

# MATTHEW S. HEDSTROM

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Religious Studies  
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### ***CURRENT POSITION***

**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA (2009–present)  
*Associate Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies* (2015–)  
*Assistant Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies* (2009–2015)

### ***EMPLOYMENT HISTORY***

**Roger Williams University**, Bristol, RI (2008–2009)  
*Assistant Professor of History and American Studies*

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ (2007–2008)  
*Postdoctoral Research Associate*, Center for the Study of Religion

- A one-year research fellowship for historians of religion in the United States

**Valparaiso University**, Valparaiso, IN (2005–2007)  
*Lilly Fellow and Lecturer in Humanities and American Studies in Christ College* (Honors College)

- A two-year teaching fellowship through the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts

### ***EDUCATION***

**The University of Texas at Austin**, Department of American Studies

- *Ph.D.* (2006). Dissertation nominated for the Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize of the American Studies Association.
- *Master of Arts* (1997)

**Haverford College**, Haverford, PA

- *Bachelor of Arts* in History (1992) with Honors

### ***PUBLICATIONS***

#### **Books**

*The Rise of Liberal Religion: Book Culture and American Spirituality in the Twentieth Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). Released November 2012. Paperback January 2015.

- Winner of the 2013 Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize (best first book) of the American Society of Church History.
- Featured in *The New York Times*, “A Religious Legacy, With Its Leftward Tilt, Is Reconsidered.” July 23, 2013.
- Named “Notable Title” for 2012 by the Society for US Intellectual History.
- Reviewed in *Journal of American History*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Religion*, *Church History*, *Christian Century*, *Books and Culture*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Modern Intellectual History* (forthcoming), *Theology*, *Textual Criticism*, *Choice*, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (by Matt Sutton), US Intellectual History blog, *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*, other sites online
- Excerpted in *Religion and Politics*, the online journal of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis.

In progress: *The Religion of Humanity: Faith, Politics, and the United Nations*. A book on the history of the “religion of humanity” idea across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, its long entanglement with politics, and its culmination in the contested religious history of the United Nations. The heart of the book covers the 1940s to 1960s.

In progress: *Religion in Print: Books and Reading in American Religious History*, for Chicago History of American Religion series, edited by John Corrigan for University of Chicago Press. Book will cover the history of religion, books, and reading in America, 1600–present.

### **Book Series**

Co-editor with Leigh Eric Schmidt, “American Spirituality” book series, University of Virginia Press. Launched Spring 2017

### **Articles**

In progress: “Civil Spirituality?” Essay on civil religion in the age of spiritual but not religious for *Beyond Bellah: Civil Religion in the United States*, ed. Phil Goff, Oxford University Press.

In progress: “The Protestant History of American Mindfulness.” A 8000-9000 word essay for edited volume, to be published by Routledge, on the history of American Spirituality. June 2017 submission.

In progress: “Liberalism,” a 10,000 word, peer-reviewed article for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, Oxford University Press. Ed. John Corrigan.

“Scientific Spirituality: How Mindfulness Became the Buddhist Fulfilment of a Protestant Dream,” *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review*, Spring 2017.

“Religion and American Psychology,” 4000 word essay for *Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction* (Johns Hopkins University Press), Gary B. Ferngren, ed. (2016)

In Press: “Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),” co-author with Guy Aiken, in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, Paul Joseph and J. Geoffrey Golson, eds. (SAGE, 2016). (1500 words, submitted)

“Secularization,” in Blum, Edward J., ed. *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*. 2 vols. Farmington Hills, MI: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2016.

“The Rise of the ‘Nones,’” in *Faith in the Age of Obama*. Darren Dochuk and Matt Sutton, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

“The Rise of Spiritual Cosmopolitanism: Liberalism and Cultural Politics in the Twentieth Century.” In Andrew Preston, Bruce J. Schulman, and Julian E. Zelizer, eds., *Faithful Republic: Religion and Politics in Modern America* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015)

“The Commodification of William James: The Book Business and the Rise of Liberal Spirituality in the Twentieth-Century United States.” In Jan Stieverman, Philip Goff, and Detlef Junker, eds., *Religion and the Marketplace in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Co-authored with Brent Sirota, Introduction to *Religion and the State in Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century US and Europe* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Press, 2012)

“Reading across the Divide of Faith: Liberal Religious Book Culture and Interfaith Encounters in Print,” for Sally Promey and Leigh Eric Schmidt, ed., *American Religious Liberalism* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012). Series editors: Catherine Albanese and Stephen Stein.

“New Directions in the History of American Religious Liberalism.” Review essay for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 79, no.1 (March 2011): 236–247.

“Seeing Religion Happen in the Other America.” *American Quarterly* 61, no. 1 (March 2009). An extended review of documentary photography of American religious life.

“Psychology and Mysticism in 1940s Religion: Reading the Readers of Fosdick, Liebman, and Merton,” in Paul S. Boyer and Charles L. Cohen, eds., *Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008).

“Rufus Jones and Mysticism for the Masses.” *CrossCurrents* 54, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 31–44. Reprinted (in excerpted form) by the *Utne Reader* online, October 7, 2004.

### **Reviews, Reference Works, and Public Essays**

In progress: commissioned entry on “Frank Laubach” for *American National Biography*, published by American Council of Learned Societies and Oxford University Press.

Review of David A. Hollinger, *After Cloven Tongues of Fire: Protestant Liberalism in Modern America* for *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (December 2015): 1165-1168.

