

Tracy Fessenden

STEVE AND MARGARET FORSTER PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona
tracyf@asu.edu

Academic Appointments

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Professor and Interim Director, 2018-2019
Steve and Margaret Forster Professor, 2015-
Associate Director, 2012-2014, 2015-2017
Associate Professor, 2010-2018
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND CONFLICT
Director of Strategic Initiatives, 2019-
Project Affiliate, 2006-2013, 2018-
Faculty Affiliate, 2000-
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Associate Professor, 2001-2009
Assistant Professor, 1994-2000

Education

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Ph.D. in religious studies; concentration in religion and literature, 1993
YALE UNIVERSITY, B.A. *magna cum laude* with distinction in English, 1984

Areas of Research and Teaching

Religion, literature, and the arts; lived religion and vernacular theologies; religion and politics; secularism and secularities; religion, gender, and sexualities; religion, spirituality, and public life

Publications

MONOGRAPHS

Religion Around Billie Holiday, Penn State University Press, 2018

Reviewed in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *American Catholic Studies*, *American Religion*, *Commonweal*, *Jazz & Culture*, *The Millions*, *Material Religion*, and *Reading Religion*; featured on NPR online and in *All About Jazz* (top 10 most-read articles in 2019), *Arts Fuse*, *ASUNow*, *Black Agenda Report*, *El Pais* (Spain), *L'Osservatore Romano* (Vatican City), and *National Catholic Reporter*.

Best jazz read of 2018, *Arts Fuse* magazine; Jazz 24/7 booklist for 2020, WGBH Boston; Six books to read in 2021, *The Revealer*

Subject of invited presentations at ASU School of Music (2017), Fordham University (2022), Harvard University (online, 2020), University of Illinois (online, 2021), University of Richmond (2019), UC-Riverside (2019), University of Texas (2017), University of Virginia (2019), Washington University-St. Louis (2024), and Wright State University (2017); Author-meets-critics selection in *Afro-American Religions*, *North American Religions*, and *Roman Catholic Studies*, *American*

Academy of Religion (2018); February 2019 selection of the ASU Book Group, Virginia Piper Center for Creative Writing

Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular, and American Literature, Princeton University Press, 2007, 2011

Reviewed in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, the *Journal of American History*, *American Literary Scholarship*, *American Literature*, *American Nineteenth Century History* (U.K.), *American Studies* (Turkey), *Choice*, *Christian Scholars Review*, *Christianity and Literature*, the *Journal of Church and State*, *Church History*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, the *European Legacy*, the *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, *History-Net Reviews*, the *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Literature and Theology* (U.K.), *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Religion* (U.K.), the *Journal of Religion*, *Religion and Literature*, *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* (South Africa); キリスト教文化研究所紀要 (Japan)

2008 Award for Best First Book in the History of Religions (finalist), American Academy of Religion; 2007 First Book Prize, Berkshire Conference of Women Historians (finalist)

Subject of invited presentation at the University of Michigan (2013), DePaul University (2011) and Princeton University (2008); author-meets-critics selection in North American Religions, American Academy of Religion (2012)

EDITED VOLUMES

Religion, the Secular, and the Politics of Sexual Difference (with Linell Cady), Columbia University Press, 2013

The Puritan Origins of American Sex: Religion, Sexuality, and National Identity in American Literature (with Nicholas Radel and Magdalena Zaborowska), Routledge, 2001

GUEST-EDITED SYMPOSIUM

Symposium: John Lardas *Modern's Neuromatic: Or, A Particular History of Religion and the Brain* *Religious Studies Review* 49.3 (September 2023)

GUEST-EDITED JOURNAL

After the Storm: Religion in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina, a special issue of the *Journal of Southern Religion* (with Michael Pasquier), 2008

REFEREED JOURNAL ESSAYS

"The Transitional Objects of January 6," *Religion* 55.1 (2025), in press

"Current Issues: The Religion and Sport Connection" (with Randall Balmer and Terry Shoemaker), *International Journal of Religion and Sport* 2.2 (2024), in press

"Koan: Leonard Laughing," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 67.4 (Autumn 2024): 547-555

"Introduction: Live from Napa State," *Religious Studies Review* 49.3 (September 2023): 309-311

"I'll Fly Away: Religious Studies Within and Without the Secular Condition," *Religion* 51.4 (2021): 606-613

"World Enough," *Mormon Studies Review* 8 (2021): 13-22

"Bling," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86.3 (2019): 635-41

"A Hermeneutics of Resilience and Repair," *Religion & Literature* 48.3 (2017): 180-87

"The Problem of the Postsecular," *American Literary History* 26.1 (2014): 154-167

"The Objects of American Religious Studies," *Religion* 42.3 (2012): 373-382

"Religion, Literature, and Method," *Early American Literature*, 45.1 (2010): 183-192

"American Religion and Whiteness," with Edward Blum, Prema Kurien, and Judith Weisenfeld, *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 19.1 (2009): 1-36

- "The 'Secular' as Opposed to What?" *New Literary History* 38.4 (2007): 631-637
- "The Nineteenth-Century Bible Wars and the Separation of Church and State," *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 74.3 (2005): 1-28
- "F. Scott Fitzgerald's Catholic Closet," *U.S. Catholic Historian* 23.3 (2005): 19-40
- "Corporate Crime and the Religious Sensibility: A Response to Joseph Vining," *Punishment and Society* 6.1 (2004): 105-108
- "Gendering Religion," *Journal of Women's History* 14.1 (2002): 163-169
- "From Romanism to Race: Anglo-American Liberties in Uncle Tom's Cabin," *Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies* 25 (2000): 229-268
- "The Convent, the Brothel, and the Protestant Woman's Sphere," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 25.2 (2000): 451-478
- "The Sisters of the Holy Family and the Veil of Race," *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 10.2 (2000): 187-224
- "Shapes of Things Divine: Embodiment, Iconoclasm, and Resistant Materiality in *Paradise Lost*," *Christianity and Literature* 48.4 (1999): 425-443
- "Woman and the Primitive in Tillich's Life and Thought: Some Implications for the Study of Religion," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 14.2 (1998): 45-76; reprinted in Pamela E. Klassen, et al., eds., *Women and Religion: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies* (London: Routledge, 2009)
- "Race, Religion, and the 'New Woman' in America," *Furman Studies* 37 (1995): 15-28

REFEREED CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- "Jazz," in *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and American Culture*, ed. Chad Seales (Routledge), in press
- "The Queerness of Religions," in *The Cambridge History of Queer American Literature*, ed. Benjamin Kahan (Cambridge University Press, 2024): 818-832
- "Haunted America: Reading the Spiritual Turn," in *Above the American Renaissance*, ed. Harold K. Bush and Brian Yothers (University of Massachusetts Press, 2018), 21-36
- "Billie Holiday and the Discipline of Progress," in *Cultural Icons and Cultural Change*, ed. Peter Iver Kaufman (Cheltenham, U.K.: Elgar, 2017), 120-137
- "Critical Intersections: Race, Secularism, Gender," in *Race and Secularism in America*, ed. Jonathon Kahn and Vincent Lloyd (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016), 257-271
- "Gendering the Divide" (with Linell Cady), in Cady and Fessenden, eds., *Religion, the Secular, and the Politics of Sexual Difference* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013), 3-24
- "Religious Liberalism and the Liberal Geopolitics of Religion," in *American Religious Liberalism*, ed. Sally Promey and Leigh Eric Schmidt (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012), 359-373
- "Christianity, National Identity, and the Contours of Religious Pluralism," *American Christianities*, ed. Catherine Brekus and W. Clark Gilpin (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 399-426
- "Disappearances: Race, Religion, and the Progress Narrative of U.S. Feminism," *Secularisms*, ed. Janet R. Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2008), 139-161
- "Worldly Madonna: The Dorothy Day Story," *Catholics in the Movies*, ed. Colleen McDannell (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), 251-276
- "Race," in *Themes in Religion and American Culture*, ed. Philip Goff and Paul Harvey, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 129-162

