

**Dharmacharini Upayadhi**  
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Teaching Fellow  
Union Theological Seminary  
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Dual nationality: USA and France

**ACADEMIC EDUCATION**

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- Ph.D.           The University of Chicago, Divinity School, 2023-current (in progress).
- S.T.M.\*        Union Theological Seminary in New York, 2022.  
Research paper: “*Womanist-Buddhist Encounters and New Buddhist Imaginaries.*” \*Masters of Sacred Theology  
Reader: Dr. Pamela Ayo Yetunde.
- M.Div.         Union Theological Seminary in New York, 2021.  
Concentration in Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement.  
Thesis: “*Igniting Buddhist imagination: the liberative storytelling and dharmology of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.*”  
Readers: Rev. Kosen Gregory Snyder and Dr. John Thatamanil.
- M.Sc.          ESSEC, Paris, France, 2001.  
École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales.  
Grande Ecole, AACSB accredited Business School. Equivalent to an MBA.
- Maîtrise        Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Paris, France, 1998.  
Equivalent to an M.A.  
Concentration in philosophy, *mention très bien* (honors)  
Thesis: “*Penser philosophiquement la différence des sexes.*”  
Reader: Chantal Jaquet, Maître de Conference.
- Licence         Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Paris, France, 1997.  
Equivalent to a B.A.  
Concentration in philosophy.
- Fellow         École Normale Supérieure (ENS) de Fontenay-aux-Roses, Paris, France.  
Honorific, non-degree program in the Humanities.  
Academic merit scholarship, concentration in philosophy, 1996-2000.  
  
*Classes Préparatoires Littéraires.* Concentration in philosophy.
- Khâgne         Lycée Fénelon, Paris, France, 1996.
- Hypokhâgne    Lycée Henri IV, Paris, France, 1995.
- Baccalauréat  Lycée Henri IV. Paris, France, 1994. *Mention Bien* (honors).

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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- Spring 2023 Teaching Fellow to Prof. Alan Senauke, Union Theological Seminary, NYC.  
Course: Socially Engaged Buddhism (focus on Asian Movements).
- Fall 2022 Teaching Fellow to Dr. John Thatamanil, Union Theological Seminary, NYC.  
Course: Religions in the City, Introduction to Interreligious Engagement.
- Fall 2022 Teaching Fellow to Dr. Rima Vesely-Flad, Union Theological Seminary, NYC.  
Course: The Dharma of James Baldwin and Audre Lorde.
- Fall 2022 Research Ass. to Rev. Kosen Gregory Snyder. Union Theological Seminary, NYC.  
Project: re-design of a curriculum on modern Asian Engaged Buddhisms.
- Fall 2022 Co-facilitator with Prof. Benjamin Kamine of “Crossing the Street: Deepening Interreligious Relationships through Scriptural Reasoning,” a 2-credit pilot project sponsored by Union Theological Seminary and the Jewish Theological Seminary, NYC.
- Spring 2022 Teaching Fellow to Rev. Kosen Gregory Snyder, Union Theological Seminary, NYC.  
Course: The Practice of Self-Inquiry (philosophical and contemplative methods).
- Fall 2021 Teaching Fellow to Rev. Kosen Gregory Snyder, Union Theological Seminary, NYC.  
Course: Buddhist Meditation (philosophies of practice across a range of lineages).

*Note:* These engagements at Union Theological Seminary were remunerated employment, and not part of any degree program in my case. Assignments have included preparing short lectures, facilitating class discussions, recommending and implementing syllabus updates, sourcing new course materials, class planning and consulting on pedagogical strategies, grading and student assessment, student support, assistance to faculty, and technology management.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Dec 2022 Review of Rima Vesely-Flad’s *Black Buddhists and the Black Radical Tradition: The Practice of Stillness in the Movement for Liberation*.  
*CrossCurrents*, vol 72, n. 4.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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- 2023 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin in Madison, \$7500 (SASLI tuition + stipend).
- 2022 Interreligious Engagement Prize of Union Theological Seminary, \$500.
- 2022 Grant from the Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism, in support of the (white) Awareness is Revolutionary project, \$6000.
- 1996-2000 Academic merit scholarship, full four-year fellowship.  
École Normale Supérieure (ENS), Paris, France.

