## **JEFFREY SAMUELS**

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### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D., History of Religions, University of Virginia, 2002.
- M.A., History of Religions, University of Virginia, 1999.
- M.A., Comparative Religion, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1995.
- B.A., Religious Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1992.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor, Western Kentucky University, 2008-present.
   (Asian Religious Traditions, Hindu Religious Traditions, Buddhist Religious Traditions, Pali I & II, Comparative Monasticism: Buddhism and Christianity, Ethnographies of Religion)
- Coordinator, Asian studies, Western Kentucky University, 2010-present.
   (Designed and implemented the Asian Religions and Cultures major and minor; current university advisor for the Asian studies programs)
- Assistant Professor, Western Kentucky University, 2002-2008.
   (Asian Religious Traditions, Buddhist Religious Traditions, Theravada Buddhism, Hindu Religious Traditions, Buddhism in America, Buddhist-Christian Monasticism [team-taught], Pali, Sanskrit)
- Instructor, Western Kentucky University, 2001-2002.
   (Introduction to Religious Studies, Buddhist Religious Traditions)
- Course Instructor, University of Virginia, 2001 and 1998.
   (Theravada Buddhism: Doctrines and Practices, Pali)
- Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia, 1995-1998.
   (Taoism and Confucianism, Zen Buddhism, Archaic Cult and Myth, Introduction to Buddhism, Introduction to Eastern Religions)
- Teaching Assistant, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1992-1995.
   (Religions of China and Japan, Gandhi: His Life and Teachings)

### **LANGUAGES**

- French: Proficiency in reading and speaking.
- German: Proficiency in reading materials in area of specialization.
- Pali: Proficiency in reading canonical, commentarial, and medieval texts.
- Sanskrit: Proficiency in reading classical Buddhist and Hindu texts.
- Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit: Proficiency in reading early hybrid Sanskrit texts.
- Literary Sinhala: Moderate proficiency in reading a wide selection of texts.
- Colloquial Sinhala: Proficiency in speaking.
- Malay: Reading proficiency.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Award for Excellence in Advising, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Western Kentucky University, 2013; presented annually to one full-time faculty member of Potter College of Arts and Letters.
- Faculty-Mentor Recognition Award, Asian Religions and Cultures, Western Kentucky University, 2012.
- University Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity, Western Kentucky University, 2007; presented annually to one full-time faculty member of the university.
- Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Western Kentucky University, 2007; presented annually to one full-time faculty member of Potter College of Arts and Letters.
- Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity nominee, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Western Kentucky University, 2006.
- Award for Excellence in Teaching, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Western Kentucky University, 2005; presented annually to one full-time faculty member of Potter college.
- Faculty-Mentor Recognition Award, Religious Studies, Western Kentucky University, 2004.
- Award for Excellence in Teaching nominee, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Western Kentucky University, 2004.
- Teaching Recognition Award, Rhodes Hall Student Life Organization, Western Kentucky University, 2003.
- Best Graduate Student Paper Award, American Academy of Religion, Southeastern region, 1998.
- Best Graduate Student Paper Award, American Academy of Religion, Southeastern region, 1997.
- Creative Graduate Student Research Award for Thesis Write-up, University of Colorado, 1995.
- Best Graduate Student Paper Award, American Academy of Religion, Rocky Mountain-Great Plains region, 1995.
- Theta Alpha Kappa, National Honor Society for Religious Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1994.
- Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Berkeley, 1992.
- Highest Honors, University of California, Berkeley, 1992.
- High Distinction in General Scholarship, University of California, Berkeley, 1992.
- Honor's List, University of California, Berkeley, 1991-92.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

### External

- Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 2012.
- Individual Research Grant, "Being Buddhists: Multiple Minorities in Malay-Muslim Malaysia," American Academy of Religion, 2012.
- Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant, Department of Education, 2010.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

## External (continued)

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars, 2006-2007.
- Research Associate, Department of the Study of Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2006-2007.
- Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Oriental Studies, 2006-2007.
- Metanexus Institute, \$100,000.00 matching grant for research on "Children in Robes: Aesthetics, Ritual, and Language." May 2004 to May 2006.
- J. William Fulbright Fellowship for Research in Sri Lanka, 1998-1999.