"The Other Woman's Sphere," in *The Puritan Origins of American Sex: Religion, Sexuality, and National Identity in American Literature*, ed. Fessenden, et al. (New York: Routledge, 2001), 169-190

"The Soul of America: Whiteness and the Disappearing of Bodies in the Progressive Era," in *Perspectives on Embodiment: The Intersections of Nature and Culture*, ed. Gail Weiss and Honi Haber (New York: Routledge, 1999), 23-40

"Mark C. Taylor and the Limits of the Postmodern Imagination," in *Postmodernism and the Holocaust*, ed. Alan Milchman and Alan Rosenberg (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1998), 85-100

"The New Class as Capitalist Class: The Rise of the Moral Entrepreneur in America" (with James Davison Hunter), in *Hidden Technocrats: The New Class and the New Capitalism*, eds. Hansfried Kellner and Frank W. Heuberg, foreword by Peter L. Berger (New Brunswick, NJ and London: Transaction, 1992), 157-186

SELECTED DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

"Decades after Billie Holiday's death, 'Strange Fruit' is still a searing testament to injustice – and of faithful solidarity with suffering," *The Conversation*, 15 July 2024

"'Colored Magdalens,' House of the Good Shepherd for Colored Girls, Baltimore, ca. 1930s," Object Narrative, [MAVCOR Journal](#) 6.3 (2022)

"Material Economies of Life-Time: Grief, Injury, Expiation, Desire" (with Hillary Kael and Alexia Williams), [MAVCOR Journal](#) 6.3 (2022)

"Billie Holiday, 'Strange Fruit,' and the Resilient Myth of Martyrdom," *The Revealer* 3 June 2021
Symposium: *The Enchantments of Mammon* (with Eugene McCarragher, Kenneth Surin, Nicholas Hayes-Mota, Philip Goodchild, and William Cavanaugh), in *Syndicate*, 1 December 2020

"Billie Full of Grace: How Billie Holiday Learned to Sing at the House of the Good Shepherd," *NPR Music*, 20 August 2019

"Religion 'Around' Langston Hughes, Billie Holiday, and Ralph Ellison," with Wallace Best and Cooper Harriss, *Jerry Jazz Musician: History, Culture, and Community*, 7 January 2019

"Sex and Secularism after Trump," *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere*, 29 June 2018

"Should I Sacrifice My Life to Live Half-American?" *Jerry Jazz Musician*, 24 September 2018

"The Lady is Unvanquished," *Immanent Frame*, 18 October 2017

"America's Music," *Immanent Frame*, 4 July 2017

"Pause. And Begin Again," *Religion and American History*, 1 December 2017

"Contraception v. Religious Freedom: Hobby Lobby Heads to the Supreme Court," *Religion & Politics*, 19 March 2014

"O Tedious Selfhood, O Aftertaste of Splinters," *Immanent Frame*, 2 May 2011

"Sex and the Subject of Religion," *Immanent Frame*, 10 January 2008

ENCYCLOPEDIA ESSAYS

"Common Schools," "The New-England Primer," and "Protestantism" in the *Encyclopedia of New England* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005): 289-90, 775, 1316-1318

"Nuns and Priests" in the *Encyclopedia of Religion and American Cultures*, ed. Gary Laderman and Luis Leon (ABC-CLIO, 2003): 1:84-87

BOOK REVIEWS

Emily Clark, *Masterless Mistresses: The New Orleans Ursulines and the Development of a New World Society, 1727-1834* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007), *Church History* 77.4 (2008): 1073-1078

Joan DelFattore, *The Fourth R: Conflicts over Religion in America's Public Schools* (Yale University Press, 2004), *Church History* 76.2 (2007): 458-461

Carol Coburn and Martha Smith, *Spirited Lives: How Nuns Shaped Catholic Culture and American Life, 1836-1920* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999), *Journal of American History* 90.2 (2003): 643-44

Anthony Pinn, *Varieties of African American Religious Experience* (Fortress Press, 1998), *Religious Studies Review* 27 (2001): 311-312

Jenny Franchot, *Roads to Rome: The Antebellum Protestant Encounter with Catholicism* (University of California Press, 1994), *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 8 (1995): 404-407

B.J. Teeter-Dobbs, *The Janus Face of Genius: The Role of Alchemy in Newton's Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), *History of Religions*, 34.2 (1994): 199

James Boyd White, *Justice as Translation: An Essay in Cultural and Legal Criticism* (University of Chicago Press, 1991), in *Legal Studies Forum* 15.4 (1991): 411-415

Research Awards and Project Participation

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Director, INITIATIVE ON SPIRITUALITY AND PUBLIC LIFE
ASU Foundation and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, 2021-

PI, APOCALYPTIC NARRATIVES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CHALLENGE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
Henry Luce Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies, 2020-2022

Co-PI and co-lead, COVID RELIEF AND SOUTHWEST STORIES
Henry Luce Foundation and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
John Carlson and Tracy Fessenden, directors, 2020

Co-PI and co-lead, [RECOVERING TRUTH IN A POST-TRUTH ERA](#)
Henry Luce Foundation and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
John Carlson and Tracy Fessenden, directors, 2019-

Co-PI and co-lead, RECOVERING MORAL CAPITAL
National Institute for Civil Discourse and Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Tracy Fessenden and Joan McGregor, directors, 2019-2021

Senior scholar, BEING HUMAN: PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AS THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Henry Luce Foundation/Indiana University
Constance Furey, Lisa Sideris, and Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, directors, 2019-2020

Advisor on interpretive scholarship, AMERICAN RELIGIOUS SOUNDS PROJECT
Henry Luce Foundation/Ohio State and Michigan State Universities
Amy DeRogatis and Isaac Weiner, directors, 2019-2022

National research fellow, CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Philip K. Goff, Director, 2018-

Faculty participant, RELIGION, JOURNALISM, AND DEMOCRACY
Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in Journalism & International Affairs
Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict and the Cronkite School, ASU
John Carlson, Kristin Gilger, and Anand Gopal, directors, 2018-2019

Fellow, MATERIAL ECONOMIES OF RELIGION IN THE AMERICAS
Luce Foundation and Yale's Center for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion
Sally Promey and Sarah Rivett, directors, 2016-2021

Consultant and participating faculty, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE INITIATIVE
Henry Luce Foundation, ASU, and a consortium of Chinese universities
Eric Wertheimer, director, 2016-2017

Co-investigator, RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: RIGHTS AND GENDER
Henry Luce Foundation and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Linell Cady and Carolyn Warner, directors, 2011-2012

Faculty mentor, YOUNG SCHOLARS IN AMERICAN RELIGION
Lilly Endowment and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture
Philip K. Goff, director, 2009-2011

Co-PI, RELIGIONS, THE SECULAR, AND DEMOCRACY
Ford Foundation and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Linell Cady, director, 2006-2011

