

SPENCER DEW
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(773) 290-9401 spencerdew@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

2009 Ph.D., The University of Chicago Divinity School

2001 M.A., The University of Chicago Divinity School

1997 B.A., College of Wooster

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

The Ohio State University, Associate Teaching Professor, Comparative Studies and African American and African Studies, fall 2022 to present

Kenyon College, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2021-2023

The Ohio State University, Lecturer in Religious Studies, spring 2019 to spring 2022

Short Book Review Editor, *Religious Studies Review*, 2018 to present

Co-Chair, “Law, Religion, and Culture” section of the American Academy of Religion

GRANTS AND AWARDS:

Hitner Fund grant for work with the Religious Studies faculty on a “new, high-impact, 4000 level, General Education course on ‘Religious Diversity in Central Ohio,’” summer of 2023

American Academy of Religion Regional Development Grant to underwrite costs for a workshop on “Religious Accommodations in the COVID-Era Workplace: Engaging Compliance Professionals,” co-written with Isaac Weiner and Charles McCrary and Liz Wilson, awarded for fall 2023

Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Study of Religion, the Ohio State University, spring 2023

American Academy of Religion Regional Development Grant to underwrite costs for a pre-conference workshop, “Rethinking Religious Studies Graduate Education,” co-coordinated with Abby Kulisz, April 2021

Wittenberg Faculty Endowment Fund funding for virtual lecture by Zakiyyah Imam Jackson, February 2021

2021 Margaret Lynd Award for teaching in the OSU Comparative Studies Department as Associated Faculty

2020 Albert J. Raboteau Prize for Best Book in Africana Religions for *The Aliites: Race and Law in the Religions of Noble Drew Ali*

American Academy of Religion Regional Development Grant to underwrite costs for a pre-conference workshop, "Issues in Teaching Religion and Law," co-coordinated with Rachel Lindsey, Muncie, Indian, March 1-2, 2018

Sabbatical Leave, Centenary College of Louisiana, fall semester 2017

Fellow, Holocaust Educational Foundation Summer Institute, Northwestern University, June 2017

Centenary College of Louisiana Honorary Student Government Association Senator award, April 2017

Honorary Maroon Jacket, Centenary College of Louisiana, Spring 2016 (annual award, selected by students, of two faculty or staff members for dedication and service to the college)

Wabash Center Teaching and Research Grant, Summer 2015 (Lilly Endowment, Inc.)

Researcher for the University of California's "Religions in Diaspora and Global Affairs" project at the Spanish Fork, Utah, "Festival of Colors" Holi Celebration (Henry R. Luce Foundation)

Wabash Center 2014-2015 Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities (Lilly Endowment, Inc.)

Centenary College Research Professor in the Humanities, 2014-2015

Pace-Setter Award, Centenary College of Louisiana, Spring 2014 (annual award, selected by students, of two faculty or staff members exceptionally committed to improving campus life)

Mattie Allen Broyles Inaugural Year Research Chair, Centenary College of Louisiana, 2012-2013

Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Research Fellowship, Summer 2011

Martin Marty Center Junior Fellow, 2007-2008

PUBLICATIONS:

Books (Academic):

The Aliites: Race and Law in the Religions of Noble Drew Ali, University of Chicago Press, 2019

- Winner of the 2020 Albert J. Raboteau Prize for Best Book in Africana Religions

Learning for Revolution: The Work of Kathy Acker, San Diego State University Press, 2011

Books (Fiction):

Here Is How It Happens (novel), Ampersand Press, 2013

Songs of Insurgency (short stories), Vagabond Press, 2008

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

"'The Stare Down': Media, Metaphysics, and Contemporary Diasporic Taíno Politics," forthcoming in *American Religion* special issue on indigenous politics (spring 2024)

“An Introduction to ‘Foreign in a Domestic Sense’: Religion and US Empire,” *American Religion*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Spring 2022

“‘Sole Property and Domain’: Intellectual Property Law and the Contemporary Puerto Rican Taíno Indigenous Movement,” *American Religion*, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 2019

“‘Moors Know the Law’: Sovereign Legal Discourse in Moorish Science Religious Communities,” *Journal of Law and Religion*, Vol. 31, No. 1, March 2016

“The Washitaw de Dugdahmoundyah and Counterfactual Religious Readings of the Law,” *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, Vol. 19, No. 2, November 2015

“Juanita Mayo Richardson Bey: Editor, Educator, and Poetic Visionary of First-Generation Moorish Science,” *Journal of Africana Religions*, February 2014

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

“The Sovereignty Virus: Popular Sovereignty and Anti-Vaccine Discourse in USA,” *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Populism* (forthcoming, summer, 2024)

“Religion and Revolutionary Subjectivity,” in *Theologies of American Exceptionalism*, Indiana University Press, 2020

“‘I was kind of conscious’: Queering the Neoliberal Body,” for *Eat Your Heart Out: The Life Work of Kathy Acker*, edited by Val Razzier, Presses Universitaires de la Méditerranée, 2022.

