

Curriculum Vitae

Chandra Easton

Personal Information

Business Addresses: Tara Mandala Retreat Center
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Education

1990-09 - 2007-06

B.A.: Religious Studies

University of California, Santa Barbara - Santa Barbara

- Received a B.A. with Honors in 2007
- Majored in Religious Studies
- Dean's Honors List: Winter 1998, Winter 1999, and Winter 2003
- Honors Thesis: "The Origins and Evolution of Tantra: A Buddhist and Hindu Perspective." Advisor: Jose Cabezon, Ph.D.
- Graduated with 3.68 Cumulative GPA. Advanced GPA: 3.89. Field of Study GPA: 3.74
- Taught Tibetan Language under Head Professor: B. Alan Wallace, Ph.D., September 2007-June 2008.

No Degree: Fine Arts

Parsons School of Design - Paris, France

- Attended Parsons School of Design/American University in Paris for one year
- Majored in Fine Arts
- Coursework in Color and Design, Form and Space, and Drawing and Composition, Life Drawing, History of Western Art 1 & 2, Painting, Materials and Techniques for Painter, Sculpture 1, Intensive Writing.

Employment

2018 - 2022

Assistant Spiritual Director

Tara Mandala Retreat Center, Pagosa Springs, CO

- Assist the spiritual director, Lama Tsultrim Allione
- Collaborate with the executive director in policy development and implementation for Tara Mandala Retreat Center and its international sanghas.
- Direct and lead the Apprentice Teacher program
- Direct the Gateway Program, a 10-year practice program.
- Co-direct the Magyü program, an ongoing practice program.
- Develop and teach for the Living Dharma Program at Tara Mandala.
- Guide programs director on programming development.
- Oversee quality control of content of existing and new online programs.
- Oversea and design the Feeding Your Demons pilot studies and explore new expanded research study and edit the peer reviewed paper.
- Meet with residents and students at Tara Mandala and abroad (online/phone) regarding practice and sangha building.
- Develop and co-teach the Tara Mandala Severing Attachment to White Supremacy (SAWS) Sangha.
- Co-lead the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Council which implements equity and diversity within all levels of the organization and satellite sanghas.

2018 - 2019

Resident Buddhist Teacher

Tara Mandala Retreat Center, Pagosa Springs, CO

- Developed and taught courses to the staff, volunteers, and retreatants. Held office hours for students to ask questions about Buddhist philosophy and mediation.

2001 - 2022

Co-founder & Guiding Teacher

Shunyata Yoga, Bay Area, CA

- Teach courses, workshops, and retreats for various Dharma and Yoga Centers nationally and internationally.

Teaching Experience

2015 - Current

Dorje Lopön (Skt. Vajrācārya)

Tara Mandala Retreat Center, Pagosa Springs, CO

As Dorje Lopön, which means "Vajra Teacher," I am a lineage holder for Lama Tsultrim Allione and the Tara Mandala international sangha. I received this title from H.E. Gochen Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche and Lama Tsultrim at the Tara Mandala annual Drubchen ceremony, August 2015.

Tasks:

- Teach Buddhist theory and practice at Tara Mandala and her satellite sanghas in the US and in Europe.
- Design and teach online courses for Tara Mandala: 21 Tārās: Befriending Fear and Embodying Compassion (2020), Mahāyāna (2020), Wisdom Rising Online Course (taught three times from 2018-2020)
- Develop Buddhist retreats and course curricula for Tara Mandala
- Chant leader (*umdze*) for annual Drubchens (Great Accomplishment) 10-day prayer ceremonies at Tara Mandala.
- Developed and co-taught a six-month program devoted to Race & Buddhism called "Compassionately Awake to Privilege and Oppression" using Feeding Your Demons™ to reveal and heal cultural and personal demons of privilege and oppression, Tara Mandala Bay Area Sangha, Berkeley, CA. 2015.

2022 – Current

Buddhist Teacher

Berkeley Alembic, Berkeley, CA

Teach a weekly class called "Releasing Into Presence" on Buddhism and meditation.

2019 - Current

Buddhist Teacher

San Francisco Dharma Collective, San Francisco, CA

Teach weekly classes on Buddhism and meditation for the Well of Being with Eve Ekman.

2016 - 2018

Buddhist Teacher

Against the Stream Buddhist Society, San Francisco, CA

Taught weekly Dharma classes on the topic of Feeding Your Demons, a five-step process for working with challenging emotions and thought patterns.

2011 - Current

Visiting Teacher

Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health, Stockbridge, MA

Teach annual retreats on Tibetan Buddhism and Hatha Yoga.

2005 - Current

Visiting Teacher

Esalen Institute, Big Sur, CA

Taught 5-7 day residential retreats annually on the topics of Buddhism and Hatha Yoga. Managed class load of up to 65 people.

2001 - 2002

Visiting Teacher

Cancer Center of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Taught Buddhist philosophy and meditation classes to cancer patients.

Conference Presentations

Summer 2017

Presented my paper entitled "Prajñāpāramita, Padampa Sangye and Zhije." First Interantional Chöd-Zhije Conference: The Lineage of Machig Labdrön & Padampa Sangye, Tara Mandala Retreat Center, Pagosa Springs, CO. July 12-16.

Books Translated

Rinpoche, Dūdjom and Lingpa, Dūdjom. Sublime Dharma: A Compilation of Two Texts on the Great Perfection. Trans. Easton, Chandra & Wallace, B. Alan. Ashland, Oregon: Vimala Publishing, 2012.

Academic Articles

January 2023

"Randomized Controlled Trial of the Tibetan Buddhist Feeding Your Demons Contemplative Process in Meditation Practitioners." Authors: Philippe R. Goldin, Amy Braun, Eve Ekman, Vanessa Simmons, Tamara Flora, Chandra Easton, and Tsultrim Allione. In the *Journal of Emotion and Psychopathology*. Vol 1, Issue 1, 90-103. <https://doi.org/10.55913/joep.v1i1.11>.

Academic Awards & Honors

Spring 2008	Theta Alpha Kappa, The National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology, Univ. of Calif, Santa Barbara
2007	B.A. with Honors, Univ. of Calif., Santa Barbara
1999-2000	Edward C. Truman Scholarship Univ. of Calif., Santa Barbara

Languages

Tibetan Language (intermediate level spoken, reading, beginning level composition)

French (intermediate level spoken and reading, beginning level composition)

Professional Board & Committee Services

Member of the Board of Directors of the Tara Mandala Retreat Center, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 2012-2015 and again from 2018 - present. Member of the Tara Mandala Executive Committee, Aug of 2016 - present. Member of the Tara Mandala Bay Area organizing committee, SF Bay Area, California, 2006 to present.

Media Interviews

2021	<i>Deconstructing Yourself, "Vision, Visualizataion, and Vajrayana: An Interview with Chandra Easton" with Michael Taft, October.</i>
2020	<i>Deconstructing Yourself, "Vajrayāna & Deity Yoga: An Interview with Chandra Easton" with Michael Taft, September.</i>
2018	<i>Deconstructing Yourself, "Feminism, Sexual Misconduct, and Guru in Buddhism: An Interview with Chandra Easton" with Michael Taft, November.</i>
2015	Talk on "Machig Labdrön and Feeding Your Demons, Divine Feminine Yoga Telesummit {audio recording} Fall.
2012	Talk on the "Foundations of the Chöd Practice" with Chandra Easton {audio recording} Spring.

- 2009** *Elephant Magazine*, "Chandra Easton & Scott Blossom: On Relationship, Lineage, and Women in Yoga and Buddhism," by Devon Ward-Thommes December.
- 2009** *Shambhala Sun*, "Q&A: Chandra Easton on disappearing, the Tibetan language, and the Dalai Lama," by Andrea Miller, June 17.

Certifications

- 2001** Certified Yoga Instructor, Santa Barbara Yoga Center.
- 2010** Certified Feeding Your Demons Facilitator, Tara Mandala Retreat Center, Pagosa Springs, CO. May 2010

Accomplishments

- Summer 2020** Completed a 10-year practice program at Tara Mandala on the *terma* cycle called Dzinpa Rangdröl (Natural Liberation of Clinging) from Do Khyentse Yeshe Dorje. The program includes *ngöndro*, deity yoga, *tsalung/tummo*, *rushen*, *trekchö* and *thögal*. As one of the initial students in this program, I helped to create and design it for future students, adapting the traditional Tibetan solitary three-year retreat curriculum for practitioners living in the modern world. I currently oversee this ongoing program as the assistant spiritual director for Tara Mandala.

Professional References

- B. Alan Wallace, Ph.D. *Chairman* – Thanyapura Mind Centre. *President & Founder* - Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies, P. O. Box 3573 Santa Barbara, CA 93130 U.S.A., email: balanwallace@mac.com
- Vesna Wallace, Ph.D. Professor of Religious Studies Area: South Asian Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara Office: HSSB 3045, email: vwallace@religion.ucsb.edu
- Lama Tsultrim Allione, MA., Founder and Spiritual Director of Tara Mandala Retreat Center, PO Box 3040, Pagosa Springs, CO 8114, email: tsultrimallione@gmail.com

- Jose Cabezon, Ph.D., Department Chair, 14th Dalai Lama Dept. in Tibetan Buddhist Studies Professor of Religious Studies, Area: Tibetan Buddhist Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, Office: HSSB 3026, email: jcabezon@religion.ucsb.edu
 - MacAndrew Jack, Ph.D., Department Chair, Masters in Contemplative Psychotherapy program, Naropa University, Graduate School of Psychology MA Psychology: Contemplative Psychotherapy Department 2130 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302. email: mjack@naropa.edu (303) 245-4752
 - Robin Gayle, Ph.D., MDiv, MFT., Professor of Psychology, Tenured, Dominican University of California, Chairperson, Department of Counseling Psychology, Bertrand Hall, Room 21, Marin, CA. email: robin.gayle@dominican.edu
 - Dominic D. Z. Sur, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Religious Studies, Department of History Utah State University, 710 Old Main Hill Logan, UT 84322 (435) 797-9058 email: religiousstudies.usu.edu
 - Philippe Goldin, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Director, Clinically Applied Affective Neuroscience Laboratory, University of California Davis, email: philippegoldin@gmail.com. <http://pgoldin.faculty.ucdavis.edu/> (415) 676-9793
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