Fellow, UTOPIAS, DYSTOPIAS, AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
Institute for Humanities Research at ASU
Sally Kitch, director, 2009-2010

Participant, SPIRITUALITY AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT
Social Science Research Council
Courtney Bender and Omar M. McRoberts, directors, 2010

Participant, CARTOGRAPHIES OF THE THEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL
University of California Humanities Center, Irvine
Saba Mahmood and Charles Hirschkind, directors, 2007

Participant and co-investigator, CATHOLICS IN THE MOVIES
American Academy of Religion and the University of Notre Dame
Colleen McDannell, director, 2005-2007

Co-PI, DIFFICULT DIALOGUES: RELIGION IN PUBLIC
Ford Foundation and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict
Linell Cady, director, 2004-2007

Participant and co-investigator, THE CREOLE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION
American Academy of Religion and Vassar College
Deborah Dash Moore, director, 1998

Fellow, TEACHING THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
National Endowment for the Humanities and Harvard University
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Waldo Martin, and Patricia Sullivan, directors, 1998

Faculty Cohort, YOUNG SCHOLARS IN AMERICAN RELIGION
Pew Foundation and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Conrad Cherry, director, 1996-1998

Fellow, EMBODIMENT: BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE
National Endowment for the Humanities, University of California-Santa Cruz
Hubert Dreyfus and David Hoy, directors

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

“Why the Nazis Hated Jazz: African American Music and Resistance in Occupied Europe and Beyond,” Fulbright Scholar Award, finalist (decision pending), 2025-2026

Visiting Hurst Professor, Department of English, Washington University-St. Louis, Spring 2024

“Civic Grace in a Pandemic,” Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, 2020-2021

“Apocalyptic Narratives of Climate Change,” Seed Grant, CSRC, 2019-2020

Steve and Margaret Forster Professorship in Comparative Mythologies, 2015-

Affinity Grant, School of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, 2012-2013
 Institute for Humanities Research, Faculty Fellowship, 2009-2010
 Summer Research Award, Women's Studies Program, 2002
 National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for College Professors, 2000-2001
 Tulane University, Sophie Newcomb Visiting Research Fellowship, 1999-2000
 Faculty Grant-in-Aid, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1999-2000
 Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1998-1999
 Joseph A. Fichter Research Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 1998
 Yale University Institute for Advanced Studies in Religion and Pew Foundation, Faculty Fellowship, 1998-1999
 College of St. Catherine, Abigail Associates Award, 1997
 Mini-grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1997
 Women's Studies Program, Summer Research Award and Mini-grant, 1996
 University of Notre Dame, Cushwa Center Research Travel Grant, 1996
 Faculty Grant-in-Aid, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1995
 Mini-grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1995
 Mini-grant, University Committee on African and African American Studies, 1995
 Fulbright Scholar, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (declined), 1994
 American Academy of Religion, Research Grant for Individuals, 1994
 American Historical Association, Littleton-Griswold Research Grant, 1994
 Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation, 1992

Teaching, Mentoring, and Collaborative Engagement

SELECTED GUEST TEACHING

University of Illinois, *Catholicism in the United States*, Professor Jon Ebel, Spring 2021
 Harvard Divinity School, *Before Religious Pluralism*, Professor Healan Gaston, Fall 2020
 University of Toronto, *North American Religions*, Professor Pamela Klassen, Spring 2019
 University of Virginia, *Jazz Studies*, Professor Scott DeVeaux, Spring 2019
 University of Utah, *19th and 20th C. America*, Professor Colleen McDannell, Fall 2016
Civilizational Dynamics and Practices of the Self, ASU Visiting Professor Steven Collins, Fall 2014
 University of Toronto, *Genealogies of Christianity*, Professor Pamela Klassen, Fall 2014

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Exploring Religion, Politics, and Media
 From Slavery to Hurricane Katrina: Myth, Culture, and Catastrophe in New Orleans
 Gender and Sexuality in American Religious History
 History in the Making
 Myth, Symbol, and Ritual
 Religion and Politics
 Religion and Popular Culture
 The Spiritual Quest
 War, Culture, and Memory: Vietnam
 War, Culture, and Memory: World War II

Women and Religion

TEACHING RECOGNITION

Honors Disciplinary Faculty, Barrett Honors College, 2006-

Faculty Fellow, Learning Communities Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, 2004-07

Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Quality of Student Life, 2005

Last Lecture Award Nominee, 1999

GRADUATE COURSES

American Power on a Global Stage: Gender, Religion, and Human Rights

American Spiritual Marketplace

Approaches to American Religious History

Classical Theories of Religion

Contemporary Theories of Religion

Graduate Workshop in Religious Studies and History

Race and Gender in American Religious History

Secularisms

Sexuality and Gender in American Religious History

GRADUATE SUPERVISION

PH.D. COMMITTEES (degrees awarded)

Isobel-Marie Johnston: Immersing the Self: The Role of Jewish *Mikvah* in Wellbeing, Resistance, and Everyday Suffering," 2024

Alexandria Griffin, "The Life and Afterlives of Patrick Francis Healy, SJ" (chair), 2020

Michael Broyles, "Drenched in the Blood of the Lamb: James Baldwin, Religion, Violence," 2019

James Dupey, "Alexander Campbell, Print Capitalism, and Denomination Building (History), 2018

Diana Murtaugh Coleman, "Guantánamo: Amen Temple of Empire," 2018

Jodie Vann, "Spiritual Economies of the Atlantic: Resources, Labor, Exchange" (chair), 2018

Benjamin Joy Ambler, "Spiritual Sameness and Erotic Orientation in Late Medieval England" (English), 2017

Megan Milota, "Cultural Negotiation of Religion in Contemporary American Fiction" (Comparative Literature, University of Antwerp), 2016

Patricia Power, "Accounting for Judaism in the Study of American Messianic Judaism," 2015

John Cunningham, "Irish Priests and Mexican Parishioners in Tucson, 1945-1970" (chair), 2015

Darren Kleinberg, "Hybrid Judaism: Irving Greenberg and American Jewish Identity," 2014, published in 2016 by *Academic Studies Press*

Ann Wertman "Polygamy, Prop 8, and the Peculiar People: Sexuality and Latter-Day Saints" (chair), 2014

Brandon Cleworth, "Ambivalent Blood: Religion, AIDS, and American Culture" (chair), 2012

Doe Daughtrey, "LDS Women's Hybrid Spiritualities," 2012

Brooke Schedneck, "Thailand's International Meditation Centers," 2012, published in 2015 by *Routledge*

Konden Smith, "Mormons and the World's Fair 1893," 2012, *published in 2020 by the University of Utah Press*

Brett Hendrickson, "Healing Borders: Cross-Cultural Expressions of Mexican Folk Healing" (chair), 2010 *published in 2014 by NYU Press*

Elizabeth Ursic, "HerChurch: Ritualizing Sophia," 2010, *published in 2014 by SUNY Press*

M.A. COMMITTEES (degrees awarded)

Jennifer Wilken, "Son Salutations: Christian Yoga in the United States" (chair), 2014

Darren Kleinberg, "Issues in Contemporary Judaism" (portfolio), 2011

Stephanie Bilinsky, "Creating New Orleans: Race, Religion, Rhetoric," 2011

Tamar Faber, "Tolerating Tradition: Jewish Orthodoxy and Feminism," 2010

Chelsea Diffendal, "A More Socially Palatable Queer: Religion and Marriage Equality," 2009

