# TISA J. WENGER

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## EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Divinity, Religious Studies, and American Studies, Yale University 2022-   
Secondary Appointments in American Studies and Religious Studies

Associate Professor of American Religious History (tenured), Yale Divinity School 2017-2022  
Secondary Appointments in American Studies and Religious Studies

Associate Professor of American Religious History (on term), Yale Divinity School 2014-2017

Assistant Professor of American Religious History, Yale Divinity School 2009-2014

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Arizona State University 2004-2009

Acting Associate Director, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University 2003-2004

Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellow, Clements Center for Southwest Studies 2002-2003   
Southern Methodist University

## EDUCATION

Princeton University, Ph.D. in Religion (M.A. in passing, 1999) 2002

Claremont Graduate University, M.A. in Women’s Studies in Religion 1997

Eastern Mennonite University, B.A. in English, Summa cum Laude 1991

## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

#### Monographs

*How Settler Colonialism Made American Religion*. Under contract with University of North Carolina Press for submission in 2024.

*Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, October 2017. xi + 288pp.

*We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom*. Chapel Hill: Published in association with the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009. 360pp.

#### Edited Volumes and Journal Issues

Guest Editor, Special Issue on Religion in the Nineteenth-century American West, *Pacific Historical Review* 92:3 (Summer 2023).

*Religion and U.S. Empire: Critical New Histories.* Co-edited with Sylvester Johnson. New York: New York University Press, August 2022. viii + 354pp.

#### Journal Articles, Refereed

“Fighting for Oak Flat: Western Apaches and American Religious Freedom.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Law and Religion* 39:2 (May 2024).

“Making Religion, Making the West: Introduction to Special Issue on Religion in the American West.” Special Issue Editor, Tisa Wenger. *Pacific Historical Review* 92:3 (Summer 2023): 327-341.

“John Tanner, Colonial Credulity, and Comparative Religions: Theorizing Religion on the Borderlands of Empire.” *Journal of Religion and American Culture* 32:2 (Fall 2022): 149-201.

Co-authored with Gale Kenny, “Church, State, and ‘Native Liberty’ in the Interwar Belgian Congo.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 62:1 (January 2020): 156-185*.*

“Unitarians in an Age of Empire: Settler Colonialism, Liberal Religion, and the World’s Parliament of Religions,” *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* 42 (Winter 2018): 1-37.

“Indian Dances and the Politics of Religious Freedom, 1870-1930,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 79:4 (December 2011): 850-878. doi: 10.1093/jaarel/lfr061.

“‘We Are Guaranteed Freedom’: Pueblo Indians and the Category of Religion in the 1920s.” *History of Religions* 45:2 (November 2005), 89-113. Reprinted in *Indigenous Religions*, 4 volumes, edited by Graham Harvey and Amy Whitehead. Routledge Press, 2017.

“Land, Culture, and Sovereignty in the Pueblo Dance Controversy.” *Journal of the Southwest* 16:2 (Summer 2004), 381-412.

“Female Christ and Feminist Foremother: The Many Lives of Ann Lee.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in* *Religion* 18:2 (Fall 2002), 5-32.

#### Book Chapters, Invited and Refereed

“’He Has Not Instructed Them by Books’: Divine Authority on Kiikapoi Lands,” invited submission for *New World Bibles: Scriptural Practices in and around Nineteenth-century Protestants*, co-edited by Everett Messamore and Jan Stievermann. In process.

“Spiriting the Johnstons: Producing Science and Religion Under Settler Colonial Rule,” in *Critical Approaches to Science and Religion,* edited by Terence Keel, Ahmed Ragab, and Myrna Perez Sheldon, 105-126. New York: Columbia University Press, 2023.

“Making Religion in Michilimackinac,” in *Religion and U.S. Empire: Critical New Histories*, edited by Tisa Wenger and Sylvester Johnson, 41-62. New York: New York University Press, 2022.

“Why does the title of this book use the phrase “Indigenous Religious Traditions” rather than “Indigenous Religions?” in *Indigenous Religious Traditions in 5 Minutes*, edited by Molly Harbour Bassett and Natalie Avalos. 750-word essay. Equinox Publishing, 2022.

