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EMPLOYMENT

Academic Appointments:

Assistant Professor (NTT), Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016-
Postdoctoral Research Associate, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University
in St. Louis, 2015-2016
Associate Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis,
2013-2015
Visiting Assistant in Religion, Department of Religion, Florida State University, 2012-2013

EDUCATION

2012 **Ph.D.** Princeton University, Department of Religion
2009 **M.A.** Princeton University, Department of Religion
2006 **B.A.** Missouri State University, Department of Religious Studies

PUBLICATIONS and PROJECTS

Books:

A Communion of Shadows: Photography and Religion in Nineteenth-Century America (Chapel Hill: University
of North Carolina Press, 2017).

Religion and Digital Humanities: Material Religion, co-edited with Emily Clark, DeGruyter (in progress).

Refereed:

Articles:

“‘The Mirror of All Perfection’: Jesus and the Strongman in America, 1893-1920,” *American
Quarterly* 68.1 (March 2016), 23-47.

“‘This Barbarous Practice’: Southern Churchwomen in the Association of Southern Women for the
Prevention of Lynching, 1930-1942,” *Journal of Southern Religion* 16 (2014).

“‘Seen and Read of Men’: Biblical Text and the Living Epistles of Father Divine's Peace Mission
Movement,” *Journal of Africana Religions* 2.3 (2014), 347-378.

“Bodies on Display” and “Haunting the Streets of Cairo: Visual Habits in Nineteenth-century Holy
Land Photography,” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 43.2 (2014), 2-4, 4-11.

Book Chapters:

“Documentary Photography and the Visual Politics of Race and Religion,” *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*, eds. Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lum (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

“Photography and Religion,” *MacMillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, Volume 6: Material Religion*, vol. ed. Diane Apostolos-Cappadona, series eds. Jeffrey Kripal, April DeConick, and Anthony Pinn (MacMillan, 2016).

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews:

James Romaine and Phoebe Wolfskill, eds., *Beholding Christ and Christianity in African American Art*. University Park, Penn.: Pennsylvania University Press, 2017. *Reading Religion* (in progress).

Lauren Pond, *Test of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2017. *Material Religion* (in progress).

Brett J. Esaki, *Enfolding Silence: The Transformation of Japanese Religion and Art Under Oppression*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. *The Journal of Religion* (in progress).

Emily Suzanne Clark, *A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2016. *The Journal of Religion* (submitted).

R. John Williams, *The Buddha in the Machine: Art, Technology, and the Meeting of East and West*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014. *American Studies* 54.4 (Winter 2015).

“Spirit Photography” in *Ghosts, Spirits, and Psychics: The Paranormal from Alchemy to Zombies*, edited by Matt Cardin (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2015), 296-299.

“The Christian Amendment,” “Henry Winters Luce,” “The Luce Foundation,” “Religious Affiliation of Supreme Court Justices,” and “Photography” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, eds. George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).

“National Origins Act of 1924 (Johnson-Reed Act)” and “Men” in *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, 2 vols., ed. Edward E. Curtis IV (New York: Facts on File, 2010).

Other Professional Writing:

“A Missouri Native Crosses the Show Me State,” *Religion & Politics* (September 18, 2018)

“Borderlands of the Sacred: Religion, Objects, and the American State on the Southern U.S. Border,” *The Immanent Frame* (submitted)

“That Old New Story: Reflections on Teaching Local Religion with Digital Tools in America’s Heartland,” *Jesuit Higher Education* (in progress)

“‘Cannot Tell Aught But the Truth’: Photography and *Birth of a Nation* (1915),” *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture* (May 2016). <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/sacredmatters/2016/05/11/photo-and-birth-of-a-nation-1915/2/>

“Agents of a Fuller Revelation,” Web blog post. *Material Religions* (2015), <http://materialreligions.blogspot.com/2015/04/agents-of-fuller-revelation-photographs.html>

“Carte de visite Photograph Album,” Object Narrative, in *Conversations: An Online Journal of the Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion* (2014), <http://mavcor.yale.edu/conversations/object-narratives/carte-de-visite-photograph-album>.

