

**DR. PAULA PRYCE**  
Honorary SSHRC Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow  
Department of Anthropology, University of British Columbia

- 2015      Doctor of Philosophy, Anthropology  
Boston University  
(dissertation: *The Porous Cell: Monastic Ritual, Intentional Living, and Varieties of Knowledge in American Contemplative Christianity*. Charles Lindholm, advisor)
- 1995      Master of Arts, Anthropology  
University of Toronto  
(thesis: *'Keeping the Lakes' Way': Reburial and the Re-creation of a Moral World among an Invisible People*. Stuart Philpott, advisor)
- 1991      Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology  
University of British Columbia

Refereed Books:

- 2018      ***The Monk's Cell: Ritual and Knowledge in American Contemplative Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press.**  
[Doctoral dissertation accepted for publication without any changes requested. Publication date December 2017.]
- 1999      ***"Keeping the Lakes' Way": Reburial and the Re-creation of a Moral World among an Invisible People*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.**  
[First published monograph of the Sinixt Interior Salish people – reviewed favourably by *American Ethnologist* and seven other peer-reviewed scholarly journals.]

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles and Scholarly Publications:

- forthcoming      “‘Unitive Being’ in the Face of Atrocity: North American Contemplative Christian Responses to Terrorism.” *Encountering the Other*. Laura Duhan Kaplan and Harry O. Maier, eds. Eugene: Wipf and Stock.
- under consideration      “Listening: Ethnographic Methods for the Study of Silence and Contemplation.”  
Currently under review with *American Ethnologist*.
- 2015      *The Porous Cell: Monastic Ritual, Intentional Living, and Varieties of Knowledge in American Contemplative Christianity*. Doctoral Dissertation. Department of Anthropology. Boston University.
- 2002      “Response to Bouchard and Kennedy’s Review of *'Keeping the Lakes' Way'*.” *BC Studies*. 132: 109-111.

- 1995            *'Keeping the Lakes' Way': Reburial and the Re-creation of a Moral Worlds among an Invisible People.* Master's Thesis. Department of Anthropology. University of Toronto.
- 1992            "The Manipulation of Culture and History: A Critique of Two Expert Witnesses." *Native Studies Review.* 8(1): 35-46.

Other Major Works:

- 1993            "The Witches' Street." *Morningside with Peter Gzowski.* CBC Radio. Heather Brown, producer. First aired April 9, 1993. [Radio play based on my life and work (1988/1991) with Aymara people in Bolivia.]
- 1989            *Kindling.* Sparx Theatre Collective. Vancouver Fringe Festival. [Play based on conflict between BC First Nations and resource industries, including aspects of Northwest Coast mythology. Workshopped with First Nations actors. Reviewed favourably by CBC Theatre critic, Jeremy Wasserman.]

Selected Awards and Honours:

- 2016-2018      **SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (\$81,000)
- 2015            **Outstanding Student of Religion and World Affairs**  
Center for Religion and World Affairs (CURA), Boston University
- 2013            **Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship** (Finalist)  
[The major Religious Studies graduate fellowship in the United States]
- 2012            **Dissertation Writing Fellowship, The Louisville Institute** (US\$19,000)  
[The major private funding foundation for scholarship on American Religion]
- 2008-2011      **SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship**, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (\$60,000)
- 2007-2008      **Presidential Fellowship, Boston University** (US\$20,000 + US\$50,000 tuition)
- 2007-2014      **Boston University Graduate Scholarships** (US\$58,000)
- 1998            Canada Council for the Arts, Professional Writer's Award (\$10,000)
- 1993-1995      Ontario Graduate Scholarships, University of Toronto (\$18,000)

## Research:

2016-2018      **Honorary SSHRC Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow**  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)  
Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia

My current research includes:

- preliminary investigations for new research in Christian-Hindu inter-religiosity and social media networking at the Shantivanam Ashram in Tamil Nadu, India, and at its sister monastery, New Camaldoli Hermitage in California.
- comparative phenomenology of contemplative Christian understandings of time and space in global networks and local monastic communities
- the relationship of silence and phenomenological intersubjectivity in theatrical and musical performance (contemplative Christian chant practitioners; early music ensembles; a repertory theatre company)
- contemplative Christian responses to terrorism and violence
- continuing development of “intersubjective research” methods for the study of silence and contemplation

2016-ongoing    **Research Associate**  
Vancouver School of Theology

2014-2016      **Research Associate**  
Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies  
Universität Zürich

