

# JALANE D. SCHMIDT

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## CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. 2015-present.

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. 2007-2015.

Assistant Professor of Religion, Department of Religion, University of Florida, Gainesville. 2005-2007.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Religious Studies Department, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. 2005-2007.

Visiting Instructor & Predoctoral Fellow, Religion Department, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 2003-2005.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion	2005
M.A.	Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion	2005
M.Div.	Harvard Divinity School	1996
B.A.	Bethel College, North Newton, KS, Bible & Religion	1991

## UNPUBLISHED WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Healing and Affect in an Afro-Cuban Possession Cult,”

“Catching Runaway Slaves: Materiality and Memory in an Afro-Cuban Possession Cult”

## PUBLISHED WORK

*Cachita's Streets: The Virgin of Charity, Religion, Race & Revolution in Cuba*. Duke University Press, 2015.

“The Antidote to Wall Street?: Cultural and Economic Mobilizations of Afro-Cuban Religions,” *Latin American Perspectives* 43, 3 (May 2016): 163-185.

“Cuba’s Virgin of Charity: Sanctity, Caribbean Creolization, and the Color Continuum,” pp. 102-123, in Vincent Lloyd and Molly Bassett, eds., *Saints and Race: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh*, Routledge, 2014.

“Las Calles Ordenadas contra ‘La Brujería’ Afro-Cubana: Los Festivales para la Virgen de los años 1930 en Santiago de Cuba,” *Del Caribe*, #54, Summer 2011.

Book review, *Governing Spirits: Religion, Miracles, and Spectacles in Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898-1956*, by Reinaldo L. Román. *New West Indian Guide*, 84:1&2, pp. 164-166.

- “Locked Together: The Culture and Politics of ‘Blackness’ in Cuba,” Transforming Anthropology, 16:2, October 2008, 160-164.
- Book review, *The Guadalupan Controversies in Mexico*, by Stafford Poole. Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 76:3, September 2008, 712-715.
- Book review, *Where the Men are Wives and Mothers Rule: Santería Ritual Practices and Their Gender Implications*, by Mary Ann Clark. Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 75:3, September 2007, 724-727.
- Book review essay, “Religious Objects, Objections, and Objectives: Recent Books on Afro-Cuban Religions,” Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief, 2:3, November 2006, 383-388.
- Book review, *Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition*, by Yvonne P. Chireau. Church History, 75:3, September 2006: 696-698.
- “Christianity” permanent exhibit panels (co-authored with Ludger Viefhues, SJ). Museum of World Religions, Taipei, Taiwan. January 2000.
- Various encyclopedia entries for *Microsoft Encarta Africana*, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Kwame Anthony Appiah, eds. (Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corp., 1999).

## DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

- “Cuba’s Rival Rituals: 20<sup>th</sup> c. Cuban Festivals for the Virgin of Charity and the Contested Streets of the ‘Nation.’ ” Defended: 31 May 2005. Ph.D. Awarded: 8 November 2005.
- Thesis Advisor: J. Lorand Matory, Professor of Anthropology and of African and African-American Studies, Harvard University. Readers: Robert A. Orsi, Linda L. Barnes.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- “Teaching about the legacies of medieval and early modern Islamic Spain in Latin American Religions,” invited presentation, American Academy of Religion annual conference, “Rethinking Islamic Studies Workshop: Teaching Islamic Studies: Key Topics and Best Practices.” Atlanta, Georgia. 20 November 2015.
- “Cuba’s *Virgen de la Caridad* and the ‘Disaster’ of 1952: Interpreting Responses to Physical Damage to the Effigy,” invited paper at Objects of Devotion/*Objetos de Devoción* Conference, University of California, Riverside, Culver Center for the Arts. December 13, 2014.
- “Afro-Cuban Religions in Motion: Ritual, Myth, Art,” Invited lecture, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, October 3, 2013.
- “ ‘Above All Politics’?: The Virgin of Charity and Cuban Streets, 1951-1961,” Invited lecture, University of Miami Cuban Heritage Center, Miami, Florida, April 17, 2013.  
<http://vimeo.com/67142234>

“Practice Makes Perfect: ‘Lived Religion’ and Ethnographic Inquiry,” UVA Religious Studies and Rabbinics Conference. February 18, 2013.

“Holy Mary, Pray for (Only) Us: Race and Marian Devotion in Colonial Cuba,” Religion, Power, and Social Status in Colonial Latin America panel, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 20, 2012.

“Cuban Spirit Possession Rituals and the Disciplining of Emotions,” invited paper. Spirit Possession: European Contributions to Comparative Studies international conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pecs, HUNGARY. September 2012.