## **FURTHER EDUCATION IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS**

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### **Dharma Study and Practice in Triratna (a.k.a. Triratna Bauddha Mahasangha in India)**

- 2004-pres. Meditation retreats several times a year, group & solitary, from 3 days to 3 months.  
2018 Ordained as a Dharmacharini into the Triratna Buddhist Order.  
Private Preceptor: Dh.Viveka. Public Preceptor: Dh. Subhadramati.  
2009-2018 Intensive training for ordination within the Triratna Buddhist Community.  
2007-2018 Mitra Dharma study program with the Triratna Buddhist Community.

### **Other Dharma Study programs (selection)**

- 2023 Anapanasati Sutta Meditation Course, led by Ven. Analayo and team, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies and New York Insight (anticipated).  
2021 Black Feminism and Buddhism, Dr. Rima Vesely-Flad and Aishah Shahidah Simmons, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies and New York Insight.  
2021 Satipatthana Meditation Course, led by Ven. Analayo and team, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies and New York Insight.  
2017 Self & Not-Self, 8-week program with Brian Lesage and Sebene Selassie, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies.  
2017 Radical Dharma Camp at the Omega Institute, with Rev. angel Kyodo williams Sensei, Dr. Jasmine Syedullah, and Lama Rod Owens.  
2013 Yearlong Integrated Study and Practice Program, with Dr. Andrew Olendzki, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies and New York Insight (Pali Canon study).  
2011 Looking Closely at What the Buddha Taught: Year-long Study of the Pali Canon, with Dr. Andrew Olendzki, New York Insight (Pali Canon study).

### **Unlearning Whiteness programs (selection)**

- 2022 Untangling the Tangle: Exploring Diverse Views on Race and Anti-Racism with Brian Lesage and Jessica Locke, 5-week course, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies.  
2020 Respond to the Call: Supporting White AntiRacist Faith/Spiritual Leadership, a 4-week training Co-lead by Evangeline Weiss and Chris Crass.  
2020 Coaching with Chris Crass for Clergy Leaders in AntiRacist leadership.  
2020 Seeing the Racial Water, 3-day intensive with Robin DiAngelo and Carlin Quinn, Education For Racial Equity.  
2018-2019 Study of *My Grandmother's Hands* (Resmaa Menakem), and participation in the Dismantling Whiteness Group of Union Theological Seminary.  
2017 Cultural Spiritual Bypassing, Brian Lesage & Sebene Selassie, retreat, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies.  
2012 The Dukkha of White Privilege, retreat with Arinna Weisman, New York Insight.

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

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- 2020 Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Teacher Certification.
- 2020 Hogan Certification.
- 2017 MBTI practitioner, Steps I and II Certification, CPP.
- 2015 Coaching for Transformation®, Leadership That Works Certification.

## **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

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### **Mindfulness Teacher Training**

- 2020 Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Teacher Certification, Mindfulness Center of Brown University School of Public Health, RI.  
Center for Mindfulness, University of Massachusetts Medical School, MA.:
- 2017 7-day in Mind-Body Medicine
- 2016 One-to-one Supervision in Teaching MBSR
- 2014 Teacher Development Intensive in MBSR
- 2010 Practicum in MBSR
- 2015 Breathworks Training for MBSR/MBCT instructors, Vidyamala. Garrison, NY.
- 2015 Ethics of Contemporary Mindfulness Interventions, L. Monteiro & F. Musten, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, MA.

### **Clinical Pastoral Education (Professional Chaplaincy)**

- 2021-2022 Extended Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, ACPE Accredited.  
New York Presbyterian Hospital.
- 2019-2021 Two Half Units of CPE for Clergy and Religious Leaders, ACPE Accredited.  
Jewish Theological Seminary of New York.
- 2009-2010 Foundational Training in Buddhist Spiritual Care.  
New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care.

### **Other Training in Professional Education and Learning**

- 2014 Certificate Program, Principles and Practices of Organizational Development.  
Columbia University, Teacher's College.
- 2013 Certificate in Leadership Development Programs.  
American Society for Training and Development (ASTD).
- 2012 Certificate in Designing Learning. (ASTD).
- 2010 Professional Certificate in Human Capital Management.  
New York University School of Professional Studies.

## OTHER TEACHING AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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### Invited Presentations in Academic Contexts

- 2023 “Engaged Buddhism in the US: Histories and Futures.”  
Invited presentation by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies,  
Savitribai Phule Pune University, India.