“Indigeneity” in *Religion, Law, USA*, edited by Joshua Dubler and Isaac Weiner, New York University Press, 2019

“‘Damn Us’: DAMN, Hebrew Israelite Theology, and the Irony of American Exceptionalism,” for *Kendrick Lamar and the Making of Black Meaning*, edited by Christopher Driscoll, Monica R. Miller, and Anthony B. Pinn, Routledge, 2019

“Plastic Religion” in *Sightings: Reflections on Religion in Public Life*, edited by Brett Colasacco, Eerdmans, 2019

“‘Constitutional God-Given Rights’: Explaining Religion and Politics in the Malheur Occupation,” in *Method Today: Redescribing Approaches to the Study of Religion*, edited by Brad Stoddard. Equinox, 2018

Essays (selected):

Notable essays include:

“Editor’s Spotlight: Spencer Dew,” *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 50, Issue 1, April 2024

“Les tumuli sacrés des Washitaw de Dugdahmoundyah,” in *Hypotheses. RelRace-Religion, lignages et “race,”* January 20, 2023.

“Introduction to the Symposium,” co-written with Carlos Manrique, “Symposium—Robert Yelle’s *Sovereignty and the Sacred: Secularism and the Political Economy of Religion*,” *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 4, December 2022

“Introduction” to and “Sacred Funk” essay in Symposium: Reflections on the Republication of John Edgar Wideman's *Philadelphia Fire*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022.

“The Revolutionary Church of Winnifred Fallers Sullivan,” *Political Theology Network* blog, April 1, 2021

“‘The State don’t own a goddamn thing’: Illiberal Religification of the Judicial System,” *Political Theology*, February 8, 2021

“‘The State don’t own a goddamn thing’: Illiberal Religification of the Judicial System,” *Political Theology Network* blog, November 24, 2020

“Something Rotten in the State of Denmark,” *Sightings*, June 14, 2018

“Puerto Rican Artists Shine Light on American Carnage,” *Sightings*, May 10, 2018

“Religion and revolutionary subjectivity at home and abroad,” *Immanent Frame*, March 1, 2017

“Have it your way: Puerto Rico and the myth of American freedom,” *Immanent Frame*, November 15, 2017

“‘Almost Like Praying’: The Religious Work of ‘Hamilton’ Creator Lin-Manuel Miranda,” *Religion Dispatches*, October 18, 2017

“Puerto Rico Prays for Truth: Reporter David Begnaud’s Sacred Mission,” *Religion Dispatches*, October 12, 2017

“What Happens When an American President Believes He is Above the Law?” *Religion Dispatches*, August 29, 2017

“Public Shrines to Treason: Charlottesville and the Cult of Confederate Memorialization,” *Religion Dispatches*, August 14, 2017

“Martyrdom, Racist Violence, and the Role of Art: Kara Walker’s Religious Turn,” *Religion Dispatches*, June 6, 2017

“Alex Jones, Performance Artist and the Dueling Meanings of ‘Sincerity’ in Politics and Public Life,” *Religion Dispatches*, April 19, 2017

“Church of Pain: Religion, Ritual, and the Body in the New *Serial* Spin-Off, ‘S-Town,’” *Religion Dispatches*, April 11, 2017

“How a Mormon Spring Break Ritual Came to Include a Whole Lot of ‘Hare Krishna, Hare Rama,’” *Religion Dispatches*, March 24, 2017

“Let’s Get Lost: Mapping Religion in the 21st Century,” *Religion Dispatches*, March 13, 2017

“Religion and the Revolutionary Subject at Home and Abroad,” *The Immanent Frame*, March 1, 2017

