

**South Asian Religions
Distinguished Lectureship**

Prof. Joanne Punzo Waghorne

Professor of Religion, Syracuse University

Gods in the High-Rise

Hindu Gurus Above It All

Friday, March 9, 2012

5:00 pm

Birks Heritage Chapel

3520 University, 2nd Floor

Professor Joanne Waghorne works in contemporary theoretical directions in the study of religion, especially issues of changing religious organizations, practices, and self understanding in the present era of mass communication, urbanization, globalization and transnational migration. World Systems analysis, concepts of the public sphere, public culture and visual studies inform her interdisciplinary approach which she works to integrate with her roots in History of Religions and phenomenology. Her concerns include revisioning World Religions/Comparative Religion in a post-colonial/post-modern era. Her publications contextualize these issues in contemporary urban India and in the Hindu diaspora. Her most recent book, *The Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class World* (Oxford University Press, 2004) won the American Academy of Religion's prize for Excellence in the Study of Religion.

The South Asian Religions Distinguished Lectureship was established in 2009 to complement the strong undergraduate and graduate programs on South Asia in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill, and to encourage public understanding of South Asian religions. It has been made possible through the generosity of Professor Robert Stevenson, Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill from 1966 to 1991.