

Alan Leiper Strathern C.V.

Relevant employment

2016	Visiting Senior Research Fellowship at the Asia Research Institute, Singapore.
2011 – present	Associate Professor, Faculty of History, University of Oxford. Fellow and Tutor in History, Brasenose College, Oxford.
2011-2013	Philip Leverhulme Prize research leave
2008 -2011	College Lecturer, Fellow, Director of Studies in History at Churchill College (and College Lecturer at Murray Edwards College), Cambridge.
2002 - 2008	Old Dominion Research Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge.
2000- 2002	Stipendiary Lecturer in History at Trinity College, Oxford.

Education

1998-2002	D.Phil. in History. Trinity College, Oxford. AHRB funded and Cecil Lubbock Memorial Scholarship
1996-7	MA in History and Anthropology, UCL. Distinction. ESRC funded.
1993-6	BA Joint Honours in Ancient and Modern History, Trinity College, Oxford: First Class in Honour Moderations and Finals. Ford scholarship; James Holladay prize.

Research funding awarded

2019	John Fell OUP Research Fund
2016	British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship (accepted) Leverhulme Research Fellowship (declined)
2011	Early Career Fellowship at CRASSH, Cambridge University.
2010	Philip Leverhulme Prize in History

Publications

Books published

2022	<i>Sacred Kingship in World History: Between Immanence and Transcendence</i> , eds. Azfar Moin and Alan Strathern (Columbia University press)
2019	<i>Unearthly Powers: Religious and Political Change in World History</i> (Cambridge University Press). Winner of the World History Association Bentley Book Prize 2020.
2017	<i>Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History</i> eds. Zoltán Biedermann and Alan Strathern (UCL Press, 2017).
2007	<i>Kingship and Conversion in Sixteenth-Century Sri Lanka: Portuguese Imperialism in a Buddhist Land</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2007, and CUP India 2010).

Books under contract

MS due June 2023 *Converting Kings: Kongo, Japan, Thailand, Hawaii and Global Patterns, 1450-1850* (Cambridge University Press). The MS of this is now complete, except for a final polishing. It will be submitted by May 2023

Circa 2026 *The Early Modern World: Religion and State 1450-1800* (Princeton Univ. Press).

Journal Articles

- 2022 'Religion and War: A Synthesis', *History and Anthropology*.
- 2022 'Thailand's first revolution? The role of religious mobilisation and 'the people' in the Ayutthaya rebellion of 1688.', *Modern Asian Studies* 656 (4), 1295-1328.
- 2020 'The Many Meanings of Iconoclasm: Warrior and Christian Temple-Shrine Destruction in Late Sixteenth Century Japan,' *Journal of Early Modern History*, 1-31
- 2020 "Immanent Power and Empirical Religiosity: Conversion of the Daimyo of Kyushu, 1560–1580." *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, vol. 47, no. 2, 2020, pp. 247–278.
- 2019 'Tensions and Experimentations of Kingship: King Narai and his response to missionary overtures in the 1680s', *Journal of the Siam Society*, Vol 107, issue 2.
- 2019 'Sacred Kingship under King Narai of Ayutthaya: Divinisation and Righteousness,' *The Journal of the Siam Society* Volume: 107 Issue: 1
- 2018 'The Global Early Modern Period and the Problem of What Came Before', *Past and Present Special Supplement* (December 2018).
- 2014 'Vijaya and Romulus: Interpreting the Origin Myths of Sri Lanka and Rome', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, Jan 2014, vo. 24 (1), pp. 51-73.
- 2013 'Drawing the Veil of Sovereignty: Early Modern Islamic Empires and Understanding Sacred Kingship', (a review article of Azfar Moin's *The Millennial Sovereign*) in *History and Theory* (2013)
- 2012 'Sri Lanka in the Missionary Conjuncture of the 1540s', *Anais de História de Além-mar*, vol. 12, pp. 89-122
- 2011 Feature Review Article on Victor Lieberman, *Strange Parallels*, in *Journal of Global History* 7, no. 1 (2012), (9,500 words)
- 2009 'The Vijaya Origin Myth of Sri Lanka and the Strangeness of Kingship', *Past and Present* 203 (May 2009), 3-28.
- 'Sri Lanka in the Long Early Modern Period: Its Place in a Comparative Theory of Second Millennium Eurasian History' in *Modern Asian Studies* 43 (July 2009), 809-864.
- 'Karen Armstrong's Axial Age: Origins and Ethics' in *Heythrop Journal* 50 (2009).
- 2008 'Towards the Source-Criticism of Sitavakan Heroic Literature. Part 2: The *Sitavaka Hatana*: Notes on a Grounded Text', *Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities* 34 (2008).
- 2007 'Transcendentalist Intransigence: Why Rulers Rejected Monotheism in Early Modern Southeast Asia and Beyond', in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, April 2007, Vol. 49, no. 2, 358-83.
- 'Towards the Source-Criticism of Sitavakan Heroic Literature. Part One: *The Alakesvara Yuddhaya*: Notes on a Floating Text' in *Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities* 32 (2006), 23-39.