2009-2014      **Doctoral Fieldwork and Dissertation Writing**  
American Contemplative Christians: Phenomenological Intersubjectivity, Pluralism, and Variable Knowledges

During doctoral fieldwork I studied the effects of pluralism and intensive religious practice on perception in the American arm of a global Christian meditation network. Emphasizing the role of social media, chant, and visual aesthetics on changes in perception, I devised a model of variable epistemological categories (including relational clines of intellectual, performative, and experiential knowledges, as well as “unknowing”) in an attempt to depict local theories of mind in relation to the unwieldy dynamism of cosmopolitan societies. My multi-sited study of the phenomenology of silence, formal contemplative practices, and intentional living among monastic and non-monastic American contemplative Christians required an extended period (2009-2012) because of the challenging interiorized ethnographic environment which required me to develop innovative “intersubjective” research techniques and because of the widespread nature of the network. This research drew together epistemological theory, anthropology of the senses and perception, ritual and performance studies, media anthropology, political economy, and the anthropology of Christianity. My dissertation was published by Oxford University Press in December 2017.

2003-2007      Transition to New Research / Parental Leave

1993-2003      **Ethnographic Researcher and Author, Sinixt Interior Salish**  
Southeast British Columbia / northeast Washington State

This long-term ethnographic research focused on the lived relationships with ancestral spirits and socioeconomic and political marginalization of the Sinixt Interior Salish (or Lakes), a North American Plateau people whose historical territory straddles the Canada/US border. I asked how intensive political environments, mortuary rites, spiritual training, and notions of time, place, personhood, and death foster phenomenological intersubjectivity and transform modes of existence. From this research, I published the first ethnography of Sinixt people, *'Keeping the Lakes' Way: Reburial and the Re-creation of a Moral World among an Invisible People*.

1997-1998      **Ethnographic Researcher, Christian Doukhobor Community**  
West Kootenay region, BC, Canada

I did ethnographic research with Canadian Doukhobor Christians (commune-dwelling Christian pacifists who migrated to Canada from the Russian Caucasus in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century) to investigate changing religious practices, identity, and gender roles over three generations.

1992-1993      **Oral Historian**  
Delta Museum and Archives, Ladner, BC

#### Research Areas and Interests:

North America (urban, rural, and First Nations); South India; lived religion (inter-religiosity, Christianity); psychological anthropology; anthropology of Christianity; ritual and performance theory; ethnographic field methods and ethics; silence; monasticism; contemplation; death; perception and the senses; epistemology; phenomenological intersubjectivity; time and space; boundaries of personhood; political anthropology; pluralism; global religious movements; media anthropology; virtual religious practice; visual and aural aesthetics; ethnohistory.

#### Professional Activities:

2016-2018      **Co-organizer and Facilitator**  
*Worlds of Wonder: People Making Places Sacred*  
Green College Speakers' Series, UBC

[a series of seven interdisciplinary lectures with a slate of local and international scholars; co-editor working towards an edited volume of the series' papers]

2017            **Media Interview for BBC World News**  
Commentary on Sinixt Interior Salish resource rights case, *Desautel v. R.* (BC Provincial Court, Nelson)

2011            **Scholarly Reviewer**  
*BC Studies*

- 2000           **Session Organizer and Chair**  
 “Sharing Ethnographic Authority” Panel.  
 Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Meetings, University of Calgary.
- 1993-1995   **Editor, *Vis à Vis: Explorations in Anthropology***  
 (national peer-reviewed graduate student journal)  
 Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto
- 1990-1991   **Scholarly, Editorial, and Artistic Consultant, Scenic Painter**  
*Colonialism on Trial: Indigenous Land Rights and the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Sovereignty Case*. Philadelphia: New Society, 1992. (Book and art gallery installation – critical analysis of *Delgamuukw v. R.*, in conjunction with artist/author Don Monet).