“The Evangelical Mind in a Secular Age.” *Modern Intellectual History*, September 2015. 5000 word review of Molly Worthen, *Apostles of Reason*; Randall Stephens and Karl Giberson, *The Anointed*; and Ed Blum and Paul Harvey, *The Color of Christ*

“Mad Men and the Enlightenment of Don Draper.” *Religion and Politics*, June 8, 2015.

Review of Una M. Cadegan, *All Good Books Are Catholic Books: Print Culture, Censorship, and Modernity in Twentieth-Century America*, in *American Historical Review* (December 2014): 1714–1715.

Review of *Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies*, Stephen Angell and Ben Dandelion, eds., for *Quaker Religious Thought* (April 2014): 36–42.

“When American Culture Made Sense,” review of George Marsden, *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief*, in the *Washington Post*. Sunday, March 30, 2014.

“Religion v. Religions,” *Then and Now*, online religious history column of *Christian Century*. August 29, 2013.

“When the Mainline Told Us What to Read,” *Then and Now*, online religious history column of *Christian Century*. June 5, 2013.

“A History of the Unaffiliated: How the ‘Spiritual Not Religious’ Gospel Has Spread,” *Religion Dispatches*, October 24, 2012

Review of Margarita A Mooney, *Faith Makes Us Live: Surviving and Thriving in the Haitian Diaspora* for *Teaching Sociology* 39 (April 2011): 208–209. *Journal of the American Sociological Association*.

Review of Susan E. Meyers-Shirk, *Helping the Good Shepherd: Pastoral Counselors in a Psychotherapeutic Culture, 1925-1975* for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 79, No. 4 (November 2010): 973–976.

Review of Matthew Avery Sutton, *Aimee Semple McPherson and The Resurrection of Christian America*, for *Religion and Politics* 1, No. 1 (2008): 160–162.

Review of Vincent J. Miller, *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture*, for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 77, No. 1 (March 2008): 248–250.

Review of Sam Fentress, *Bible Road: Signs of Faith in the American Landscape*, for *The Cresset* 71, No. 3 (February 2008): 60–61.

“A Usable Past for the Spiritual Left.” Review of Leigh Eric Schmidt, *Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality from Emerson to Oprah* for H-AmStdy. October 2007.

“War and the Politics of Memory.” Review of *The March* by E.L. Doctorow. *The Cresset* 69, No. 5 (June 2006): 35–38.

“New Age Bestsellers.” *Encyclopedia of Religion and American Cultures*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Press, 2003.

“Academic Integrity.” An electronic brochure made available to all students and faculty at The University of Texas at Austin, 1997.

### **INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS and PUBLIC LECTURES**

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| October 2016   | Look Hoos Talking, “Why Study Spirituality?” October 2016. Old Cabell Hall, UVA.  |
| August 2016    | Invited Panelist on topic, “From None to Done: What Every Leader Needs to Know about the Spirituality of Today’s Workforce.” Marine Corps University, Quantico, VA  |
| March 2016     | “Buddhist Fulfillment of a Protestant Dream: Mindfulness as Scientific Spirituality” for Being Spiritual But Not Religious: Past, Present, Futures. Rockwell Symposium, Rice University   |
| January 2015   | “Sola Scriptura?: Book History and Religious Authority in the United States.” Invited Lecture, Book History and Print Culture lecture series, University of Toronto   |
| November 2014  | Invited Speaker, “Religious Press and Print Culture” conference, Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany  |
| October 2014   | “Rise of the Nones,” for the conference <i>Religion and Politics in the 21st Century</i> , Southern Methodist University, Dallas. Hosted by the SMU Center for Presidential History and the John C. Danforth Center for Religion and Politics, Washington University, St. Louis. Broadcast on C-SPAN. |
| September 2014 | “Quaker Studies for Non-Quakers,” invited address for <i>Quaker Studies across the Curriculum</i> symposium, Haverford College. Symposium held in conjunction   |

- with the establishment of the Douglas and Dorothy Steere Professorship in Quaker Studies.
- May 2014 Invited Speaker, Stanford University, American Religions Workshop. Topic: My work in progress on race and religious liberalism.
- April 2014 Invited Lecture, History Department, Wittenberg University. “Does ‘Spirituality’ Have a History?”
- February 2014 Invited Speaker, Princeton University, Religions of the Americas Colloquium. Topic: *The Rise of Liberal Religion*. \*\*Postponed, date TBD\*\*
- June 2013 Invited Speaker, “Religion and Changing Technologies” panel, Third Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture. Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI
- Published in *Proceedings: Third Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*. Available: <http://raac.iupui.edu/files/3013/7606/9381/Proceedings2013.pdf>
- March 2012 “The Rise of Spiritual Cosmopolitanism: Liberalism and Cultural Politics in the Twentieth Century.” Invited Speaker, American Political History Institute Conference, Boston University, in collaboration with Clare College, Cambridge University, and Princeton University
- May 2011 “The Ethnographic Sensibility in Historical Scholarship,” paper presented to the Summer Institute in Lived Theology, University of Virginia
- March 2011 “Norman Vincent Peale and Frank Laubach in American Religious Print Culture.” Invited talk, sponsored by Syracuse University, Department of Religious Studies, and Syracuse Library Special Collections
- Sept. 2009 Revised version, “Reading across the Divide of Faith: Liberal Protestant Book Culture and Interfaith Encounters in Print, 1921-1948,” Cultures of American Religious Liberalism Symposium, Yale University
- February 2009 “Missionaries in the Stacks: Liberal Protestantism, Public Libraries, and the Marketing of Religious Eclecticism in the Mid-Twentieth Century.” Invited Lecture, Yale Divinity School
- November 2008 “Protestantism Goes Middlebrow: Book Culture and the Marketing of Spiritual Eclecticism in the Mid-Twentieth-Century United States.” Invited Lecture, Duke Divinity School.
- April 2008 “Reading across the Divide of Faith: Liberal Protestant Book Culture and Interfaith Encounters in Print,” for American Religious Liberalism, a national, interdisciplinary conference at Princeton University
- April 2008 “Publishing, Religion, and the Culture of Liberalism in the 20th-Century US.” Center for the Study of Books and Media, Princeton University
- April 2007 “The American Homefront in World War I.” Lecture given before the Dunelands Historical Society, Chesterton, IN