Katherine Hunt, "Liberal Feminism and the Third Dimension of Power" (Politics), 2009

Beverly Lucas, "Waco and the Limits of Tolerance," 2008

Wanda Tucker-Hicks, "African-American Women Encountering Islam," 2007

Brenda Whitlock, "Revisiting Americanization from the Jodo Shinshu Perspective," 2005

Katharine Meier, "The Gospel Truth: Readings of the Past in New Evangelicalism," 2004

Josh Vidich, "The Psychagogical Function of Ascetic Ideals: Nietzsche vs. Weber," 2004

Rehn Kovacic, "'Buddha's me': Jack Kerouac and American Buddhism," 2004

Guilford Prickette, "Three Studies of the LDS Church" (portfolio), 2004

Time Barrow, "George Harrison: Eastern Spiritual Disciple, Western Secular Saint," 2003

Mariam Cohen, "Judaism and Psychoanalysis after Freud," 2003

Doe Daughtrey, "Erasing the Divine Feminine in the Mormon Tradition," 2002

Renato Salomone, "Recovering the 'Lost and Forgotten' in Philosophical Ethics," 2002

Anne Nadine Dresskell, "Margery Kempe: Her World and Her Book," 2000

Jennifer Drinen, "Religious Icons and Female Power in Ensenada, Mexico" (chair), 1998

Sang-hea Kil, "The Death Penalty, Civil Religion, and the Diseased Body Politic" (chair), 1998

Sun Li, "Horace Bushnell, American Theologian," 1998

Shannon Steigerwald: "Queering Religion: Angels in America," 1998

Crista Cloutier, "Mumler's Ghosts: The Trial of Spirit Photography" (chair), 1998, *published by Yale University Press in 2004 in THE PERFECT MEDIUM: PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE OCCULT, ed. Clément Chéroux*

John Cunningham, "The Gospel of Mary and the Case for Female Ordination," 1997

Janet Lee, "Ethnic Catholicisms in America: The Polish and the Irish," 1997

Mark Leary, "Nature of Place, Place of Nature: A Sensuous Geography in Action," 1997

Shibani Bakshi, "The 1987 Television Ramayana: Modern India in the Ancient Epic," 1997

Karina Doyle, "Religion's Influence on Touching Behaviors" (chair), 1997

Amy Hoffman, "Righteous Gentiles in Beit Hashoah-Museum of Tolerance," 1997

John McGoldrick, "Contemporary Roman Catholic Just War Theory on Trial" (chair), 1997

Lee Seale, "Working with Things: Nichos and Religious Practice in Guadalupe" (chair), 1996

Julie Walker, "Presbyterian Woman Missionaries in New Mexico, 1880-1900," 1996

April Blackburn, "Religion and Genre in Selected Works of Edgar Allan Poe," 1995

ADDITIONAL MENTORING

Visiting mentor to PhD students in religion and literature, by invitation of the Department of English, Washington University-St. Louis, 2024

External faculty mentor to junior faculty, by invitation of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, North Carolina State University, 2020-2022

Faculty mentor, CSRC, 2020-

Senior faculty mentor, Material Economies of Religion in the Americas, Center for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion (MAVCOR), Yale University, 2017-2021

Advisor to faculty teams at Guangzhou University and Beijing Foreign Studies University teaching American religion and literature, Luce American Experience Initiative, 2015-2016

Faculty mentor, President Barack Obama Scholars Program, ASU, 2010-2011

Senior faculty mentor (with W. Clark Gilpin), [Young Scholars in American Religion](#), 2009-2011

SELECTED INVITED CONVENINGS, SEMINARS, CONSULTATIONS, SYMPOSIA, AND WORKSHOPS

RELIGION AND POLITICS AFTER JANUARY 6, a conversation with Abram Van Engen and Mark Valeri, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University-St. Louis, March 2024

ART AND DEVOTION: NEW ACCOUNTS OF RELIGIOUS CULTURE, RACE, AND GENDER IN THE UNITED STATES, symposium on Vaughn Booker's *Lift Every Voice and Swing: Black Musicians and Religious Culture in the Jazz Century* and Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada's *Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic Devotion in Williamsburg Brooklyn*, Departments of African American Studies, Music, and Religion, Princeton University, March 2023

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE PUBLIC IN A POSTSECTULAR AGE, Templeton Religion Trust and Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, April 2023

RELIGION AND HUMAN FLOURISHING, workshop, Templeton World Charities Foundation and Department of Psychology at ASU, November 2022

THE SOCIAL ORDER OF THINGS: MATERIAL RELIGION IN THE AMERICAS, conference and workshop, University of Texas-Austin, October 2022

BLACK REVOLUTIONARY SAINTS, manuscript workshop for post-doctoral fellow Alexia Williams, John C. Danforth Center for Religion and Politics, Washington University, St. Louis, October 2022

AMERICAN RELIGIOUS SOUNDS PROJECT SYMPOSIUM, Ohio State University, May 2022

HOPE, ALARM, AND CLIMATE CHANGE: THE INAUGURAL CLIMATE AWARDS PRIZE, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures laboratory, and Narrative Storytelling Initiative, ASU, April 2022

WHAT IS TRUTH, AND HOW TO WE KNOW IT? Conference and workshop, Recovering Truth Project, Luce Foundation and Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, ASU, March 2022

PROGRESS AND THE FIGURE OF THE HUMAN: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY INQUIRY INTO THE HUMAN SCIENCES, Templeton Religion Trust and Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, March 2022

THE PANIC OF THE ROBANIÑOS: GRINGO ORGAN STEALERS, NARRATIVES OF MISTRUST, AND THE GUATEMALAN POLITICAL IMAGINATION, manuscript workshop for faculty fellow Daniel Rothenberg, CSRC (online), March 2021

SINCERELY HELD: AMERICAN SECULARISM AND ITS BELIEVERS, manuscript workshop for post-doctoral fellow Charles McCrary, CSRC (online), February 2021

Consultation on new directions in religion and literature, Yale Divinity School (online), December 2020

BOOK OF DISTRACTION, manuscript workshop for Professor Caleb Smith, Department of English, Yale University (online), October 2020

MATERIAL ECONOMIES OF RELIGION IN THE AMERICAS, convening and workshop, Center for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion (MAVCOR), Yale University (online), June 2020

RELIGION AND MASS INCARCERATION IN AMERICA, *Undoing Time* convening, ASU Art Museum, January 2020

Convening and workshop, Center for Religion and the Human, Indiana University-Bloomington, September 2019

SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEF: A HISTORY, manuscript workshop for post-doctoral fellow Charles McCrary, John C. Danforth Center for Religion and Politics, Washington University, St. Louis, April 2019

Roundtable on Emily Ogden's *Credulity*, Departments of English and Religious Studies, Yale University, February 2019

CAPITAL AND THE SECULAR, workshop on a thematic issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, University of California-Riverside, February 2019

MATERIAL ECONOMIES OF RELIGION IN THE AMERICAS, convening and workshop of Yale University's MAVCOR, University of Toronto, June 2018

TAKING EXCEPTION: QUEERING AMERICAN RELIGION II, workshop, Indiana University-Bloomington, March 2018

PLACES OF SANCTUARY IN THE SECULAR BORDERLANDS, manuscript workshop for post-doctoral fellow Aimee Villarreal, Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, March 2018

ARTS OF DEVOTION, three-day seminar, American Comparative Literature Association, University of Utrecht, July 2017