- “Trump’s Inaugural Address Gets an ‘F’ in American Civil Religion,” *Religion Dispatches*, January 22, 2017
- “‘We Don’t Have Enough Evidence’: Pizzagate as Epistemological Panic,” *Sightings*, December 15, 2016
- “‘I’m the One’: Masculinity in the Philosophy of the Baton Rouge Shooter,” *Sightings*, July 21, 2016
- “On Suits, Shoes, and Professionalization,” *The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion* blog, published by the University of Chicago Divinity School, May 31, 2016
- “Pedagogy Beyond Performance,” *The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion* blog, published by the University of Chicago Divinity School, January 18, 2016
- “Working with Failure: On Course Design and the Craft of Teaching,” *The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion* blog, published by the University of Chicago Divinity School, October 16, 2015
- “God’s Law: University Truth According to Religious Sovereign Citizens,” with Jamie Wright, *Sightings*, October 15, 2015
- “Plastic Religious Art: Playful to Some, Offensive to Others,” *Sightings*, October 9, 2014
- “‘A Man is Nothing Without His Name’: Religious Themes in the Christopher Dorner Manifesto,” *Sightings*, February 28, 2013
- “On the Work of Michael Muhammad Knight,” *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Summer 2012
- “You Are Not Your Star Sign,” *Religion Dispatches*, January 31, 2010
- “Religion, Democracy, and the Censorship of ‘Fire in My Belly,’” *Sightings*, December 23, 2010
- “Beyond Christianity or Creed: Religion of Realism from a Chicago Cop,” *Religion Dispatches*, November 18, 2010
- “Crying Witch: Learning from the O’Donnell ‘Dabbling’ Debacle,” *Religion Dispatches*, October 28, 2010
- “Sovereign Citizenship, Religion, and Law: The Case of Moorish Science,” *Sightings*, July 29, 2010
- “An Atheist’s Idealized Christianity: The Dangerous Theological Fantasies of Ayaan Hirsi Ali,” *Religion Dispatches*, May 26, 2010
- “The Unreality of Human Suffering: Ethical Ramifications of Jack Kerouac’s Concept of Heaven,” *Religion and Culture Web Forum*, April 2010
- “Is the Devil a Black Man?” *Sightings*, January 21, 2009

“Ethics, Interpretation, and Pedagogy: Martin Buber and the Undergraduate Literature Classroom,” *CEA Forum*, 36.1, Winter/Spring 2007

Reviews (selected):

Notable reviews include:

Review of S. Kaazim Naqvi, *Chicago Muslims and the Transformation of American Islam: Immigrants, African Americans, and the Building of the American Ummah*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 50, Issue 1, April 2024

Review of Rita Indiana, *Tentacle*. Translated by Achy Obejas, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 50, Issue 1, April 2024

Review of Claudia Acevedo-Quiñones, *The Hurricane Book: A Lyric History*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 50, Issue 1, April 2024

Review of Sherene H. Razack, *Nothing Has to Make Sense: Upholding White Supremacy Through Anti-Muslim Racism*, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 3, December 2023

Review of *Lakota Nation vs. the United States*, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 3, December 2023

Review of Daniel Boyarin, *The No-State Solution: A Jewish Manifesto*, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 3, December 2023

Review of Benjamin Balint, *Bruno Schulz: An Artist, a Murder, and the Hijacking of History*, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 3, December 2023

Review of Benjamin E. Sax, *Winged Words: Benjamin, Rosenzweig, and the Life of Quotations*, *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 3, December 2023

Review of “Liver King,” *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 1, April 2023

Review of Andrew Callaghan, “This Place Rules,” *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 1, April 2023

Review of “Love Is Blind, Season 3,” *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 49, Issue 1, April 2023

Review of Jennifer Koshatka Seman, *Borderlands Curanderos: The Worlds of Santa Teresa Urrea and Don Pedrito Jaramillo*, *American Religion*, Volume 4, No. 1, Fall 2022

Review of Clifford Bob, *Rights as Weapons: Instruments of Conflict, Tools of Power*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of Michael Muhammad Knight, *Metaphysical Africa: Truth and Blackness in the Ansaru Allah Community*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of Danielle Boaz, *Banning Black Gods: Law and Religions of the African Diaspora*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of Shannon Reid, *Alt-Right Gangs: A Hazy Shade of White*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of *The Politics of the Canoe*, edited by Bruce Erickson and Sarah Wylie Krotz, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of Modi's *India: Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of Christina Ramos, *Bedlam in the New World: A Mexican Madhouse in the Age of Enlightenment*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Review of Laura Briggs, *Taking Children: A History of American Terror*, *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 48, Issue 2, June 2022

Regular contributor of book notes to *Religious Studies Review*, published quarterly by Rice University, 2013—present

Regular book reviewer for quarterly *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, 2005-2019 (with a particular focus on religion, race, and law)

Staff Book Reviewer for monthly on-line literary journal *decomp*, 2010—2019

Regular art reviewer for weekly paper *Newcity Chicago*, 2010

Regular art reviewer for monthly journal *Chicago Artists' News*, 2009-2010

Notable reviews include:

Review of Garrett Felber, *Those Who Know Don't Say: The Nation of Islam, the Black Freedom Movement, and the Carceral State*, *American Religion*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring 2021

Review of David Masciotra, *I Am Somebody: Why Jesse Jackson Matters*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 26, No. 1, Spring 2021

Review of S. Kaazim Naqvi, *Chicago Muslims and the Transformation of American Islam: Immigrants, African Americans, and the Building of the American Ummah*, *American Historical Review* (forthcoming)

“Introduction” to special issue of the *Religious Studies Review* on Jessica Johnson's *Biblical Porn*, edited by Spencer Dew (fall, 2019)

