

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### ANNE MACKENZIE PEARSON

107 Victoria St.,  
Dundas, ON, Canada L9H 2C1

Telephone: (905) 628-6180  
E-mail: [pearsonam@sympatico.ca](mailto:pearsonam@sympatico.ca)

#### EDUCATION:

1993 Ph.D. in Religious Studies, McMaster University  
1983 M.A. in Religious Studies, McMaster University  
1981 B.A. (Honours) in Religious Studies, University of Toronto

2002 Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mohawk College (Hamilton)

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

South Asian religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism); History and cultures of South Asia; Gandhi and modern India; Gender and religion; Diaspora religion in Canada; Theory and practice of nonviolence; Religion, death and dying

#### ACADEMIC TEACHING EMPLOYMENT/ EXPERIENCE:

1987-2006; 2013-2017	Sessional Lecturer, McMaster University
1994-1995, 2004-2005	Sessional Lecturer, Wilfrid Laurier University
1999-2001	Sessional Lecturer, University of Toronto
2000-2005	Sessional Lecturer, University of Waterloo
2006-2013	Assistant Professor (full time CLA), McMaster University

#### COURSES TAUGHT: (separate list)

#### ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion  
Member, Canadian Advisory Council, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (2002 - 2004)  
Member (1995 - 2002), Chair (1999 - 2001), Secretary (2001-2002) Executive Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies (North America)  
Member, editorial board, Journal of Bahá'í Studies (1995-2003)

#### NON-ACADEMIC (VOLUNTEER) ORGANIZATIONS AND POSITIONS (most recent only):

Chairperson, Hamilton Interfaith Peace Group  
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Empowerment Squared  
Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Hamilton (2001-2018); Dundas LSA (1996-2001)  
President, United Nations Association in Canada, Hamilton Branch  
Board member, UWC Pearson College of the Pacific (Victoria)  
Board member, and co-vice-chair, Toronto Board of the Parliament of the World's Religions  
Past Chairperson, Gandhi Peace Festival, Hamilton

Past Co-chair, Interfaith Advisory Committee to the Hamilton-Wentworth School Board Faculty, Wilmette Institute (online learning; Wilmette, Illinois)

**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS:**

- 2012 “The Mahila Shanti Sena Movement and its Canadian Connection”, CSSR Annual Meeting, University of Waterloo, May 28.
- 2012 Participant on Roundtable “What is Canadian about World Religions”, CSSR Annual Meeting, Waterloo, May 27.
- 2010 “The Hindu Samaj Mandir of Hamilton”, CSSR Annual Meeting, Concordia University, Montreal, May 31.
- 2010 Participant on Roundtable: “Reflexivity in Teaching, Researching and Writing Religion”, CSSR Annual meeting, Concordia University, Montreal, May 30.
- 2009 Participant on Roundtable: “Introductory World Religions Texts: What works? What doesn’t?”, CSSR Annual Meeting, Carleton University, Ottawa, May 25.
- 2009 “Rising from the Ashes: The Recreation of the Hindu Samaj Temple in Hamilton, post 9-15”, AAR Annual Meeting, Montreal, Nov. 7.
- 2005 “Gandhi, Women, and Notions of Development: the Case of the Mahila Shanti Sena,” Canadian Association for Students in International Development meeting, University of Western Ontario, June 6. Panel: “Misalignment/Realignment – Exploring a Discourse on Religion and Development”.
- 2005 “What is Distinctive about the Mahila Shanti Sena?” International Seminar on a Culture of Peace, Participatory Democracy and Mahila Shanti Sena”, New Delhi, India, Feb. 25-26.
- 2004 “The Mahila Shanti Sena: A New Women’s Peace Initiative in Bihar”, panel on “Self-Definitions and Redefinitions of Womanhood: Three North Indian Case Studies”, Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, Oct. 15-17.
- 2001 “David Kinsley as Teacher: Some Reflections on Pedagogy,” CSSR annual meeting, University of Laval, Quebec, May 24-26
- 1999 “Being Hindu in Canada: Case Studies of First and Second-Generation Hindu Women,” CSSR annual meeting, Lennoxville, Quebec, June 3-6
- 1997 “The Transmission of Religious Practice and the Formation of Hindu Identity Among Hindu Immigrant Women in Ontario,” International Conference on the Hindu Diaspora, Concordia University, Montreal, August 21-22
- 1997 “Mothers and Daughters and Ritual Fasts: The Reconstruction and Transmission of Hindu Practices Among Immigrant Women in Southern Ontario,” Conference on Religion in South India, Victoria College, University of Toronto, June 12-14
- 1996 “Religion and *Star Trek*: Where the gods fear to tread,” CSSR annual meeting, Brock University, May
- 1991 “Not Just a Submissive Wife: the Tij Vrat”, CSSR annual meeting, Queens U., May
- 1986 “Women’s Vratas in North India: Worldly Asceticism”, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, November
- 1986 “Women’s Vratas in Banaras and Their Visual Aspects,” 15th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, November
- 1986 “Images of Women in Puranic Religion: the Rukmini Vrata-Katha,” (a) AAR Eastern Region, McMaster, May, 1984; (b) Conference on Religion in South India, Cape Cod, MA, June, 1986