“Sovereignty,” in *Religion, Law, U.S.A.*, edited by Joshua Dubler and Isaac Weiner, 108-128. New York: New York University Press, 2019.

“Freedom to Worship,” in *The Four Freedoms: FDR’s Legacy of Liberty for the United States and the World*, edited by Jeffrey Engel, 73-110. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

“’A New Form of Government’: Religious-Secular Distinctions in Pueblo Indian History,” in *Religion as a Category of Governance and Sovereignty*, edited by Trevor Stack, Naomi Goldenberg and Timothy Fitzgerald, 68-89. Leiden: Brill, 2015.

“Religious Thought in America, 1945 to the Present,” in *Cambridge History of Religions in America*, vol. 3, edited by Stephen J. Stein, 674-697. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

“The God-in-the-Constitution Controversy: American Secularisms in Historical Perspective,” in *Comparative Secularisms in a Global Age*, edited by Linell Cady and Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, 87-105. Palgrave MacMillan, 2010.

“The Practice of Dance for the Future of Christianity: ‘Eurythmic Worship’ in New York’s Roaring Twenties,” in *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America*, edited by Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Leigh Schmidt, and Mark Valeri, 222-249. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.

“Modernists, Pueblo Indians, and the Politics of Primitivism,” in *Race, Religion, Region: Landscapes of Encounter in the American West,* edited by Fay Botham and Sara Patterson, 101-114. University of Arizona Press, 2006.

## EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Co-editor with Mitsutoshi Horii, [*Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*](https://brill-com.yale.idm.oclc.org/view/journals/mtsr/mtsr-overview.xml?contents=editorialContent-41688) 2023-  
Published by Brill for the North American Association for the Study of Religion

Co-editor with Laura Olson and Leslie Griffin of the University of Kansas Press 2019-  
Book Series: [Studies in US Religion, Politics, and Law](https://kansaspress.ku.edu/series/studies-in-us-religion-politics-and-law.html)

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2021-2022

Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies Faculty Fellowship, 2019-2020. Travel to Newberry Library, Chicago, deferred to May 2021 ($5000)

Research Travel Grant, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame, 2019 ($1500)

Griswold Research Award, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, 2019 ($4000)

Griswold Research Award, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, 2018 ($1000)

Selected Participant, Religion and U.S. Empire Collaborative Project, Directors Sylvester Johnson and Tracy Leavelle, Funding from the Kripke Center, Creighton University, 2013-2015

Lynn E. May Study Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Summer 2012

Lilly Theological Research Grant, Association of Theological Schools, 2011-2012

Griswold Research Award, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, 2012 ($900)

Selected Participant, Young Scholars in American Religion Program, Center for the Study of American Religion and Culture, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, 2007-2009

Summer Stipend, “We the People” Initiative, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2006

Co-Convener, “Race, Ethnicity, and Modernity: Re-Envisioning the Religious History of  
the American West.” A collaborative research project supported by a $10,000   
seed grant from Arizona State University’s Institute for Humanities Research, 2005-2006

Early Career Associate, History of American Christian Practice Project, Directors Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Leigh Schmidt, and Mark Valeri, funded by the Lilly Foundation, 2002-2004

Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellowship, Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University, 2002-2003

New Scholars Award, Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, 2002

Harold P. Dodds Honorific Fellowship, Princeton University, 2001-2002

Dissertation Research Award, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2001

Pre-doctoral Fellow, Cinema and Religious Expression Project, Jeffrey Stout and P. Adams Sitney, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2000-2001

Annual Research Awards, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 1998-2000

## REVIEWS

Forum on Barton Scott, *Slandering the Sacred: Blasphemy Law and Religious Affect in Colonial India* (The University of Chicago Press, 2023). *Marginalia Review of Books*. Forthcoming.

“Heathens and Humanitarians: On the Possibility of Redemptive Futures.” Review essay on Kathryn Gin Lum, *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History* (Harvard University Press, 2022) and Lucia Hulsether, *Capitalist Humanitarianism* (Duke University Press, 2023). *Reviews in American History* 51:3 (September 2023): 213-220.