February 2006 “E.L. Doctorow’s *The March* and the Politics of Civil War Memory.” Lecture given as part of a campus and community book series, Valparaiso University.

September 2003 “Rufus Jones and Mysticism for the Masses.” Haverford College, Young Academic Alumni Lecture Series

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

January 2016 “Liberalism,” comments for panel on Keywords in American Protestantism, American Society of Church History, Atlanta, GA.

October 2014 Panelist, roundtable on theology and intellectual history, Society for US Intellectual History conference, Indianapolis, IN.

August 2014 “Post-Protestantism in the Marketplace of Print,” International Society for Media, Religion and Culture, University of Kent, UK

August 2014 “Religion, Print, and the Problem of Authority.” Address given to concluding workshop, International Society for Media, Religion and Culture, University of Kent, UK

January 2014 “A Jolt to Nordic Conceit”: Kagawa, Gandhi, and the Liberal Protestant Modernization of Race.” Panel: Religion and the Struggle for Racial Inclusion in Twentieth Century America, American Historical Association, Washington, DC.

January 2014 Reading Liberally: The Cultural Dynamics of American Spirituality in the 20th Century.” Panel: Texts and the Origins of Liberal Religion in America, 1880-1950, American Society for Church History, Washington, DC.

January 2014 Another Restructuring?: Denominationalism and Politics in the Age of “Spiritual But Not Religious.” Panel: Restructuring, Still: Twenty-Five Years with Robert Wuthnow’s *The Restructuring of American Religion*, American Society for Church History, Washington, DC.

November 2013 Paper on religion, for panel: The Role of American Studies in Interpreting the 2012 Elections, American Studies Association, Washington, DC.

November 2012 “Religious Reading Mobilized: World War II and the Rise of Spiritual Cosmopolitanism in the US.” World War II and Religion Conference. The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, and the Department of Religion, Florida State University

November 2012 “Toyohiko Kagawa and the Color Line in US Liberal Protestantism.” Panel: Religion and the Construction of Racial Fantasies, American Studies Association, San Juan, PR

January 2012 “Inventing Interfaith: Reading Publics and Liberal Democracy during World War II.” Panel on Habermas, Religion, and the Public Sphere, American Historical Association / American Society for Church History, Chicago, IL

October 2011 “Christian America?: Constitutional Reform and the Left-Right Politics of National Religious Identity.” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD

- October 2011 “The Commodification of William James: The Book Business and the Rise of Liberal Spirituality in the Twentieth-Century United States.” Conference: Religion and the Marketplace in the U.S.: New Perspectives and New Findings, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- July 2011 “Publishing for Seekers: Eugene Exman and the Religion Department of Harper & Brothers.” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing. Washington, DC
- June 2011 “The Religious Book Club: Middlebrow Culture and the Rise of Liberal Spirituality in Modern America.” Conference: The Battle of the Brows: Cultural Distinctions in the Space Between, 1914–1945. McGill University, Montreal, Canada
- April 2011 “‘To put God in the Constitution’: Religious Liberty, Constitutional Reform, and the Rise of a Spiritual Left in America.” Roger Williams Conference on Religion and the State. Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.
- January 2011 “Liberalism.” Keywords in American Religious History, American Historical Association, Boston, MA. Panel organizer and presenter.
- September 2010 “God’s Gatekeepers: Libraries, Librarians, and the Formation of a Popular Religious Canon, 1900–1950.” Libraries in the History of Print Culture, a conference of the Center for the History of Print Culture, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- June 2010 Discussant, roundtable session on Shaun Casey, *The Making of a Catholic President: Kennedy vs. Nixon 1960*. The Historical Society conference, George Washington University.
- April 2010 “Reading Religion in Public: Liberal Protestant Faith in the Public Libraries, 1920–1948.” Organization of American Historians, Washington, DC.
- Nov 2009 “Mahatma Gandhi as Liberal Protestant: E. Stanley Jones, Howard Thurman, and the Making of an American Hindu-Christian Saint,” American Academy of Religion, North American Religions Section, Montreal, ON
- Sept 2009 “The Religious Book Club: Marketing Liberalism through Print,” Reception Studies Society, Purdue University.
- March 2007 “Religious Books as ‘Weapons in the War of Ideas’: American Spirituality and Religious Reading Programs during World War II.” Organization of American Historians, Minneapolis, MN
- November 2006 “Poster Art and the Promotion of Religious Reading in America, 1921–1948: Constructing a Visual Piety of the Printed Word.” Religion, Media, and Culture Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC
- October 2006 “The Construction of ‘Judeo-Christian’ Spirituality in Postwar America.” American Studies Association, Oakland, CA