#### Internal

- Summer Faculty Research Scholarships, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Office of International Programs, and Sponsored Programs, Western Kentucky University, 2012.
- Research and Creative Activities Program grant, Western Kentucky University, 2011.
- Summer Faculty Research Scholarship, Western Kentucky University, 2010-2011.
- Research Startup Fellowship, "A Social History of Theravada Buddhism in Malaysia." Western Kentucky University, 2009, 2010.
- Summer Faculty Research Scholarship, Western Kentucky University, 2007.
- Junior Faculty Scholarship, Western Kentucky University, 2003.

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Regular Faculty Scholarship, Western Kentucky University, 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2009.
- Academic Enhancement Program Fellowship for Dissertation Write-up, University of Virginia, 2000-2001.
- Dupont Fellowship for Dissertation Write-up, 2000-2001.
- Arts and Sciences Fellowship for Language Study and Dissertation Research, University of Virginia, 1999-2000.
- Summer Foreign Language Fellowship for Colloquial Sinhala, Cornell University, 1998.
- Dupont Fellowship, 1995-1998.
- Arts and Sciences Tuition Differential Fellowship, University of Virginia, 1995-1997.
- Summer Foreign Language Fellowship for German, University of Virginia, 1996.
- Commonwealth Fellowship, University of Virginia, 1995-1996.
- Religious Studies Tuition Differential Fellowship, University of Colorado, 1992-1993.

## PRESENTATIONS (selection)

### **Invited Presentations**

• "Religion and Legitimacy: Buddhism and the Formation of a Transnational Identity in Malay-Muslim Malaysia." Invited paper presented at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 2012.

# **Invited Presentations (continued)**

- "Inspiring Buddhist Ways of Being: Monasteries in Contemporary Sri Lanka." Invited paper presented at the Asia Center Spring Speaker Series "Buddhism: Tradition, Health, Arts" at the University of Kentucky, 2012.
- "Seeking Unity, Seeking Legitimacy: Buddhism as an Alternative Source of Citizenship in Malay-Muslim Malaysia." Invited paper presented at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Special Lectureship Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.
- "Toward an Aesthetic of Monastic Recruitment: The Monastery as an Avenue for Upward Mobility?" Invited paper presented at the Center of South Asian Studies Special Lectureship Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.
- "Preaching the Dharma to new Audiences: K. Sri Dhammananda and the Sinicization of Sri Lankan Buddhism in Malaysia." Invited paper presented at the Buddhist Preachers: Past and Present conference, Whitman College, 2011.
- "The Sri Lankan Communities in Malaysia and Singapore: The Migration of People and Ideas across the Indian Ocean, 1827-2010." Invited paper presented as part of the Migration and Religion Research Clusters, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2010.
- "The Sri Lankan Sangha in Malaysia: K. Sri Dhammananda and the Creation of Tradition." Invited paper presented during the workshop on Religion and Culture in the Indian Ocean, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present. Cornell University, 2008.
- "Monks with Hearts: Emotions and Monastic-Lay Relations in Contemporary Theravada Buddhism." Invited paper presented at University of Miami at Ohio, 2008.
- "Decline and Revival: Protecting Buddhism in 21st-century Sri Lanka." Invited paper presented at the Buddhist Studies Seminar Series, Oxford University, United Kingdom, 2007.
- "Saving the *Sasana* from its Precipitous Demise: Temple Building in Contemporary Sri Lanka." Invited paper presented at the Research Seminar, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Bristol University, United Kingdom, 2007.
- "The Monastery as an Avenue of Social Mobility? Monastic Recruitment in Contemporary Sri Lanka." Invited paper presented at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, United Kingdom, 2007.
- "Reevaluating Notions of *Puñña* and *Puññakhettam* in Contemporary Sri Lanka: Turning toward an Affective Experience of Buddhism." Invited paper presented at the first Buddhist Studies conference, International Buddhist College, Penang (Malaysia), 2006.
- "Making Merit in Twentieth- and Twenty-first century Sri Lanka: Intentionality and the Suitability of Recipients." Invited paper presented at the South Asia Seminar Series, University of Texas, Austin, 2005.

