

**KATHRYN LOFTON**  
Department of Religious Studies  
P.O. Box 208287  
New Haven, CT 06520-8287  
(317) 525-2077  
*e-mail* kathryn.lofton@yale.edu

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-** Lex Hixon Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies, Professor of History and Divinity  
FAS Dean of the Humanities, Yale University
- 2013-2020** Professor of Religious Studies, American Studies, History, and Divinity, Yale University
- Acting Dean, Division of the Humanities, 2019-2020  
Deputy Dean for Diversity and Faculty Development, 2016-2019  
Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2015-2018, 2019-2020  
Chair, Program in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, 2014-2015  
Chair, LGBT Studies, 2013-2014, 2016-2017
- 2012 - 2013** Sarai Ribicoff Associate Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies, Yale University  
**2009 - 2012** Assistant Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies, Yale University  
**2008 - 2009** Associate Research Scholar, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University  
**2006 - 2008** Assistant Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington  
**2005 - 2006** Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and Humanities, Reed College

## EDUCATION

- 2005** Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*Thesis:* "Making the Modern in Religious America, 1870-1935"
- 2002** M.A., Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Honors, U.S. Religious History *and* Religion and Culture
- 2000** A.B, University of Chicago  
Honors, the Committee on Religion in the Humanities *and* the Department of History

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011)  
*reviewed in* American Quarterly, American Studies, Calvin Theological Journal, Church History, Feminist Collections, The Hedgehog Review, Journal of American Culture, Journal of American History, Journal of American Studies, Journal of Religion, The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture, The Los Angeles Review of Books, Nova Religio, and Transition.  
Subject of a [round-table](#) on the Immanent Frame.

Consuming Religion (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017)  
*reviewed in* H-Amrel, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Journal of Popular Culture, Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture, Numen, Reading Religion, The Revealer, Sociology of Religion; Spectrum Culture, THE Books, and Visual Studies. Subject of a [round-table](#) on Syndicate Theology.

### Refereed Articles

"Dylan Goes Electric: Religion and the Secular in the Study of Popular Music," Journal of Popular Music Studies, *forthcoming*.

- “Why Religion Is Hard For Historians (and How It Can Be Easier),” Modern American History, 3:1 (March 2020), 69-86.
- “Can’t Help Lovin’: David Chidester’s Pop Culture Colonialism,” Journal for the Study of Religion 31:2 (2018), 79-104.
- “Religion and the Authority in American Parenting,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion 84:3 (September 2016), 806-841.
- “Ritualism Revived: From *Scientia Ritus* to Consumer Rites,” Journal of Ritual Studies, 28:1 (2014), 65-76.
- “The Sigh of the Oppressed? Marxism and Religion in America Today,” New Labor Forum 21:3 (Fall 2012), 58-65.
- “Religious History as Religious Studies,” Religion 42:3 (July 2012), 383-394.
- “Religion and the American Celebrity,” Social Compass, 58:3 (September 2011), 346-352.
- with Richard Callahan and Chad Seales, “Allegories of Progress: Industrial Religion in the United States,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion 78:1 (March 2010), 1-39.
- “Queering Fundamentalism: John Balcom Shaw and the Sexuality of a Protestant Orthodoxy,” The Journal of the History of Sexuality, 17:3 (September 2008), 439-468.
- “Public Confessions: Oprah Winfrey’s American Religious History,” Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory, “The Oprah Winfrey Talk Show and Civil Society,” 18:1 (March 2008), 49-67.
- “Practicing Oprah; Or, The Prescriptive Compulsion of a Spiritual Capitalism,” The Journal of Popular Culture, 39:4 (August 2006), 599-621.
- “The Methodology of the Modernists: Process in American Protestantism,” Church History: Studies of Christianity and Culture, 75:2 (June 2006), 374-402.
- “The Preacher Paradigm: Biographical Promotions and the Modern-Made Evangelist,” Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation, 16:1 (Winter 2006), 95-123.

### **Work In Preparation**

- “Observational Secular: Religion and Documentary Film in the U.S.”
- “Pausing on a Sunday: Composing the Secular in the American Musical”
- “Religion and the Origin of Capitalism”
- “Denominational Heresy on the Historical Frontier: The Case of William Whitsitt”

### **Journal Essays and Book Chapters**

- “Complicating Classification: Cognitive Science Comes to Religion” and “What I Think About” in Religion is..., Aaron Hughes and Russell McCutcheon, eds., *forthcoming*.
- “Deities of Considerable Importance: Religion and Lying in Erving Goffman,” Critical Approaches to Science and Religion, *forthcoming*.
- “Don’t All Have Your Family: The Critique of Religion in Transparent,” Queer Jews on TV: Transparent and the Changing Landscape of Jewish Popular Culture, Brett Krutzsch, Nora L. Rubel, and A. Joan Saab, eds. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, *forthcoming*).
- “Get the Shovel,” Yale Review (Summer 2020), 110-115.
- “Gospel Minstrelsy,” American Religions, 1:1 (Fall 2019), 137-148.

“Our Political Economy,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 87:3 (September 2019), 655–661.

“Friend,” in Religion, Law, USA, Joshua Dubler and Isaac Weiner, eds. (New York: NYU Press, 2019), 228-247.

“The Secularization of the Sacred,” Religion and American Culture, 29:2 (Summer 2019), 173-178.

“It Isn’t Just Them,” Forum: Catholic Sex Abuse and the Study of Religion, American Catholic Studies, 130:2 (2019), 26-29.

“The Bounds of Hierarchy: Mary Douglas,” in Cultural Approaches to Studying Religion: An Introduction to Theories and Methods, Sarah Bloesch and Meredith Minister, eds. (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019), 17-32.

“Political Spirituality,” in Religion in the Age of Obama, Juan M. Floyd-Thomas and Anthony Pinn, eds. (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018), 36-43.

“Celebrity and Religion,” in The Routledge Handbook of Celebrity Studies, Anthony Elliott, ed. (Routledge, 2018), 93-106.

“Resurgent Christianity,” American Literary History 30:1 (Spring 2018), 177-187.

“I Don’t Want To Fake You Out: Bob Dylan and the Search for Belief in History,” in Cultural Icons and Cultural Leadership, Peter Iver Kaufman and Kristin M. S. Bezio, eds. (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2017), 152-166.

“Religion and Sexuality,” Embodied Religion, Kent Brintnall, ed. (Macmillan Reference USA, 2016), 19-34.

“Technology,” Key Words in Material Religion, S. Brent Plate, ed. (Bloomsbury Academic, 2015), 245-251.

“Gospel,” in Rethinking Therapeutic Culture, Timothy Aubry and Trysh Travis, eds. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015), 34-45.

“Consider the Neoliberal in American Religion,” in Religion and the Marketplace in the United States, Philip Goff, Detlef Junker, and Jan Stievermann, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 269-288.

“Everything Queer?” in Queer Christianities: Lived Religion in Transgressive Forms, Kathleen Talvacchia, Mark Larrimore, and Michael Pettinger, eds. (New York University Press, 2014), 195-204.

“Review Essay: On Teaching Religion. Essays by Jonathan Z. Smith. Edited by Christopher Lehrich,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion 82:2 (June 2014), 531-542.

“The Spirit in the Cubicle: A Religious History of the American Office,” in Sensational Religion: Sensory Cultures in Material Practice, Sally Promey, ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014), 135-158.