- November 2005 “Religion and the American Studies Classroom.” Roundtable panel: Coordinator and Co-organizer. American Studies Association, Washington, DC
- November 2004 “How the Book Business Psychologized Spirituality, 1920–1950.” Panel: Being and Doing: Best Paper Proposals, 2004. North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX
- September 2004 “Mass-Market Books and a New Spirituality: The Readers of Fosdick, Liebman, and Merton.” Conference: Religion and the Culture of Print in America, Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, Madison, WI
- October 2003 “Religious Middlebrow: Harry Emerson Fosdick and Joshua Loth Liebman in Print and on Radio, 1927–1948.” Panel: Religion and Media. American Studies Association, Hartford, CT
- November 2002 “Rufus Jones, Quaker Mysticism, and the Transformation of American Religion.” Panel: American Christianity and Social Welfare. North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion, Toronto, ON
- February 2002 “Media, Markets, and Messages: Consumer-Driven Faith in Contemporary America.” Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Albuquerque, NM
- November 2001 “Conjuring Stories: Representation, Identity, and Freedom in the Short Fiction of Charles Chesnutt.” American Studies Association of Texas, Huntsville, TX
- April 2001 “New Paradigm, New Faith: Robert Schuller and the Future of American Religion.” Pacific Northwest American Studies Association, Lincoln City, OR

### **ACADEMIC RESPONSES**

- January 2017 Respondent, “Negotiating Christian Identity: A Perennial Theme in Global Church History.” American Society of Church History, Denver, CO
- November 2016 Panelist, Author Meets Critics Roundtable on John Corrigan’s *Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America*. American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX
- November 2016 Respondent, “From Tourists to Pilgrims: Transnational Travel, Religious Longing and the Forging of Imperial Intimacies.” American Studies Association, Denver, CO.
- October 2016 Chair, “American Protestants and Twentieth-Century Global and Pluralistic Demands,” Conference on Faith and History, Virginia Beach, VA
- March 2015 Chair and respondent, “Whose Justice? Which Rationality?” session, Theology Ethics and Culture Graduate Conference, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia



- October 2014      Remarks, Roundtable Discussion on “Public University and Religious Expression,” hosted by Institute for Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, part of Religion and the University event.
- October 2014      Chair and respondent, “Publishing and Its Intellectual Power” panel, Society for US Intellectual History conference, Indianapolis
- November 2013    Panelist, author-meets-critics session devoted to *The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies*. American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD  
\*Published in special issue of *Quaker History*
- November 2013    Chair and Comment, “Religious and Political Liberalism in 20th-Century America,” United States Intellectual History Conference, UC-Irvine.
- March 2013        Chair, “Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Identity,” Eastern American Studies Association, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA
- November 2012    Panelist, “Race, Religion, and Representations of a Savior in America: A Panel Discussion of *The Color of Christ*,” American Studies Association, San Juan, PR
- November 2012    POSTPONED to November 2013. Chair and Comment, “Religious and Political Liberalism in 20th-Century America,” United States Intellectual History Conference, New York
- October 2012      Panelist, “Mormonism in a Changing America: Beliefs, Questions, and Controversies,” a public conversation at the University of Virginia
- April 2012        Chair and Comment, “Another City: The Politics of Ecclesial Imagination.” Session of the conference “Democratic Piety? Theology and Ethics in a Post-Secular Age,” University of Virginia
- April 2012        Response to Slavica Jakelic, “Secularism as a Problem: Beyond the Discourse of the Secular-Religious Conflict.” Event hosted by the Virginia Center for the Study of Religion
- September 2010    Response to Tony Lin, “Immigrant and the Prosperity Gospel,” Symposium at the Institute for Advance Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
- March 2010        Response to Benjamin Fagan, paper on African American newspapers of the 19th century. Pre-doctoral research symposium, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia
- November 2009    Chair and Comment, “Mysticism and the Religion of Democracy in American Social Movement.” Session at United States Intellectual History conference, CUNY Graduate Center, New York
- February 2008     Commentator, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, roundtable conversation with Krista Tippett, host of public radio’s “Speaking of Faith”
- October 2004      Commentator and Panel Chair, “Religion and Gender” panel, at the annual, national conference hosted by the Department of American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.

September 2002 Commentator and Panel Chair, “Contemporary Social Trends” panel, at the annual, national conference hosted by the Department of American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.

### ***MEDIA INTERVIEWS***

- September 2016 “Spiritual But Not Religious” segment on With Good Reason, public radio, aired September 18, 2016
- August 2016 CBS 19 interview, Charlottesville. August 8, 2016
- December 2015 Interviews with the Daily Progress newspaper and WTJU radio regarding American spirituality
- July 2013 Extensive interview for “A Religious Legacy, With Leftward Tilt, Is Reconsidered,” regarding my class, “Spirituality in America,” and *The Rise of Liberal Religion*. *The New York Times*, July 23, 2013.
- March 2013 “Historian Matthew Hedstrom Details the Evolution of ‘Post-Protestant Spirituality.’” Interview regarding my book, *The Rise of Liberal Religion*. *ShelfLife@Texas* blog.
- December 2012 “Liberals Rising.” Two-part interview regarding my book, *The Rise of Liberal Religion*. *Religion in American History* blog.
- December 2012 Sole guest on Virginia public radio program “Virginia Insight.” Topic: My book, *The Rise of Liberal Religion*.
- September 2012 Guest on Virginia public radio program “Virginia Insight.” Topic: What Do Mormons Believe?
- August 2012 Guest on an hour-long radio program “Wake Up” aired across Virginia, with journalist Jayson Whithead and Prof. Douglas Laycock. Topic: Christianity in the Locker Room.
- June 2012 Interviewed for nationally syndicated Associated Press story, “College Boards Turn to Business-Style Approaches” (June 27), and local NBC29 television news story, “Social Media Becomes Outlet for Sullivan Support” (June 25)
- Jan. 2010 Interviewed for Bryan McKenzie, “Does Doom Creep Closer with New Decade?” *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, Saturday, January 2, 2010.
- May 2008 Interviewed for Jill Rosen, “Fascination with Final Words Has No End,” *Baltimore Sun*, Tuesday, May 6, 2008

