

Key Contributions of Louis Komjathy: An Objective Mid-Career Evaluation

Louis Komjathy 康思奇, Ph.D., CSO
Center for Daoist Studies 道學中心

- 2000 Editorial assistant for the *Daoism Handbook* (Brill)
- 2001 Principal architect and organizer of the Conference on Daoist Cultivation (CDC), the first academic conference to bring scholars and practitioners together for dialogic exchange. Became the unacknowledged inspiration for *Daoist Body Cultivation* (Three Pines Press, 2006) and the model for various subsequent Daoist Studies conferences
- 2001 “Index to *Taoist Resources*” (*Journal of Chinese Religions* 29: 233-42). Index of key early journal of Daoist Studies
- 2002 *Title Index to Daoist Collections* (TIDC; Three Pines Press). Definitive catalogue and standardized numbering systems for the major Daoist textual collections. Second title published by Three Pines Press
- 2003 Established the Center for Daoist Studies 道學中心 (CDS) with Kate Townsend 唐鄉恩. Leading research and education center for Daoist Studies in the West. Currently serving as Director, Chóngxuán 重玄 Chair, and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence
- 2003 *Handbooks for Daoist Practice* 修道手冊 (Wandering Cloud Press). The first and only Daoist translation series. Forthcoming in Twentieth Anniversary Edition (TAE) (Square Inch Press 方寸書社)
- 2004 “Tracing the Contours of Daoism in North America” (*Nova Religio* 8.2: 5-27). First and still one of the only scholarly studies of “American/Western Daoism”
- 2004 Founding Chair and principal organizer of the Daoist Studies Unit of the American Academy of Religion. Served two full three-year terms as Co-chair (2004-2010)
- 2006 Established the Daoist Foundation 道教基金會 with Kate Townsend 唐鄉恩. One of the only tradition-based, non-profit Daoist organizations and public charities in the West. Currently serving as Co-director and senior teacher
- 2007 *Cultivating Perfection: Mysticism and Self-cultivation in Early Quanzhen Daoism* (Brill). Definitive study of early Quánzhēn 全真 (Complete Perfection) Daoism. One of the only books in Daoist Studies informed by Religious Studies. Also the first book to explicitly critique conventional Sinological approaches to Daoist Studies

- 2008/2009 “Mapping the Daoist Body” (*Journal of Daoist Studies* 1: 67-92; 2: 64-108). Definitive study and annotated translation of the late nineteenth-century *Nèijīng tú* 內經圖 (Diagram of Internal Pathways)
- 2010 Founding Co-chair and principal organizer of the Contemplative Studies Unit of the American Academy of Religion. Served two full three-year terms as Co-chair (2010-2016)
- 2011 “Daoism: From Meat Avoidance to Compassion-based Vegetarianism” (*Call to Compassion*, 83-103). First scholarly study of Daoist vegetarianism. Includes a Daoist advocacy perspective
- 2011 “Field Notes from a Daoist Professor.” (*Meditation and the Classroom*, 95-103). First explicit article using a Daoist scholar-practitioner approach
- 2011 “The Daoist Mystical Body” (*Perceiving the Divine through the Human Body*, 67-103). First scholarly discussion of the “Daoist mystical body.” Second installment of a four-article series (2008/2009, 2020, forthcoming)
- 2013 *The Way of Complete Perfection: A Quanzhen Daoist Anthology* (State University of New York Press). The first and only sourcebook of Quánzhēn 全真 (Complete Perfection) Daoist literature and one of the few movement-specific sourcebooks
- 2013 *The Daoist Tradition: An Introduction* (Bloomsbury Academic). Authoritative introduction to the Daoist tradition. Includes an explicit discussion of the revisionist “lineal” and “continuity of tradition” view, which is now being advanced as the “CDS Approach”
- 2014 Organizer of Conference on Contemplative Studies (CCS)
- 2014 “Adherence and Conversion to Daoism” (*The Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion*, 508-37). One of the few scholarly discussions of the topic. Includes insights from a committed and lived perspective
- 2014 “Living in Seclusion: Early Quánzhēn Eremitic Poetry” (*Frontiers of Daoist Studies* 1.1: 71-100). First scholarly study of the topic and one of the only translations of Daoist poetry as such
- 2014 “Title Index to the *Zhōnghuá dàoàng* 中華道藏 (Chinese Daoist Canon)” (*Monumenta Serica* 62: 213-60). First and only catalogue with a standardized numbering system of this Daoist textual collection
- 2014 “Sūn Bùèr 孫不二: Early Quanzhen Matriarch and the Beginnings of Female Alchemy” (*Nan Nü: Men, Women and Gender in China* 16.2: 171-238). Only and definitive study of Sūn Bùèr. Includes an annotation translation of the only poems reliably attributed to her

