

## Curriculum Vitae

**Nora Melnikova, Ph.D.**

Department of South and Southeast Asia  
University of California, Berkeley  
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### Education

- Master of Arts in Second Language Teaching, Institute of Czech Language and Theory of Communication, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, 2019  
MA thesis: *Bilingual Transfer in Hindi First Language Speakers with Czech as Second Language*
- PhD, Religious Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, 2015.  
Dissertation: *The modern school of Vipassanā – a Buddhist tradition?*
- Master of Arts in Hindi and Sanskrit, Department of South and Central Asia, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, 2008  
MA thesis: *Old Hindi in the poetry of Mīrā Bāī*
- Bachelor of Arts, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, 2001  
BA thesis: *Introduction to the Study of Śrī Vidyā (a South Indian Tantric tradition)*
- Other University Courses: Institute for Indology and Tamil Studies, Faculty of Arts, University in Cologne, Germany, 2003 – 2006 (Erasmus exchange programme)
- Learned to read and write Urdu during the MA programme and later took private Urdu classes in Delhi while preparing for job interviews at the Red Cross in Pakistan (finally decided to stay at the university)

### Languages

Fluency in Hindi/Urdu, English, German, Czech  
Fair knowledge of Sanskrit, Polish, Russian  
Reading knowledge of Pali, Burmese, Apabhramsha, Old Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Spanish, French, Latin, Ancient Greek

### Professional Experience in Academia

**Since July 2018** Lecturer of Hindi at the Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley

### Courses offered at University of California, Berkeley

- Introductory Hindi

- Intermediate Hindi
- Readings in Hindi Literature
- India through the lens of fiction – Selected chapters from Hindi Literature (Freshman/sophomore seminar)

**March 2015 – June 2018** Assistant Professor at the Institute of South and Central Asia, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic  
<http://ujca.ff.cuni.cz/UJCA-57.html>

### **Courses offered at Charles University, Prague**

- Hindi (10-semester course: Communicative Hindi, Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Reading Academic Texts, Translation)
- Hindi Literature (2-semester course)
- Linguistics Seminar (1-semester course)
- Literature Seminar (1-semester course)
- Women in Indian Literature (1-semester course)
- Theravada Buddhism (1-semester course, taught in English)
- Readings from Tipitaka (1-semester course, taught in English)
- Czech for Foreigners (A1, A2, B1, 1-semester courses)

**October 2011 – February 2015** (3 1/2 years) worked as Assistant Professor at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Pardubice, Pardubice, Czech Republic  
<https://www.upce.cz/index.html>

### **Courses offered at University of Pardubice**

- Hindi (6-semester course)
- Sanskrit (6-semester course)
- Introduction to Buddhism (1-semester course)
- Introduction to Indian Religious traditions (1-semester course)
- Ideology of Religious Studies (1-semester course, taught in English)
- Indian Philosophy (1-semester course)

**October 2011 – February 2015** (3 1/2 years) worked as Visiting Professor at the Department of Religious Studies, Hussite Theological Faculty, Prague, Czech Republic  
<http://www.htf.cuni.cz/>

### **Courses offered at Hussite Theological Faculty**

- Introduction to Buddhism (1-semester course)
- Introduction to Hinduism (1-semester course)

**January 2007 – August 2011** (4 1/2 years) worked as Visiting Lecturer at Slavonic & Finno-Ugrian Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

### **Courses offered at Delhi University**

- Czech Language (6-semester course, 4-semester course)
- Czech Literature (2-semester course)

**First runner-up** in Boulder, Colorado Hindi/Urdu lecturer search, 2016

### Professional Affiliations

EASAS (European Association for South Asian Studies)

### Grants & Projects

- Grant from the Dean of Arts Faculty, Masaryk University, 2012, for a project on “the McDonaldization of Theravada Buddhism – a study of structure and functioning of S. N. Goenka's Vipassana tradition” (field research in India)
- Grant from the Dean of Arts Faculty, Masaryk University, 2014: Metamorphosis of the Vipassana tradition in modern world – Burma and India (field research in Burma)
- Grant of the Dean of Arts Faculty, Charles University for post-doc support: Preparation of a 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century North Indian manuscripts corpus project
- European Association for South Asian Studies Workshop Funding: Opening up Intimate Spaces: Women's Writing and Autobiography in India (2015-2016)
- Grant of the Dean of Arts Faculty, Charles University for support of pedagogical work of academic staff (2016-2018)

### Publications

Melnikova, Nora. “The law of nature and practices leading to its realization in S. N. Goenka's Vipassana and in the oldest Buddhist texts.” In *Pandanus*, Praha 2014, 8/2014, no. 1, pp. 65-85. ISSN 1802-7997.