MATERIAL ECONOMIES OF RELIGION IN THE AMERICAS, convening and workshop of Yale University's MAVCOR, University of San Diego, May

TAKING EXCEPTION: QUEERING AMERICAN RELIGION, workshop, Indiana University-Bloomington, March

RACE AND SECULARISM IN AMERICA, roundtable, Columbia University, April 2016

SECULARIZATION AND THE NOVEL, three-day seminar, American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 2016

CULTURAL ICONS AND CULTURAL LEADERSHIP, workshop, Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, April 2014

PERSUASION'S POWER: HOW RELIGION MAKES ITS PUBLICS, workshop and master class, *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR)*, Baltimore, November 2013

Roundtable on Tracy Fessenden's *Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular, and American Literature*, Department of Anthropology and Sikh Students Association, University of Michigan, March 2013

50 YEARS AFTER ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT V. SCHEMPP: HISTORY, INSTITUTIONS, THEORY, symposium and workshop, Indiana University-Bloomington, September 2013

Roundtable on Tracy Fessenden's *Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular, and American Literature*, Departments of English and Theology, DePaul University, May 2011

Consultation on Spirituality, Political Engagement, and Public Life, Social Science Research Council, New York, March 2010

Roundtable on Marian Ronan's *Tracing the Sign of the Cross: Sexuality, Mourning, and the Future of American Catholicism*, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, October 2009

Seminar on Tracy Fessenden's *Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular, and American Literature*, Department of Religion, Princeton University, November 2008

PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH

SELECTED KEYNOTE, PLENARY, AND INVITED LECTURES

"The Queerness of Religion," Washington University-St. Louis, March 2024 and Brown University, October 2023

"The Transitional Objects of January 6," *The Social Order of Things: Material Religion in the Americas*, conference and workshop, University of Texas-Austin, October 2022

"Our Lady: Catholic Billie Holiday," with backing jazz ensemble, Francis and Ann Curran Center for American Catholic Studies and the department of Music, Fordham University, March 2022

"Truth under Siege: Religion, Science, and Democracy," Robert A. Burns lecture, University of Arizona (online), March 2021

[Chats with Change Agents](#), Society for Values in Higher Education (online), February 2021

"[Billie Holiday](#)," William B. Crawley Great Lives Lecture Series, University of Mary Washington, February 2019

"Listening to Billie Holiday," University of California, Riverside, and University of Richmond, February 2019

"Religion Around Billie Holiday," Piediscalzi Lecture in Religion and American Culture, Wright State University, Dayton, March 2018

"After Truth: Religion in the Time of Alternative Facts," Keynote address, Graduate Association of Religious Studies, April 2017

"Mapping Ghosts: Religions in a Post-Secular Landscape," Keynote address, *Religions Texas: Mapping Diversity*, University of Texas-Austin, January 2017

"Religion Around Billie Holiday," with backing jazz ensemble, University of Texas Center for Women and Gender Studies, Departments of African and African Diaspora Studies and Religious Studies, and the Victory Grill in Austin, January 2017; produced for PBS as [Religious Holiday](#)

"Haunted America: Reading the Spiritual Turn," Plenary address, *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region*, April 2016

"Religion, Violence, and Progressive History," William D. McLester Lecture, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, March 2014

"Religious Accommodation and Gender Equality in Secular Law," *Gender and Sexuality in Religion and Law*, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, February 2014

Plenary address, "UnSpirituality," *Third International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society*, March 2013

"Secularization, the Colonial Subject, and the 'Sexual Clash of Civilizations,'" University of Michigan, March 2013

"The Problem of the Postsecular," Department of English, University of Richmond, December 2012; Institute for Advanced Study, University of Illinois, October 2012

"Religious Liberty, Women's Health, and the Affordable Care Act," Law Center and Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, September 2012

"Secularism Revisited," *Second Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*, Indianapolis, June 2012

"The Bible Wars and Religious Liberty," DePaul University, April 2012

"Liberalism and Ambivalence," Columbia University, March 2010

"Religious Liberalism and the Liberal Geopolitics of Religion," *Cultures of Religious Liberalism*, Yale University, September 2009

"Playing Catholics: Who's Zooming Who?" Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame, April 2009

"Worldly Madonna: The Dorothy Day Story," Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame, April 2006

"American Religious History and the Veil of Race," University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, October 2002

"Seduction and Betrayal: Feminism and the Limits of a Gendered Model of Power," Millsaps College, March 2002

"The Christian Family State: Domesticating Protestant Dominance in Nineteenth-Century America," Center for Advanced Studies in Religion, Yale University, October 2001

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

"Reconsidering American Christianity from Women Who Refused to Convert," respondent, *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History (ASCH)*, San Francisco, January 2024

"Vernacular Religion: A Tribute to Leonard Norman Primiano," organizer and speaker, *ASCH*, Philadelphia, January 2023

"Author-Meets-Critics: John Lardas Modern's *Neuromatic*," *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR)*, Denver, November 2022

"Modernism and Religious Art," chair, *AAR*, Denver, November 2022

"Catholics and the Cultures of Modernity," respondent, *American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA)*, New Orleans, January 2022 (deferred)

"The 'Neo-African Vatican': New Orleans as Global Crossroads of Catholicism and Vodou," respondent, *ACHA*, New Orleans, January 2022 (deferred)

"The Gospel According to Bono: A Critical Conversation Around Neoliberal Religion," organizer and chair, *AAR*, (online), November 2021

"Women, Religion, and U.S. Carceral History," respondent, *AAR* (online), November 2021

"Religion and Public Life in and after the COVID-19 Pandemic," *AAR* (online), December 2020

Author Meets Critics, Stephanie Paulsell's *Religion Around Virginia Woolf*, respondent, *AAR*, San Diego, November 2019

"Colored Magdalens'," *AAR*, San Diego, November 2019

Author Meets Critics, Tracy Fessenden's *Religion Around Billie Holiday*, respondent, AAR, Denver, November 2018

"Reimagining the Archive," organizer and chair, AAR, Denver, November 2018

"Reconstructing Secularisms," chair and respondent, *Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association (ASA)*, Atlanta, November 2018

Roundtable, "Above the American Renaissance," *Annual Meeting of the American Literature Association (ALA)*, San Francisco, May 2018

Author Meets Critics: Josef Sorett's *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics*, AAR, Boston, November 2017

"Postsecular Women: Rethinking Religion and Gender in Nineteenth-Century United States Literature," respondent, *Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association (MLA)*, Philadelphia, January 2017

"All the President's Bling," in "Capital and the Secular: New Critiques and New Horizons," AAR, Boston, November 2017

Author Meets Critics: Jason Bivins's *Spirits Rejoice! Jazz and American Religion*, AAR, San Antonio, November 2016

"Moving, Playing, Telling, Healing: Fresh Approaches to the Study of North American Religions" (organizer and respondent), AAR, San Antonio, November 2016

"Evangelical Secularism and the Rise of the Novel," *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)*, Harvard University, March 2016

"God Bless the Child: The Gospel of Uplift and the Double Consciousness of Spirit," AAR, Atlanta, November 2015

"Religious Geographies of Suffering and Resistance," panel organizer and chair, ASA, Toronto, October 2015

"The Current State of C19 Studies," ALA, San Antonio, February 2015

"Transgressive Pieties: Religious Feeling Across the Borders of Body and Nation in Antebellum Literature," ALA, San Antonio, February 2015

"Photography and the Composition of Loss," *Annual Meeting of the Society for 19th Century Americanists (C19)*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, March 2014