Review of Yvan Alagbé, *Yellow Negroes and Other Imaginary Creatures*. *Rain Taxi Review of Books* On-line Edition, Summer 2018

Puerto Rico Strong: A Comics Anthology Supporting Puerto Rico Disaster and Recovery, Marco Lopez, Desiree Rodriguez, Hazel Newlevant, Derik Ruiz, Neil Schwartz, eds., *Rain Taxi Review of Books* Vol. 23, No. 2, Summer 2018

Review of Douglas A. Martin, *Acker*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Spring 2018

Review of Alexandra Lahav, *In Praise of Litigation*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 22, No. 3, Fall 2017

Review of Vincent Lloyd, *Black Natural Law*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol 21, No. 4, Winter 2016

Review of Ethan Michaeli, *The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Fall 2016

Review of Ellen Wayland-Smith, *Oneida: From Free Love to the Well-Set Table*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 2016

Review of Nelson A. Denis, *War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books* On-line Edition, Spring 2016

Review of David Nirenberg, *Aesthetic Theology and Its Enemies: Judaism in Christian Painting, Poetry, and Politics*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 21, No. 1, Spring 2016

Review of Kathy Acker, *Homage to LeRoi Jones and Other Early Works*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 20, No. 3, Fall 2015

Review of William J. Maxwell, *F.B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 20, No. 2, Summer 2015

Review of Kathy Acker and McKenzie Wark, *I'm Very Into You: Correspondence, 1995-1996*, edited by Matias Viegner, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Spring 2015

Review of Marco Pasi, *Aleister Crowley and the Temptations of Politics*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Spring 2015

Review of Tobias Churton, *Aleister Crowley, The Beast in Berlin: Art, Sex, and Magick in the Weimar Republic*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Spring 2015

Review of Abdelwahab Meddeb, *Islam and the Challenge of Civilization*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2014

Review of Dinaw Mengestu, *New Waw: Saharan Oasis*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2014

Review of *Pleading in the Blood: The Art and Performances of Ron Athey*, edited by Dominic Johnson. *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Summer 2014

Review of Hassan Blasim, *The Corpse Exhibition and Other Stories of Iraq*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring 2014

Review of Mahmoud Saeed, *Ben Barka Lane*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 18, No. 4, Winter 2013

Review of Jamal Elias, *Aisha's Cushion: Religious Art, Perception, and Practice in Islam*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 18, No. 1, Spring 2013

Review of Bruce Beasley, *Theophobia*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Spring 2013

Review of Carl Ernst, *How to Read the Qur'an*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, On-line Edition, Spring 2012

Review of Jarett Kobek, *Atta*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 16 No. 4, Winter 2011/2012

Review of Adam Kirsch, *Why Trilling Matters*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Winter 2012

Review of Graham E. Fuller, *A World Without Islam*. *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Summer 2011

Review of Natalie Moore and Lance Williams, *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang*, *Religion Dispatches*, May 2011

Review of Leïla Marouane, *The Sexual Life of an Islamist in Paris*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Winter 2011

Review of James Baldwin, *The Cross of Redemption*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Winter 2011

Review of Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Nomad*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 15 No. 3, Fall 2010

Review of Leo Damrosch, *Tocqueville's Discovery of America*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Summer 2010

Review of Mircea Eliade, *The Portugal Journal*, translated by Mac Linscott Ricketts, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Summer 2010

Review of Tariq Ramadan, *What I Believe*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Spring 2010

Review of Shakhar Kapur's *Devi*, Volumes 1-4, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Spring 2010

Review of Adina Hoffman, *My Happiness Bears No Relation to Happiness: A Poet's Life in the Palestinian Century*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Spring 2010

Review of *The Wolverton Bible: The Old Testament and Book of Revelation Through the Pen of Basil Wolverton*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 2009

Review of Maria Monk, *Awful Disclosures of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery of Montreal*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, Online Edition, Spring 2009

Review of "Twisted into Recognition: Clichés of Jews and Others," *Chicago Artists' News*, Volume XXXV, Number 10, November 2008

Review of "The New Authentics: Artists of the Post-Jewish Generation" at the Spertus Institute in *Chicago Artists' News*, Vol. XXXV, No. 3, March 2008

Review of David Morgan, *Visual Piety: A History and Theory of Popular Religious Images* and *The Sacred Gaze: Religious Visual Culture in Theory and Practice*, *Chicago Artists' News*, Volume XXXV, Number 8, September 2008

Review of Tracy McNulty, *The Hostess: Hospitality, Femininity, and the Expropriation of Identity*, *Journal of Religion* Volume 87, Fall 2007

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

The Ohio State University: Associate Teaching Professor, Comparative Studies and African American and African Studies, fall 2022 to present