- 2005 'Fernão de Queirós: History and Theology', in *Anais de História de Além-mar*, 6 47-88.
- 2004 'Theoretical Approaches to Sri Lankan History and the Early Portuguese Period', *Modern Asian Studies* 38 (2004), 189-226.
- 2000 'Re-reading Queirós: Some Neglected Aspects of the *Conquista*', *Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities*, 26 (2000), 1-28.
- 'Representing Eastern Religion: Queirós and Gonzaga on the first Christian-Buddhist debate in Sri Lanka, 1543', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka* 43 (1998, published 2000), 39-70.

Book chapters and other academic publications

- 2023 'Axiality and the Critique of Power', in *Challenging Modernity*, ed. Richard Madsen, William Sullivan, Ann Swidler, Steven Tipton, book MS submitted to Columbia UP. Other contributions by Hans Joas, Philip Gorski, Joel Robbins, Hartmut Rosa, Ana Maria Gonzalez.
- 2022 'The emergence of MSP vs the spread of transcendentalist religion,' a comment article in *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2022.2065348
- 2022 with Azfar Moin, 'Introduction' to *Sacred Kingship in World History: Between Immanence and Transcendence*, pp. 1-30. A theoretical framework, I wrote 80% of this. with Azfar Moin 'Sacred Kingship: A Synthesis' in *ibid.* pp. 323-49. I wrote c. 85%.
- 2017 'The Digestion of the Foreign in Sri Lankan History, c.500-1850 CE' in *Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History* Ed. Zoltán Biedermann and Alan Strathern (UCL Press, 2017)
- 'Introduction', with Zoltán Biedermann, in *Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History* ed. Zoltán Biedermann and Alan Strathern (UCL Press, 2017).
- 'Global Patterns of Ruler Conversion to Islam and the Logic of Empirical Religiosity', in A.C.S. Peacock (ed.), *Islamisation: Comparative Perspectives from History*, (Edinburgh University Press, 2017).
- 'Catholic missions and local rulers in sub-Saharan Africa', in Ronnie Po-chia Hsia (ed.) *A Companion to Early Modern Catholic Global Missions* (Brill,2017).
- 2016 'Religion and Empire', a 6000 word entry for the *Encyclopedia of Empire*, ed. John MacKenzie (Wiley-Blackwell).
- 2012 'Immanence and Tolerance: Ruler Conversions to Islam and Christianity in Archipelagic Southeast Asia', in Tara Alberts and David R. M. Irving (eds.) *Intercultural Exchange in Southeast Asia: History and Society in the Early Modern World* (I. B. Tauris, 2012)
- 2012 'Treachery and Ethnicity in Portuguese Representations of Sri Lanka', in *Engaging Colonial Knowledge: Reading European Archives in World History*, eds. Ricardo Roque and Kim Wagner, (Palgrave, 2012).
- 2010 'The Role of Sinhala Group identity in the 'Sinhala Rebellion' against Bhuvanekabahu VI (1469-77)' in *The Portuguese in Sri Lanka and Goa*, ed. G. Perera (Colombo, 2010).
- 2007 'The Conversion of Rulers in Portuguese-Era Sri Lanka' in Jorge Flores (ed.) *Re-exploring the Links: History and Constructed Histories* (Wiesbaden, 2007), 135-154.
- 2006 *The Royal 'We': Sinhala Identity in the Dynastic State* (A pamphlet reprints of my long 'Review of 'Sinhala Consciousness in the Kandyan Period 1590s to 1815' by Michael Roberts', *Modern Asian Studies* 39, (2005)). Translated into Sinhala as a pamphlet for the SSA (Colombo, 2006), and published in *Colombo Telegraph* December 26, 2012.