### Community Meditation and Mindfulness Teaching

- 2020-pres. Meditation instruction for Space2Meditate, an online meditation community running 6 days/week.
- 2010-pres. Taught or co-taught 13 cycles of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction 8-week courses for groups of 10 to 25 people. Various NYC-based locations.

### Dharma Courses and Retreats Taught (selection)

- 2022 Co-facilitation and co-design of an international online multi-racial Reading Circle with over 50 participants, dedicated to Dr. Rima Vesely-Flad’s book.
- 2022 Co-designed and co-taught a 4-day retreat for Space2Meditate at the Garrison Retreat Center, “The Triple Gem of Refuge.”
- 2020-pres. Co-teaching courses with Jon Aaron at Space2Meditate, twice a week. Topics: Five Elements Practice, Sila, Paramitas, Four Noble Truths, and more.
- 2020 Co-designed and co-taught a 3-day retreat for the Aryaloka Buddhist Center, “Our Liberation is Intertwined: Interrupting the Karmic Momentum of Racism.”
- 2021 Designed and co-facilitated a 12-week pilot Triratna course “(white) Awareness is Revolutionary.”
- 2020 Designed and co-facilitated an 8-week pilot Triratna course “(white) Awareness is Revolutionary,” based on a prior program format developed by Spirit Rock and White Awake.
- 2015-pres. Various courses, Triratna NY•NJ. Topics include: the Five Precepts, the Five Buddha Mandala, Dr. Ambedkar in the age of Black Lives Matter.

### Invited Speaking Engagements in Contemplative Contexts

- Jun 2022 Reflections on The Future of American Buddhism Conference in *Digging the Dharma podcast* with Jon Aaron and Doug Smith, episode 25.
- Jun 2022 Reflections on Digital Dharma in *Digging the Dharma podcast* with Jon Aaron and Doug Smith, episode 26.
- Nov 2021 Eight Worldly Winds and Four Foundations, Aryaloka Buddhist Center, NH.

- Sep 2021 Friends in the Dharma talk about racism, Shrewsbury Buddhist Center, UK.
- Sep 2020 Black Lives Matter as Vow and Practice, A Buddhist Perspective, talk and Q&A given at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in New York.
- Mar 2020 A Ministry of Presence & Radical Imagination, *The Buddhist Center Online podcast*, episode 388.

**Speaking and Facilitation Engagements in business contexts (selection)**

- Jun 2022 Mindfulness, Spiritual Fortitude and Compassion, BNP Parisbas, NJ Offices.
- May 2021 Mindfulness for Mental Health Month, LVMH Latin America Team.
- Jan 2015 Creating a strength-based culture of trust, workshop for Marc Jacobs Intl.

**Training and curriculum design in business contexts**

- 2011-2019 Multiple curriculum design and teaching engagements in executive education for LVMH, Louis Vuitton, and Marc Jacobs across a range of geographies: US, Europe, the Middle East and Asia (China, Japan, India). These engagements included needs assessment, business strategy alignment, design, visual identity and collaterals, facilitation, video production (film and animation), project management, and the recruitment, training and coaching of trainers.

**EMPLOYMENT (NON-ACADEMIC)**

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**Self-Employment**

- 2019-pres. Co-guiding teacher of a non-denominational meditation community, Space2Meditate, including online programming six days a week, which sprang into existence as a response to the pandemic. Retreats, including residential, several times a year. I offer meditation, pastoral care, and Dharma teaching.
- 2019-pres. Executive coach and learning consultant (working globally).
- 2010-pres. Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Certified Instructor, NYC.

**Employment**

- 2015-2019 Vice President of Executive Development & Learning, LVMH, NYC.
- 2012-2015 Global Director of Training and Development, Marc Jacobs, US/Asia/Europe.
- 2010 -2012 Director of Special Projects (global role), Marc Jacobs, US/Asia/Europe.
- 2008-2009 Store Leader, Apple Retail, Fifth Avenue Flagship, NYC.
- 2007-2008 Regional Operations Director, Louis Vuitton USA, Northeast.

- 2005-2007 Retail Performance Project Manager, Louis Vuitton, France and India.  
2001-2005 Store Management and New Store Opening Projects, Louis Vuitton, UK.  
1999-2001 Apprentice Management Consultant, Europe Conseil, Paris, France.