“Commonly Modern: Rethinking the Modernist-Fundamentalist Controversies,” in Church History, 83:1 (March 2014), 137-144.

“Theorizing Africana Religions: A Response,” Journal of Africana Religions, 2:1 (2014), 156-160.

“Willing Children,” Fides et Historia, 45:2 (Summer/Fall 2013), 65-68.

with Pamela Klassen, “Material Witnesses: Women and the Mediation of Christianity,” in Media, Religion and Gender, Mia Lövhelm, ed. (Abingdon: Routledge, 2013), 52-65.

“Secular Shadowboxing,” Critical Research on Religion, 1:2 (August 2013), 214-220.

“Mormonism in Popular Culture,” Religion and American Culture, 23:1 (Winter 2013), 9-14.

“The Body (Under Review): On Manuel Vasquez’s More Than Belief,” Method & Theory in the Study of Religion 24:4-5 (2012), 482-496.

“The Celebrification of Religion in the Age of Infotainment,” in Oxford Handbook of Religion and the American News Media, Diane Winston, ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), 421-435.

“Liberal Sympathies: Morris Jastrow and the Science of Religion,” in American Religious Liberalism, Sally Promey and Leigh Schmidt, eds. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012), 251-269.

“Purifying America: Rites of Salvation in the Soap Campaign,” in How Purity Is Made, Udo Simon and Petra Rösch, eds. (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2012), 393-412.

“Piety, Practice, and Ritual,” in The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America, Philip Goff, ed. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2010), 242-253.

“Global Reach (1898-Present): Cosmology,” in Religion and American History, Amanda Porterfield and John Corrigan, eds. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2010), 266-284.

“The Perpetual Primitive in African American Religious Historiography,” in The New Black Gods: African American Religions after the Great Migration, Edward E. Curtis IV and Danielle Brune, eds. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009), 171-191.

“Reading Religiously: The Ritual Practices of Oprah’s Book Club,” in The Oprah Affect: Critical Essays on Oprah’s Book Club, Cecilia Konchar Farr and Jaime Harker, eds. (SUNY Press, 2008), 55-71.

“The Man Stays in the Picture: Recent Works in Religion and Masculinity,” Religious Studies Review, 30:1 (January 2004), 23-28.

## **Book Reviews**

Mandy McMichael, Miss America’s God: Faith and Identity in America’s Oldest Pageant (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2019) in Church History, *forthcoming*.

James Bielo, Ark Encounter: The Making of a Creationist Theme Park (New York: New York University Press, 2018) in Anthropological Quarterly, 92:4 (2019), 1291-1296.

Matthew Harper, The End of Days: African American Religion and Politics in the Age of Emancipation (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016) in Journal of American History, (September 2019), 474.

Gillian Frank, Bethany Moreton, and Heather R. White, eds., Devotions and Desires. Histories of Sexuality and Religion in the Twentieth-Century United States (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2018), in Church History and Religious Culture, 99:1 (2019): 67-69.

Saba Mahmood, Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A Minority Report (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016) in History of Religions, 58:2 (November 2018), 214-216.

Mark Noll, In the Beginning Was the Word: The Bible in American Public Life, 1492-1783 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016) in The Journal of Presbyterian History, 96:1 (Spring/Summer 2018), 41-42.

Kelsy Burke, Christians Under Covers: Evangelicals and Sexual Pleasure on the Internet (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2016) in Theology & Sexuality, 24:1 (2018), 62-63.

Grant Wacker, America’s Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014), in Syndicate Theology, posted 16 May 2016: <https://syndicatetheology.com/commentary/6344/>

Jacob Dorman, Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Israelite Religions (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013) in Journal of Religion, 96:1 (January 2016), 132-134.

James D. Bratt, Abraham Kuyper: Modern Calvinist, Christian Democrat (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013) in Church History, 84:2 (June 2015): 462-465.

Julie Berebitsky, Sex and the Office: A History of Gender, Power, and Desire (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012) in The Journal of the History of Sexuality, 23:3 (September 2014): 475-477.

Paul C. Gutjahr, The Book of Mormon: A Biography (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012) in Mormon Studies Review 1:1 (2014): 160-165.

Naoko Wake, Private Practices: Harry Stack Sullivan, the Science of Homosexuality, and American Liberalism (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2011) in The Journal of the History of Sexuality, 23:1 (January 2014): 145-147.

Rebecca L. Davis, More Perfect Unions: The American Search for Marital Bliss (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010) in The Journal of the History of Sexuality 22:3 (September 2013): 529-531.

Gerald W. King, Disfellowshipped: Pentecostal Responses to Fundamentalism in the United States, 1906-1943, Princeton Theological Monographs Series (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011) in Church History 82:2 (June 2013): 492-494.

Ivan Strenski, Why Politics Can't Be Freed From Religion (Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2010) in History of Religions 52:4 (May 2013): 417-419.

Mark D. Jordan, Recruiting Young Love: How Christians Talk about Homosexuality (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011) in Journal of Religion 93:2 (April 2013): 256-258.

Susan J. Matt, Homesickness: An American History (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) in Journal of American History 99:4 (March 2013): 1199-1201.

Robert A. Orsi, ed., Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012) in American Catholic Studies, 123:4 (Winter 2012): 76-77.

Paul Froese and Christopher Bader, America's Four Gods: What We Say About God—& What That Says About Us (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) in Church History 81:3 (September 2012): 753-755.

Charles Reagan Wilson, Flashes of a Southern Spirit: Meanings of the Spirit in the U.S. South (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2011) in North Carolina Historical Review 89:2 (April 2012): 233-234.

Paul C. Gutjahr, Charles Hodge: Guardian of American Orthodoxy (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) in Church History 81:2 (June 2012): 482-485.

Rebecca Moore, Understanding Jonestown and Peoples Temple (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2009) in Indiana Magazine of History 106:4 (December 2010): 422-424.

Steven P. Miller, Billy Graham and the Rise of the Republican South (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) in Religious Studies Review 36:4 (December 2010): 307-308.

Barry Hankins, Francis Schaeffer and the Shaping of Evangelical America (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008) in Church History 79:4 (December 2010): 983-985.

Susan E. Myers-Shirk, Helping the Good Shepherd: Pastoral Counselors in a Psychotherapeutic Culture, 1925-1975. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 2009) in American Historical Review 115:4 (October 2010): 1173-1174.

Gregory S. Jackson, The Word and Its Witness: The Spiritualization of American Realism (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009) in Church History 79:3 (September 2010): 723-725.

Jason Bivins, Religion of Fear: The Politics of Horror in Conservative Evangelicalism (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) in Journal of Religion 90 (July 2010): 443-445.

Jonathan Walton, Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism (New York: New York University Press, 2009) in Church History 79:1 (March 2010): 241-243.

Gregory L. Reece, Elvis Religion: The Cult of the King (London: I.B. Tauris, 2006) and Tricia Sheffield, The Religious Dimensions of Advertising (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) in Religious Studies Review 35:3 (September 2009): 202.

John A. D'Elia, A Place at the Table: George Eldon Ladd and the Rehabilitation of Evangelical Scholarship in America (New York, Oxford University Press, 2008) in Church History 78:3 (September 2009): 701-704.

Timothy Fitzgerald, Discourse on Civility and Barbarity: A Critical History of Religion and Related Categories (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007) in Church History 78:2 (June 2009): 461-463.

Richard J. Callahan, Jr., "[Coal Dust and Foot-Washing](#)," review of [Work and Faith in the Kentucky Coal Fields: Subject to Dust](#) (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009) in [Books & Culture](#) (May 2009).

