

Miles Adam Park, Ph.D.

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Academic Positions

Fall 2018 – Present	Digital Humanities Faculty Associate and Research Fellow <i>Lived Religion in the Digital Age</i> The Henry Luce Foundation
Fall 2019 – Present	Adjunct Professor Saint Louis University Department of American Studies
Fall 2018 – Spring 2019	Adjunct Professor Saint Louis University Department of Theological Studies

Education

Ph.D., 2017	Florida State University Department of Religion Primary Field: American Religious History Secondary Field: History of Medicine in America Dissertation: “Savage Saints: Muscular Christianity, Human Nature, and Fighting in America”
M.A., 2009	Missouri State University Department of Religious Studies Thesis: “XXXianity: A Safe, Non-Pornographic Place to Shop for All Your Christian Sex Toy and Romance Needs”
B.A., 2006	Missouri State University Department of Philosophy

Fields of Study

20th Century American History; Gender, Race, and the Body; Affect; Religion and Violence; American Evangelicalism; Religion and Modernity; Sports and Physical Culture; History of Medicine in America; Popular Culture; Sensory Ethnography; Public Humanities; Digital Humanities

Publications

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Savage Saints: Muscular Christianity, Human Nature, and Fighting in America, 1858 – 2020 (currently under revision for resubmission to the University of Chicago Press).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Fighting Spirit?: WWI and the YMCA’s Allied Boxing Program,” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 29:3 (Fall 2019): 391-430.

“Believing and Nothingness: An Existential Reading of Mark 9:17-29,” *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa* 33:1 (Spring 2009): 1-19.

* Selected for the Albert Clark Award for best essay.

“Cream, Sugar, and Christianity: An Ethnographic Study of Religion and Coffee Houses in Springfield, Missouri,” *Logos* 1:1 (Fall 2008): 12-25.

* Selected for the Logos Award for outstanding publication.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“In the Octagon: Mixed Martial Arts Comes to Life,” in *American History Through American Sports: From Colonial Lacrosse to Extreme Sports*, eds., Danielle Coombs and Bob Batchelor (Praeger: Santa Barbara, CA, 2012), 295-314.

WORKS IN-PROGRESS

“Love to Hate: Feelings and Professional Wrestling in the 1950s,” in preparation for submission to a digital publication.

Muscular Christianity and the History of Boxing in America, an Omeka-based, multimedia series of exhibits for online presentation.

“I, Glove: An Object History in First-Person,” in research.

“‘The Laws of Health’: Religion, Nation, and Transatlantic Fitness Reform, 1820 – 1858,” in research for submission to an academic journal.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Robert A. Orsi, *History and Presence* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016) in *H-Net Reviews*, (November 2016).

Review of Matthew Avery Sutton, *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014) in *Religion* 47:1 (July 2016): 120-123.

Review of Thomas J. Little, *The Origins of Southern Evangelicalism: Religious Revivalism in the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1670-1760* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2013) in *Religion* 45:3 (July 2015): 483-486.

Review of Jonathan H. Ebel, *Faith in the Fight: Religion and the American Soldier in the Great War* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010) in *Religion* 41:4 (December 2011): 707-709.

Review of Jennifer Glancy, *Corporal Knowledge: Early Christian Bodies* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) in *Religion* 41:3 (September 2011): 503-506.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

“Barbie,” “G.I. Joe,” “Go-go,” and “Miss America—1960-1969,” *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, eds. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Deboit (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012), 52-53.

“Playboy Magazine,” “Henry Louis Mencken,” and “Brigham Young,” *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, eds. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Deboit (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012), 513-514.