“Passages: A Glimpse into the Hobby Lobby’s Family Museum,” *Religion & Politics* (September 2014)

“Pulled into the Maze”: *12 Years a Slave* (2013), *Religion & Politics* (February 2014)

“A Response to ‘Evidentiary Boundaries and Improper Interventions: Evidence, Implications, and Illegitimacy in American Religious Studies,’” *Religion Bulletin: The Blogging Portal of the Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, July 22, 2013.

Digital Projects

“Lived Religion in the Digital Age.” Co-director, with Pauline Lee, Ph.D. (Saint Louis University).

Interdisciplinary digital humanities initiative to gather and map local, lived religious sounds, spaces, objects, and stories, and to scrutinize the translation of these experiences into digital products. 2018-

“Collections: A Communion of Shadows,” Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, Yale University, mavcor.yale.edu. This project was coordinated through UNC and Yale in connection with my book, *A Communion of Shadows*, in order to publish material associated with the study on an open-source digital platform.

Arch City Religion, www.archcityreligion.org. Teaching project mapping religious spaces, objects, and communities in the St. Louis metro with students at Saint Louis University and Webster University. This project, and the courses that contribute to it, has been profiled in *Universitas*, the alumni magazine of SLU, and *Newslink*, SLU’s biweekly campus [newsletter](#).

American Religious Sounds Project, <http://religioussounds.osu.edu>. Pilot-site collaborator. PIs Isaac Weiner (Ohio State University) and Amy DeRogatis (Michigan State University).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

National:

Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Working Group, American Academy of Religion, 2017-2020
Arts, Literature, and Religion Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2018-2020

Regional:

Material and Sensory Culture Section Chair, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2013-2019

University:

Saint Louis University:

Religion and Complex Social Issues, Ad hoc committee, Department of Theological Studies, 2018-2019

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium, Planning Committee, Department of Theological Studies, 2017-2018

Academic Affairs Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2017

Cultures of American Religion Workshop, American Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016-present
(*internal Mellon grant awarded for 2017-2018 speakers’ series)

Washington University in St. Louis:

Religion and Politics Film Series, organizer, 2014-2015

Performance and Popular Culture Initiative, American Culture Studies, 2014-2015

Material and Visual Culture Initiative, American Culture Studies, 2014-2015

Undergraduate Curriculum Advisor, Center on Religion and Politics, 2013-2015

Seminar Coordinator, Danforth Distinguished Lectures, Danforth Center on Religion and Politics,
November 19, 2013

Princeton University:

Graduate Student Committee, Department of Religion, Princeton University, 2009-2010

Religion in America Search Committee, Department of Religion, Princeton University, 2009-2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Saint Louis University

American Christianity

Arch City Religion: Religious Life and Practice in St. Louis

Religion, Art, and Politics in America

#GreaterGood: Religious Freedom and Social Justice in America

Theological Foundations (introduction to the Christian tradition and Jesuit, Catholic teachings)

World Religions

Webster University

World Religions

Washington University in St. Louis

Religion and Politics in American History

Politics of Representation and American Religion: Media, Technology, and Display

Florida State University

Material Culture Studies of American Religion. Graduate seminar

Religion in American History

Introduction to World Religions

Princeton University

Senior Thesis Writing Group Leader. Department of Religion, 2010-2011

Senior Thesis Writing Group Co-Leader. Department of Religion, 2009-2010

Assistant in Instruction to Judith Weisenfeld, Religion and American Movies. Department of Religion, Fall 2009

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Advancing Public Scholarship on Religion and Theology Grant, Theology Program, Henry Luce Foundation, for “Lived Religion in the Digital Age,” August 2018— (\$400,000)