Aaron Ketchell, [Holy Hills of the Ozarks: Religion and Tourism in Branson, Missouri](#) (Baltimore, Md: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007) in [Journal of Religion](#) 89 (April 2009): 295-297.

Webb Keane, [Christian Moderns: Freedom and Fetish in the Mission Encounter](#) (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007) in [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#) 77:1(March 2009): 180-83.

Edward J. Blum, "[W.E.B. DuBois and Religion](#)," [W.E.B. Du Bois: American Prophet](#) (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007) in [Books & Culture](#) (December 2008).

Tracy Fessenden, [Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular, and American Literature](#) (Princeton University Press, 2006) in [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#) 76:1 (March 2008): 216-220.

Colin Kidd, [The Forging of Races: Race and Scripture in the Protestant Atlantic World, 1600-2000](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2006) in the [Journal of Interdisciplinary History](#) 38:4 (Spring 2008): 622-24.

William A. "Billy" Sunday, [The Sawdust Trail: Billy Sunday in His Own Words](#) (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2005) and W.A. Firstenberger, [In Rare Form: A Pictorial History of Baseball Evangelist Billy Sunday](#) (Iowa City: University of Iowa, 2005) in [The Annals of Iowa](#) 66:1 (Winter 2007): 79-81.

R. Marie Griffith, [American Religions: A Documentary History](#) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) in the [Journal of Church and State](#) 49:3 (Summer 2007): 576-577.

Gregory C. Stanczak, [Engaged Spirituality: Social Change and American Religion](#) (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2006) for H-Amstdy (July 2007).

Thomas E. Woods, Jr., [The Church Confronts Modernity: Catholic Intellectuals and the Progressive Era](#) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004) in [Church History](#) 76:2 (June 2007): 448-450.

David Chidester, [Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture](#) (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005) in [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#) 75:2 (June 2007): 464-467.

Timothy J. Nelson, [Every Time I Feel The Spirit: Religious Experience and Ritual in an African American Church](#) (New York: New York University Press, 2005) in [The North Star: A Journal of African American Religious History](#) 9:1 (Spring 2007).

Priscilla Pope-Levison, [Turn the Pulpit Loose: Two Centuries of American Women Evangelists](#) (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 32:2 (April 2006): 137-138.

John F. Wilson, [Religion and the American Nation: Historiography and History](#) (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2003) and R.G. Robins, [A.J. Tomlinson: Plainfolk Modernist](#) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 32:1 (January 2006): 58-59.

Jon Sensbach, [Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World](#) (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005) in [North Carolina Historical Review](#) 57:4 (October 2005): 508-509.

Edward J. Blum, [Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism, 1865-1898](#) (LSU Press, 2005) in [Journal of Interdisciplinary History](#) 37:1 (Summer 2005): 139-140.

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards and Carolyn De Swarte Gifford, [Gender and the Social Gospel](#) (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003) and Patrick Allitt, [Religion in America Since 1945](#) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 31:3/4 (July/October 2005): 223.

Ronald B. Flowers, [To Defend the Constitution: Religion, Conscientious Objection, Naturalization, and the Supreme Court](#) (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2003) and Dagmar Wernitznig, [Going Native or Going Naïve?: White Shamanism and the Neo-Noble Savage](#) (Lanham: University Press of America, 2003) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 30:4 (October 2004): 337; 339.

Catherine Albanese, [American Spiritualities: A Reader](#) (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001), Wendy Knickerbocker, [Sunday at the Ballpark: Billy Sunday's Professional Baseball Career](#) (Lanham, Maryland: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2000), Clarence Taylor, [Black Religious Intellectuals: The Fight For Equality From Jim Crow To The 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) (New York: Routledge, 2002) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 30:2/3 (April/July 2004): 223; 226; 227.

William Dean, [The American Spiritual Culture and the Invention of Jazz, Football and the Movies](#) (New York: Continuum, 2002) in [The Sociology of Religion](#) 65:2 (Summer 2004): 177-178.

Patrick Rael, [Black Identity and Black Protest in the Antebellum North](#) (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 2002) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 29:3 (July 2003): 309.

Chip Berlet and Matthew Lyons, [Right-Wing Populism in America](#) (New York: The Guilford Press, 2000) and G. McLeod Bryan, [These Few Also Paid A Price: Southern Whites Who Fought For Civil Rights](#) (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2001) in [Religious Studies Review](#) 29:1 (January 2003): 109-110; 113.

**Curator** with John Lardas Modern, [Frequencies: a genealogy of spirituality](#)  
a series of [reflections](#) on Frequencies can be found at the SSRC  
<http://frequencies.ssrc.org/>

### Edited Volumes

“The Religious Situation: 2018,” special issues of [Religion and American Culture](#), 39:1-2 (Spring and Summer 2019).

“Sex Abuse and the Study of Religion,” [The Immanent Frame](#) (5 July 2012), <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2012/07/06/sex-abuse-and-the-study-of-religion/>

“Introduction to the Yale Roundtable on Belief,” [Method & Theory in the Study of Religion](#), 24:1 (2012): 51-54.

with Brenda Weber, “Introduction to [Celebrity Studies](#) Forum: The Legacies of Oprah Winfrey: Celebrity, Activism and Reform in the Twenty-First Century,” [Celebrity Studies](#), 3:1 (2012): 104-105.

[Women's Work: An Anthology of African-American Women's Historical Writings from Antebellum America to the Harlem Renaissance](#), co-edited with Laurie Maffly-Kipp (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

### Blog & Popular Media

for Yale Review [“The Profound Horror of the Mass Grave”](#) (22 May 2020)

on NORC research [“If COVID-19 is a message from God, what's the message?”](#) [The Hartford Courant](#) (5 June 2020), co-authored with Kraig Beyerlin, David Nirenberg, and Geneviève Zubrzycki

[“For most churchgoers, controversy between religious freedom and public health is not real.”](#) [USA Today](#) (2 June 2020), co-authored with Kraig Beyerlin, David Nirenberg, and Geneviève Zubrzycki

for Religious Studies News [“Academic Heresy”](#) (28 April 2017)

for The Point [“Understanding Is Dangerous”](#) (4 November 2016)

for The Immanent Frame [“economy”](#) (17 January 2020)  
[“This is not fine”](#) (12 December 2017)  
[“How much a spirit cost”](#) (17 July 2017)  
[“Trumping reality”](#) (7 November 2016)  
[“Corporation as sect”](#) (20 January 2015)  
[“The digital is a place to hide”](#) (7 January 2015)  
[“Sex abuse and the study of religion”](#) (6 July 2012)  
[“Holding on to multiplicity”](#) (19 July 2010)

[“So you want to be a new atheist”](#) (16 November 2009)

[“The Oprahfication of Obama”](#) (19 January 2009)

[“How now, creationist?”](#) (23 September 2008)

for Religion Dispatches

[“Mormonism Cost Romney the Election”](#) (7 November 2012)

[“The Theodicy of George Carlin”](#) (14 January 2010)

[“Sarah Vowell’s The Wordy Shipmates”](#) (17 June 2009)

[“John McCain: No God But Country”](#) (14 June 2009)

[“Travolta Tragedy: Don’t Blame L. Ron Hubbard”](#) (16 June 2009)

[“Black Church Blues: Parting with The Black Church”](#) (3 July 2009)

## Reference Book Entries

“Sexuality and American Religion” (8,000 *words*) in [American History: Oxford Research Encyclopedia](#), Jon Butler, ed., <http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-46>

“Visual Culture” (8,000 *words*) in [Encyclopedia of Religion in America](#), Charles Lippy and Peter Williams, eds. (CQ Press, 2010).