### International

- "Malaysian Sinhalese Buddhist Temples as Religious Non-Government Organizations: Diaspora Engagement Across the Indian Ocean." Paper presented at the Diaspora and Development: South Asian Diaspora Development in South Asia conference, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, 2012.
- "Localizing Theravada in Malaysia: Buddhist Communities and the Formation of Transnational Religious Identities." Paper presented at the International Association of Buddhist Studies conference, Taiwan, 2011.
- "Buddhist Temple Networks Across the Indian Ocean: Capital, Resources, and Minority Identity Formation." Working paper presented at the Inter-Asian Connections II: Singapore conference (sponsored by the Social Science Research Council, National University of Singapore, and University of Hong Kong), 2010.
- "A Brief History of the Sri Lankan Sangha in Malaysia: Colonialism, Print Culture, and the Rationalization of Theravada Buddhism." Paper presented at the Theravada under Colonialism conference, Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 2010.
- "Caste Affiliation and Temple Patronage in Contemporary Sri Lanka: A Study of Two Upcountry Villages." Paper presented at the International Association of Buddhist Studies conference, London, 2005.
- "The Practical Life of a Novice: Locating the Middle Way between Precept and Practice in the Study of Theravada Buddhism." Paper presented at Exploring Theravada Studies: Intellectual Trends and the Future of a Field of Study conference, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 2004.
- "Novice Training Centers: Teaching Monks to Spread the Dharma in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sri Lanka." Paper presented at the International Association of Buddhist Studies conference, Bangkok, 2002.

### National

- "Imagining a Place within the Malaysian Nation State: Buddhist Social Service and the Politics of Identity." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, 2013.
- "Colonial State, Christian Missionaries and Bumiputras: Buddhist Identity in Malay-Muslim Malaysia." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2012.
- "From Theravada Orthodoxy to Buddhist Ecumenism: The Sri Lankan Sangha in Malaysia and the Creation of Tradition." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, 2011.
- "The Sinhalese Sangha in Malaysia: Rationalization, Religious Ecumenism, and the Creation of a Theravada Buddhist Identity." Paper presented at the South Asia Studies Conference, 2009.
- "Debating Monastic Vocation: The Influence of External Dynamics on Visions of the Sasana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, 2009.
- "Monastic Ordination as Going Forth in Contemporary Sri Lanka: Ambiguities, Tensions, and Resolutions." Paper presented at the South Asia Studies Conference, 2008.

### National (continued)

- "In Awe of the Forest? Ambivalent Attitudes Toward Forest Monastics in Contemporary Sri Lanka." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2007.
- "Luring the Heart: Monastic Recruitment in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Sri Lanka." Paper to be presented at the South Asia Studies Conference, 2007.
- "Saving the Buddhist Religion: Caste Discrimination and the Establishment of New Temples in 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Sri Lanka." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2005.
- "Learning to Attract the Heart: The Aesthetics of Ritual Performance in Contemporary Sri Lanka." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2004.
- "The Very Idea of a Practical Canon: The Body as a Key Rubric in Monastic Training." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2003.
- "The Aesthetics of Being a Monk: The Place of the Pali Vinaya in Sri Lankan Monastic Culture." Paper presented at the South Asia Studies Conference, 2003.
- "Samanera Training Centers: A New Form of Monastic Training in Sri Lanka."
   Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2000.
- "Lay Meditators and Lay Preachers: A Reevaluation of the Monastic-Lay Distinction in Early Buddhism." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 1998.

# Regional

- "Overcoming Marginalization through Doing Good: Social Capital and the Making of a Malaysian Buddhist Identity." Paper presented at the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion, 2011.
- "A Lens on Experience: Auto-driven Photo Elicitation as a Research Method." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky, 2005.
- "Tantric Elements in Theravada Buddhism: The Placing of Protective Arahants on and in the Body." Paper presented at the Southeastern region of the American Academy of Religion, 1997. (Best Graduate Student Paper Award.)
- "Views of Householders and Lay Disciples in the *Sutta Pitaka*: A Reconsideration of the Place and Role of the Laity in 'Primitive' or 'Archaic' Buddhism." Paper presented at the Southeastern region of the American Academy of Religion, 1998. (Best Graduate Student Paper Award.)
- "An Analysis of the Bodhisattva Ideal in the Theravada Buddhist Pali Canon." Paper presented at the Rocky Mountain-Great Plains region of the American Academy of Religion, 1995. (Best Graduate Student Paper Award.)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

• Attracting the Heart: Social Relations and the Aesthetics of Emotion in Sri Lankan Monastic Culture. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2010.

### **Books** (continued)

• Approaching the Dhamma: Buddhist Texts and Practices in South and Southeast Asia. Anne Blackburn and Jeffrey Samuels, eds. Washington: Pariyatti Publications, 2003.