Kenyon College: Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2021-2023

The Ohio State University: Lecturer in Religious Studies, spring 2019 to spring 2022

Wittenberg University: Religion Teaching Fellow, 2020-2021

Denison University: Visiting Assistant Professor, 2018-2020

Centenary College of Louisiana: Associate Professor and Chair of Religious Studies, 2016-2018

Centenary College of Louisiana: Assistant Professor, 2012-2016

Chicago Police Department via St. Xavier University: Summer adjunct 2009-2014

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point: Lecturer, 2011-2012

Iowa State University: Lecturer, 2010-2011

Loyola University Chicago: Adjunct, 2008-2010

Saint Xavier University: Adjunct, 2005-2009

COURSES TAUGHT:

At the Ohio State University

Theories and Methods for Religious Studies

Comparative Sacred Texts

Varieties of Christianity

Literature and Religion

Religious Diversity in America

Popular Culture and World Religion

Introduction to Comparative Religion (Honors)

African Religion: The Idea of "Africa" in African American Religion

Religion and American Culture

African American Voices in US Literature

Religion, Meaning, and Knowledge in Africa and its Diaspora

Comparative Studies Senior Seminar

Theorizing Race

At Kenyon College

Holocaust Memorialization
Jewish Literature
Encountering Religion in its Global Contexts

At Wittenberg University

Christian Tradition
Indigenous Religion
African American Religion
Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

At Denison University

Writing 101: Writing Race
Introduction to Queer Studies
Writing 101: American Gods
Queer Borderlands: Control and Resistance

At Centenary College of Louisiana:

World Religions
Introduction to Judaism
First Year Experience
Introduction to Christianity
African American Religion
Religion and Law
Ancient American Religion (May term course, with local travel)
Buddhism
Religion and Race
Religion and the Body
Ritual
Immigration and American Religion (Independent Study)
Lived Religion in Copenhagen (May term travel course)
Politics and the End of the World
Religion and Biology in Buenos Aires (May term travel course)
Religion and the Creation of the Middle East (group Independent Study)
Introduction to Islam
Native American Sovereignty: Religion, Law, and Practical Politics

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point:

Religion in America
Introduction to Judaism
Religion and Cultural Conflict
Judaism, Christianity, Islam

At Iowa State University:

World Religions
Social Dimensions of Religion
Religions of India
Buddhism in America (Independent Study)

At the Chicago Police Department:

Religion and Law
Introduction to Islam
Religion and Race
Religion and Politics

At Loyola University Chicago:

Introduction to the Study of Religion
Introduction to Hinduism

At Saint Xavier University:

The Hindu Tradition
Introduction to Islam
Introduction to Philosophy
Introduction to Ethics

PAPERS PRESENTED AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES:

“Digital Media as ‘Ancient Taíno Technology,’” Southern Humanities Council annual conference, Savannah, GA, February 2, 2024

“‘Indigenous Disposition’: African American Religious Claims to Mounds and Indigeneity,”
“Mounds and Memory: Indigenous Sovereignty, Ceremonial Spaces, and Stories of the Mound Builders” conference, Harvard University, April 27, 2023.

“Two Aspects of Intellectual Property in the Religio-Legal Consciousness of the Moorish Science Temple of America,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver, CO, November 19, 2022.

“Contemporary Diasporic Taino Media as Mediated Immediacy,” “Subversive Religiosities and More-Than-Human Materialities” Workshop, Mexico City, October 21, 2022

“Cock Pics on the Internet: US Game Fowl Devotion, Social Media, and Surveillance,” Midwest American Academy of Religion Virtual Meeting, March 3, 2022

“The Problem of Expert Testimony” in American Academy of Religion Virtual Meeting, November 21, 2021

“‘The Privileges or Immunities of the Citizens of the United States’: Sovereign Epistemic Authority in American Politics,” American Academy of Religion Virtual Meeting, December 10, 2020

“‘We got to sit down with some people at the museum...openly exposing them to the truth’: Washitaw de Dugdahmoundyah Engagements with Mound Site Museums” American Academy of Religion Virtual Meeting, December 8, 2020

“‘Crimes Against Humanity’: The United Nations, Law’s Empire, and Indigenous Activism,” Political Theology Network Conference, Union Theological Seminary, New York, October 19, 2019

“The Queer Case of the Natural Man,” Re-centering American Religion workshop, Indiana University Mexico City Gateway, March 29, 2019

“The Queer Case of the Natural Man,” the Center for the Study of Religion, the Ohio State University, March 18, 2019

“‘Sole Property and Domain’: Intellectual Property Law and the Contemporary Puerto Rican Taíno Indigenous Movement,” Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Muncie, March 2, 2019

“‘The rights of indigenous people under international law’: Religious Claims to Indigeneity as Legal Arguments,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver, November 2018