“Ethnicity” (1,000) in [Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History](#), Edward E. Curtis IV, ed. (New York: Facts On File, 2010).

“African Civilization Society” (1,000), “Noble Drew Ali” (600), “Richard Allen” (2,000), “Anglo-African Magazine” (900), “Daniel Coker” (600), “Evangelism” (900), “Great Awakening” (900), “Prince Hall” (900), and “Second Great Awakening” (900) in [Encyclopedia of African American History](#), Walter Rucker and Leslie Alexander, eds. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2010).

“Evangelicalism” (2,000), “Fundamentalism: Overview” (3,000), “Fundamentalism: The United States” (1,000), and “Religious Revivals” (1,500) in [Encyclopedia of the Modern World](#), Peter N. Stearns, ed. (Oxford University Press, 2008).

“Black Capitalism” (500), “Hamel Hartford Brookins” (500), “Calvin Butts” (250), “Benjamin Chavis-Muhammad” (500), “Radicalism” (2,000), and “Al Sharpton” (500) in [The World of Frederick Douglass, 1817-1895 in The African American History Reference Series](#), Paul Finkelman, ed. (Oxford University Press, 2008).

“Benjamin Chavis-Muhammad” (1,500) and “Arthur Brazier” (1,500) in [African American National Biography](#), Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Higginbotham, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2008).

“Fundamentalism” (3,500) in [Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender](#), Fedwa Malti-Douglas, ed. (Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007).

“Antisabbatarianism” (500) in the [Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass](#), Paul Finkelman, ed. (Oxford University Press, 2006)

“Ralph Abernathy” (700), “Jane Addams” (700), “Fannie Lou Hamer” (400), “Daniel Payne” (400), “William J. Seymour” (400), “Al Sharpton” (700), and “Andrew Young” (400) in [Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Politics](#), Ray Domenico and Mark Hanley, editors (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishing, 2006).

“Black Churches” (1,500), “Missionaries” (1,500), “Puritanism” (1,500), and “Quakers, The Society of Friends” (1,500) in [Poverty and Social Welfare in America: An Encyclopedia](#), Gwendolyn Mink and Alice O’Connor, eds. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2004).

“African-American Religious Leaders” (1,500 words) in [Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions](#), volume 1, Gary Laderman and Luis León, eds. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2003).

## PRESENTATIONS

*talks at* Queen’s University, Seattle University, University of California-Berkeley, and University of Toronto canceled due to COVID-19.



Thomas Lamb Eliot Lecture on Religion, “The Present Life of Blasphemy: Kanye West in American Popular Culture,” Reed College, November 2019.

Religion in the Americas Lecture Series, “Believe Me When I Say: What Bob Dylan Teaches the Study of Religion,” University of Chicago Divinity School, October 2019.

Roundtable Participant, Author Meets Critics: Sharon Marcus, *The Drama of Celebrity* (Princeton University Press, 2019), NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, September 2019.

Roundtable Participant, “From Om to Oprah, Talmud to Trump: Reflections on the Scope and Significance of Academic Religious Studies,” Bard College, September 2019.

“Lying and the Study of Religion: How Erving Goffman Helps,” Institut für Religionswissenschaft, Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, July 2019.

“University as Sect,” Democracy, Religion, and the Marketplace Conference, University of Virginia, May 2019.

Wilmer Lecture, “Bob Dylan was Never Christian: Origins and Gospels in the History of Religion,” Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh, March 2019.

J. Robert Maxwell Visiting Scholar, “The Present Life of Blasphemy: Kanye West in American Popular Culture,” Washington and Jefferson College, February 2019.

“It’s Not Just Them,” at Catholic Sex Abuse and the Study of Religion in 2018, in the Roman Catholic Studies Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO, November 2018.

“What Does It Matter What They Read,” at Re-Thinking the Teaching of Theories and Methods: A Discussion of Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion (Bloomsbury, 2018) and The Bloomsbury Reader for Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion (2018), in the Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO, November 2018.

“Playing with Porn,” at Author Meets Critics: Martin Shuster’s New Television: The Aesthetics and Politics of a Genre (University of Chicago Press, 2017), in the Philosophy of Religion Unit and Religion, Media, and Culture Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO, November 2018.

“Consuming Religion,” Department of Christian Studies, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea, November 2019.

“The Problem of Misconduct in the Modern University,” Yonsei Center for Human Rights and the Sexual Harassment Prevention Center, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, October 2018.

2018 Frederic C. Wood Lecture, “The Present Life of Blasphemy: Kanye West in American Popular Culture,” Department of Religion, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, September 2018.

Distinguished Visitors Series, “The Business of Being Quaker in America,” Quaker Studies and Department of Religion, Haverford College, Haverford, PA, October 2018.

Keynote Lecture, “OMG: Religion and Communication Management in Social Networks,” 2018 Graduate Student Conference, Graduate Program in Religious Studies, Boston, MA, September 2018.

Scholar’s Convocation Lecture, “The Present Life of Blasphemy: Kanye West in American Popular Culture,” Grinnell College, September 2018.

2018 Gates Lecture, “Consuming Religion: How Ivory Soap, Kim Kardashian, and Goldman Sachs Explain This Modern Age,” Religious Studies Department, Grinnell College, September 2018.

Keynote Address, 2018 Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 2018.

Keynote Lecture, “Not Dark Yet: Billy, Bob, and the Rise and Fall of the American Century,” 2018 Graduate Student Conference, Department of Religion at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, April 2018.

“The Religious Impossibility of Queer Freedom: Thinking about Trans\* Life in the Age of Transparent,” School of History, Philosophy, and Religion at Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, April 2018.

Participant, “Theology’s Publics,” Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, Berkeley, CA, March 2018.

Impact of Religion Lecture Series, “Oprah 2020: The Problem of Celebrity and Politics in America,” Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, February 2018.

“Religion and Consumption,” Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Electric Amplification in the Twentieth-Century Folk Secular,” Pious Technologies and Secular Designs, The Heyman Center, Columbia University, New York, NY, October 2017.

Invited Lecture, “Impossible Subject: Documenting Bob Dylan,” Center for the Study of Religion Symposium on Religion, Narrative, and Media, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 2017.

2017 Alice Eckardt Scholar in Residence, “Can’t Help Lovin’”: Unlikeable Gods in Pop Life,” Department of Religion Studies, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, October 2017.

Invited Lecture, “Do Not Tamper With the Clues: Notes on Goldman Sachs,” Department of Religious Studies, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, October 2017.

“At the Limits of American Religions,” in Categories and Interpretations at the Fifth Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN, June 2017.

“Popular Religion in American Democracy,” Liberal Studies Department, Western Washington University, April 2017.

Closing Remarks, “Beyond Stonewall: New Histories of Religion and Sexuality in America,” Department of Religion, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 2017.

“The Religious History of American Happiness,” Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, February 2017.

“When You Were Mine” and “Modern Love” in “Housequake”: A Critical Karaoke Tribute at Blackstar Rising & The Purple Reign: Celebrating the Legacies of David Bowie and Prince at Yale University, January 2017.