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of Virginia**

##### **Graduate Courses**

##### Historiography Seminar in American Religions

This course introduces graduate students in History and Religious Studies to the study of American religious history through a survey of key texts, subjects, and historiographical trends. We attend to recent debates and developments in the field regarding method while aiming to

balance an appreciation of diversity with the search for unifying themes. The primary focus is on the 19th and 20th centuries.

### American Spirituality

What is “spirituality” and why has it become such a pervasive term in contemporary American culture? This course explores this question through historical interrogation of the category and its development since the early nineteenth century. The encounter of historic religious traditions, especially Protestant Christianity, with the intellectual, cultural, economic, and social currents of modernity form the larger background for our analysis. We will read primary and secondary texts that investigate religious liberalism, the rise of psychology, secularism and secularization, consumerism, media, and globalization.

### **Undergraduate Courses**

#### “Spiritual But Not Religious”: Spirituality in America

This interdisciplinary lecture course surveys spirituality in America, with a particular eye for the relationship between spirituality and formal religion, on the one hand, and secular modes of understanding the self, such as psychology, on the other. Along the way we study everything from AA to yoga to Zen meditation, with stops in Christian rock, Beat poetry, Abstract Expressionist painting, spirit photography, the feminist movement, and recent film. In the end, we come to see spirituality in America as a complex intermingling of the great world religions, modern therapeutic psychology, the politics of movements for social change, and a crassly commercialized, billion-dollar culture industry.

#### Theories and Methods of American Studies

The aim of this core course is to introduce students to the tools necessary for advanced work in American studies. In the first six-weeks we will explore models of American studies scholarship covering the period from 1880–1930. Our primary and secondary readings will address, in particular, issues of urbanism, reform, race, and empire, and from this introduction we will develop a good sense of what American studies scholars do. The final eight weeks of the semester will attend more specifically to the history of the American studies movement and specific theoretical and methodological approaches that practitioners in the field have developed.

#### Introduction to American Studies

This course introduces students to the broadly interdisciplinary study of US culture in all its various forms, from everyday life, historical memory, politics, and religion to art, literature, film, photography, and music. Our emphasis throughout will be on doing American Studies, which we will model during the course’s six tightly focused units. Students will then put this learning into practice for your semester project on American foodways. All along we will examine issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, transnationality, and citizenship that have shaped key moments in the history of American culture and society. This course consists of 2 lectures a week and a separate discussion section.

#### Christian America? Religious Diversity and National Identity

Topics of particular concern include debates about religion during the drafting of the Constitution, and the subsequent history of religion and public life; the historical development of religious diversity in the United States; and contemporary social, political, legal, cultural, and religious implications of pluralism. The unifying theme will be the ongoing debates over the religious identity of the United States, a country at once profoundly Christian, on the one hand, and both officially secular and demographically diverse, on the other.

Visions of the Apocalypse in American Culture

An interdisciplinary seminar looking at apocalyptic thought and social movements in Western Christianity, with emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries in the United States. Final unit in course examines technology, popular culture, and secular apocalypticism through social and cultural history, including film and literature.

Early American Religion (American Religious History before 1865)

This course surveys religion in colonial North America and the United States from the first European settlements through the Civil War. Two questions predominate: what was the role of religion in early American history, and how did various religious groups (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Native American, African American, Evangelical, Mormon) grow, develop, and change over time?

Majors Seminar: American Religious Liberalism

This course examines liberalism from historical, sociological, psychological, theological, and political perspectives. Readings cover Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism, “seekers” in Eastern traditions, and various post-Christian forms of religious liberalism, as well as scholarly assessments of these sensibilities and practices. The study of liberalism forces a confrontation with the boundaries between religion and culture—as well as with the cultural history of the study of religion—themes that recur throughout the course.

COLA 1500: Varieties of Religious Experience

A one-credit course for first-year students, mixing advising and content. Coursework consists of a semester-long reading of William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.

American Studies Distinguished Majors Seminar

Required course for fourth-year students writing an honors thesis in American Studies.

**Graduate Committees, UVA and elsewhere****Doctoral Advisees**

- Guy Aiken, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. “Social Christianity and the American Friends Service Committee’s Pacifist Humanitarianism in Germany and Appalachia, 1919-1941.” April 2017.
- Charlie Cotheman, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. “Awakening the Lay Evangelical Mind: Francis Schaeffer, James Houston, and the Study Center Movement in North America.” April 2017.