## **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

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- 2022-pres. Co-founder/co-chair, Buddhist Alumni Collective, Union Theological Seminary.  
2021-2022 Co-founder/co-chair, Buddhist Student Collective, Union Theological Seminary. Designed the website and logo, volunteer web manager and blogger.  
2020-pres. Co-founder of “(white) Awareness is Revolutionary,” a Buddhist anti-racism education collective, working collaboratively to foster racial literacy and sangha as Beloved Community (US/CA/UK/Europe/NZ).  
2020-pres. Co-founder of Mindfulness Meditation Live, a directory of qualified and certified mindfulness teachers, Mindfulness Meditation Live, supporting the integrity of the field and raising funding for BIPOC Teacher Training.  
2016-2022 Board member of the Triratna Buddhist Community of Greater New York.  
2014-2015 Volunteer administrator, Organizing Committee for the Senior Dharma Teachers Gathering at the Omega Institute (over 250 teachers in attendance).  
2009-2012 Hospice contemplative care volunteer, Visiting Nurse Services of New York.  
2015-2021 Retreat organizer for four residential retreats with Triratna New York.  
2009-pres. Web management, MBSR Teachers Collaborative of Greater New York.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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- American Academy of Religion, since 2019.  
Association for Professional Chaplains, since 2019.  
Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education, since 2022.  
Buddhist Collective of Students and Alumni of Union Theological Seminary, since 2021.  
MBSR Teachers Collaborative of Greater New York, since 2010.  
ESSEC Alumni Association, since 2000.

## **DIGITAL SKILLS (selection)**

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Zotero.  
Squarespace (design and management of 8 websites).  
Adobe Suite, MS Office Suite.  
Quickbooks, Membershipworks.

## **LANGUAGES**

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**English:** fluent/native

**Pali:** elementary reading

**French:** fluent/native

**Sanskrit:** elementary reading

**Italian:** basic conversational

**Hindi:** beginner

Jun 2023-Aug 2023 Elementary Hindi, 8-week intensive.  
South Asia Summer Language Institute.  
University of Wisconsin in Madison.

May 2023-Aug 2023 Sanskrit 101, 12-week course.  
Yogic Studies Online.  
Instructor: Dr. Antonia Ruppel.

Jan 2023-Mar 2023 Pali 103, 12-week course.  
Yogic Studies Online.  
Instructor: Dr. Aleix Ruiz-Falqués.

Oct 2022-Jan 2023 Sanskrit for Students of Buddhism, Beginning Level, Part 1.  
Mangalam Research Center.  
Instructor: Dr. Karin Meyers.

Sept 2022-Dec 2022 Pali 102, 12-week course.  
Yogic Studies Online.  
Instructor: Dr. Aleix Ruiz-Falqués.

May 2022-Aug 2022 Pali 101, 12-week course.  
Yogic Studies Online.  
Instructor: Dr. Aleix Ruiz-Falqués.

Summer 2019 Pali Summer Intensive.  
Union Theological Seminary.  
Instructor: Stephen Sass, student of Bhikkhu Bodhi



## REFERENCES

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Rev. Dr. John J. Thatamanil (academics and teaching)  
Professor of Theology & World Religions  
Director, Insight Project: Theology & Natural World  
Union Theological Seminary  
New York City  
jthatamanil@uts.columbia.edu

Rev. Kosen Gregory Snyder, Osho (academics and teaching)  
Senior Director and Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies  
Senior Director of the Thích Nhất Hạnh Program for Engaged Buddhism  
Union Theological Seminary  
New York City  
gsnyder@uts.columbia.edu

Dr. Rima Vesely-Flad (research and academic teaching)  
Visiting Professor of Buddhism and Black Studies  
Union Theological Seminary  
New York City  
rvesely@uts.columbia.edu

Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White (academics)  
Christiane Brooks Johnson Professor of Psychology & Religion  
Union Theological Seminary  
New York City  
pcooperwhite@uts.columbia.edu

Dr. Pamela Ayo Yetunde (research in Womanism and Buddhism)  
Independent scholar and award-winner author  
Pastoral Counselor at Center of the Heart  
Associate Editor at Lion's Roar  
Former Ass. Professor at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities  
ayo@centeroftheheart.org

Dr. Anupama Rao (research potential in South Asia Studies)  
Professor of History and MESAAS (Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies)  
Department: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, History, Human Rights  
Associate Director, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society  
Leads the Ambedkar Initiative of Columbia  
Barnard College, Columbia University  
arao@barnard.edu

*Retreat history and detailed professional resume available upon request.*