Teaching:

- 2017-2018   **Sessional Lecturer**
- Experiments in Ethnographic Writing (ANTH 303A)
  - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 100A-002) [law and society specialty]
- University of British Columbia
- 2017           **Guest Lecturer**  
 Ethnographic Writing (Current Research in Anthropology Graduate Seminar)  
 University of British Columbia
- 2017           **Guest Lecturer**  
 Liturgy, Ritual, and the Sacred (Indigenous and Inter-Religious Studies program)  
 Vancouver School of Theology
- 2017           **Sessional Lecturer**  
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 100-922 – Summer Term)  
 University of British Columbia
- 2017           **Facilitator**  
 Silent Practice and Contemplation Graduate Seminar (Fall Term)  
 Vancouver School of Theology
- 2012           **Teaching Fellow**  
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (with Prof. Thomas Barfield)  
 Anthropology Department, Boston University
- 2008           **Teaching Fellow**  
 Introduction to Biological Anthropology (with Prof. Matt Cartmill)  
 Anthropology Department, Boston University

2000-2002 **Lecturer**  
Visual and Aural Anthropology / First Nations Studies  
Emily Carr College of Art + Design, Vancouver

I **designed and taught** courses especially for the Critical Studies component of a college Fine Arts program:

- **The Anthropology of Death**
- **Soundscapes and Aural Anthropology**
- **First Nations Representations in Art, Literature, and Media**
- **First Nations Oral History**

Theoretical frames included visual and aural anthropology, political anthropology, social memory, oral history, the anthropology of the body and the senses, ritual, and performance studies.

2000 **Guest Lecturer**  
Selkirk College, Castlegar, BC

1994-1996 **Assistant Lecturer and Teaching Assistant**  
Indigenous Studies  
University College, University of Toronto

#### Selected Scholarly Presentations:

#### **Invited Papers:**

- forthcoming “Silence·Stillness·Movement·Sound: Ritual, Attention, and Refinement of the Senses.” Invited Paper. Faculty Research Colloquium. **Vancouver School of Theology**. January 2018.
- 2017 “Unison: Inner Space and the Collective Body in Gregorian Chant.” *Transforming Sounds/Altered Selves* Speakers’ Series. Invited Paper. **Green College, University of British Columbia**.
- 2017 “‘The Fire and the Rose are One’: Ritual and Eroticism as Agents of Change in American Contemplative Christianity.” Anthropology Colloquia Series. Invited Paper. **University of British Columbia**.
- 2013 “Divine Immanence and Transformed Selves, or Practice Makes Perfect: Monastic Decline and the Rise of American Contemplative Christianity.” Invited Conference Paper. **The Louisville Institute Winter Seminar. Louisville, Kentucky**.
- 2012 “Monastic Chant as a Way of Knowing (in the Biblical Sense).” **Music and Social Sciences Seminar**. Invited Paper. **Boston University**.
- 2010 “Radical Communion: Cultivating Monism Inside and Out of an American Monastery.” Invited Paper. **Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), Boston University**.

### **Other Presentations** (selected):

- 2017 “Chanting at the Edges: Plainsong, Ambiguity, and the Collective Body in American Contemplative Christian Christianity.” Bodily Ways of Sharing Knowledge panel. *Ways of Knowing* Conference. **Harvard Divinity School**, Cambridge, MA.
- 2017 “The Sound of Silence: The Challenges of Fieldwork in Monasteries and other Quiet Places.” Dept. of Anthropology Speakers’ Series. **Boston University**.
- 2017 “Atonement and Eroticism: How Rituals Shift Doctrine in Religious Institutions.” Religion and Politics Workshop. **Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), Boston University**.
- 2017 “Listening: Ethnographic Methods for the Study of Silence and Contemplation.” Experiential Ethnography in Practice-Based Research panel. Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meetings (CASCA). University of Ottawa.
- 2016 “‘Unitive Being’ in the Face of Atrocity: North American Contemplative Christian Responses to Terrorism.” Encountering the Other Conference. Vancouver School of Theology.
- 2010 “The Trouble with Ethnography: Ethics and Representation of First Nations Peoples.” Guest lecturer, Ethnography of Native North America course. Boston University.
- 2009 “‘My Veins and My Heart and All my Limbs Trembled and Quivered with Eager Desire . . .’: Erotic Devotion and Embodiment in Medieval Christian Mysticism.” Anthropology Department, Boston University.
- 2008 “An Ethnographer’s Place: Ten Uneasy Years with Sinixt Political Ascetics.” Boston University Anthropology Graduate Student Lecture Series.
- 2008 “What’s Authentic about *India Authentic*?” Religion Department, Boston University.
- 2000 “Anthropology at Home: Fieldwork, Dialogue, and the Hierarchy of Knowledges among the Sinixt Interior Salish.” CASCA Meetings, University of Calgary.

### Professional Associations:

Canadian Anthropology Association, American Anthropological Association, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Ethnological Society

### Languages

English, French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), German (beginner)