

Where Religion and Ecology Meet



David Haberman
Professor, Department of Religious Studies

CURRENT RESEARCH

Combining ecology with the powerful presence of religion in human nature

Christians, Hindus, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Confucians, and Atheists may have different beliefs but it is clear that no matter one's religious practice, each of us is affected by the current environmental crisis. Interestingly, each of the religious traditions share a common concern for the environment and oftentimes a duty for reverent care. Dr. David Haberman, of Indiana University, investigates the role that religion plays in the foreboding environmental crisis. His research identifies the contributions that religion makes to the causes as well as potential solutions to the environmental crisis by examining the manner in which religious worldviews shape human attitudes and behaviors toward the nonhuman world. Therefore, with a novel approach to environmental issues, Dr. Haberman hopes to use religion to foster a change of consciousness that effectively addresses the environmental crisis.

While his work includes an interest in the relationship between ecology and religion worldwide, the great majority of his textual and ethnographic work has taken place within the Hindu traditions of India. The combination between Dr. Haberman's interest in the intersection of religion and ecology more generally and his expertise in Hindu traditions has clearly defined him as one of the leaders within his discipline. His many books are evidence of the indepth analysis in addition to the seamless weaving between the environment and religious practice that lay the foundation for Dr. Haberman's work. In addition to his academic rigor, he also is on the advisory board of the Forum on Religion and Ecology based at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, thus solidifying his role as a leader and advocate for...

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AFFILIATION



Indiana University Bloomington

EDUCATION

- B.A. in Religious Studies, 1976
University of Colorado
- M.A. in Divinity, 1978
University of Chicago
- Ph.D. in History of Religions, 1984
University of Chicago

AWARDS

- "Journey Through the Twelve Forests" received the American Academy Award for Excellence, 1994
- Guggenheim Fellowship
- ACLS/SSRC NEH International Research Fellowships
- Fulbright Research Abroad Fellowships
- Smithsonian-AIIS Senior Research Grant

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. David Haberman as he investigates the way in which religious worldviews shape human attitudes and behavior toward the natural environment. Donations will fund the necessary \$130K required for funding a year-long project including library research and writing, and an additional \$25K for travel expenses for field research. In choosing to support his research, you take part in addressing the environmental crisis with a novel approach.