrit Text, Translation, Interlinear Transliteration with Parsing, Mini Lexicon, and Text-Critical Notes. Volume 3 (367 pages). Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008.

Bhagavadgita: Exegetical and Comparative Commentary with Sanskrit Text, Translation, Interlinear Transliteration with Parsing, Mini Lexicon, and Text-Critical Notes. Volume 2 (439 Pages). Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008.

Bhagavadgita: Exegetical and Comparative Commentary with Sanskrit Text, Translation, Interlinear Transliteration with Parsing, Mini Lexicon, and Text-Critical Notes. Volume 1 (423 pages). Lewiston, N.Y.: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2007.

Krsna and Christ: Body-Divine Relation in the Thought of Sankara, Ramanuja, and Classical Christian Orthodoxy. Theological Monographs Series. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2006.

“Krishna and Christ: the Body-Divine Relation in Bhagavad Gītā 9:11,” in Catherine Cornille, ed., *Song Divine: Christian Commentaries on the Bhagavad Gītā*. Leuven, Belgium: Peeters Publishers, and Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2006.

“A Christian Response to Islam: Is Islam a Peaceful Religion?” *The Asbury Journal*, 61.1 (Spring 2006): 71-82.

“Understanding the Nation of Islam: Toward a More Effective Evangelism,” in *Missiology: An International Review*, 32.4 (October 2004): 449-64.

“Should Christians Join the Masonic Lodge?” *Christian Research Journal*, 28.6, 2005.

The Nation of Islam: Understanding the “Black Muslims.” Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2001.

Christian Faith 101: The Basics and Beyond. Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson Press, 2000.

Knowing Christ in the Challenge of Heresy: A Christology of the Cults, A Christology of the Bible. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1999.

Masonic Rites and Wrongs: An Examination of Freemasonry. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1995.

Professional Positions

Guest Assistant Professor of World Religions, Wheaton College, Wheaton Illinois (2013-2016)

Associate Professor of Apologetics and Christian Thought; Co-Director of the M.A. Theology, Apologetics Concentration, Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, MS (2007-2013)

Adjunct Faculty, Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, MS (2005-2007)

Visiting Assistant Professor of World Religions, Centre College, Danville, KY (Spring 2006)

Adjunct Faculty, Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky (2005-2006; Biblical Hebrew)

Adjunct Faculty, Asbury Theological Seminary: E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism, Wilmore, Kentucky (2001-2006; teaching "Cults and New Religious Movements")

Visiting Lecturer, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts (1991-1994; teaching "Cults and New Religious Movements")

Executive Director, Sound Doctrine Ministries. A ministry committed to the education of the Church regarding the beliefs of New Religious movements for the purpose of edification and evangelism, Exeter NH (1986 to present), <http://sdmin.com>

Membership in Academic Societies

American Academy of Religion

Evangelical Theological Society

Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

Courses Taught

World Religions, Middle East

World Religions, Asia

Hinduism

Islam

Christianity's Encounter with World Religions

New Religious Movements

Cults and the Occult

Biblical Greek

Biblical Hebrew

Sanskrit

Philosophy of Christian Religion

Knowing Christ in the Challenge of Heresy

Christian Apologetics

Systematic Theology

Christian Thought

Knowing and Doctrine in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Taoism

Select Lectures Presented

Preaching series: "Jesus Cannot Be Reasonably Ignored" (Redwood Christian Park, Boulder Creek, CA;

June 2013)

"Is Biblical Christianity the Uniquely True Religion?" (Salvation Army Training Center, Arlington, TX; debate with atheist Dr. Zachary Moore [PhD, molecular biology, University of Cincinnati], 2012)

"Jesus and Krsna: Whose Name as 'No Other'?" (Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 2011)

"Islam" (Theta Phi Lectures, Asbury Theological Seminary, Fall 2011)

"Secret History of the Freemasons" *Discovery Channel* (Sept 6, 2010; Gary Lang, director; interviewed for a three-part series on Freemasonry), <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/secret-history-of-the-freemasons/>