Courses Taught

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES

Digital Humanities (Graduate Seminar, Spring 2020)
Ethnographies of American Culture (Graduate Seminar, Fall 2019)

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

American Christianity Through the Senses (Spring 2019)
Religion and American Politics (Fall 2018)

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Introduction to World Religions (Online, Spring 2014)
Religion, Sport, and Gender (Fall 2012)
Religion and Sport (Spring 2012)
History of Religions in the U.S. (Spring 2010 to Fall 2011)
History of Religions in the U.S. (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2009)

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

Multicultural Dimensions of Film and 20th Century Culture (Online, Fall 2013)

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2011)

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religion in America (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2007 to Spring 2008)

Conference Presentations, Public Lectures, and Invited Talks

- 2019 “Bodies.” Panel chair for Religion in Place: Space | Borders | Bodies symposium. Saint Louis University (October).
- 2019 “Can Martial Arts Save America?” Guest lecture for Zhuangzi, Daoism, and Play course. Saint Louis University (September).
- 2019 “The Senses and the Study of Religion.” Keynote address for Undergraduate World Religions Symposium. Saint Louis University (May).
- 2019 “‘The Decline of Western Civilization’: Christianity and Mixed Martial Arts, 1993 – 2019.” Guest presentation for Cultures of American Religion seminar. Saint Louis University (April).
- 2019 “A Live Experiment in Making Manly Aggression, circa 1918.” Invited panelist for Midwest American Academy of Religion. Performing Bodies: Embodiment, Violence, and the Study of Religion. Muncie, IN (March).
- 2018 “Fighting, Human Nature, and Religion.” Guest lecture for Department of Philosophy and World Religions. University of Northern Iowa (February).
- 2017 “‘Soldier Sport’: WWI and the YMCA’s Allied Boxing Program.” Panelist at American Academy of Religion. Religion, Sport, and Play Unit. Boston, MA (November).
- 2017 “‘Black Belts of the Faith’: Accessories and Christian Martial Artistry.” Panelist at American Academy of Religion. Religion, Attire, and Adornment in North America Seminar. Boston, MA (November).
- 2016 “‘Fighting Spirit’: WWI, the YMCA, and Boxing.” Guest presentation for American Religious History colloquium. Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL (December).
- 2016 “‘Greeks of the East’: Muscular Christianity and Japanese Jiu-Jitsu in the Progressive Era.” Guest presentation for Religious Studies Thesis Writing Workshop. Missouri State University. Springfield, MO (February).
- 2016 “Jiu-Jitsu, Muscular Christianity, and the Problem of Culture in Progressive Era America.” Panelist at the Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium at Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL (February).

- 2011 “Body Studies: A Nature/Culture Problem.” Panelist at American Academy of Religion. Body and Religion Section. San Francisco, CA (November).
- 2011 “Body Studies: The Aporetic State of the Feel.” Panelist at the Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium at Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL. (February).
- 2010 “‘Needed – A New Human Race’: Dr. John Harvey Kellogg’s Sexed Prescriptions.” Panelist at the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association in the South Conference. Savannah, GA (October).
- 2010 “XXXianity: ‘A Safe, Non-Pornographic Place to Shop for All Your Christian Sex Toy and Lingerie Needs.’” Panelist at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion conference. Atlanta, GA (March).
- 2010 “Dr. John Harvey Kellogg’s Utopian Sanitarium of Bodily Perfection.” Panelist at the Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium at Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL (February).
- 2009 “XXXianity: ‘A Safe, Non-Pornographic Place to Shop for All Your Christian Sex Toy and Lingerie Needs.’” Panelist at the Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference. Chicago, IL (April).
- 2008 “Starbucks at a Megachurch: ‘Get Involved in a Ministry!’” Guest presentation for Writer’s Showcase: Celebrating Missouri State University Student Publications at Missouri State University. Springfield, MO (October).
- 2007 “Cream, Sugar, and Christianity: An Ethnographic Study of Religion and Coffee Houses in Springfield, Missouri.” Panelist at Midwest American Academy of Religion. River Forest, IL (March).
- 2006 “The Paradox of Miracles: A Philosophical Analysis of the Nature and Possibility of Miracles.” Panelist at the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at Pacific University. Forest Grove, OR (April).
- 2005 “The Paradox of Miracles.” Panelist at the Undergraduate Philosophy & Religion Conference at Truman State University. Kirksville, MO (November).

Select Public Scholarship

Response to Arlene Sanchez-Walsh in *The Religious Studies Project* (forthcoming).

“Muscular Christianity,” *The Database of Religious History* (Mar. 19, 2020).

Editor of Digital Stories for Lived Religion in the Digital Age (Fall 2019 to present).