“Politics Patronage, and Populist Patriotism,” Black Metropolis Research Consortium Reunion and National Gathering of African American Studies Scholars, Indianapolis, October 6, 2018

“Becoming Indigenous to Build a Reservation: The Washitaw De Dugdahmoundyah Religious Movement in Pursuit of Indigenous Legal Accommodations,” June 9, 2018 at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, Toronto

“Museums and the Creation of Indigenous Religion,” March 3, 2018 at the Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Muncie

“‘The Taíno People Live!’: Legal Mobilization of Claims to Indigeneity from a Contemporary Puerto Rican Religious Movement,” March 2, 2018 at the Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Muncie

“On Teaching MOVE: Religion, Race, and Law” March 2, 2018 pre-conference workshop
“Issues in Teaching Religion and Law” at the Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Muncie

“‘A Place for Our Children’: On-line Memorialization of the Nuwaubian Yamassee Settlement at Tama-Re,” December 14, 2017 annual meeting of the Memory Studies Association, Copenhagen

“The Purloined Church: Ahmadiyya Negotiations of Danish Conceptions of Religion,” November 17, 2017 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston

“‘With the Original Signers’: US Constitution as Sacred Text and Ritual Object,” March 4, 2017 at the Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Muncie

“(Semi) Autonomous and (Relatively) Sovereign: Nationalism and Resistance in Aliite Religions,” January 28, 2017 at the annual meeting of the Southern Humanities Council, Louisville

“‘A person does not become something else just by changing his name, but instead by changing his mind’: Clothes and Epistemology in the Nuwaubian Movement,” November 19, 2016 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio

“The Sacred Obligations of the Citizen”: Sovereign Citizen Occupations, Urban and Rural, and the Political Theology Thereof,” November 19, 2016 at annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio

“Explanation as Complication and Grounding: Resisting Reduction and Exotification,” November 2016 at annual meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Religion, San Antonio

“‘You, Judge, are not willing to obey and follow the true and real law’: Sovereign Citizen Legal Performance as Expressions of Sovereign Religious Conceptions of the Law,” co-written with Jamie Wright, June 2, 2016, annual meeting of the Law and Society Association, New Orleans

“‘While the judge denied me the satisfaction of an admission of defeat, I nevertheless won the case: Validation, Proselytization, and Videos in the Religious Sovereign Citizen Movement,” co-written with Jamie Wright, April 2, 2016, Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Ball State University

“Sovereign Citizen Legal Tactics and ‘Christian Patriotism,’” January 23, 2016, Southern Humanities Council annual meeting, Louisville

“‘Then We Go to Geneva, We Go to The Hague’: Religious Imagining of International Law,” April 1, 2014, Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Ohio Northern University

“Moorish-America, Polish-American: Religion, Nationality, and Citizenship in Early Twentieth Century Chicago,” April 11, 2014, Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Ohio Northern University

“‘That’s why it’s called *Black’s Law Dictionary*’: Etymology as Authoritative Religious Discourse in Contemporary Moorish Science Temple Movements,” April 4, 2014, Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Ohio Northern University

“‘Rip a Hole in His-Story’s Behind’: Critique and Appropriation in Empress Veridiacee ‘Tiara’ Washitaw-Turner Goston El-Bey’s *Return of the Ancient Ones: The True History Uncovered of the Washitaw De Dugdahmoundyah Empire*,” April 4, 2014, Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Ohio Northern University

“‘You have just read a State of Louisiana document’: Religious Pedagogy and the Seizure of Expert Discourse by the Washitaw De Dugdahmoundyah,” November 23, 2013, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

“‘All Merchandise (Printed or Otherwise)’: C. Kirkman Bey and the Struggle for Utopia in the Moorish Science Temple of America Movement in the 1930’s and 1940’s,” October 5, 2012, Society of Utopian Studies annual meeting, Toronto, Ontario

“‘This Nationalistic Topic’: Internal Debates about Nationality and Citizenship in the Moorish Science Temple of America, 1925-1935,” November 20, 2011, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, California

“‘It has fallen upon you to finish what began at Auschwitz’: *The Unborn*, Holocaust Fictionalization, and the Responsibilities of Jewish Memory,” November 21, 2011, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, California

“‘The Gospel of the Omnipotence of Man’: Human Perfectability and Utopia in The Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America,” October 21, 2011, Society for Utopian Studies annual meeting, State College, Pennsylvania

“‘There are Texts Involved’: The Reception of Tariq Ramadan,” March 27, 2010, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Augustana College

“‘Some Ultimate Faith and Love’: James Baldwin’s Moral Mission,” March 27, 2010, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Augustana College

“Devotion to Solipsism: Religious Thought and Practice in Jack Kerouac’s *Tristessa*,” November 8, 2009, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Montreal, Quebec