“The Effigy’s Emotions: The Virgin’s Broken Body and the Cuban Body Politic,” Material Religion in Latin America panel, Latin American Studies Association annual meeting. San Francisco, CA, May 2012.

“*Cimarrón* Uprising: Monuments, Memory and Religious Devotion in Cuba,” invited paper. Matter of Contention: Relics and Other Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin. April 2012.

“The Effigy’s Emotions: Cuban Interpretations of the Virgin of Charity,” Saints, Stones and Bones: Material Religion in Latin America panel, American Academy of Religion annual meeting. San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

“Congo Guapo: Muertos Cimarrones de los Espiritistas y la Navegación de Paisajes Emocionales,” Invited paper, IV Taller de las Religiones Populares, Festival del Caribe, Casa del Caribe, Santiago de Cuba, CUBA, July 2011.

“La Virgen de la Caridad como medidor social: Interpretaciones cubanas sobre su imagen,”

Sesión Extraordinaria (invited headline presentation), VI Convocatoria Evento Nacional de Historia: Iglesia Católica y nacionalidad cubana, Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de Cuba, Camagüey, CUBA, June 2011.

“Recanting Visions and Rejecting Images: Iconoclasm and Local Catholic Resurgence in Cuba,” invited paper delivered to the “Catholicism and the Visual Study of Religions” Interdisciplinary Humanities Conference, Duke University Department of Religion, April 2011.

“*Cimarrón* Uprising: Religious Change in Cuba and the Remaking of Memory,” invited paper delivered at the symposium, Criatividade, improvisação e inovação nas religiões afro-cubanas, Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, PORTUGAL, April 2011.

“Stubborn Congos: Cuban Slave Spirits and the Navigation of Emotional Landscapes,” Society for Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2010.

“Fear, Concealment, Vision and Hearing Among Cuban Slave Spirits,” Feeling the Divine: Emotions in Religious Practice: Historical and Cross-Cultural Approaches. International Conference at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, GERMANY. 24 July 2009.

“ ‘La Virgen Tiene que Salir por la Calle’: La Religión, La Raza, y La Revolución en las Calles Cubanas del Siglo XX,” Presentation to Casa del Caribe, ethnographic research institute of the Cuban Ministry of Culture, Santiago de Cuba, CUBA. 19 May 2009.

“Catching the *Cimarrón*: Emerging Memories of Slavery in Cuban Possession Trance Religions” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, 19 November 2008.

“Catching *Cimarrones*: The Performance of Slavery in Cuban Possession Trance Religions,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Chicago, IL, 3 November 2008.

“*Bititi*: Concealment and Vision Among Slave Spirits in Cuba,” Studying Divine Vision Advanced International Seminar, Collegium Budapest, Budapest, HUNGARY, July 2008.

“Cuba’s *Santería* Siren Song: The Seduction of Tourists and Ethnographers,” 7<sup>th</sup> Cuban Research Institute Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, 21 February 2008.

- “Afro-Cuban History,” African American Studies 101, two guest lectures, University of Virginia, October 16 and 18, 2007.
- “Havana vs. Santiago: Cuba’s Regional Rivalries and Their Effect Upon Notions of the ‘Nation,’” Latin American Studies Association XXVII International Congress, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA, 6 September 2007.
- “Santería Siren Song: Cuba’s Religious and Regional Rivalries and Their Seduction of Ethnographers,” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Jose, CA, 17 November 2006.
- “Santería and the ‘Branding’ of Cuba: Effects upon Local Afro-Cuban Religious Practices,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Washington, D.C., 20 November 2006.
- “Inter-Caribbean Ingredients of ‘Cuban’ National Identity,” Haitian Studies Association annual conference, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 6 October 2006.
- “The ‘Antidote to Wall Street’?: Afro-Cuban Religions in an Age of Globalization,” presented in the “Race-ing Research, Researching Race” Seminar Series at the Institute for African-American Research, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 22 March 2006.
- “Religious Change in Contemporary Cuba: Transculturation Through Tourism,” Department of Philosophy & Religion Colloquium Series, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 22 March 2006.
- “Cuban National Folklore and the Fate of Local Religions,” Latin American Studies Association XXVI International Congress, San Juan, PUERTO RICO. March 2006.
- “Great Expectations: Field Research and Religious Performance in an Age of Tourism,” Black Diaspora Performance: A Global Circuitry of Creativity, Communication, and Citizenship, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. November 2005.
- “From ‘Witchcraft’ to ‘Folklore’: Racial and Religious Hybridity in Afro-Cuban Religions,” honoring the retirement of Professor Duane Friesen, Edmund G. Kaufman Chair of Bible and Religion, Bethel College, North Newton, KS. April 2005.
- “Catholic Gallstones and Santería Squash: Displays of Dissonance at a Cuban Shrine,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, TX; Ritual Studies Group. November 2004.
- “Afro-Cuban Religions and 20<sup>th</sup> c. Cuban National Identity,” Carleton College Department of Religion, Northfield, MN, October 2004.
- “Afro-Cuban Popular Music: Sacred Rituals and Profane History.” Guest lecture, Interactive Bata Percussion Workshop and Seminar, Oberlin College, May 2004.
- “The Art of Wifredo Lam: Afro-Cuban Mythology as Modernist Aesthetic.” Guest lecture, ARTS 061, “Problems in Multi-Media Performance,” Oberlin College Art Department, April 2004.