“Silicon Cemetery,” (Jan. 7, 2019).

Writer for *Religion in American History: A Group Blog on Religion in American Culture and History*.

“The R&AC Conference: Taking Religion ‘Seriously,’” (June 8, 2017).

“Saint Valentine’s Pleasures,” (February 8, 2017).

“Mars Hill, Fight Club, and the New Mark Driscoll,” (Oct. 8, 2016).

“Modern Fitness; Or, The Origin of the Species,” (June 8, 2016).

“Winking Scofflaws and Christian Strongmen,” (Apr. 8, 2016).

“Elvis’s Chi and the Metaphysics of Martial Arts,” (Oct. 8, 2015).

“Tales of Sporty Violence, Obligatory Doughnut Consumption, Pull-Up Contests, and Other Evangelical Things from the Midwest,” (May 25, 2013).

Writer for *Sport in American History*.

“Jon Jones, Fallen Sports Icons, and Public Rituals of Damnation,” (Mar. 31, 2016).

“Floyd Mayweather, Jr. and a Brief History of Boxing Technique,” (June 4, 2015).

“The Religious Origins of Sports in America,” (May 11, 2015).

“Japanese Pluck and American Degeneracy: The Origins and Jiu-Jitsu in the United States,” (Nov. 16, 2014).

“Kickin’ and a Gougin’ in the Mud and the Blood and the Beer; Or, Real Tales of Reality Fighting,” (Sept. 11, 2014).

“*Fight Church: A Film Review, and Some Thoughts on Evangelicals*,” (June 12, 2014).

“Good Sports and the Problem of MMA,” (May 8, 2014).

Selected Honors and Awards

2020	University of Victoria Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship
2019	Saint Louis University Faculty Professional Development Fund
2017	University of Minnesota Libraries Elmer L. Andersen Research Scholar
2009 – 14	Florida State University Department of Religion Teaching Assistantship

2013	Florida State University Department of Humanities Teaching Assistantship
2011	Florida State University Department of Anthropology Teaching Assistantship
2010	Florida State University College of Medicine Research Assistantship
2009 – 10	Florida State University Dean’s Scholarship Fund for New Doctoral Students
2008	Albert Clark Award for Best Graduate Essay in the <i>Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa</i>
2008	Missouri State University Logos Award for outstanding undergraduate publications
2007 – 08	Missouri State University Religious Studies Department Graduate Assistantship
2007	Missouri State University Graduate College Thesis Research Funding
2006 – 07	Missouri State University’s Strong Family Graduate Scholarship
2005	Missouri State University’s Robert A. Foster Philosophy Scholarship

Student Supervision and Service

Spring 2019	Committee Member for Carlos Ruiz M.A. Thesis, “An Awful, Blessed Journey’: A Case Study of Immigrant Sanctuary in the Midwest.” Department of American Studies, Saint Louis University.
Fall 2019	Faculty Sponsor for Nathan Logan, Undergraduate Research Fellow for <u>Lived Religion in the Digital Age</u> .

Academic Service and Memberships in Academic Societies

Fall 2019 – Present	Editor for <u>Digital Stories</u> with <u>Lived Religion in the Digital Age</u>
Fall 2019 – Fall 2020	Co-Chair for the “Performing Religion” Initiative in <u>Lived Religion in the Digital Age</u>
Summer 2018 – Present	Manuscript reviewer for the <i>Journal of Southern Religion</i> and <i>MAVCOR Journal</i>
Fall 2017	Volunteer Curator, James M. Tyson Photograph Collection, Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center
2016 – Present	Member of the American Society of Church History
Spring/Summer 2013	Book Review Editor for <i>Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture</i>

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| 2010 and 2011 | Catering Committee member of Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium |
| 2007 – Present | Member of the American Academy of Religion |
| 2005 – 2006 | President of Missouri State University’s chapter of Phi Sigma Tau (The International Honors Society for Philosophy) |
| 2005 – 2006 | President of Missouri State University’s Philosophy Club |
| 2005 – Present | Member of Theta Alpha Kappa (International Honors Society for Religious Studies) |

References

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