**Doctoral Committees**

- Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. Larry Perry, “The Undiscovered Thurman: An Intellectual and Political Biography of the Early Howard Thurman.” October 2016 defense
- Department of History, University of Virginia. Lauren Turek, “To Bring the Good News to All Nations: Evangelicals, Human Rights, and U.S. Foreign Policy, 1969–1994.” June 2015 defense.
- Department of English, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. Andrew Connolly, “I Used to Speak in Tongues: Pentecostal Deconversion Narratives and Neoliberal Spirituality.” April 2015 defense.
- Department of History, D.H. Dilbeck, “War in Earnest: The Union and its Effort to Wage a Just War.” March 2014 defense.
- Department of English. Sam Turner, “Red Letters, Black Ink, White Paper: Race, Writing, Colors, and Characters in 1850s America.” July 2013 defense.

- History, English and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia. Joanna T. Fedson, “Redeeming Fiction: American Evangelical Fiction, Gender, and Culture.” September 2011
- Department of English. Ben Fagan, “The Black Newspaper and the American Nation.” April 2011 defense.
- Department of History. Kid Wongsrichanalai, “New England’s Elites: College-Educated Northerners in the Civil War Era.” June 2010 defense.
- Department of Religious Studies. Ann Duncan, “From the Mother of God to the Mommy Wars: Motherhood and American Christianity.” April 2010 defense.

### **PhD Qualifying Examinations**

- Isaac May, September 2016
- Daniel Wise, September 2015
- Jonathan Cohen (History), June 2015
- Charlie Cotheman, April/May 2015
- Kelly Figueroa-Ray, September 2014
- Guy Aiken, May 2014
- Larry Perry, May 2013

### **Masters**

- Master’s Thesis Committee, Joseph Stuart, Department of Religious Studies. December 2014.
- Master’s Thesis Committee, Rachel Butrum, Department of Religious Studies. April 2014 defense.
- Master’s Thesis Committee, Mary Grace Puckett, Department of Religious Studies. September 2011 defense.

### **Graduate Independent Studies**

- Isaac May and Bradley Kime, Secularism and Atheism in America (Fall 2015)
- Jonathan Cohen, History, American Religious History (Spring 2015)
- Charlie Cotheman, American Religious Liberalism (Spring 2014)
- Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Ethnographic Methods in American Religion (Spring 2011)
- Larry Perry, Race and American Religious Liberalism, co-supervised with Dr. Valerie Cooper (Spring 2011)

### **Undergraduate Theses and Independent Studies**

- 2016-2017: Supervised 2 DMP projects in American Studies
- 2015-2016: Supervised 3 DMP projects, 2 in American Studies and 1 in Religious Studies
- Director, Distinguished Majors Program, American Studies, 2010-2011 (5 DMPs); 2011–2012 (6 DMPs); 2013-2014 (4 DMPs)
- Distinguished Majors Program, American Studies, 2009–2010 (1 student supervised; 1 second reader); 2011–2012 (1 student supervised); 2012–2013 (1 student supervised); 2013–2014 (1 student supervised)
- Distinguished Majors Program, Religious Studies, 2009-2010 (1 second reader); 2013–2014 (1 second reader)
- Secondary advisor, Political Philosophy, Politics, and Law (PPL) thesis, spring 2013 (1 student)
- Independent Study, Spring 2010 (1 student); Spring 2014 (1 student); Spring 2015 (1 student)

**Teaching at Other Institutions**

Courses at Roger Williams University, Valparaiso University, and The University of Texas at Austin

**American Religious History**

Popular Religion in 20th-Century America

Religion and the Counterculture in America: Transformation, Innovation, and Dissent

Religious Diversity in the United States: History, Culture, Politics, Meaning

Varieties of American Religion

Visions of the Apocalypse in American Culture

**American Studies and United States History**

The American Experience: Rereading American Myths

Introduction to American Studies/The American Experience

US I: United States History to 1865/1877

US II: United States History since 1865/1877

War, Society, and Culture in the 20th-Century US

**Instructor, University Extension, University of Texas at Austin**

- The United States, 1492–1865
- The United States since 1865
- Texas and Its History
- Western Civilization in Modern Times

**Teaching Assistant, Department of American Studies, University of Texas at Austin**

- The West: Art, Photography, Film, History since 1880
- The American West to 1880: History, Art, and Photography
- Introduction to American Studies

**The Asheville School, Asheville, NC****Instructor**

- The Literature of Social Protest (Summer 2001)  
Designed and taught this class for one section of gifted 7th and 8th graders and one of gifted 9th and 10th graders.

**TEACHING AWARDS**

Spring 2013, 2014 Department of Religious Studies nominee for Cory Family Teaching Award, College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia

Spring 2003 Outstanding Assistant Instructor, Department of American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, 2002–2003. Given for “Popular Religion in 20th-Century America.” Based on student evaluations and faculty observation.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Executive Council member, American Society of Church History. Appointed to three-year term, beginning January 2016.

External Evaluation Committee Member, Department of History, Eastern Mennonite University. Conducted 2-day site visit, February 2016. Wrote 50% of committee report.

**Member, Editorial Board**

*Journal of American Studies: Eurasian Perspectives*, appointed spring 2014

**Member, Editorial Board**

*Nineteenth Century Collections Online*. Subject specialist for “Religion, Spirituality, Reform, and Society”

**Conference Co-organizer 2011, 2013**

Roger Williams Conference on Religion and the State. Helped devise theme, wrote call for papers, reviewed submissions, organized panels.