"*Sabda Pramana* in Sankara's and Ramanuja's Vedanta" (American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2008)

"Krishna and Christ: A Comparative Study concerning the Body-Soul-Divine Relation in the *Manusi Tanu* (Human Form) of *Bhagavadgita* 9:11" (American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2006)

"A Christian Response to Islam" (Theta Phi Lectures, Asbury Theological Seminary, Fall 2005)

"Jesus and Krsna: A Comparative Study of Orthodoxy's Incarnation and Vedanta's *Avatara* in Sankara and Ramanuja" (Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 2003)

"Worldviews" (Seminario ESEPA in San José, Costa Rica; two-week intensive course on worldviews, January, 2003)

"Sankara's Advaita Vedanta and Christian Science: Some Similarities" (Evangelical Theological Society Regional Meeting, March 2002)

"Understanding the Nation of Islam (the Black Muslims): A Missiological Imperative" (Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 2002)

"Is Hinduism Only Monistic? The Vedanta of Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva" (Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 2002)

"Christianity and the Cults" (lecture series, St. Luke U.M. Church, Lexington, KY, Fall 2000)

"The Use of Apologetics in Evangelism" (Bowdoin College; sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1999)

"Introduction to the Cults" (New York University; two-day series of lectures on the cults for the Korean Christian Fellowship, 1998)

"Knowing Christ in the Challenge of Heresy" (L'Abri Fellowship, 1997)

"Introduction to the Cults" (Boston College; sponsored by a campus Christian fellowship, 1996)

“Mormon Doctrine” (Lecture presented at Harvard University, Professor Timothy Fulop's graduate seminar, *Religions in the United States*, Fall 1996)

“Reaching The Nation of Islam” and “Introduction to the Cults” (Philadelphia School of Urban Missions, 1994 and 1996; six-hour weekend seminars designed to train inner-city pastors to evangelize members of New Religious Movements)

“The Boston Church of Christ” (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA; sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ, 1991)

Commendations for Ph.D. Dissertation

(Published as *Krsna and Christ: Body-Divine Relation in the Thought of Sankara, Ramanuja, and Classical Christian Orthodoxy*. Paternoster, 2006)

“This is a learned, nuanced, and penetrating work of scholarship which succeeds in demonstrating the theological differences between the Christian concept of Incarnation and that of the Krishna avatara in classical Vedanta, but at the same time indicates the rich possibilities for dialogue between the two traditions. A landmark work in the field of Christian-Hindu theology.” *Julius Lipner, Professor of Hinduism and the Comparative Study of Religion, University of Cambridge*

“This superb study should be required reading before any further consideration of the topic; it permanently lays to rest the notion that *avatara* and Incarnation mark identical theological constructions ... Sobered by the scholarly discipline T[soukalas] demands and exemplifies, we should be able to hope for more of the constructive, positive theologizing that then becomes possible only after reading this work.” *Francis X. Clooney, Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology and Director of the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University*

“This volume is a penetrating exploration of crucial differences between Christianity's incarnation of Christ and certain Hindu traditions' doctrines of Krishna avatara. Dr. Tsoukalas's study lays out strong epistemological and doctrinal foundations, and well-documented conclusions for those who desire to take the discussion beyond comparative issues into the more strongly contested arena of conflicting truth claims. Christians and Hindus alike will find it an invaluable resource for helping them understand common concerns as well as what is at stake in the profound differences between avatar and incarnation.” *Jerry L. Walls, Professor of Philosophy, Houston Baptist University*

“There are quite a few books available today that seek to ‘compare’ religions. However, there are not many that have done it quite as well as Tsoukalas has in this excellent text. Tsoukalas is not just content with hasty assimilations but instead provides an expert, detailed and lucid analysis of the textual and philosophical background to Hindu notions of avatara and Christian concepts of incarnation. The result is an important and significant contribution to scholarship—not only in Hindu-Christian comparative studies but also to comparative literature generally.” *David Cheetham, Director, Centre for the Study of Christianity and South Asian Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham*