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About the Authors

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

E. Valentine Daniel is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Southern Asian Institute at Columbia University. He taught at the University of Michigan from 1990–97, serving as the Director of the Program in Comparative Studies in Social Transformation from 1995–97. His B.A. was received from Amherst College and his M.A. and Ph.D. were earned at the University of Chicago. Dr. Daniel has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Amsterdam, the University of Texas at Austin, the centre d'étude de l'Inde et de l'Asie Sud in Paris, and the United Nations University. His recent publications include "The Limits of Culture" in *Near Ruins* (1998), and *Charred Lullabies: Chapters in an Anthropology of Violence* (1997). He is the recipient of a wide array of grants, the most recent of which was a Guggenheim Fellowship. He counts among his language proficiencies Tamil, Sinhala, French, and Malayalam.

Diana L. Eck is Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University. Dr. Eck's work on India includes the books *Banaras, City of Light* (1982) and *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India* (1981, 1996). She is co-editor with Devaki Jain of *Speaking of Faith: Global Perspectives on Women, Religion, and Social Change*. Prof. Eck's most recent book, *Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras* (1993), studies the question of religious difference in the context of Christian theology and interfaith dialogue. Since 1991, Dr. Eck has been heading a research team at Harvard to explore the new religious diversity in the U.S. This has resulted in an interactive CD-ROM, *On Common Ground: World Religions in America* (1997). In 1996, Dr. Eck was appointed to the newly formed State Department Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad and last year she received the National Humanities Medal from President Clinton and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Reverend **Lucy Forster-Smith** is Chaplain at Macalester College. She is an ordained Presbyterian Church (USA) minister. Chaplain Forster-Smith has served in her current position for six years and in the ministry in settings of higher education for 20 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sioux Falls College and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Martin Gunderson, Professor of Philosophy, graduated from Macalester College and went on to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University and a J.D. from the University of Minnesota. He teaches courses on ethics, philosophy of law, and bioethics. Most of his scholarship has been in the field of bioethics. Gunderson is co-author of *Aids: Testing and Privacy* and has published a variety of articles in leading bioethics journals on such topics as informed consent, physician-assisted suicide, birth control, and HIV testing. All of his scholarship is informed by a deep interest in civil liberties. Gunderson is also an attorney and has worked as a volunteer attorney for the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union.

James W. Laine is Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at Macalester College, where he has taught since 1985. He is the author of *Visions of God: Narratives of Theophany in the Mahabharata* (1989) and several recent and forthcoming studies of the seventeenth-century Hindu hero Shivaji. He served as Academic Dean of Macalester College from 1992 to 1995 and has recently taken a position as Dean of the Humanities Division. He received a Th.D. from Harvard University in 1984. He has been active in field research in India, visiting India seven times since 1980. On three occasions, he has taken students to India on the Associated Colleges of the Midwest program.

Jane Marie Law is the H. Stanley Krusen Professor of World Religions and Director of the Religious Studies Program at Cornell University. She received her B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her Ph.D. in the History of Religions from the University of Chicago. She has done extensive field research in Japan, and is the author of *Puppets of Nostalgia: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of the Japanese Awaji Ningyo Tradition* (1997) and the editor of two books and many articles on the history of religions and especially Japanese religions. In her current research, she is exploring the relationship between religious traditions and human rights.

Emily Mandelman will graduate in 2000 from Macalester College with degrees in Religious Studies and History. Primary among her interests are comparative studies of the histories of American people of color and the evolution of systems of "race" and power in the United States. She plans to pursue graduate studies in education and history and anticipates a career as a teacher.

About the Authors

Seyyed Hossein Nasr has been University Professor of Islamic Studies at the George Washington University since 1984. He graduated from MIT with honors in physics and mathematics in 1954, and received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1958 with a specialization in Islamic cosmology and science. Dr. Nasr was the founder and first president of the Iranian Academy of Philosophy and is a member of the directing committee of the Federation Internationale des Sociétés Philosophique. He has lectured widely throughout the world. Dr. Nasr is the author of over thirty books and 300 articles. His works, including *Religion and the Order of Nature* (1996), concern not only various aspects of Islamic studies but also comparative philosophy and religion, philosophy of art, and the philosophical and religious dimensions of the environmental crisis.

Geneviève Piché, a native of Montréal, is a senior at Macalester College majoring in International Studies and Economics. Her honors thesis uses spatial models of economic analysis to study the welfare effects of free trade regimes. She is also a dedicated classical pianist, artist, and traveler. After a few years of work experience in the Twin Cities, she plans on attending graduate school to pursue studies in international economic policy.

Sarah Pradt is Assistant Professor in Macalester College's Japanese Language Program, where she teaches Japanese language, literature, and film. Her research interests include women's literature and women's movements as well as accounts of WWII and the postwar period and questions of memory and history. Her book, *Representations of AIDS in Japanese Public Culture*, is forthcoming from Duke University Press.

Angela Schulz, a senior at Macalester College, is majoring in International Studies, with a core in Economics and a minor in Political Science. Her academic interests include the relationship between democracy and globalization and the reconceptualization of citizenship in the European Union. Being a native of Germany, she intends to work for a German company in the United States upon graduation and eventually pursue graduate studies in International Relations and International Law.

Hava Tirosch-Samuelson is joining the faculty of the History Department at Arizona State University after serving as an Associate Profes-

son of Religious Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her doctorate in Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah was conferred by Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research focuses on medieval and early modern Jewish intellectual history, with an emphasis on the interplay between philosophy and mysticism. She has published numerous articles and one of her books, *Between Worlds—The Life and World of Rabbi David ben Judah Messer Leon* (1991), received the Arnold Viznitzer Award of the Hebrew University for the best work in Jewish history in 1991. She is currently writing a book on the concept of happiness in medieval Jewish philosophy. In 1992, she was awarded the Distinguished Young Faculty Award for best research at Indiana University. Dr. Tirosh-Samuelsan is also on the faculty of the Wexner Heritage Foundation.

James von Geldern is Director of Humanities and Cultural Studies and Professor of German and Russian at Macalester College. He is author of *Bolshevik Festivals, 1917–1920* (University of California Press, 1993), a study of how elaborate socialist festivals helped build a new political culture in the U.S.S.R. He is also the co-editor of two complementary anthologies of popular culture, *Mass Culture in Soviet Russia: Tales, Poems, Songs, Movies, Plays and Folklore, 1917–1953* (1995) and *Entertaining Tsarist Russia: Urban Entertainments, 1798–1917* (1998), both published by Indiana University Press.