“Work,” in We Need the Cultural History of THAT! (or: Got Genealogy?) for the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

“Academic Heresy,” in Theological Education between the Times for the Theological Education Committee at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

Panelist, “Author Meets Critics: Spirits Rejoice! Jazz and American Religion (Oxford University Press, 2015) by Jason Bivins,” in the Music and Religion Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

Respondent, “Queer/Home/Collections” at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Denver, CO, November 2016.

2016 Arthur W. and Anne Hale Johnson Religion and Ethics in America Endowed Lecture, “Trumping Reality: Popular Religion in American Democracy,” Religion Department at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, November 2016.

2016 Robert S. Michaelsen Memorial Lecture, “Trumping Reality: Popular Religion in American Democracy,” Department of Religious Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2016.

Panelist, “Campus Climate Struggles: Cross-University Lessons for Change,” MultiCultural Center at University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2016.

“Trumping Reality: Popular Religion in American Democracy,” The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series at the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, Yale University, November 2016.

Invited Lecture, "Being Consumed: The Study of Religion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Institut für Religionswissenschaft, Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, May 2016.

Roundtable Participant, "Hybrid Spaces: A Roundtable Conversation on Simulation and the Sacred in the Museum," at Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April 2016.

Roundtable Participant, "Christianity and Capitalism in the Modern US: Historians respond to Kevin Kruse's *One Nation Under God*," at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Providence, RI, April 2016.

2016 Rainbow Lecture, "State Secrets, Gay Marriage, and The Morning-After Pill: Conscience in the Age of Corporate Religious Freedom," Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, University of Rochester in Rochester, NY, March 2016.

2016 Founders Annual Lecture in Comparative Religion and Contemporary Life, "State Secrets, Gay Marriage, and The Morning-After Pill: Conscience in the Age of Corporate Religious Freedom," University of Washington, in Seattle, WA, March 2016.

Keynote Lecture, "The Status of Celebrity in Study of Religion," The Florida State University Department of Religion 15th Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Tallahassee, FL, February 2016.

Keynote Lecture, "Kardashian Nation: Race and Empire in the American Family," Gender, Media, Religion: The Sixth International Conference of the Center for Media, Religion, and Culture in Boulder, CO, January 2016.

Respondent, *Spirits of Capitalism: Exploring Religion and Economy* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA, November 2015.

Roundtable Participant, *The Moral Challenges of Research: A Panel on the AAR's Draft Statement on Responsible Research Practices* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA, November 2015.

"Bob Dylan and the Musical Politics of Difference," in a panel, *Like You Mean It: Religious Sincerity in American Popular Music*, for the Music and Religion Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA, November 2015.

Roundtable Participant, "Celebrating Willie James Jennings' *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the origins of Race*," at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA, November 2015.

Keynote Lecture, "A Problem of Culture: The Goldman Sachs Group in Crisis," at 'Ways of Knowing' the Graduate Conference in Religion at Harvard Divinity School, October 2015.

Roundtable Participant, "Innovative Assignments," at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Toronto, Ontario, October 2015.

Invited Lecture, "Binge Religion: Consumer Life in an Age of Extremity," Department of Religious Studies, Duke University, September 2015."

The 2015 Armstrong Lecture, "But You Must Wager: An End to the Insider-Outsider Problem in the Study of Religion," Kalamazoo College, May 2015.

Closing Reflections, *Gurus: Mapping Spirituality in Contemporary India*, Yale University, April 2015.

Invited Lecture, "But I'm Not Religious: Goldman Sachs, The World of Warcraft, Oprah's Favorite Things and Other Resistant Subjects," Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society, Elon University, April 2015.

Keynote Lecture, "But You Must Wager: The End of the Insider-Outsider Problem in the Study of Religion," Graduate Student Conference, *Teaching Religion: Pedagogy, Transmission, and Technology*, Columbia University, March 2015.

Invited Lecture, "Binge Religion: Consumer Practice in Extremity," Department of Religion, Emory University, March 2015.

2015 Simpson-Duvall Lecture, "Do Not Tamper With the Clues: What Goldman Sachs Can Tell Us About Religion," Whitworth University, February 2015.

Closing Reflections, A Conference on New Directions in the Study of Prayer, Columbia University, February 2015.

“Believing in the Belief of Bob Dylan,” on a panel, Writers and Artists as Agents of Cultural Change, in the Arts, Literature, and Religion Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA, November 2014.

Roundtable Participant, “Graduate Training and Scholarly Formation,” hosted by the Graduate Student Committee at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA, November 2014.

Roundtable Participant, “Religious Studies and the Crisis of the Humanities,” Special Topics Forum at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA, November 2014.

Invited Lecture, “Oprah’s Next Chapter: The Afterlife of a Media Icon,” Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, October 2014.

Plenary Speaker, “I Don’t Want To Fake You Out: Bob Dylan and the Search for Belief in History,” Annual Meeting of the Society for U. S. Intellectual History, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2014.

Roundtable Participant, “What Is Intellectual History?” Annual Meeting of the Society for U. S. Intellectual History, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2014.

2014 Lerner Lecture in Religion and Society, “Do Not Tamper With the Clues: What The Goldman Sachs Group Can Tell Us About Religion,” Religious Studies Program, New York University, October 2014.

Roundtable Presentation, “Binging on Media: A Subject of Religious Studies,” post-conference workshop, Annual Meeting of the International Society for Media, Religion and Culture, Canterbury, UK, August 2014.

Plenary Address, “Oprah’s Next Chapter: The Afterlife of a Media Icon,” Annual Meeting of the International Society for Media, Religion and Culture, Canterbury, UK, August 2014.

“On the Erotic of Religion,” at Modes of Secularism and Religious Responses VI, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria, June 2014.

“Do Not Tamper With the Clues: What The Goldman Sachs Group Can Tell Us About Religion,” Comparative Secularization and Innovation in Europe and the United States, Harvard Divinity School, May 2014.

Invited Lecture, “Living In It: Oprah Winfrey, Goldman Sachs, and the Contemporary Study of Religion,” Department of Religious Studies, Brown University, April 2014.

Roundtable Participant, “State of the Field: Religion in American History” at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, GA, April 2014.

Invited Lecture, “The Leadership of Silence: Twentieth-Century Cultural Icons and the Volume of Quiet,” Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, April 2014.

Invited Lecture, “Do Not Tamper With the Clues: What The Goldman Sachs Group Can Tell Us About Religion,” Department of Religious Studies, University of Missouri at Columbia, March 2014.

Invited Lecture, “Do Not Tamper With the Clues: What The Goldman Sachs Group Can Tell Us About Religion,” Berkeley Public Forum on Religion, University of California, Berkeley, February 2014.

Panelist, “Effective Self-Marketing and Interviewing,” for a Panel at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“There Is No Religion Here,” in Presidential Panel: On Teaching Religion for a Panel at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Religion in Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“Open Secret,” in Making (the Study of) Religion Online: New Media and the Study of Religion for the Public Understanding of Religion Committee and Religion, Media, and Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“Listening to the Present,” in *The Future of the Study of American Religion at the Third Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*, IUPUI, June 2013.

“The Sexuality of Heresy,” in *Late Antiquity Made New* at Duke University, April 2013.

“The Lived Religion of Same-Sex Desire,” in *Religious Faith and Same-Sex Desire in the Early Twentieth Century* at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians in San Francisco, CA, April 2013.

Respondent, Concluding Panel, at *Mapping Africana Religions Symposium: Transnationalism, Diaspora, and Globalization* at Northwestern University, March 2013.