- 2015 *Contemplative Literature: A Comparative Sourcebook on Meditation and Contemplative Prayer* (State University of New York Press). The only historically-accurate and theoretically-informed comparative sourcebook on meditation. Contributed opening theoretical chapters and theme-based chapters on Daoist internal alchemy and modern therapeutic meditation. One of the few books to explicitly discuss Contemplative Studies as envisioned interdisciplinary field. Includes sophisticated theory of praxis. Also a *tour de force* of/in Religious Studies
- 2016 “Möbius Religion: The Insider/Outsider Question” (*Sources, Perspectives, and Methodologies*, 305-23). One of the few theoretically-sophisticated discussions of the “insider/outsider question,” especially as informed by Religious Studies
- 2017 Established and served as senior co-facilitator of the *Dàodé jīng* 道德經 Translation Seminar (DDJTS)
- 2017 *Taming the Wild Horse: An Annotated Translation and Study of the Daoist Horse Taming Pictures* (Columbia University Press). First book to fuse Animal Studies, Contemplative Studies, Daoist Studies, and Religious Studies
- 2017 Organizer and panelist, “New Directions in Daoist Studies: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lived Religion” (American Academy of Religion annual meeting). Became the unacknowledged inspiration for the New Daoist Studies Series [*sic*] through the University of Hawaii Press
- 2018 *Introducing Contemplative Studies* (Wiley-Blackwell). The first and only book-length discussion of the emerging interdisciplinary field of Contemplative Studies. Includes sophisticated theory of praxis
- 2019 Organizer of the Colloquium for Advancing Contemplative Studies (CACS)
- 2019 Voluntarily resigned from tenured professorship, renouncing mainstream academia and so-called “higher” (corporatized) education due to systemic corruption and hypocrisy
- 2020 “Daoist Body-Maps and Meditative Praxis” (*Transformational Embodiment in Asian Religions*, 36-64). First installment in a three-article series on Daoist meditation. Sets the foundation for a future book on the topic
- 2020 “Teachings of the Venerable Masters: Laozi and the *Daode jing*” (*A Companion to World Literature*, 153-65). First scholarly article to explicitly discuss the *Lǎozǐ* 老子 as the “Book of Venerable Masters,” that is, as a multivocal anthology associated with the inner cultivation lineages of classical Daoism
- 2021 Organizer and instructor, Daoist Studies Summer Seminar (DSSS), Daoist Foundation 道教基金會 and The Underground University (TUU). The only such offering and opportunity

- 2021 Project manager, lead translator, and editor-in-chief, Daoist Translation Committee 道教翻譯學會 (DTC), Daoist Foundation 道教基金會. The first such undertaking in Daoist history
- 2022 Daoist Studies Articles Online (DSAO), Daoist Self-Study Guides (DSSG), and Daoist Studies Guides (DSG). Some of the only reliable online, electronic resources
- 2022 Supplements to *Title Index to Daoist Collections* (STIDC). Continuation of the cataloguing of Daoist textual collection established in *Title Index to Daoist Collections* (Three Pines Press, 2002). Eventually will become a comprehensive book-length publication
- 2022 “Towards a Daoist Comparative Theology” (*Brill’s Companion to Comparative Theology*, 467-86). One of the only scholarly discussions of “Daoist theology,” including in terms of comparative theology
- 2022 “Religion, Animals, and Contemplation” (*Religions* 13.5). One of the only reliable scholarly articles on Daoism and animals. Includes an explicit discussion of Animal Studies with a socially-engaged perspective
- 2022 Founder and managing editor of Square Inch Press 方寸書社 with Kate Townsend 唐鄉恩. One of the only tradition-based Daoist presses
- 2022 *Entering Stillness: A Guide to Daoist Practice* 入靜指南 (Square Inch Press). One of the only reliable discussions of tradition-based Daoist practice-realization. Utilizes an applied, committed, and lived approach
- 2022 *Primer for Translating Daoist Literature* 道文翻譯入門 (Purple Cloud Press). The only book on translating Daoist literature and the only bilingual Daoist sourcebook. Includes the first and only discussion of “Daoist translation” (*dàojiào fānyì* 道教翻譯)
- 2022 “*Nèidān* 內丹 Training According to the *Qiānfēng* 千峰 (Thousand Peaks) Sub-Lineage: Niú Jīnbǎo’s 牛金寶 (1915-1988) Methods in Nine Stages” (*Journal of Chinese Religions* 50.2: 233-83). Only scholarly study on the topic
- 2023 *Dàodé jīng* 道德經: *A Contextual, Contemplative, and Annotated Bilingual Translation* (Square Inch Press). First contemplative translation and interpretive study by a Daoist scholar-practitioner. Includes a revolutionary discussion of the inner cultivation lineages of classical Daoism