“Love, Friendship, and the Tragic American Reality in James Baldwin’s Work,” October 30, 2009, Society for Utopian Studies annual meeting, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

“Religious Crisis and the Function of Literature: the Case of Norman Mailer and *Armies of the Night*,” April 4, 2009, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Loyola University, Chicago

“Hutus, Tutsis, *Genocidaires*, and Our Sort of Folk: The Ethics of Empathy and In-Group Construction in Philip Gourevitch’s *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*,” March 27, 2009, National College English Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

“Transforming and Transformative Voices: Zora Neale Hurston’s Writings on Voodoo,” February 7, 2009, Southern Humanities Council Annual Conference, Durham, North Carolina

“Textual Communities, Liminal Utopias: Kathy Acker, Maurice Blanchot, and Roland Barthes,” October 31, 2008, Society of Utopian Studies Annual Conference, Portland, Maine

“Irony, Experience, and the Black Body of Voodoo Practice in Zora Neale Hurston’s Writings,” October 4, 2008, “Religion Matters: Material Effects of Religion on Bodies,” Graduate Student Colloquium, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

“Protest as Rite of Passage, Text as Tool in Eschatological Struggle: Norman Mailer’s *Armies of the Night*,” March 27, 2008, National College English Association, St Louis, Missouri

“‘In Mind’s Deep Imagery where we learn that everything is nothing’: Mexico in Kerouac’s Religious Thought,” February 9, 2008, Southern Humanities Council Annual Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee

“Book as Gift: Kathy Acker’s Utopian Reading of *Wuthering Heights*,” October 6, 2007, Society of Utopian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario

“Martin Buber as a Model of Reading,” April 13, 2007, National College English Association, New Orleans, Louisiana

“Realism, Reading, Revolution: Kathy Acker’s Goya,” March 25, 2007, Florida State University Department of Religious Studies Graduate Conference, “Religion, Violence, and Healing,” Tallahassee, Florida

“‘Dream somehow of paradise’: Text as Journey and Kathy Acker’s Doubtful Utopia,” February 24, 2007, University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Comparative Literature’s Literary Odysseys: The Journeys in and of Literature, University of Colorado, Boulder

“Doing Violence to the Senses: Politics, Identity, and Abjection in Kathy Acker’s *Empire of the Senseless*,” April 1, 2006, Midwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Dominican University, Chicago

“Opaque Correspondence: Reading the Experience of Reading and Writing in Ted Berrigan’s *The Sonnets*,” April 23, 2005, Symposium in Romance Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS:

Invited Lectures:

“Sacralizing Citizenship, Negotiating Surveillance, Imagining the Law: American Islam and Alternative Racialization,” Centre de Recherches Internationales, SciencesPo, Paris, November 27, 2022.

“We want to live”: Of MOVE, Otherwise Possibilities, and Cautionary Tales,” Wittenberg University Religion Department, April 13, 2021

“‘We don’t believe in politics at all’: MOVE as Unstately Religion,” Religion Without the State: Can Illiberal Religion Lead to Justice? workshop hosted by the Indiana University Berlin Gateway and the Center for Religion and the Human, April 7, 2021.

“Theory from the Margins: Serious Consideration of Thought Dismissed as ‘Frivolous,’” Rice University, March 2, 2020

“Aliite Religion and Law,” Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, October 23, 2017

“Religion in the Legal System,” Ohio State University Center for Ethics and Human Values, October 10, 2017

“After ‘The Raid’: Shifting Conceptions of Sovereignty in the Washitaw Movement,” Indiana University, March 31, 2016

“Haitian Vodou: Spirits and Politics,” Meadows Museum of Art, Centenary College of Louisiana, September 8, 2015

“The Flâneur and the Liberal Arts,” guest presentation to Monmouth College Introduction to Liberal Arts classes, October 11, 2013

“Islam in America,” for the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded “Muslim Journeys” initiative, Monmouth College, October 10, 2013

“‘We are the Real Indians’: Racial Identity, Religious Narrative, and the Interpretation of Ancient American Archaeological Sites,” guest presentation, Department of Religious Studies colloquium series, University of Pittsburgh, March 6, 2013

“‘To finish what began at Auschwitz’: Holocaust, Narrative, and the Dangers of Resolution,” Annual Van Thyn Lecture, Centenary College of Louisiana, January 28, 2013

Invited Workshop and Symposium Participation:

Participant, Black Unstately Religion Workshop, Indiana University, May 11-13, 2023.

Participant, Black Unstately Religion Workshop, Indiana University, November 9-12, 2022.

Participant, Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Gathering, Rainy River First Nation, Canada, October 1 and 2, 2022.

Participant, “Faiths and Ferocity: Research and Teaching Exchanges Between Genocide Studies and Interreligious Studies” seminar, Institute for Christian, Jewish, and Islamic Studies, Baltimore, MD, July 10-13, 2022.

