2018 Annual Compagna-Sennett Lecture in Religious Studies

Laurie L. Patton
President
Middlebury College

Monday, November 5
Lecture 7:00 p.m.
Diamond 122
Preceded by
Divali Reception
6:15 - 7:00 pm

Women, Sanskrit, and the Public Sphere

Dr. Laurie L. Patton is the President of the American Academy of Religion. She is the 17th president of Middlebury and the first woman to lead the institution in its 218-year history. Dr. Patton is a leading authority on South Asian history, culture, and religion. She is the author or editor of 11 books in these fields. She has translated the ancient Hindu text, *The Bhagavad Gita*. She is also the author of three books of poetry the most recent book, *House Crossing*, was published in May 2018.

Dr. Patton's lecture draws upon fifteen years worth of field notes and ninety life histories of women who have taken up the study and teaching of Sanskrit in urban India. In their interviews, the women reveal the creative possibilities as well as challenges of being playwrights, poets, reciters, and radio announcers working in the medium of Sanskrit in 21st century India.