**INVITED PUBLIC TALKS:** (separate list)**PUBLICATIONS:****Reviews and Commentary:**

- 1990 Review: "Hinduism and the Baha'i Faith" by Moojan Momen in the *Journal of Baha'i Studies*, 2:4, 87-88.
- 1997 Commentary on Louise Holland's "The Birth Circle," *Voices and Echoes: Canadian Women's Spirituality*, edited by Jo-Anne Elder and C. O'Connell, Wilfrid Laurier U. Press, pp. 209-211.
- 1998 Review: "Hinduism for our Times" by Arvind Sharma (Oxford) in *Studies in Religion/ Sciences Religieuses*. Vol. 27, 241.
- 2006 Review: "Guests at God's Wedding" by Tracy Pintchman (SUNY) in *Studies in Religion/ Sciences Religieuses*. 35/3-4, 600-601.
- 2010 Review: "Gate of the City of the Heart: Understanding the Writings of the Bab" by Nader Saiedi (WLU Press, 2008, 375 pp) in *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 39:1, 110-112.
- 2009 Review: "Women's Ritual Lives" ed. by Tracy Pintchman (SUNY, 2008) in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*
- 2015 Review: "Awakening: A History of the Babi and Baha'i Faiths in Nayriz" by H. Ahdieh and H. Chapman (Baha'i Publishing Trust, 2013) in *The Journal of Baha'i Studies*, 25:3, 101-104.

**Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters:**

- 1994 "Aspects of Hindu Women's Vrat Tradition as Constitutive for an Eco-spirituality," *Journal of Dharma*, Spring, 228-236.
- 1998 "Hinduism" in *How Different Religions View Death and Afterlife*, eds. C. J. Johnson and M. McGee, 2d edition, Philadelphia: The Charles Press, 109-131.
- 1999 "Religion and Star Trek: From Exposed Gods to Reclaimed Mystery" in *Star Trek and Sacred Ground: Essays on Star Trek, Religion and American Culture*, eds. D. McLaren and J. Porter. SUNY Press, 13-32.
- 1999 "Mothers and Daughters: The Transmission of Religious Practice and the Formation of Hindu Identity Among Hindu Immigrant Women in Ontario" in *Hindu Diaspora: Global Perspectives*, T.S. Rukmani, editor. Concordia University, 427- 442.
- 2002 "David Kinsley as Teacher: Some Reflections on Pedagogy." *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*. Vol.30, 3-4/2001, 403 - 07.
- 2004 "Being Hindu in Canada: Personal Narratives from First and Second-Generation Immigrant Hindu Women," *Religious Studies and Theology*, Vol. 23, no.1, 55 - 88.
- 2012 "Hinduism", chapter 2 of *World Religions—Canadian Perspectives: Eastern*. Doris Jakobsch, editor. Toronto: Nelson Publishers, 30-85.
- 2016 "Being Hindu in Canada: Experiences of Women", in *Canadian Women Shaping Diasporic Religious Identities*, eds., T. Woo and B. Lee. Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 269-300.
- 2017 "The Gandhian-inspired *Mahila Shanti Sena* Movement in India and its Canadian Connection", in *Gandhi in a Canadian Context*, Alex Damm, ed. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier U. Press, 109-119.

**Non-Peer Reviewed:**

- 1998 “Religion, Peace, and ‘The Next Generation’,” *Peace Research Reviews*. 14:5. Peace Research Institute, Dundas, 47-65.
- 2004 “The Mahila Shanti Sena: New Women’s Peace Movement in India.” *Peace Magazine* (Jan/Mar), 15-19.
- 2017 “Introduction”, “The Hamilton-Wentworth Interfaith Group”, “Hamilton Mundialization Committee”, “The United Nations Association in Canada, Hamilton Branch”, “YMCA Peace Medal Breakfast”, “Peace Visionary—Dr. Hanna Newcombe”, in A. M. Pearson, K. Ahmed, J. Warner, eds. *Waging Peace in Hamilton*, Toronto: Bellwoods Press.

**Books:**

Single author:

- 1996 *“Because it gives me peace of mind” : Ritual Fasts in the Religious Lives of Hindu Women*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Editor and contributor:

- 2017 *Waging Peace in Hamilton—An Illustrated History of the Journey Towards Peace, Nonviolence, and Justice 1960-2017*. Edited by Anne M Pearson, Khursheed Ahmed, and Joy Warner. Toronto: Bellwoods Press.