### Peer-reviewed articles

- "Malaysian Buddhism." Oxford Bibliographies Online: Buddhism, co-written with Hun Lye, ed., Richard Payne, 2012.
- "Monasticism in Sri Lanka." Oxford Bibliographies Online: Buddhism. Edited by Richard Payne, 2012.
- "Forget not your old country': absence, identity, and marginalization in the practice and development of Sri Lankan Buddhism in Malaysia." *South Asian Diaspora*, 3(1), 117-132, March 2011.
- "Is Merit in the Milk-powder? Pursuing *Puñña* in Contemporary Sri Lanka." *Contemporary Buddhism*, 9(1), 123-147, May 2008.
- "Temple Patronage and Temple Building in Contemporary Sri Lanka: Caste, Ritual Performance, and Merit." *Modern Asian Studies*, 41(4), 757-794, July 2007.
- "Buddhism and Caste in India and Sri Lanka." Religion Compass, 1(1), 120-130, 2006.
   PDF file available at: <a href="http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1749-8171.2006.00013.x">http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1749-8171.2006.00013.x</a>.
- "Texts Memorized, Texts Performed: A Reconsideration of the Role of *Paritta* in Sri Lankan Monastic Education." *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, 28(2), 339-367, December 2005.
- "Toward an Action-Oriented Pedagogy: Buddhist Texts and Monastic Education in Contemporary Sri Lanka." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 72(4), 955-972, December 2004.
- "Monasticism" in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, ed. J. Robert E. Buswell, Vol. II, 556-560. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2004.
- "Breaking the Ethnographer's Frames: Reflections on the Use of Photo-Elicitation in Understanding Sri Lankan Monastic Culture." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 47(12), 1528-1550, August 2004.
- "Views of Householders and Lay Disciples in the *Sutta Pitaka*: A Reconsideration of the Lay/Monastic Opposition." *Religion*, 29, 231-241, 1999.
- "Bodhisattva Ideal in Theravada Buddhist Theory and Practice: A Reevaluation of the Bodhisattva/Shravaka Opposition." *Philosophy East and West*, 47(3), 399-415, July 1997.

# Chapters in books

- "Ordination (*Pabbajja*) as Going Forth? Social Bonds and the Making of a Buddhist Monastic." In *Little Buddhas: Children and Childhoods in Buddhist Texts and Traditions*. Edited by Vanessa Rebecca Sasson., 215-232. AAR Religion, Culture, and History series. Oxford University Press, 2013.
- "Merit is in the Heart: The Role of Emotions in Merit-Making Practices in Contemporary Sri Lanka." In Embedded Languages: Studies of Sri Lankan and Buddhist Cultures. Edited by Carol Anderson, Susanne Mrozik, R. M. W. Rajapakse, and V. M. Wijeratne, 289-324. Colombo (Sri Lanka): Godage International Publishers, 2012.

## Chapters in books (continued)

- "When Words are not Enough: Eliciting Children's Experiences of Buddhist
  Monastic Life through Photographs." In Visual Research Methods: Image, Society, and
  Representation. Edited by Greg C. Stanczak, 197-224. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
  Publications, 2007.
- "Establishing the Basis of the Sasana: Social Service and Ritual Performance in Contemporary Sri Lankan Monastic Training." In Approaching the Dhamma: Buddhist Texts and Practices in South and Southeast Asia. Edited by Anne M. Blackburn and Jeffrey Samuels, 105-124. Washington: Pariyatti Publications, 2003.

### **Book Reviews**

- Review of Mahinda Deegalle's *Popularizing Buddhism: Preaching as Performance in Sri Lanka. Buddhist Studies Review*, 26(1), 111-113, 2009.
- Review of Encyclopedia of Religion, ed., J. Robert Buswell. H-Buddhism: H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences. September 2004.
- Review of Sid Brown's The Journey of One Buddhist Nun: Even Against the Wind. H-Buddhism: H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences. May 2004.
- Review of Ananda Abeysekara's Colors of the Robe: Religion, Identity, and Difference. H-Buddhism: H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences. September 2003.