Fund for Intellectual Renewal and Enrichment (FIRE) Grant, Saint Louis University College of Arts & Sciences, August 2018 (\$550)—to host speaker on Religious Freedom in the United States

Spark Microgrant, for “Selma to St. Louis: The Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Pursuit of Justice Fifty Years Later,” Office of the Vice President for Research, Saint Louis University, Spring 2018 (\$1,000)

Co-Curricular Grant, Saint Louis University College of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2018 (\$500)

Grace May Tilton subvention award, Princeton University Program in American Studies, 2015 (\$6,500)

Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies, 2011-2012 (\$28,000)

Teaching Transcript, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, awarded June 2011
Religion and Culture Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2010-2011

Program in American Studies Research Prize, Princeton University, 2008-2009 (\$4,000)

Graduate Student Paper Prize, Midwest American Academy of Religion 2007

President’s Fellowship, Princeton University, 2006-2011

Princeton Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow, Princeton University, Summer 2004

James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship, Missouri State University, 2005-2006

Rose Marie and Martin H. Boone, Jr. Religious Studies Scholarship, Southwest Missouri State U., 2004-2005

James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship, Southwest Missouri State University, 2003-2004

Rose Marie and Martin H. Boone, Jr. Religious Studies Scholarship, Southwest Missouri State U., 2002-2003

Dean’s List, College of Humanities and Public Affairs, Southwest Missouri State University, Fall 2002—
Spring 2006

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, and INVITED LECTURES

Panel Organizer:

“Students as Producers Across SLU Theology Curricula,” 2018 Winter Institute, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning, Saint Louis University

“Religion, America, and the Aftermath: An Open Dialogue on Teaching, Campus Engagement, and Community Action After Obama,” *American Academy of Religion*, November 2016

Religious Freedom and Civil Rights in America, Washington University in St. Louis, October 21, 2015
(symposium cancelled due to speakers’ illness)

“Unsettled: Critiquing Categories of Professional Identity in American Higher Education,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2014

“Image as Artifact: Discovering the Thingness of Photographs in American Religious History,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, North American Religions Section, November 2013

“Beautiful Babies, Hidden Mothers, and Plasticized Prisoners: The Display of Bodies and Theories of American Religion,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, North American Religions Section, November 2012

“Innovating the Religious Imagination: Religion and Technology since 1800,” Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, October 2011

Conference Presentations, Roundtables, and Responses:

Papers:

“The Spirit Postmistress of the Midwest: The Scandalous Career of Rev. Mrs. Josie K. Fulson,” Romance, Reverends, and Renegades: Scandal as Gilded Age History, Organization of American Historians, April 12-14, 2018

“All on the Table: Banality as Spiritual Inventory in Simon Dinnerstein’s *Fulbright Triptych*, 1971-1974,” The Living World Symposium, Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri-Columbia, September 22-23, 2017

“Material Religions in a Digital World,” Digital Religion-Digital Theology Panel, Digital Humanities 2017 Conference, Montreal, Canada, August 8-11, 2017 *in absentia*

“So Tangled Up in Living: Roy DeCarava’s Visual Politics of Race and Religion in *The Sweet Flypaper of Life* (1955),” Protestantism and the Materiality of Texts Symposium, Princeton University, April 20-22, 2017

“A New Testament,” Visual and Material Culture Studies Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, March 1, 2017

“Religion and the Birth of American Photopolitics,” Making News: Religion, Politics and the Journalistic Construction of American Civil Society, Panel, International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture, Seoul, South Korea, August 1-4, 2016 *in absentia*

“Born Free and Equal: ‘Americanism’ in Ansel Adams’s Manzanar Photographs,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, North American Religions Section, November 2015

“A Communion of Shadows,” Material Religion: Embodiment, Materiality, and Technology, Duke University, September 10-12, 2015

“What Her Absence Reveals: Paradigms of Presence and Absence in Nineteenth-Century Religion and Photography,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Third Biennial Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 13-16, 2014