2004 ‘‘*Os Piedosos*’ and the Mission in India and Sri Lanka in the 1540s’, in R. Carneiro and A. Teodoro de Matos (eds.) *D. João III e o Império. Actas* (Lisbon, 2004), 855-64.
‘Controversies in Sri Lankan History’, a Viewpoint article for *History Compass* 2 (2004) an online journal (<http://www.history-compass.com>).

Book reviews (as opposed to review articles) have not been listed

Notable speaking roles

This is not a list of my invited talks, but a small selection:

Keynote lecture: ‘Collective Sovereignty and the sacred’ to open ‘Collective Sovereignty, Royal Clans, and Sacred Kingship in Pre-Modern Central Eurasia,’ Hebrew University of Jerusalem. June 13-15, 2023.

Panel discussion at of *Sacred Kingship in World History: Between Immanence and Transcendence*, eds. Azfar Moin and Alan Strathern, at the *Social Science History Association 2022 Annual Meeting*, Chicago, Nov 17-20. Discussants: Philip Gorski, Ayse Zarakol, Paul Joose.

Keynote lecture: ‘The Axial Age, and transcendentalist morality’, for *Society and Morality in Eurasia: from Prehistory to the Present Day*, Final Conference of the International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE), Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, July 2021

Keynote lecture, ‘Mysticism and Empire: Towards a Global Comparative Analysis’, at the conference *Imperial Mysticisms: Piety and Power in Early Modern Empires*, Central European University Budapest, November 2019.

The Albert Moore Lecturer for 2019, ‘Global History and the Problem of Religious Change’ at the Department of Religion, University of Otago, New Zealand. 4 lectures given in Otago.

Posthumus PhD masterclass Aug 2021. (‘A Posthumus masterclass brings together renowned experts and junior academics....’)

‘Converting kings: Empirical religiosity and patterns of ruler conversion to monotheism, in Central Africa, Polynesia, Japan, Europe and Southeast Asia’ for a Presidential Panel (‘What Would Eurasian History Look Like?’) of the *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, 2-5 January 2014.

Administrative and Service roles

*Convener of Masters Degrees/the MSt/MPhil in History, Faculty of History, 2020-23. [3 years, during the pandemic and consistent over-recruitment, with 100+ students every year]

* Convener of the MSt in Global and Imperial History at Oxford. 2019-20

* External Examiner for the MA in Global History, University of Birmingham, 2018-21

* Trustee of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies 2011-2018
Joint Committee for the Recognised Independent Centres 2014-18

Board Member of the Global History of Capitalism project.
Oxford Centre for Global History Advisory Committee member
International Advisory Board for the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey

* College committees: Governing Body, Research, Equality and Diversity, Human Resources, Library, Admissions, Disbursements, Estates and Finance.

*Faculty committees: Faculty Board, Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies, Development, Research, Approaches steering group. Prelims board 2018-19 and 2021-22.

* Peer reviewer for the ERC, and for the British Academy (currently for its Visiting Fellowships programme), many university presses, journals, and international funding bodies, plus promotion evaluations for international universities (list on request)

Journalism/outreach

‘Behind the News: Sri Lanka’s clash of faiths’, pp. 10-13, *BBC History Magazine*, July 2019

‘Where have all the Sacred kings Gone’, *Aeon magazine*, September 2017.

‘Islamist Violence and the Role of Ideology’ published in *A Fair Observer*, 8 Sept 2015

‘Why are Buddhist monks attacking Muslims?’ *BBC News Magazine* 2 May 2013.

Diary on Sri Lanka, *London Review of Books* Vol. 29, no. 1, 1 November 2007, p. 39.

The Global History Podcast March 2019

<https://theglobalhistorypodcast.com/2019/03/05/episode-1-alan-strathern/>

Conferences convened

- *Sacred Kingship in World History: Between Immanence and Transcendence*, with Azfar Moin, Brasenose College, Oxford Centre for Global History, May 2019.

- *Religion and political authority in the pre-modern world – global comparisons*, at the Ertegun Centre, Oxford, Saturday October 2012

- *Sri Lanka at the Cross-Roads of World History*, with Sujit Sivasundaram, at CRASSH, Cambridge, 2011.