Melnikova, Nora. “Vipassana – an ancient Buddhist tradition or a modern school of meditation?” In *Dušan Deák, Hieron*, Katedra porovnávací religionistiky v spolupráci s vydavatelstvom Chronos, Bratislava 2013. pp. 19-32. Indian Religions Across Time and Space XI. ISBN 978-80-89027-39-2.

Melnikova, Nora. “Indická astrologie dnes” (Indian Astrology Today). In *Dingir*, Praha 2012, pp. 123 – 125. ISSN 1212-1371.

Melnikova, Nora. “Mánavadharmaśāstra.” Review. In *Religio, Revue pro religionistiku*, 2012. ISSN 1210-3640.

Melnikova, Nora. “Jednota v rozmanitosti – Buddhismus v České Republice” (Unity in Diversity – Buddhism in the Czech Republic). Review. In *Dingir*, Prague 2012. ISSN 1212-1371.

Melnikova, Nora. “Jméno” (Name). Translation of a short story by modern Hindi author Geetanjali Shree. In *Aluze, Revue pro literaturu, filozofii a jiné*, Olomouc 2006. ISSN 1212-5547.

Melnikova, Nora, Arvind Singh Tejawat, Pavel Martinec. *Mé srdce splyne s tvým*. Translation of poetry of Mīrā Bāī from Old Hindi. DharmaGaia, Prague 2017.

Melnikova, Nora. *The History of Indian Philosophy I, II*. A translation of a book by Erich Frauwallner. DharmaGaia, Prague 2018 (in progress).

Melnikova, Nora. "Teaching Hindi in Central Europe. Analysis of the most commonly used textbooks." Will be published by INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales) in 2018.

Melnikova, Nora. "Opravdu zaútočili?" ("They" have attacked). Translation of a short story by modern Hindi author Alka Saraogi. In *Plav, měsíčník pro světovou literaturu*, Prague 2017.

Nora Melnikova, "Hindi textbooks and Communicative Language Teaching in Central Europe", in *Advances in Hindi Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, ed. Ghanshyam Sharma (Muenchen: LINCOS Studies in Indo-European Linguistic, 2018), 105-124.

Nora Melnikova, "Mirabai - a Saint or a Rebel?" *Cracow Indological Studies* 10, no. 2 (December 2018): 27-46.

## Conferences & Workshops

2011: Rethinking Religion in India III, Pardubice. Paper: *McDonaldization of Meditation*

2012: Rethinking Religion in India IV, Mangalore. Paper: *The Modern School of Vipassana - Buddhist or Secular?*

2014: Pandanus, Praha. Paper: *The Law of Nature and practices leading to its realization in S. N. Goenka's Vipassana and in the oldest Buddhist texts*

2014: Braj Bhasha/Early Hindi Workshop, Bansko, Bulgaria

2015: Politics and Religious Traditions in India, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies TF JU, České Budějovice. Paper: *Buddhism in contemporary India*

2016: Opening up Intimate Spaces: Women's Writing and Autobiography in India. Co-organiser. Paper: *Mīrā Bāī – Biography and autobiography*

<https://womenswritingandautobiography.wordpress.com/>

2016: Braj Bhasha/Early Hindi Workshop, Třešť, Czech Republic.

2016: International Conference on Hindi Studies, Paris. Paper: *Teaching Hindi as a Foreign Language in Europe*

2016: Forms of Religiosity in South Asia, Department of Religious Studies, Trnava, Slovak Republic. Paper: *Mīrā Bāī – a saint or a rebel?*

2017: The space between the lines. Exploring gender, performance, history and archive in auto/bio/graphical writing from South Asia

Paper: *Ardhakathānak - a tale of spiritual journey, friendship and love*

2017: Apabhramsha Retreat, Barcelona, Spain

2017: Brajbhasha/Early Hindi workshop, Bansko, Bulgaria

2019: International Hindi Conference, Lisbon, Portugal. Paper: *Phonetic and phonological transfer in Hindi L1 speakers with Czech as a Second Language*

2019: Brajbhasha/Early Hindi workshop, St. Petersburg, Russia

## **Research interests**

Modern and Early Modern Hindi

Hindi Literature

Teaching Hindi as a Second Language

Methodology of Second Language Teaching

The “religious” traditions of India

Theravada Buddhism