Guest Speaker: Hugh Urban

"Zorba & the Buddha: Sexuality, Spirituality, and Capitalism in the Global Osho Movement"

Monday, March 23
6:00 p.m.
Location: Humanities Classroom 402

Sponsored by:
Center for Asian Studies
Walker Institute
Department of Religious Studies

Hugh B. Urban, with the Department of Comparative Studies at Ohio State University, is interested in the study of secrecy in religion, particularly in relation to questions of knowledge and power. Focusing primarily on the traditions of South Asia, he is author of *Tantra: Sex, Secrecy, Politics and Power in the Study of Religion* (2003) and *Magia Sexualis: Sex, Magic, and Liberation in Modern Western Esotericism* (2006), among other books. He has a strong secondary interest in contemporary new religious movements, and has published articles on Heaven's Gate, Scientology, and modern Western magic.

Guest Speaker Hugh Urban spoke to several classes and gave a public lecture during his visit to campus March 23, 2015. His lecture examined the development, expansion and evolution of the Indian mystical and spiritual teacher, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Starting with spiritual centers in Bombay and then Pune in India, Rajneesh, who came to be known as Osho, moved his center to Oregon in the 1980s, gaining a large following of American and western devotees as well both popularity and notoriety before returning to Pune in the 1990s.

Professor Urban outlined the growth of the movement, the factors affecting it’s growth and decline in America, the return to India and the current spiritual center based on the teachings of Osho now, after his death.

The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies, Walker Institute, and the Department of Religious Studies.