Invited Lecture, “Religion and the Practice of American Parenting,” Department of Religious Studies, Northwestern University, March 2013.

Invited Lecture, “Religion and the Practice of American Parenting,” In the Company of Scholars, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Yale University, February 2013.

“The Self in the Social: Making Sense of the Masses through Biography,” in *Religious Lives, Religious Subjects: Biography and American Religious History* at the Annual Meeting of the American History Association in New Orleans, LA, January 2013.

Respondent, “Religious and Sexual Revolutions: Politics, Conflicts, and Stories, 1950-80,” in Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History at the Annual Meeting of the American History Association in New Orleans, LA, January 2013.

Respondent, “Restructuring Religion: American Approaches to Modernism,” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting in New Orleans, LA, January 2013.

Panelist, “A Fabulous Rumor: Critical Interpretations of John Lardas Modern’s *Secularism in Antebellum America* (University of Chicago Press, 2011),” in the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group and Religion, Media, and Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago, IL, November 2012.

Panelist, “Does Secularism Have a Future? Responses to Jacques Berlinerblau’s *How to Be Secular: A Call to Arms for Religious Freedom* (Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt, 2012) in the Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago, IL, November 2012.

Roundtable Participant, “The Mormon Moment: Paul Gutjahr’s *The Book of Mormon*,” College Arts & Humanities Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, November 2012.

Invited Lecture, “The Spirit in the Cubicle: A Religious History of the Office Cubicle,” Department of Religious Studies and American Studies, Stanford University, October 2012.

Invited Lecture, “Spiritual Capitalism: The Prosperity Gospel of Oprah Winfrey,” in *The Ethics of Wealth Series*, Stanford Humanities Center, October 2012.

Invited Lecture, “The Spirit in the Cubicle: Religion and the Revelations of American Industry,” John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2012.

Participant, “Politically Unwilling,” a workshop of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, University of Toronto, September 2012.

Keynote Speaker, “Spiritless Space: A Religious History of the Office Cubicle,” Media and Material Components of Contemporary American Religious *Erlebnisswelten*, Heidelberg University, August 2012.

Keynote Speaker, “Believe In Reading: The Reformations of Oprah’s Book Club,” Western 2012 Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature, Seattle Pacific University, May 2012.

2012 Russel B. Nye Lecture, “Your Best Life Is Mine: Oprah Winfrey and Modern American Religion,” Michigan State University, April 2012.

Invited Lecture, “Oprah: The Religion of Modern America,” Department of Religion, Bowdoin College, April 2012.

Closing Reflections, *Queer Christianities*, New School for Social Research, March 2012.

Invited Lecture, "A Religious History of the Action Office," Department of Religious Studies, Hamilton College, March 2012.

Respondent, "Religious Media(tion) In The Public Sphere," and Roundtable Participant, "Taking Up Space: Movement, Embodiment, And Materiality" at the Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, FL, February 2012.

Invited Lecture, "Oprah: The Religion of You," Religious Studies Department, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, February 2012.

"On Oprah as (not) a Racial Saint" for *The Racial Saint: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh* at Department of Religion, Syracuse University, December 2011.

Invited Lecture, "The Spirit in the Cubicle: A Religious History of American Office Design, 1960-1986," Department of Religious Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, December 2011.

Invited Author, roundtable on Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, December 2011.

Roundtable Participant, "Neoliberal Religiosities: Globalization and New Modes of Religious Practice," in *Religion and the Social Sciences* Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

Panelist, "Frequencies: A Collaborative Genealogy of Spirituality," an additional session at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

Panelist, "The Invention of Early Church History in Nineteenth Century America: Elizabeth Clark's Founding the Fathers: Early Church History and Protestant Professors in Nineteenth Century America (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011)" in the History of Christianity section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

Invited Lecture, "Celebrity Spirit: Oprah Winfrey and the Incorporation of Your Best Life," Religion Department and Program in American Studies, Wesleyan University, November 2011.

Invited Lecture, "Oprah's Diverting Conversions: The Makeover as Social Rite," A Scott-Hawkins Lecture Co-Sponsored by the Religious Studies Club, Southern Methodist University, October 2011.

Invited Lecture, "Religions in America: Source of Healing or Sower of Discord?" for the summer series on The Use and Misuse of Religion in American Political Life, Charlemont Forum, June 2011.

"Neoliberalism and American Religion," in *Market Models for Understanding Religion*, at the Second Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, June 2011.

Respondent, panel discussion at "Writing Religion: Representation, Difference, and Authority in American Culture," University of Chicago, May 2011.

Invited Lecture, "Missionary Gift: Oprah Winfrey and the Globalization of Inspiration," Department of History, Queen's University, March 2011.

Forum Participant, Religion Session, "Exploring the Relationship Between Civility, Democracy, and the Common Good," at the Civility & Democracy in America Conference hosted by The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy & Public Service, Washington State University, March 2011.

Invited Lecture, "Practicing Oprah," Department of Religious Studies, Occidental College, March 2011.

Respondent, "The Body: Power and Problems," and Roundtable Participant, "What the Foucault Do We Do Now?: The Power of Authority in Religious Studies" at the Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, FL, February 2011.

“Religious History as Religious Studies,” in *Uncovering the “Religious” in Religious History* at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January 2011.

“Sexuality” in *Keywords in American Religious History* at the 2011 Annual Meeting at the American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January 2011.

Respondent, “Faith in the City: Urban Religions and the Narratives of Modernity,” at the American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2011.

Invited Lecture, “The Oprahfication of Obama,” Rotary One in Chicago, IL, January 2011.

“A Religious History of American Kitsch” in *New Directions in American Christian Material Culture Studies: Re-engaging Colleen McDannell’s Material Christianity* at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in San Antonio, TX, November 2010.

Panelist, “How Has Orsi’s Madonna of 115<sup>th</sup> Street Affected the Way We Think about Religion?” in the History of Christianity Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA, November 2010.

Panelist, “Book Session on Jon Pahl’s Empire of Sacrifice” in the Colloquium on Religion and Violence at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA, November 2010.

“What Is Oprah?” a presentation for the Fellows at the Whitney Humanities Center of Yale University, September 2010.

Invited Lecture, “Preacher Queen: The Race and Gender of America’s Confessor” for the American Religious History Workshop and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop at the University of Chicago, May 2010.

“The Erotics of American Religion,” at *The Politics of Religion*, a conference at Macaulay Honors College at the City University of New York, April 2010.

Invited Pride Week Lecture, “Queering Fundamentalism: John Balcom Shaw and the Sexuality of a Protestant Orthodoxy” at George Mason University, April 2010.

“The Power of a Woman: Oprah Winfrey and Spiritual Capitalism in a Secular Age” in *Gender & Landscapes of the Sacred* at the International Festival of the Sacred Arts in Delhi, India, March 2010.

Respondent, “Puritans, Prostitutes, Polygamy, and Purity Balls: Sexuality and Identity in American Religion,” and Roundtable Participant, “Sights on Gender-Blindness: A Roundtable Discussion on Incorporating Gender into Your Scholarship” at the Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, FL, February 2010.

“The Web and the Problem with Popularization,” in *American Religious Historians Online* at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in San Diego, CA, January 2010.

Invited Lecture, “What is an Oprah? Celebrity and Spiritual Capitalism in Modern America,” for the Centre for the Study of the United States and the Department and Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto, December 2009

Invited Lecture, “Of Tearrooms and Toilets: Finding the Sexuality of Lived Religions,” for the Religion, Love and Sexuality Workshop in the Religious Studies Department of Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, November 2009.

