



Brett Evans

Elon College Fellow

Major: Religious Studies, BA

Minors: Asian Studies

Research Mentor: Amy Allocco, *Religious Studies*

Engaged Jain Traditions and Social Nonviolence: Ethnographic Case Studies of Lay Animal Activists and Service-Oriented Nuns

Using ethnographic methods, I spent two months observing, interviewing, and participating with Jain communities in the North Indian state of Gujarat. During this fieldwork, I investigated Jain interpretations of nonviolence that have been used for social engagement and charitable work. I then drew upon this fieldwork to critique prevailing scholarly understanding and definitions of Jain nonviolence.

‡ Presented at SURF and will present at NCUR and SECSOR (disciplinary conference)

‡ Published in Undergraduate Journal of Ethnography. Second paper won the Mariana McJmsey Award and will be published in ASIANetwork Exchange. Third paper is currently under review.

What has been the best or most interesting part of your undergraduate research experience, and why?

My fieldwork in India has by far been the best and most interesting part of my research experience. It was an incredibly challenging experience that helped me to grow in many ways. After that experience, my self-confidence as a researcher was greatly strengthened, and I now feel quite prepared for future projects.

How has your undergraduate research experience impacted your future plans?

My undergraduate research experiences allowed me an intimate glimpse of academia and qualitative research. As a result, I believe I am well positioned to make informed decisions about graduate school. I am currently seeking qualitative research jobs before deciding to pursue further degrees.



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