**Dr. Paul Cassell**

**Curriculum Vitae**

**Education**

2012 Ph.D. Boston University, Science, Philosophy, and Religion in the Division of Religious and Theological Studies. Dissertation: “A Semiotic and Emergent Theory of Religious Communities.” Supervisor: Wesley Wildman

**Fields**

Science, Philosophy, and Religion; Anthropology of Religion; Emergence theory; Interdisciplinarity

**Teaching Experience**

2017 - present **Lecturer**, Faculty of Leadership and Integrative Studies, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Courses Taught: Becoming Interdisciplinary, Interdisciplinary Inquiry Skills, Dimensions of Liberal Studies

2014-2016 **Faculty Fellow**, Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Courses Taught: The Human Event

2012-2014 **Post-Doctoral Fellow in Science and Religion**, Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Courses Taught: Emergence: From Biology to Religion, The Big(gest) Questions, Religion: Organism or Virus?, Supernatural as Natural

2012 **Visiting Lecturer**, ExCollege, Tufts University, Medford, MA

Courses Taught: The Origins of Religion

2007 **Writing Fellow**, Graduate Writing Fellowship, Boston University, Boston, MA

Courses Taught: Science and Religion

**Teaching Awards/Grants/Accomplishments**

2017 ASU Online – Master Class for Teaching Online

2014-2016 Barrett, the Honors College at ASU - Faculty Mentoring Program

**Service**

College Service – College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, ASU

Task Force on CISA Policies and Procedures Changes, 2021-present

Unit Service – Leadership and Integrative Studies, ASU

Chair, Liberal Studies Curriculum Committee, 2018-present

Masters of Interdisciplinary Studies Task Force, 2021-present

Curriculum Council, 2019-present

Personnel Committee, 2019-2021

Study Abroad Committee, 2017-2019

Interdisciplinary Studies Curriculum Committee, 2017-2018

Unit Service – Non-committee, ASU

Organizer, Training for hybrid classes, 2020

New faculty orientation, IDS Degree, 2019

Organizer, Wakonse Faculty Retreat, 2019

Academic Service – Community

The Scholarium’s “Why Does it Matter?” Monthly Lecture Series, Inaugural Lecture: Interdisciplinarity in Academia - Between the Humanities and Sciences, 2021

**Student Mentoring**

Jasmine Shepperson, Directed Study, ASU, 2019

Christopher Hinojosa, Directed Study, ASU, 2018

Kelle Dhein-Begay, Honors Thesis, Barrett, the Honors College, ASU, 2014

Ben Thompson, Master’s Thesis in the School of Theology, Boston University, 2012

**Publications**

Authored Books

1. Cassell, Paul. 2015. Religion, Emergence, and the Origins of Meaning: Beyond Durkheim and Rappaport. *Philosophical Studies in Science and Religion*. Leiden: Brill.

Book Chapters

1. Cassell, Paul. Forthcoming. “Religion Emerges.” In The Routledge Handbook of Evolutionary Approaches to Religion, edited by Yair Lior and Justin Lane. Oxford, UK: Routledge.

Articles

1. Cassell, Paul. 2014. “Rappaport, Revisited.” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 26 (4-5): 417–38.
2. Cassell, Paul. 2013. “Incomplete Deacon: Why New Research Programs in the Sciences and Humanities Should Emerge from Terrence Deacon’s Incomplete Nature.” *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, September, 12–19.

**Conference Presentations**

1. “Conceptual advances in origins of life research” – Conference on Complex Systems, European Conference on Complex Systems, Tempe, AZ (September 30, 2015)
2. “Religious communities are a complex adaptive social system” – Conference on Complex Systems, European Conference on Complex Systems, Tempe, AZ (September 28, 2015)
3. “Emergence in Durkheim and Rappaport” – Religion, Science, and Sociality conference sponsored by the Judaism, Science, and Medicine Group, Tempe, AZ (October 6, 2013).
4. “What the ‘strange trip’ of the Deadhead community can teach us about religion” – American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA (November 21, 2011).
5. “Ritual, religious experience, and adaptive social organization” – American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA (October 29, 2010).
6. “Temporal lobe epilepsy and religious experience” – Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA (March 11, 2005).
7. “Pascal Boyer’s ‘religious template’” – Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA (March 11, 2005).

**Other Presentations**

1. “Ritual as grounds for systemic social dynamics” – OPTIM Research Group, The Origins Project, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (April 7, 2016)
2. “Teleodynamics and the origin of life” – Emergence@ASU, sponsored by the Beyond Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (February 14, 2014).
3. “Religious social dynamics from a systems perspective” – Center for Social Dynamics and Complexity, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (January 30, 2014).
4. “The causal power of absence” – Emergence@ASU, sponsored by the Beyond Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (November 12, 2013).

**Competitive Awards/Grants/Accomplishments**

2016 Templeton World Charity Foundation – Competitive prize to further educational pursuits and scholarly endeavors on the topic of 'The Power of Information.' Value - $2500

2016 ASU-Santa Fe Institute Initiative for Biosocial Complex Systems – Catalyzing Collaborative Complexity Research, a grant to support faculty wanting to initiate collaborative research projects on topics directly related to understanding biological and social complex systems. Value - $1000

2010 Darwin, Peirce, and God: STARS Summer Worship for Early Career Researchers in Philosophy, Biological Science, and Theology – Competitive award to attend this week-long conference at UC-Berkeley based on a paper submitted. Value - $2000

2006 The Paul and Auburn Carr Scholarship in Science and Religion – Competitive award based on research in Science and Religion. Value - $5000

**Current Affiliations**

2014 - Affiliated Faculty, Center for Jewish Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

2013 - Core Faculty, Center for Social Dynamics and Complexity, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

**Professional Organizations**

American Academy of Religion