Panelist, “Author Meets Critics: Timothy Fitzgerald’s Discourse on Civility and Barbarity,” in the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Montréal, Québec, November 2009.

Roundtable Participant, “Hollywood Gets Religion? Historical and Critical Reflections on Religulous,” in Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Montréal, Québec, November 2009.

Invited Lecture, “What is an Oprah? Celebrity and Spiritual Capitalism in Modern America” for the Third Annual Baylor University Symposium on Faith and Culture, “Secularization and Revival: The Fate of Religion in Modern Intellectual History,” Baylor University, TX, October 2009.

“Disciplining Difficulty: Morris Jastrow (1861-1921) and the Study of Religion in America,” for the Cultures of American Religious Liberalism Conference at Yale University, CT, September 2009.

Invited Lecture, ““But how do you *feel* about her? Studying Oprah in the Age of Oprah,” Annual Women and Gender Studies Lecture, Manhattan College, April 2009.

Invited Lecture, “The Oprahfication of Obama” for the Department of Religious Studies at North Carolina State University, NC, April 2009.

Invited Lecture, “What Would Oprah Do?” for the Department of Religion and the Department of Women’s Studies at Hofstra University, NY, March 2009.

Invited Lecture, “What Would Oprah Do? Celebrity and Corporate Religion in the Twenty-First Century” for the Department of History at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, February 2009.

“Christian Cruising: Same-Sex Relations and the New Urbanity, 1880-1919” in *Lived Religion and the Search for Order: Toward an Inner History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City, January 2009.

Chair, “Christianity and the History of Gay Rights: New Narratives” at the Winter Meeting of the American Society of Church History in New York City, January 2009.

Respondent, “Oil, Coal, and Conservative Religion in the Twentieth Century,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City, January 2009.

Invited Lecture, “What Would Oprah Do? Celebrity and Corporate Religion in the Twenty-First Century” for the Department of American Studies and the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, November 2008.

“Happily Ever After: L. Ron Hubbard’s Morals for A Modern World,” in the North American Religions Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago, IL, November 2008.

Respondent, “Queering Culture(s),” Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion Consultation at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago, IL, November 2008.

“Sacrificial Celebrity: The Religious Violence of Tabloid Adolescence” in *Ultimate Sacrifices: Religion and Violence in American Popular Culture* at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Albuquerque, NM, October 2008.

“Sex and Secularity: A Response to Michael Warner” for a discussion co-sponsored by The Immanent Frame and the NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, October 2008.

“The Gender of a (Re)New(ed) Age: Spirituality in the History of Religions,” for Media, Spiritualities and Social Change, a conference held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, June 2008.

Invited Lecture, “Ritualism Revived: Christian Liturgies Enter Anglophone Modernity,” for *How Purity is Made*, a conference held at International Wissenschaftsforum of Heidelberg University in Heidelberg, Germany, February 2008.

Respondent, “Christianity in the Capital City” at the Winter Meeting of the American Society of Church History in Washington, D.C., January 2008.

“Of Tearooms and Toilets: Living Lived Religion” in Religion and the Social Sciences Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA, November 2007.

“Saving Suds: Soap Promotions and the Moral Culture of American Cleanliness” in *Cultural History of the Study of Religion Consultation* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA., November 2007.

Invited Lecture, “Missionary Envy: Oprah Winfrey and the Exported Makeover” at the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies at the University of Rochester, NY, October 2007.

Roundtable Participant, “The Whole World in His Hands: God’s Globe Evangelical Media, and the Secular Sacred” at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Philadelphia, PA, October 2007.

“How Fundamentalism Became a Politics,” in *What Went Right? How Culture, Media, and Politics Created American Fundamentalism* at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 2007.



“Inventing America: Itinerancy and Textual Community in the Writings of Lorenzo Dow” in *Itinerant Preaching in Early America at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of the Society for Early Americanists*, Williamsburg, VA, January 2007.

“Perpetuating the Primitive” at *Revisiting Black Gods of the Metropolis*, Indianapolis, IN, April 2007.

“From Scholar to Soldier: Two Generations of Fundamentalist Masculinity,” in *Crusading for Christ: Gender, Violence, and American Christianity, 1915-1945* at the Winter Meeting of American Society of Church History in Atlanta, GA, January 2007.

“Performing Preacher: Oprah Winfrey and the Anxious Bench” in *Afro-American Religious History* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 2006.

“Piety, Practice, Performance: Action and Embodiment in American Christianity” in *History of Christianity* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 2006.

“Promoting the Modern Preacher: Evangelical Biography on the Tabernacle Trail, 1886-1931,” in *Evangelicals in the Modern World* at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History, Philadelphia, PA, January 2006.

“Queering Fundamentalism: The Case Against John Balcom Shaw,” in *Queering the Study of Religion* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 2005.

Respondent, “Women and Religion in America,” at the Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Savannah, GA, April 2005.

“Religious Reunion and the New Spirituality,” in *Religion, Spirituality, and Modernity*, a joint session of the Religion and Popular Culture & History of Christianity Groups at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2004.

“A Self-Determined Pentecostalism: Arthur Brazier and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Chicago,” in *Religion in Black and White: Chicago Churches During the Civil Rights Era*, at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Boston, MA, March 2004.

“Finding the Fight in Fannie Lou Hamer,” in *African-American Activist Women in the Magnolia State*, at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Women Historians, Athens, GA, January 2003.

“Carrying a Big Stick in the Tabernacle: Religious Revivals as Ethnic Enclave, 1901-1909,” in *Popular Culture During the Age of Theodore Roosevelt* at the Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA, April 2003.

“Three Catholic Artists In Search Of A Sign: William Congdon, Lucas Samaras, Andy Warhol and American Artistic Iconoclasm,” in *Catholic Visual Culture: Dress, Cinema, and Art in America* at the Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January 2003.

“Practicing Oprah,” in the Religion and Popular Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada, November 2002.

“Practicing Oprah,” in Religion and Television at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2002.

“The Pentecostalism of Fannie Lou Hamer,” at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Southeastern College, FL, March 2002.

“Hating Huston, Hating Ourselves: A Postmodern Comparison,” in *New Insights on Old Religious and Philosophical Questions* at the North Carolina Religious Studies Association Annual Meeting, Barton College, NC, October 2001.