**Manuscript and Proposal Reviewer**

Peer-review for Oxford University Press (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), Princeton University Press (2016, 2017), University of Illinois Press (2016), Cornell University Press (2012, 2013, 2014), and for journals *Modern Intellectual History* (2015, 2016), *Southern Spaces* (2015), *Church History* (2012), *Journal of Religion* (2012, 2012), *History Compass* (2011), *Material Religion* (2010, 2016). Blurbed books for Cornell University Press, University of Iowa Press, Lexington Press, Wipf and Stock.

**American Studies Association**

- Co-founder and chair (2003–2010) of the Religion and American Culture Caucus of the American Studies Association. Chaired business meetings; organized sponsored sessions; established and facilitate best-paper prize; maintained website.
- Advisory board member (2010–present), Religion and American Culture Caucus of the American Studies Association

**Southeast Colloquium on American Religious Studies (SCARS)**

Session host and organizer, spring 2012; facilitator spring 2013, speaker fall 2013. A works-in-progress colloquium for scholars from DC, VA, and NC that meets once a semester.

**Virginia Festival of the Book**

Moderator, Religion in America: History and Practice session, with authors Josh Dubler and Peter Manseau. March 2015.

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE****University of Virginia**

- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies (May 2016 - )
  - Coordinated launch of graduate tutorial courses, 2016-2017
  - Chaired Graduate Restructuring initiative, which began Spring 2017
- Co-Organizer with Jalane Schmidt, Religion Across the Americas Conference (to be held April 2018). Sponsored by the UVA Americas Center.
- Member, Search Committee, Religion, Race, and the African Diaspora (joint hire, Religious Studies and Carter Woodson Institute), 2016-2017. Successful hire.
- Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee for Janet Spittler, Religious Studies. Fall 2016
- Member, Third-Year Review Committee for Jack Hamilton, American Studies. Spring 2017.
- Member, Admissions Committee, Carter Woodson Institute, for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships in African and African-American Studies. Reviewed 100+ applications, met over two days in January 2016.
- Member, President’s Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) committee. This committee, with members from across all schools at UVA, is charged with soliciting input from faculty and devising a plan to enhance the teaching of writing at UVA, as part of the 2017 SACS accreditation process. January 2016 to April 2017.
- Chair, Third-Year Review Committee, for John Campbell, Department of Religious Studies
- Member, University Library Committee, 2015-2016. The committee was involved in planning for Alderman renovation and hiring new Dean of Libraries, as well a general advisory capacity for Dean and Provost.

- Elected at-large Senator from Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate, 2015-2017
- Member, Faculty Senate Finance Committee, 2015-2016; Policy Committee 2016-2017.
- Member, Search Committee, Humanities Editor, University of Virginia Press (May 2015)
- Coordinator, New Americanist Colloquium (2 or 3 events per semester), American Studies program
- Co-Director, Virginia Center for the Study of Religion. Sole director Fall 2015. Supervised 1 graduate student and 2 undergraduates.
- Member, Search Committee, Mormon Studies postdoctoral fellowship. 2015-2016, 2016-2017. Successful hire spring 2017.
- Member, Religious Studies Peer Evaluation Committee (May 2015); Chaired Committee (May 2016)
- Member, Religious Studies web committee (Spring and Summer 2016)
- Member, UVA Press Board, with major meetings in September, December, March, and May (includes review of between 10 and 20 book proposals and manuscripts for each meeting). 2015-2018.
- Member, Search Committee, Program Director (American Studies), 2014–2015
- Member, Search Committee, Department Chair (Religious Studies), 2014–2015
- Member, Search Committee, Two faculty positions in Buddhism, 2014–2015
- Guest lecturer, January 15, 2015, in SARC 3500/5500 / ARAD 3550, “The Arts and Spirituality,” University of Virginia
- Presenter, “Understanding Religion in American History,” workshop for Virginia high school teachers, March 1, 2014. Topic: “How Can the US be the ‘Most Protestant’ and ‘Most Religiously Diverse’ Society at the Same Time?”
- Member, Search Committee, Bioethics (Religious Studies), 2013–2014; American Studies, 2013-2014.
- Member, Search Committee, Richard Lyman Bushman Chair in Mormon Studies, 2012–2013
- Co-Director, with Prof. Jalane Schmidt, “Religion in the Americas” lecture series, 2011–2013, Virginia Center for the Study of Religion
  - Organized April 2013 lecture and classroom presentations on American Buddhism, by Jeff Wilson, University of Waterloo
- Faculty Senate Representative, 2009–2010; 2011–present. Nominated for Executive Council, April 2013 (not elected).
  - Member Senate Nominating Committee, 2013–2014
  - Senate Representative, University advising survey committee, Spring 2014
- Member, Ad-Hoc Internal Review Subcommittee, 2009; Grants Subcommittee, 2010–present
- Member, Ad-Hoc Committee on religion and race (2012–present)
- Presenter, Second Year Council faculty seminars. Topic: American Apocalypses, September 2012
- Presenter, “Breakfast Club”: an informal, student-organized class. Topic: Walt Whitman and American Spirituality, April 2012
- Panelist, Interdisciplinarity Roundtable, Department of English, February 2010
- Guest Commentator, Mexican Revolution Film Series, March 2010

### **Roger Williams University**

- Principal Organizer, Roger Williams Conference on Religion and the State, April 2009
  - Conference theme: “Religion and the State in Islam and the West”
  - Keynote speakers: Christopher Hitchens, Alan Wolfe, John Esposito
  - Obtained \$25,000 grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, and additional University funding
  - Selected and recruited group of international scholars and major keynote speakers