- “Rival Festivals for the Virgin of Charity in 1930s Cuba: Orderly Streets of the Canonical Coronation and ‘Hidden Transcripts’ of Afro-Cuban Devotion.” Conference speaker, “Uncommon Faithfulness: The Witness of African American Catholics,” University of Notre Dame, March 13, 2004.
- “Santería.” Interfaith Understanding student group, Baldwin Wallace College, March 2, 2004.
- “Orderly Streets vs. Afro-Cuban ‘Witchcraft’: Rival Religious Festivals for the Virgin of Charity in 1930s Cuba.” Oberlin College Gender and Women’s Studies Program, Feminist Research Lecture Series, March 1, 2004.
- “Skeletons’ Dance: The Mexican Day of the Dead,” Oberlin College La Casa Hispanica and Hispanic Studies Department, November 1, 2003.
- “Direcciones Actuales en Antropología Cultural Norteamericana.” Casa del Caribe, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. May 2001.
- “Music, Ritual and Remembrance in the Collages of Romare Bearden.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting; Arts, Literature and Religion section, Boston, MA. November 1999.

### **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- UVA College of Arts & Sciences, summer salary award, Summer 2013.
- UVA College of Arts & Sciences research award, May 2012.
- Summer Research Fellowship, Dean’s Office, UVA College of Arts & Sciences, Summer 2010.
- Alternate, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty. February 2010.
- National Endowment for the Humanities 2009 Summer Seminar, “Roots: African Dimensions of the History and Cultures of the Americas.” (Declined)
- National Humanities Center Summer Institute, “Studying Divine Vision,” Collegium Budapest, Budapest, Hungary, June 20-July, 2008; Center for the Advanced Study of Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, June 26-July 6, 2007.
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005-2007.
- Puerto Rico Winter Institute, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, January 10-28, 2005 (declined).
- Scholar in Residence, Religion Department, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, 2003-2005.
- Dissertation Fellow, Fund for Theological Education, Atlanta, GA, 2002-2003.
- Tinker Grant for Summer Travel and Research, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, Summer 2001.
- Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University Committee on General Scholarships, 2000-2001.

North American Doctoral Fellowship, Fund for Theological Education, Atlanta, GA, 1999-2000.  
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Committee on Undergraduate Education, Harvard University, Fall 1998.

Mellon Summer Research Grant, Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University, Summer 1998.

Tinker Research Grant for preliminary dissertation research, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, Summer 1997.

Prize Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 1996-2005.

Hopkins Shareholder. Awarded by Harvard Divinity School faculty to six graduating M.Div. students, Spring 1996.

Benjamin Mays Scholarship for Ministry, Fund for Theological Education, New York, NY, 1993-1994.

### **CONSULTING**

Project Advisor (unpaid), “Dancing With The Fire,” Redhouse Productions, documentary film-in-progress (Meghan Eckman, filmmaker, producer, director) about traditional Guatemalan Mayan religious practices. Spring 2015.

Unpaid advising documentary filmmakers (Estela and Dave Knot, producers and directors, Luminaria) on on-going project about indigenous musicians in Peru. Spring 2014.

Three-day Invited workshop on “The Ethnography of Religion,” presented to the Oberlin College Religion Department regarding how to develop, advise and evaluate undergraduate students’ ethnography of religion projects and theses. Oberlin, OH, 31 January-2 February 2011.