Winner, Best Graduate Student Paper, “A Self-Determined Movement: Arthur Brazier, The Woodlawn Organization, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Chicago,” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Blacks in the Diaspora Conference, Chapel Hill, February 2001.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

**2018** Keynote Speaker, UNC-Chapel Hill's 2018 Doctoral Hooding Ceremony  
**2018** Inspiring Yale Award for the Humanities, Yale University  
**2015** American Society for the Study of Religions (ASSR), elected member  
**2013** Graduate Mentor Award in the Humanities, Yale University  
**2013** Sarai Ribicoff Award for the Encouragement of Teaching at Yale College  
**2010** Poorvu Family Award for Interdisciplinary Teaching, Yale University  
**2010** 100 Top Young Historians, History News Network  
**2010-2011** Fellow at the Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University  
**2010** Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund, Yale University  
**2008-2009** Fellow in the Study of Religion and Religious History, Princeton University  
**2008-2010** Young Scholars in American Religion Program, IUPUI  
**2007-2008** College Arts & Humanities Institute Fellowship, Indiana University  
**2007** Summer Faculty Fellowship, Indiana University  
**2006-2007** LGBT Religious History Award, LGBT Religious Archives Network  
**2005-2006** Stillman Drake Award for Faculty Development, Reed College  
**2005** Students' Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award, UNC Chapel Hill  
**2005** Tanner Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, UNC Chapel Hill  
**2004** William Jay Peck Teaching Award, UNC Chapel Hill

## PROJECT PARTICIPANT

**2015-17** Faculty Mentor, **Young Scholars in American Religion Program**  
 Center on Religion and American Culture, IUPUI

**2015** Participant, **Theological Education Between the Times**  
 Candler School of Theology and the Lilly Endowment.  
 Ted A. Smith, *director*

**2012** Participant, **Workshop on the Will**  
 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
 Tomas Matza and Kevin L. O'Neill, *directors*

**2009-2012** Fellow, **The Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion**  
 Henry Luce Foundation and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music  
 Sally Promey, Richard Meyer, and Mia Mochizuki, *directors*

**2009-2011** Member, **Spirituality and Political Engagement Working Group**  
 Social Science Research Council  
 Courtney Bender and Omar M. McRoberts, *directors*

**2009-2010** Participant, **Bio/Geo Politics of Religion Seminar**  
 Macaulay Honors College at CUNY  
 Lee Quinby and Sylvia Tomasch, *directors*

**2009** Participant, **Religion and Sexuality Initiative**  
 Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
 Mark Jordan, *director*

**2001-2004** Research Associate, **The History of American Christian Practice Project**  
 Lilly Endowment  
 Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Leigh Schmidt, and Mark Valeri, *directors*

## TEACHING

<b>Yale University</b>	How to Build an American Religion
Historicizing Religion	Readings in Religion and American History, 1600-2015
Religion and Modernity	Sexuality and Religion
Religion and Popular Culture	Defining Religion
Religion and Technology	Religion in Modern America, 1865-2015

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **American Academy of Religion**

<b>2014-2019</b>	Steering Committee, Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group
<b>2012-2015</b>	Steering Committee, Secularism and Secularity Group
<b>2013-2014</b>	Mentor, AAR Committee on the Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession
<b>2013-2016</b>	Jurist, Excellence in the Study of Religion Book Award, Historical Studies
<b>2010-2013</b>	Co-Chair, Afro-American Religious History Group
<b>2007-2009</b>	Steering Committee, North American Religion Section
<b>2008-2009</b>	Steering Committee, Afro-American Religious History Group

### **American Studies Association**

<b>2009</b>	Religion and American Culture Best Paper Prize Committee
<b>2007-2008</b>	Religion Caucus Advisory Board

### **Yale University**

Acting Dean, Division of the Humanities, 2019-2020  
Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2015-2018; 2019-  
Deputy Dean for Diversity and Faculty Development, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, 2016-2019  
Chair, Advisory Committee for Diversity and Faculty Development, 2016-2019  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Faculty Misconduct, 2016-2018  
At-Large Member, University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct, 2011-2019  
Member, Executive Committee for the Whitney Humanities Center, 2014-2018  
Council Member, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, 2009-2019  
Member, Film and Media Studies Executive Committee, 2017-2018  
Member, Committee to Establish FASTAP Procedures, 2014-2017  
Faculty Committee, LGBT Studies, 2015-2017  
Senator At-Large, FAS Senate, 2012-2017  
Chair, Award Selection Committee, Griswold and Hilles Grants, 2013-2016  
Executive Committee, Yale Graduate School, 2014-2016  
Member, Standing Committee on Yale College Expansion, 2014-2016  
Member, HGS Humanities Exploratory Committee, 2014-2016  
Prize Selection Committee Member, Windham-Campbell Literature Prizes, 2014-2016  
Chair, Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS), 2014-2015  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Religious Studies, 2014-2015  
Member, Division of the Humanities Advisory Committee, 2014-2015  
Member, Advisory Committee on Library Policy, 2014-2015  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Religious Studies, 2013-14  
Chair, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Committee, 2013-2014  
Member, Course of Study Committee, 2013  
Co-Organizer, Religion and Film Series at Yale, 2011-2014  
Award Selection Committee, LGBT Studies, 2009-2014  
Organizer, Yale Seminar in Religious Studies, 2009-2016

### **Yale Conferences *organized***

Public Scholarship and the Study of Religion (2019)  
Love in a Time of Capital: Relationality and Commodification as Subjects of Religion (2014)  
Queer Life After DOMA: The Triumph of Gay Marriage in an Age of Family Values (2014)  
International Fundamentals: Early Fundamentalism and the American Century (2012)  
Global Oprah: Celebrity as Transnational Icon (2011)  
What Is Belief? (2011)  
Sex Abuse and the Study of Religion (2011)

## EDITORIAL

**Co-Editor** Class 200: New Studies in Religion, The University of Chicago Press.  
with John Lardas Modern

### books in series:

David Marno, *Death Be Not Proud: The Art of Holy Attention* (2016)  
Kathryn Lofton, *Consuming Religion* (2017)  
Emily Ogden, *Credulity: A Cultural History of US Mesmerism* (2018)  
Peter Coviello, *Make Yourselves Gods: Mormons and the Unfinished Business of American Secularism* (2019)  
Spencer Dew, *The Aliites: Race and Law in the Religions of Noble Drew Ali* (2019)  
Kevin Lewis O'Neill, *Hunted: Predation and Pentecostalism in Guatemala* (2019)  
Jolyon Baraka Thomas, *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan* (2019)  
J. Brent Crosson, *Experiments with Power: Obeah and the Remaking of Religion in Trinidad* (2020)  
Maia Kotrosits, *The Lives of Objects: Material Culture, Experience, and the Real in the History of Early Christianity* (2020)  
Elayne Oliphant, *The Privilege of Being Banal: Art, Secularism, and Catholicism in Paris* (2020)

### Contributing Editor

**2010-2015** The Immanent Frame (<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/>)  
**2008-2010** Religion Dispatches (<http://www.religiondispatches.org/>)  
**2007-2009** Religion in American History (<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/>)

**Associate Editor** Journal of the American Academy of Religion

### Editorial Board Member

Journal of the American Academy of Religion  
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion  
Journal of the History of Sexuality  
Religion Compass, "Religions in the Americas," Blackwell Publishing  
Practical Matters, Emory University

### Contributor

**2008-** Immanent Frame ([http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent\\_frame/](http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent_frame/))  
**2004, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014** Religion and Culture Web Forum, University of Chicago Divinity School  
**2009** Patheos (<http://www.patheos.com/>)

### Reviewer

American Anthropologist, American Quarterly, The Annals of Iowa, Bloomsbury Publishing Group, Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, Critical Research on Religion, Duke University Press, Fat Studies, Harvard University Press, History of Religion, Indiana University Press, Journal of Africana Religions, Journal of Religion, Journal of Religious History, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, New York University Press, Oxford University Press, Pennsylvania State University Press, Princeton University Press, Radical History Review, Religion, Religion and American Culture, Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, University of North Carolina Press, Women's Studies Quarterly, and Yale University Press.

Panelist, Collaborative Research Program, National Endowment for the Humanities (2007-2008)  
Religion Prize Committee, Grawemeyer Award, University of Louisville-Louisville Seminary (2014)  
External Reviewer, multiple departments and divisions at North American colleges and universities

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion; American Society for the Study of Religion, American Historical Association; American Studies Association; Organization of American Historians; American Society of Church History