"Black Catholicism and Black Religion in American Religious History," chair, ASCH, New Orleans, January 2013

Author Meets Critics: Tracy Fessenden's *Culture and Redemption*, respondent, AAR, Chicago, November 2012

"Rethinking Religious Freedom and U.S. Foreign Policy," respondent, AAR, Chicago, November 2012

"The Nineteenth Century Bible Wars and the Separation of Church and State," C19, University of California-Berkeley, May 2012

"Literature and the Postsecular," MLA, Seattle, January 2012

Panel discussion with recipient Holland Cotter, art critic for the *New York Times*, AAR Religion and the Arts Award, Chicago, November 2012

"American Catholic Women: Engagement, Resistance, Transformation," respondent, AAR, San Francisco, November 2011

"Beyond the Religious Right: Histories of American Christian Liberalism" respondent, ASA, Baltimore, October 2011

"Suffering and the Sacred in American Society: Protestant Debates about Faith and Affliction from the Puritans to the Present," respondent, *American Historical Association (AHA)*, Boston, January 2011

"Christianity, National Identity, and the Contours of Religious Pluralism," *ASCH and AHA*, Boston, January 2011

"SecularReligion: Moving Beyond the Secular/Religious Binary," respondent, *AAR*, Atlanta, November 2010

"Beyond 'Teaching Tolerance': Changing the Discourse of Tolerance in America" *ASA*, San Antonio, November 2010

"Paradoxes of Religious Freedom in American History," respondent, *Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians*, Washington, DC, April 2010

"Religion and Migration in the American West," respondent, *AHA/Pacific Coast Branch*, Albuquerque, August 2009

"Religion and Emotion in Modern America: Modulations of Mood and Performances of Passion," respondent, *AAR*, Chicago, November 2008

Author Meets Critics: Catherine Albanese's *A Republic of Mind and Spirit*, *AAR*, San Diego, November 2007

Authors Meet Critics: David Morgan's *The Sacred Gaze* and Camilo Vergara's *How the Other Half Worships*, *AAR*, Washington, DC, November 2006

"Sex, Fear, and Loathing in American Religion," panel chair, *AAR*, Philadelphia, November 2005

"Gender, Sexuality, and the Primitive in American Religious Discourse, 1840-1930," respondent, *Berkshire Conference on the History of Women*, University of Connecticut, June 2002

"The Social Terrain of American Sainthood," Association for the Sociology of Religion, Anaheim, August 2001

SELECTED UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

"Can War Be Just? Religious and Ethical Responses to the Wars in Gaza and Ukraine," with John Carlson, Anand Gopal, Michale Broyde, Perry Hamalis, and Sohail Hashmi, CSRC, October 2024

"[The Sport and Religion Connection: A Conversation Between Scholars](#)," with Randall Balmer and Terry Shoemaker, ASU Humanities Institute, October 2024

"[How America's Origin Stories Are Shaping the 2024 Election: A Conversation with Robert P. Jones](#)," with John Carlson, CSRC, September 2024

"The Study of Religion in Arizona," with scholars from Arizona's public universities, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, September 2024

"[Strongmen and the Assault on Democracy and Truth: A Conversation with Ruth Ben-Ghiat](#)," with John Carlson, CSRC, May 2024

"'Not Who We Are': The January 6 Insurrection and the Post-Truth Politics of Denial: A Conversation with Kathleen Belew," with John Carlson, CSRC, April 2024

"Toward Mutual Understanding: How Should We Talk about the War in Middle East?" with John Carlson, Anand Gopal, Chad Haines, Victor Peskin, and Hava Tirosh-Samuels, CSRC, November 2023

"Conspirituality in the Time of Plague: A Conversation with Sam Kestenbaum," CSRC, October 2023

"Recovering Truth in Culture" with Jennifer Frey, Steven Long, Wesley Lowry, and Fellows of the Recovering Truth Project, CSRC, April 2023

"[The State of Democracy and the Pursuit of Justice: A Conversation with Masha Gessen](#)," John P. Frank Memorial Lecture, ASU, April 2022

"Recovering Truth in Religion, Journalism, and Democracy," with John Carlson, Anand Gopal, and Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Political Theology Network 2022 Conference, April 2022

"What is Truth and How Do We Know It?" with Serene Jones, Michael Patrick Lynch, and Fellows of the Recovering Truth Project, CSRC, April 2022

"Is It Safe to Laugh Yet? A Conversation about Religion, Truth, and Politics with Comedian Bassem Youssef," CRSC, January 2022

"What Good is Theory? Religion, Critique, and Truth" (online) CSRC, April 2021

"[Are We One Country or Two? A Conversation about Reconciliation with David Blight](#)" (online), CSRC, February 2021

"Righteous Reckoning: Religion and the 2020 Election" (online), CSRC, November 2020

"Silence is Not an Option: A Conversation with Judd Apatow and Steven Beschloss" (online), CSRC, October 2020

"[Who Killed Truth? A Conversation with Jill Lepore](#)" (online), CSRC, October 2020

"[Covid-19, Religion, & Humanity: Dispatches from the Front Lines](#)" (online), CSRC, May 2020

"[Sound & Solidarity in the Time of Covid-19](#)" (online), CSRC 2020

"Peace with the Other," discussant, CSRC, November 2019

"[Apocalyptic Visions: Telling the Story of Our Climate Future](#)," with Steven Beschloss and Earl Swift, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, October 2019

Religion Around Billie Holiday, featured selection, ASU Book Group, February 2019

"Religion and Sexuality in American Politics," Spirit of the Senses Community Seminar, December 2018

"All That Jazz: Race, Religion, and the Great American Songbook," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, December 2018

"Religion Around Billie Holiday," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, December 2018

"Humane?" with Krista Ratcliffe and Nina Berman, ASU Humanities, November 2018

Ken Burns' *Jazz*, with Andrew Barnes, Mesa Center for the Arts, November 2018

"One Country, Three Faiths: America's Real Religious Divide" with Ross Douthatt, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, November 2018

"Religion around Billie Holiday," Spirit of the Senses Community Seminar, December 2017

"[500: The Protestant Reformation and the Modern World](#)," CSRC, October 2017

"Religion Around Billie Holiday," ASU School of Music, March 2017

"Sexual Regulation and Secular Violence: A Nexus of Embodiment," CSRC, March 2010

"Secularism and Feminist Critique," CSRC, March 2007

"Religious Intolerance and the Invention of the Secular," Arizona Foundation for Contemporary Theology, September 2007; and University of Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, August 2007

"Sexuality, Women's Witness, and the Narrative of Reluctant Canonization: Mary Magdalene in the Gospels," Arizona Foundation for Contemporary Theology, May 2005

SELECTED INTERVIEWS, PODCASTS, OP-EDS, AND OTHER MEDIA

"Recovering Truth: What Journalists and Academics Can Learn from One Another," by Kristin Gilger, *Columbia Journalism Review*, 23 January 2024

"Are You There Aunt Alice? It's Me, Facebook," by Robrt L. Pela, *Next Avenue*, 4 October 2023

"Many religions have narratives that transcend gender going back millennia, ASU professor says," *KJZZ*, 26 September 2023

"To Name the Bigger Lie" (with Sarah Viren and John Carlson), podcast, September 2023

"ASU professor's book examines the personal and widespread impact of misinformation," *ASU News*, 13 June 2023