# Forthcoming/Under Review/In Progress

- "Families Matter: Ambiguities Attitudes Toward Child Ordination in Contemporary Sri Lanka." Forthcoming in Family in Buddhism: Buddhist Vows and Family Ties. Edited by Liz Wilson. New York: State University of New York Press, 2013.
- "Intersecting Diasporas: Sri Lankan Buddhist Temples in Malaysia and Development Across the Indian Ocean." Forthcoming in *Diaspora Engagement and Development in South Asia*, edited by MD Mizanur Rahman. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.
- "Winning Hearts and Minds: Theravada Buddhism in Colonial and Post-Colonial Malaysia." Forthcoming in *Theravada Buddhism under Colonialism*. Edited by Thomas Borchert, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Press, 2013.
- "Sri Lankan Buddhism in Malaysia." Forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora*, ed. Peter Reeves, p. 82. Singapore: Édition Didier Millet, 2013.
- "Malaysia: Introduction." Forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora*, ed. Peter Reeves, p. 80. Singapore: Édition Didier Millet, 2013.
- Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia. Edited by Justin McDaniel, Mark Rowe, and Jeffrey Samuels. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. (In progress)
- Being Buddhists: Multiple Minorities in Malay-Muslim Malaysia. Book manuscript on Buddhism in Malaysia. (In progress)
- "Buddhist Disaster Relief: Sri Lankan Temple Networks and the Boxing Day Tsunami." Invited chapter to be included in *Salvage and Salvation:* Religion, Disaster Relief and Reconstruction in Asia. (In progress)
- "Buddhism in Muslim Malaysia." Invited article to be included in Oxford Handbooks Online in Religion. New York: Oxford University Press. (In progress)

# Forthcoming/Under Review/In Progress (continued)

- "A Brief History of the Theravada Tradition." Article to be included in *One Dharma, Many Buddhist Traditions: A Festschrift in Memory of K. Sri Dhammananda (1919-2006).* Kuala Lumpur: Buddhist Gem Fellowship. (In progress)
- "Across the Indian Ocean: K. Sri Dhammananda and the Making of a Malaysian Missionary Monk." *Asia Research Institute, Working Paper Series.* (In progress)

# Other publications

- "Introduction" in Approaching the Dhamma: Buddhist Texts and Practices in South and Southeast Asia. Co-written with Anne Blackburn. Washington: Pariyatti Publications, 2003.
- Becoming Novices: Buddhist Education, Monastic Identity, and Social Service in Twentieth- and Twenty-first-century Sri Lanka. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Virginia, 2002.
- Bodhisattva Ideal in Theravada Buddhism: With Special Reference to the Sutra-Pitaka. M.A. Thesis, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1995.

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

- University Senate, 2003-2005; 2006; 2007-2009.
- Senate Executive Committee, 2007-2009.
- Student Research Council, 2007-2008
- Potter College Curriculum Committee, 2001-2003; 2009-2010.

## SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- "Ethnographic Fieldwork and Qualitative Research." Co-led (with Dr. Liang Yongjia) a workshop for The 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 2012.
- Led a graduate workshop with M.A. and Ph.D. students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.
- Proposed and organized a panel on *Ethnic Buddhisms Crossing Ethnic Lines: Buddhisms in Southeast Asia* for the International Association of Buddhist Studies conference in Taiwan, 2011.
- Grant Selection Committee (Religious Studies) for the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2009.
- Proposed and organized a panel on *Sri Lanka and the Diaspora* for the South Asia Studies Conference, 2009.
- Organized a roundtable discussion on Dennis McGilvray's Crucible of Conflict: Tamil
   and Muslin Society on the East Coast of Sri Lanka for the annual meeting of the
   Association for Asian Studies, 2009.
- Proposed and organized a panel on *Buddhism and the Family* for the South Asia Studies Conference, 2008.
- Proposed and organized a panel on the *Forest-Village Dichotomy in Buddhism*, for the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2007.
- Assisted in organizing the Theravada panel at the first International Buddhist College Buddhist Studies Conference, Penang, Malaysia, 2006.
- Organized, collected, and oversaw the publication of a special issue volume on Buddhist monastic education in the *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist* Studies, 2005.

# PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

- Vice President, Kentucky Fulbright Association, 2011-present.
- Senior Review Board Editor, Religion Compass, Blackwell Publishing, 2006-present.
- American Academy of Religion, 1994-present.
- International Association of Buddhist Studies, 2001-present.
- American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies, 2003-present.
- Association for Asian Studies, 2008-present.
- Secretary, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies, 2006-2012.
- Book review editor, Journal of Buddhist Ethics, 2002-2011.