“‘To Perpetuate the Memory of Our Glorious Ancestry’: Coding Race in an American Bible,” Race and Religion in American History, Princeton University, March 7-8, 2014

“‘Weeping at the Truthful Likeness’: Sensing Spirits in Ghost Pictures, 1860-1900,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, November 23-26, 2013

“Haunting the Streets of Cairo: Visual Habits of Erasure and Disclosure in Nineteenth-century Holy Land Photography,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 17-20, 2012

“Photography Begotten: Technologies of Religious Perception in the Early American Republic,” Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, October 20-23, 2011

“The Light of the World: Vernacular Photography and American Religion, 1839-1910,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, October 30-November 1, 2010

“Framing the Humdrum on Hallowed Ground: Interrogating the Quotidian in Studies of American Religion and Vernacular Photography,” Stanford University Graduate Student Conference on the “Banality of Religion,” Stanford, California, May 21-22, 2010

“When the Twain Become One: Stereography and American Religion, 1860-1910,” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, March 26-27, 2010

“‘Yours in His Service’: Race and Religion in the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, 1930-1940.” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, April 2008

“Wiley J. Phillips and the Rhetorical Construction of Anti-‘Romish’ Textual Communities in the ‘Queen City of the Ozarks,’ 1890-1912.” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, April 2007

“‘Saintly Souls and Strong Bodies’: Muscular Christianity and Sexual Discipline in Nineteenth-Century America.” Midwest Region American Academy of Religion Conference, De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois, April 2005

Panelist:

“Religion and Its Many American Publics,” Lehigh University, April 7-9, 2019

“Exhibiting Faith: Getting Religion in Public History,” National Conference on Public History, March 27-30, 2019

“Public Scholarship and the Study of Religion,” Yale University, January 9-11, 2019

“Teaching Local Religion with Digital Humanities,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 2018

“Digital Futures of Religious Studies,” American Academy of Religion, November 2016

“Evidence of Truth Unseen: Beholding Religion in 19th-C. American Commonplace Photographs,” (Not)Seeing the 19th Century: Photographs, Archives, Absences, Seminar, 2016 C19 Conference, College Station, PA, March 2016

“The Birth of a Nation—A Century Later,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2015

“Seeing is Believing/Believing is Seeing: Visual Religion in the Legacy News Media,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Religion, Media, and Culture Group, November 2014

“The Power of Objects: Studying Material Life and Culture,” Program in American Culture Studies Dinner Forum, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2014

“Strategies for the Academic Study of Religion: A Faculty Roundtable Discussion,” Politics of Religion, 12th Annual Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium, February 22-24, 2013

“New Scholarship Roundtable,” Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice, November 1-3, 2011, Initiative for the Study of Visual and Material Cultures of Religion, Yale University

Respondent:

“Religion, Gender, and Heteronormativity,” Politics of Religion, 12th Annual Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium, February 22-24, 2013

“The Aftermath of the War in America,” World War II and Religion Conference, Florida State University, November 29-December 2, 2012

Invited Lectures and Talks:

“#ArchCityReligion: Local Religion and Digital Humanities in Classrooms and Beyond,” University of Pittsburgh, November 11-12, 2018

“A Communion of Shadows: Religion and Photography in Nineteenth-Century America,” North Carolina State University, November 18, 2015

“In a Communion of Shadows: Religion, Race, and Nation in Nineteenth-Century American Photography,” Washington University in St. Louis, February 17, 2015

“Shadows of the South: Photography and Religion from the Confederacy to the New Deal,” Vanderbilt University, November 3, 2014

“Buddhists and Beats in America,” Meadville-Lombard Theological School, July 24, 2013

“Hidden Mothers, Fallen Soldiers, and Photography Albums: Why Vernacular Photographs Matter to American Religious History,” Missouri State University, April 24, 2012