Amanda Hendrix-Komoto, *Imperial Zions: Religion, Race, and Family in the American West and the Pacific.* Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2022. *Pacific Historical Review* (Spring 2023).

K. Healan Gaston, *Imagining Judeo-Christian America: Religion, Secularism, and the Redefinition of Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019. *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* (June 2022).

Jack Rakove, *Beyond Belief, Beyond Conscience: The Radical Significance of the Free Exercise of Religion.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. *Marginalia Los Angeles Review of Books* (May 20, 2022).

Jeremy Patrick, *Faith or Fraud: Fortune-Telling, Spirituality, and the Law.* Vancouver, British Columbia: UBC Press, 2020. *Nova Religio.* (November 2021).

“Provincializing Secularism: On Protohomonationalism and its Counterpossibilities,” Invited review essay on Peter Coviello, *Make Yourselves Gods: Mormonism and the Unfinished Business of American Secularism.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2019. *Mormon Studies Review*. Vol. 8 (2021): 1-12. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/mormstudrevi.8.2021.0001>

Christopher Grasso, *Skepticism and American Faith: from the Revolution to the Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. *Reading Religion*, November 12, 2018,http://readingreligion.org/books/skepticism-and-american-faith.

Melani McAlister, *The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. Book Forum, *The Immanent Frame*, September 13, 2018, [https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/09/13/global-evangelicalism-unbound/](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftif.ssrc.org%2F2018%2F09%2F13%2Fglobal-evangelicalism-unbound%2F&data=02%7C01%7Ctisa.wenger%40yale.edu%7C5aa720e15a524e0de10508d6199b0ccf%7Cdd8cbebb21394df8b4114e3e87abeb5c%7C0%7C0%7C636724551067389849&sdata=RFTADVKXzb%2FvkLQbJDTQc3OfqrzAK%2FVo9IDkZGOyclI%3D&reserved=0).

Katrina Jagodinsky, *Legal Codes and Talking Trees: Indigenous Women’s Sovereignty in the Sonoran and Puget Sounds Borderlands, 1854–1946*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016. Journal of Law and Religion, vol. 33, 2018.

“Nationhood and Resistance: *New World A-Coming* and the (Re)making of Race, Religion, and Nation in African American History,” Roundtable Forum on Judith Weisenfeld’s *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration* (New York University Press, 2017). *Journal of Africana Religions* (Spring 2018).

Fannie Kahan, *A Culture’s Catalyst: Historical Encounters with Peyote and the Native American Church in Canada*. Edited and with an introduction by Erika Dyck. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2016. *Pacific Historical Review*, 87:1 (Winter 2018): 181-183.

Nicolas Howe, *Landscapes of the Secular: Law, Religion, and American Sacred Space.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2016. *Religious Studies Review* 43:2 (June 2017): 152.

David Mislin, *Saving Faith: Making Religious Pluralism an American Value at the Dawn of the Secular Age.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015. *Church History* (March 2017).

Paul Harvey, *Bounds of Their Habitation: Race and Religion in American History.* American Ways Series. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. *Reading Religion* (February 24, 2017), <http://readingreligion.org/books/bounds-their-habitation>.

Chad Seales, *The Secular Spectacle: Performing Religion in a Southern Town*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. *The Journal of Religion* 95:4 (October 2015): 581-582.

Flannery Burke, *From Greenwich Village to Taos: Primitivism and Place at Mabel Dodge Luhan’s*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2008. *New Mexico Historical Review* 87:2 (Spring 2012).

Thomas C. Maroukis, *The Peyote Road: Religious Freedom and the Native American Church*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. *Pacific Historical Review* (August 2011): 475-76.

Michael F. Steltenkamp, *Nicholas Black Elk: Medicine Man, Missionary, Mystic*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009. *Church History* 79:3 (September 2010): 734-36.

Greg Johnson, *Sacred Claims: Repatriation and Living Tradition*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2007. *Hawai'ian Journal of History,* 43 (2009): 209-11.