Participant, Workshop on Black Unstately Religion, University of Paris Sciences Po, November 29 and 30, 2021.

Participant, Panel on Contingency and Academic Labor, American Academy of Religion virtual meeting, November 20, 2021.

Participant, “Re-centering American Religion,” Mexico City, March 21-23, 2019

Presented, “The Queer Case of the Natural Man,” the Ohio State University Comparative Studies Department’s “Less Than a Page” series, March 20, 2019

Participant, “Taking Exception II,” Indiana University, April 5-7, 2018

Co-coordinator and participant, “Issues in Teaching Religion and Law” pre-conference workshop, Muncie, Indiana, March 1-2, 2018

Presented “Unsettling Claims: Religion, Race, and Law in Communities of Imagined Indigeneity,” Princeton Religion in the Americas Workshop, November 9, 2017

Participant, “Taking Exception: Queering American Religion,” Indiana University, March 31-April 1, 2017

Panelist, “New Religions and American Law” COMPAS Colloquium, the Ohio State University October 10, 2017

Participant, “Theologies of American Exceptionalism,” sponsored by the Luce Foundation-funded “Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad” project directed by Elizabeth Shakman Hurd and Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Indiana University, October 28, 2016.

Participant, “Book History and Religion” workshop, Princeton University, September 30-October 2, 2015

Guest Lectures:

“‘Indigenous Under Law’: Claims to Indigenous Identity by Religious Communities,” Denison University Tuesday Lunch Talk, March 26, 2019

“Moorish Science Temple of America: Law as Religion,” Ohio State University “Religion and Law” class, October 10, 2017

“Jewish Compositional and Theological Insights into Leonard Benstein’s *Chichester Psalms*,” for Centenary College of Louisiana’s Camerata Ensemble fall retreat, September 24, 2016

SERVICE:

Media Appearances/Consultations (selected):

July, 2021, interview with Boston Public Radio on Rise of the Moors group

July 2021, interview with Boston Globe on Rise of the Moors group

March 20, 2020, interview with SherAli Tareen for *New Book in Islam* podcast

March 5, 2018, interview with Cleveland *Plain-Dealer* on Moorish child custody case

July 19, 2016, non-aired interview with producers of National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” on the Washitaw movement

July 18, 2016, interviewed by reporters with the *Kansas City Star* on the Washitaw movement

November 11, 2015, interview with *The Charlotte Observer* on Moorish history and sovereign citizen practices

August 29, 2015, cited on Moorish Science and its relation to sovereign citizen theories in *The Kansas City Star*

August 25, 2015, interview with *The Kansas City Star* on Moorish sovereignty and terrorism

April 8, 2013, interview with *The Saint Louis Post Dispatch* on the United Nation of YisraEL and its relationship with Moorish Science

March 25, 2013, appeared on *CBS This Morning* in an interview segment on Moorish Science Temple history

March 19, 2013, interview with Melissa Block on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered,” about the history of Moorish Science

March 19, 2013, quoted as a source on Moorish Science history in *The Washington Post*

February 11, 2013, interview with KTBS 3 television on papal politics

January 28, 2013, phone interview with *The Washington Post* on Moorish Science

December 7, 2012, in-studio interview with Jody Lowry and Rick Rowe for KTBS “ArkLaTex in Focus” special, “The End of the World”

July 21, 2011, interviewed for *USA Today* article on Moorish Science

Campus, Community, and Professional Service:

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Comparative Studies Department, the Ohio State University, 2022-present

Past President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2022-2023

President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2020-2022

Vice President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2018-2020

Co-Chair, American Academy of Religion “Law, Religion, and Culture” section, 2019-present

Organizer of “Religion Matters” speaker series, 2013-2017

In this capacity, I have arranged for the following speakers to visit Centenary, deliver public talks, lecture in classes, and meet formally and informally with students to discuss their work on religion and career options related to religion research. Notably visitors have included academic and activist Steven Salaita (Fall 2014), performance artist Ron Athey (Fall 2015), and Native American theologian George (Tink) Tinker (Spring 2017)

Faculty advisor to Student Government Association, 2014-2017

Faculty advisor to Honor Court, 2016—2017

Chair of “Teaching Religion” Section, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2014-2019

Vice President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2019-2020

Editorial Positions:

Short Review Editor, *Religious Studies Review*, 2018 to present

Member, Editorial Board, *American Religion*, 2019 to present

Law and Religion section editor, *Religious Studies Review*, 2019 to 2022

Staff Book Reviewer, *decomp* (online literary magazine), 2010 to 2019

Editor, *Religion and Culture Web Forum*, the University of Chicago Divinity School, 2008-2009

Editorial Assistant, *Ethics: An International Journal of Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy*, 2006-2008