"PSU Presents: Religion Around," Penn State University Press, November 2022

"Knowledge, Feeling, and Belief" (with John Carlson, Charles McCrary, and Donovan Schaefer), podcast, November 2022

"Civility: We the People" (with John Carlson and others) Futures of Democracy podcast, Arizona PBS, November 2022

"In Arizona, truth is on the ballot in 2022 – and democracy is at stake" (with John Carlson), *Arizona Republic*, 28 October 2022

"The abortion debate often involves religious beliefs. But not all groups are against abortion," *KJZZ Phoenix*, 31 May 2022

"Russia and the Religious Right" (with John Carlson, Jacob Lassin, and Sarah Riccardi-Swartz), podcast, May 2022

"ASU center launches Spirituality and Public Life Initiative," *ASUNow*, 17 March 2022

"20 years of baptisms are invalid at a Phoenix diocese," *KJZZ Phoenix*, 18 February 2022; "When you thought you were baptized but apparently not," *WBZ Boston*, 17 February 2022; "Phoenix Priest Resigns After He Gave Thousands of Invalid Baptisms," *NBC News Phoenix*, 16 February

"Science, Anti-Science, and Democracy" (with Evan Berry, John Carlson, and Ben Hurlbut), podcast, September 2021

"The Truth Divide Grows Violent" (with John Carlson, Sarah Posner, and Sarah Riccardi-Swartz), podcast, January 2021

"Is America losing its civil religion?" *ASUNow*, 22 January 2021

"How Billie Holiday's religious childhood shaped her haunting legacy," *Angelus News* (Los Angeles), 8 January 2021

"The 2020 election is over, but our problems are not. Where do we go from here?" (with John Carlson), *Arizona Republic*, 22 November 2020

"Student journalists highlight COVID-19's impact on marginalized communities," Henry Luce Foundation, 19 November 2020

"Truth is on the Ballot" (with John Carlson), podcast, November 2020

[“Telling the truth: Fall lecture series focuses on religion, race, and democracy,”](#) *ASUNow*, 28 September 2020

[“Rapid relief grants aid Arizona’s vulnerable populations,”](#) *ASUNow*, 24 July 2020

[“Racism and the evolution of Protestant support for private education,”](#) *Baptist News Global*, 23 July 2020

[“Life During the Time of Isolation and Social Distancing,”](#) *Jerry Jazz Musician*, 11 May 2020

[“What Made the Lady Sing the Blues?”](#) *Chat Chat with Claudia Cragg*, 13 February 2019

[“Narratives can connect even the most disparate groups of people,”](#) *ASUNow*, 10 October 2019

[“Billie Holiday and the House of the Good Shepherd,”](#) *Jerry Jazz Musician*, 22 August 2019

[“Commentary: Billie Holiday’s stylistic innovations changed American music,”](#) *Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star*, 9 February 2019

[“Tracy Fessenden: Religion Around Billie Holiday,”](#) *The Arts Fuse*, 18 September 2018; reprinted in *All About Jazz*, 8 January 2019, *Metapsychosis*, 6 May 2024

[“Where Did the Holiday Ghost Story Tradition Come From?”](#) *KJZZ Phoenix*, 21 December 2018

[“Billie Holiday, una vida de abusos, malos tratos y drogas,”](#) *El Pais* (Spain), 2 December 2018

[Interview](#), *New Books Network* podcast, 14 November 2018

[“Un’inattesa Billie Holiday,”](#) *Osservatore Romano* (Vatican City), 1 October 2018

[Interview](#), *Out of Bounds Radio* podcast, 2 September 2018

[Book Forum: Tracy Fessenden’s Religion Around Billie Holiday](#), *Black Agenda Report*, 1 August 2018

[“Billie Holiday’s World,”](#) *Northern Spirit Radio*, 16 June 2018

Radio interviews on *Religion Around Billie Holiday*: “On the Bookshelf,” *WTBF-AM/FM Troy, AL*, 21 June; *KFAI Minneapolis*, 31 May; *iHubradio.com, Coachella, CA*, 26 May; *WFSK Nashville*, 23 May; *WRKF Baton Rouge*, 17 May; “The Duplex Mystery Jazz Hour,” *WZBC Boston*, 17 May; *WPKZ Fitchburg, MA*, 17 May; *WPFW Washington, DC*, 16 May; *KCBX San Luis Obispo, CA*, 16 May; *WPFW Washington, DC*, 16 May; *KAOS Olympia WA*, 16 May; *WJFF Radio Catskills*, 9 May; *WUML Lowell, MA*, 19 April; *WORT Madison, WI*, 18 April; *KGNU Denver*, 11 April 2018

[“The Last Word: Conversations with Writers—Tracy Fessenden,”](#) *KSFR, Santa Fe*, 30 May 2018

[“Billie Holiday’s Ties to Religion Explored in ASU Professor’s New Book,”](#) *KJZZ*, 18 May 2018

[“New Book Explores How Religion Shaped Billie Holiday’s Music,”](#) *Arizona PBS*, 7 May 2018

[“How Religion Shaped the Songs of Billie Holiday,”](#) *Jefferson Public Radio*, 7 May 2018

[“Author Tracy Fessenden talks Billie Holiday,”](#) *Conversations Live* podcast, 27 April 2018

[“Catholic Influences in a Jazz Icon’s Life,”](#) *EWTN*, 24 April 2018

[“God Bless the Child: How religion built Billie Holiday’s inner soundtrack,”](#) *ASUNow*, 11 April 2018

[“Oh Mon Dieu! Pourquoi La Vie de Brian et Dangereuse Alliance vont sauver le monde,”](#) *Stylist* (Paris) 5 April 2018

[“Satanic Temple Lawsuit Creates Conversation about Religious Freedom”](#), *KJZZ*, 1 March 2018

[“At 500, Protestant Reformation still influencing our world,”](#) *ASUNow*, 7 October 2017

[“What is a Humanist and What Do They Believe?”](#) *KJZZ*, 3 May 2017

“Religious Holiday,” Texas PBS, 4 March 2017

“ASU students, faculty rally against Trump's travel ban,” *Arizona Republic*, 9 February 2017

“Directions in the Study of Religion,” podcast, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 16 February 2016

“Should Satanic Group Lead Phoenix City Council Meeting? KJZZ, 3 February 2015

“ASU experts weigh in on Pope Francis’s speech to Congress,” *ASUNow*, 24 September 2015

ACADEMIC SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

EDITORSHIPS, BOOK SERIES

EDITOR (with Chad E. Seales), *Iconologies*, University of Chicago Press (approved 2023, launch 2024)

EDITOR (with Chad E. Seales), *Religion Around* series, Penn State University Press, 2020-2024

SERIES TITLES:

Brian Britt, *Religion Around Walter Benjamin*

Jennifer Airey, *Religion Around Mary Shelley*

Joshua Eckhardt, *Religion Around John Donne*

Stephanie Paulsell, *Religion Around Virginia Woolf*

Chad E. Seales, *Religion Around Bono: Evangelical Enchantment and Neoliberal Capitalism*

Tracy Fessenden, *Religion Around Billie Holiday*

W. Clark Gilpin, *Religion Around Emily Dickinson*

Peter Iver Kaufman (Founding Editor), *Religion Around Shakespeare*

GENERAL EDITOR (with Laura Levitt and David Harrington Watt), *North American Religions* series, New York University Press, 2011-

SERIES TITLES:

Kevin M. Burton, *Apocalyptic Abolitionism: How Immediate Millennialists Helped Abolish Slavery and Reform America* (in press)