Participated in three-day invited consultative panel, funded by the Mellon Foundation, at the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences, to draft a report on “Religious Visions” for the incoming director of CASBS. Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. July 2010.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

African diaspora, Caribbean, and Latin American religions ▪ Religious, racial, and cultural hybridity in the Americas ▪ Colonial-era and post-colonial religion ▪ Spirit possession rituals and ecstatic mediums’ performance of the dead ▪ Material religion ▪ Religious festivals and the notions of sacred time and ritual space ▪ Popular or “folk” Catholicism ▪ Christian rituals as interpreted by the categories of cultural anthropology and the study of religion ▪ Orality and ritual performance ▪ Sensory perception, emotions and religion

### **AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE**

African Diaspora, Caribbean, and Latin American Religions ▪ Theory and Method in the Study of Religion ▪ Ritual Studies ▪ Material Religion ▪ Cultural Anthropology and Religion ▪ Religion, Race, and Politics ▪

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Fall 2015-present**

“Conquests & Religions,” “Magic & Witchcraft,” “Whiteness & Religion,” “Whiteness: A Racial Category”

### **Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Fall 2007-2015**

“Anthropological Accounts of African Diaspora Religions,” “Ritual & Remembrance in the Atlantic World,” “Festivals of the Americas,” “Afro-Creole Religions,” “Religions in the New World,” “Theory and Method in the Study of Religion.”

### **Visiting Instructor: Religion Department, Oberlin College**

“Festivals of the Americas: Performing Religious Rituals and Cultural Identities,” Spring 2005.

“Religions in the New World: Pre-Columbian to Slave Emancipation,” Fall 2004.

“Afro-Cuban Religions: Seminar,” Spring 2004.

“Festivals of the Americas: Performing Religious Rituals and Cultural Identities,” Fall 2003.

### **Junior Tutor: Harvard University**

“Afro-Cuban Religions,” AAS 98, Afro-American Studies Department, Harvard University.

Created and taught upper-level undergraduate seminar, Spring 2002.

### **Teaching Fellow: Harvard University**

“Syncretism,” Prof. J. Lorand Matory, Afro-American Studies Department, Harvard University, Fall 1999.

“Theology and Culture,” Prof. Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, Theology Department, Harvard Divinity School, Fall 1999.

“Ritual and the Religious Life,” Prof. Lawrence Sullivan, Harvard Divinity School, Spring 1999.

“Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies,” Prof. Ali Asani, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Spring 1999.

“Introduction to Theological Thinking,” Prof. David Lamberth, Theology Department, Harvard Divinity School, Fall 1998.

“Afro-Atlantic Religions,” Prof. J. Lorand Matory, Afro-American Studies Department, Harvard University, Fall 1998.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Independent field research in Cuba, Summers 2014, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2005, and Spring 2002.

Independent field research in Cuba. Interviewed informants, conducted participant-observation and archival research for dissertation over period of fifteen months, 2000-2001.

Study in Guatemala and Cuba. Studied Spanish, indigenous history and culture, and popular religion for eight weeks in Central America; solicited institutional sponsors and established research parameters in Cuba, Spring 2000.

Independent field research in Cuba. Studied Spanish, Cuban popular culture and Afro-Cuban religions for eight weeks of preliminary dissertation research, Summer 1998.

Research Assistant to Prof. J. Lorand Matory, Departments of Anthropology and of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, for “Diasporas and Trans-Nationalism” project, Spring 1998.

Study in Cuba. Exploratory four-week study of Afro-Cuban popular religions, Summer 1997.

Research Assistant to Prof. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Department of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, for the “Citizenship and the legacy of Plessy v. Ferguson” project and to help organize the 1996 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, 1995-1996.

Public Policy Advocate, Mennonite Central Committee, Washington, D.C. Analyzed pending legislation, lobbied Members of Congress, wrote articles for church periodicals about public policy and taught advocacy seminars for politically progressive church constituency, 1991-1993.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Peer Reviewer, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. 2011

Peer Reviewer, *Magic, Ritual & Witchcraft* (University of Pennsylvania Press), 2009.

External Reviewer, Oxford University Press, UK. Caribbean religion book proposal, 2009.

Fund for Theological Education, Undergraduate Fellows Selection Committee, 2009-2012.

Steering Committee, Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, American Academy of Religion. 2007-present.

Formulating “Orientalistas,” a network of scholars who conduct research in eastern Cuba: <http://www.religion.ufl.edu/faculty/schmidt.html>

Planning “Cuba Reconsidered: Del Oriente,” panel for Latin American Studies Association, XXVII International Congress, Montréal, Canada, September 2007.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
American Anthropological Association  
Association of Black Anthropologists  
Society for Latin American Anthropology  
Latin American Studies Association

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish

**REFERENCES**

Jennifer Sheper Hughes

Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado

Dianne Diakite