- Coordinator of administrative matters: housing, transportation, food, promotions, website
- Co-chair, committee to revise American Studies major (2008–2009)
- Member, search committee, Department of History (2008–2009)
- Member, committee to establish Religious Studies minor, College of Arts and Sciences
- Undergraduate Advisor, history majors, Department of History

### **Valparaiso University**

- Commentator, research symposium for sophomore honors course “Interpretation: Self, Culture, and Society.” (Spring 2007)

### **The University of Texas at Austin**

- Faculty/Staff Member, Selection Committee, *Cactus* Yearbook Outstanding-Student Award. Committee selected the winners of this prestigious university-wide award. (2002–2003)

### **RELATED EMPLOYMENT**

- 2004–2005      **Consultant**, Law School Writing Center, School of Law, The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2002      **Assistant Director**, Undergraduate Writing Center, The University of Texas at Austin  
Responsible for day-to-day management, project group supervision, continuing staff training, handout writing, staffing and policy decisions, public relations and presentations, and service on related campus boards.
- 1997–2005      **Consultant**, Undergraduate Writing Center, The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 1997      **U.S. History Tutor**, Intercollegiate Athletics for Men, The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 1997      **Graduate Research Assistant**, Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin  
Wrote content for website on plagiarism and academic honesty.
- 1993–1994      **General Investigator**, US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Philadelphia, PA  
Planned and conducted civil rights investigations of universities and school districts using statistical data analysis, document reviews, and on-site interviews.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- May 2015      Participant, Faculty Seminar on the Teaching of Writing (4 days)
- July 2015      Participant, Rare Book School course, “The Bible and Histories of Reading.” Taught by Peter Stallybrass at the University of Pennsylvania
- July 2013      Participant, Rare Book School, University of Virginia. Courses: “The History of the Book in America, c.1700–1830,” with James Green; and “The American Book in the Industrial Era, 1820–1940,” with Michael Winship.
- June 2010      Participant, Religion and Politics Working Group. A seminar of scholars in religious studies, history, ethics, and the social sciences discussing teaching, research, and civic engagement regarding religion and contemporary public and political life.

- June-July 2009 NEH Summer Seminar, "Religious Diversity and the Common Good," led by Alan Wolfe, Director, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College
- 2005–2006 Participant, "Religion and American Public Life: Past, Present, and Future," a year-long faculty seminar featuring sessions with Jon Butler, George Marsden, Margaret Bendroth, David Morgan, Richard Fox, Amanda Porterfield, John McGreevy, Paul Harvey and others.
- August 2002 New Teachers Workshop. August 4-8, 2002, University of San Diego. Sponsored by the Society for Values in Higher Education.
- March 2002 Participant in a weekend-long Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (AAR) workshop, "Teaching Religion in the American University"
- Spring 2002 Participant in four-part workshop for writing instructors, through the Substantial Writing Component Program, The University of Texas at Austin

***FELLOWSHIPS and RESEARCH GRANTS***

- 2017 \$3000 Research Grant, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. For second book project.
- 2015 \$3000 Research Grant, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. For second book project.
- 2014 \$2600 Research Grant, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. For second book project.
- Summer 2013 Nominated, Fall 2012, as one of two University of Virginia applicants for NEH Summer Stipend. Nomination comes with guaranteed \$5000 UVa research award. (Not funded by NEH.)
- Summer 2012 \$2900 Research Grant, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. For second book project.
- 2010–2012 Named "Outstanding Young Scholar in American Religion, 2010–2012," Young Scholars in American Religion Program. Stipend, and five fully-funded research and teaching seminars with a cohort of twelve fellows and two senior scholar facilitators, held over five semesters in Indianapolis. Funded by the Lilly Endowment and administered by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI.
- Summer 2010 \$1500 Research Grant, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. For second book project.
- 2009–2010 Excellence in Diversity Fellowship, Teaching Resource Center, University of Virginia. Unrestricted research grant; teaching and professional development support.
- Fall 2009 DECLINED. Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching, Roger Williams University. Course release and \$5000 research grant.

- June 2009 NEH Summer Seminar, “Religious Diversity and the Common Good,” led by Alan Wolfe, Director, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College
- 2007–2008 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University
- January 2008 Alexander N. Charters Research Grant, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Library. Full support for two weeks of archival research.
- 2005–2007 Fellow, Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN
- 2003–2004 Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship. A 12-month fellowship to support doctoral work in American religious history, funded by the Lilly Endowment.
- 2003–2004 David Bruton, Jr. Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin
- July 2003 Coolidge Fellow, Research Colloquium, sponsored by the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life. A one-month residential fellowship and seminar at Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
- June 2002 Gest Fellowship, Quaker Collection, Haverford College. A one-month residential research fellowship.
- 2001–2002 Louann Atkins Temple Endowed Presidential Scholarship in American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- Summers 2003, 2002, 2001 Robert Morse Crunden Memorial Research Awards, Department of American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- 1999–2000 University Continuing Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin
- Summers 1998, 1999 Tuition Fellowships, The University of Texas at Austin

### ***LANGUAGES AND SKILLS***

- Reading and speaking competence in Spanish
- Web design and development

### ***MEMBERSHIPS***

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- American Studies Association (ASA)
- Organization of American Historians (OAH)
- American Historical Association (AHA)
- American Society of Church History (ASCH)