Candace Lukasik, *Martyrs and Migrants: Coptic Christians and the Persecution Politics of US Empire*

George Gonzales, *The Church of Stop Shopping and Religious Activism: Combatting Consumerism and Climate Change through Performance*

Amanda J. Baugh, *Falling in Love with Nature: The Values of Latinx Catholic Environmentalism*

Aram Sarkisian, *Orthodoxy on the Line: Russian Orthodox Churches and Labor Migration in the Progressive Era*

Leslie Beth Ribovich, *Without a Prayer: Religion and Race in New York City Public Schools*

Laura Yares, *Jewish Sunday Schools: Teaching Religion in Nineteenth-Century America*

Gale L. Kenny, *Christian Imperial Feminism: White Protestant Women and the Consecration of Empire*

Jonathan H. Ebel, *From Dust They Came: Government Camps and the Religion of Reform in New Deal California*

Katrina Daly Thompson, *Muslims on the Margins: Creating Queer Religious Community in North America*

Leonard Norman Primiano, *Vernacular Religion: Collected Essays*, ed. Deborah Dash Moore

Sylvester Johnson and Tisa Wenger, eds., *Religion and US Empire: Critical New Histories*

Caleb Iyer Elfenbein, *Fear in Our Hearts: What Islamophobia Tells Us about America*

Philippa Koch, *The Course of God's Providence: Religion, Health, and the Body in Early America*

Jennifer Scheper Hughes, *The Church of the Dead: The Epidemic of 1576 and the Birth of Christianity in the Americas*

Jenna Supp-Montgomerie, *When the Medium Was the Mission: The Atlantic Telegraph and the Religious Origins of Network Culture*

Elizabeth Fenton, *Old Canaan in a New World: Native Americans and the Lost Tribes of Israel*

Rachel B. Gross, *Beyond the Synagogue: Jewish Nostalgia as Religious Practice*

Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, *Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic Devotion in Williamsburg, Brooklyn*

Joshua Dubler and Isaac Weiner, eds., *Religion, Law, USA*

Ari Y. Kelman, *Shout to the Lord: Making Worship Music in Evangelical America*

M. Cooper Harriss, *Ralph Ellison's Invisible Theology*

Shari Rabin, *Jews on the Frontier* (winner, National Jewish Book Award)

Finbarr Curtis, *The Production of American Religious Freedom*

Kerry Archer Mitchell, *Spirituality and the State: Managing Nature and Religion in America's National parks*

Elizabeth Pérez, *Religion in the Kitchen: Cooking, Talking, and the Making of Black Atlantic Traditions* (winner, Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion; finalist, Albert Raboteau Award in Africana Religions)

Annie Blazer, *Playing for God: Evangelical Women and the Unintended Consequences of Sports Ministry*

Brett Hendrickson, *Border Medicine: A Transcultural History of Mexican American Curanderismo*

Hillary Kaell, *Walking Where Jesus Walked: American Christians and Holy Land Pilgrimage*

Jodi Eichler-Levine, *Suffer the Little Children: Uses of the Past in Jewish and African American Children's Literature*

Isaac Weiner, *Religion Out Loud: Religious Sound, Public Space, and American Pluralism*

Terry Rey and Alex Stepick, *Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith: Haitian Religion in Miami*

Ava Chamberlain, *The Notorious Elizabeth Tuttle: Marriage, Murder, and Madness in the Family of Jonathan Edwards*

EDITORSHIP, SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

EDITOR (with Julie Byrne, Philip Goff, Laura Levitt, Elaine Peña, Matthew Avery Sutton, Peter J. Thueson, and Joseph Tucker Edmonds), *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, Cambridge University Press, 2016-

SELECTED MANUSCRIPT REVIEW, JOURNALS

Christianity and Literature, *Church History: A Journal of Christianity and Culture*, *Early American Studies*, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of Religion*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Religion*, *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, *Religion and Literature*, *Religion and Society: Advances in Research*, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

SELECTED MANUSCRIPT REVIEW, PRESSES

Baylor University Press, Bloomsbury, Brill, Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Cornell University Press, Duke University Press, Harper San Francisco, New York

University Press, Northwestern University Press, Ohio State University Press, Oxford University Press, Penn State University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge, Scholars Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, University of Virginia Press, Wadsworth, Westminster/John Knox, Yale University Press

EXTERNAL REVIEW

Tenure/promotion to associate and full professor in African American studies, American studies, English, history, religious studies, and theology; @3-4 candidates per year, 2009-

Faculty Fellowships, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2008, 2018, 2022

Summer Institutes and Seminars, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2016

Fellowships for Mid-Career and Senior scholars, National Humanities Center, 2013

Fellowships for College and University Teachers, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2002

ADVISORY BOARDS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Advisory Board, Religion and Literature Society, American Literature Association, 2020-
Interpretive Scholarship Advisory Committee, American Religious Sounds Project, Michigan State and Ohio State Universities, 2019-2022

Religion and the Arts Jury, American Academy of Religion, 2017-2021

Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, Yale University, 2016-

Religion Caucus and Paper Prize Jury, American Studies Association, 2007-2011

Steering Committee, North American Religions, American Academy of Religion, 2003-2007

Program Committee, American Studies Association, 2000-2001

Editorial Board, *Journal of Southern Religion*, 2001-2012

Women's and Gender Studies Committee, American Studies Association, 2000-2002

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Spiritual Powers: A Conference on Cultural Icons, with Chad Seales, Spirituality and Public Life Initiative, CSRC, April 2024

Political Theology Network and CSRC, Joint Conference, April 2022

Gendering the Divide: Conflicts at the Border of the Religion and the Secular, Ford Foundation and CSRC, April 2010

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, 2019-

Advisory Board, ASU Humanities Lab, 2018-2020

CLAS Student Affairs and Grievance Committee, 2017-2018

Leadership Academy, Office of the President, 2017-2018

NEH Sumer Stipend Review Board, 2015

Advisory Board, Institute for Humanities Research, 2010-11

Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics Affiliates Council, 2002-

Interviewer for Rhodes, Marshall, Mellon, and Fulbright Scholarships, 1995-1999

College Senator, 1995-1996

ASU-Community College Articulation Task Force, 1995-1997

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Personnel Committee, 2022-2023

Interim Director, 2018-2019

Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2015-2016

Associate Director and Director of Graduate Studies, 2012-2014

Executive Committee, 2012-2016

Transition Committee, 2011-2012

DEPARTMENT/FACULTY OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Graduate Studies Committee, 1996-1999, 2003-2013, 2024-

Personnel Committee, 2002-2005, 2005-2006 (chair), 2011-2013, 2022-2023 (chair)

Chair, Search Committee for Lecturer, 2017-2018

Faculty Head, 2013-2015

Director of Graduate Studies, 2010-2013

Advisor, Graduate Writers' Studios, 2009-2011

Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor of SW Borderlands Religions, 2009-2010

Chair, Faculty Forum Committee, 2008-2010

Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Islamic Thought, 2007-08

Search Committee for Department Chair, 2005-06

Search Committee for Assistant Professor of American Religions, 2003-04

Ph.D. Planning and Steering Committees, 2000-2005

Search Committee for Department Chair, 1998-1999

Discovery Program Coordinator, 1997-1999

Committee on Undergraduate Education, 1995-1998

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

American Catholic Historical Association

American Comparative Literature Association

American Literature Association

American Historical Association

American Society of Church History

American Studies Association

Modern Language Association

January 2025