Andrea Smith, *Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2008. *Journal of Church and State* 50:4 (Autumn 2008), 734-36.

Jennifer C. Snow, *Protestant Missionaries, Asian Immigrants, and Ideologies of Race in America, 1850-1924.* New York: Routledge, 2007. *Church History* 76:4 (December 2007), 861-63.

Paul J. Vanderwood, *Juan Soldado: Rapist, Murderer, Martyr, Saint.* Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2004. *Western Historical Quarterly* (Spring 2006), 89-90.

Judith Weisenfeld, *African-American Women and Christian Activism: New York’s Black YWCA, 1905-1945.* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997. *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* 11:2 (Fall 1999).

Christine Leigh Heyrman, *Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1997.* *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* 10:2 (Fall 1998).

## PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

#### Popular and Online Essays

“Anti-abortion laws are an attack on religious freedom,” co-authored with Samira Mehta, 360info.org, July 11, 2022. <https://360info.org/anti-abortion-laws-are-an-attack-on-religious-freedom/>

“Religious Freedom After Trump,” Berkley Forum, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, & World Affairs, Georgetown University, December 7, 2020. <https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/religious-freedom-after-trump>

“Why Religious Freedom Won’t Protect Native American Sacred Lands,” Berkley Forum, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, & World Affairs, Georgetown University, February 20, 2018. <https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/forum/using-a-religious-freedom-framework-to-protect-the-rights-of-native-americans/responses/why-religious-freedom-won-t-protect-native-american-sacred-lands>.

“How Conservative Christians Co-Opted the Rhetoric of Religious Freedom,” Zócalo Public Square, January 23, 2018, <http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2018/01/23/conservative-christians-co-opted-rhetoric-religious-freedom/ideas/essay>.

“Discrimination in the Name of Religion? Slaveholders and Segregationists Did It Too,” Perspectives: Made by History *Washington Post,* December 5, 2017, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2017/12/05/discriminating-in-the-name-of-religion-segregationists-and-slaveholders-did-it-too/?utm_term=.e3ce25453574>.

“Americans Have Never Agreed on What Religious Freedom Means.” *Christian Century*, October 16. 2017. <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/americans-have-never-agreed-what-religious-freedom-means>

“The Complexities of Racial and Religious Identities,” *Black Perspectives*, African American Intellectual History Society Blog, September 29, 2017, <http://www.aaihs.org/black-perspectives>.

“American Religious Freedom: Pride and Prejudice,” in The Future of Race, *Reflections*: *A Magazine of Theological Reflection from Yale Divinity School*. Spring 2013.

#### Podcasts and Online Interviews

“Religion and U.S. Empire.” New Books Network Podcast. March 15, 2023, [https://newbooksnetwork.com/religion-and-us-empire](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnewbooksnetwork.com%2Freligion-and-us-empire&data=05%7C01%7Ctisa.wenger%40yale.edu%7C2ff11b78d19644af53fa08db257c700f%7Cdd8cbebb21394df8b4114e3e87abeb5c%7C0%7C0%7C638144988604934449%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JhgJisl7q3sUCUwRFXeeTesmj85uIkpy3C3m5cBalWg%3D&reserved=0),

“For What Purposes Has Religious Freedom Been Invoked?” Religion in the American Experience Podcast, National Museum of American Religion. December 28, 2020, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/for-what-purposes-has-religious-freedom-been-invoked/id1536446052?i=1000503696610>.

“How Religious Freedom Makes Religion,” Religious Studies Project Podcast, September 30, 2019, <https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/how-religious-freedom-makes-religion/>.

“10 Questions with Tisa Wenger,” From the Desk of Kurt Manwaring, September 3, 2019, <https://www.fromthedesk.org/10-questions-with-tisa-wenger/>.

“The contested history of religious freedom, with Tisa Wenger,” BYU Maxwell Institute Podcast, April 16, 2019, <https://mi.byu.edu/mip-91-wenger/>.

Response to Review Forum on *Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal*. Religion in American History Blog, March 4, 2018, <https://usreligion.blogspot.com/2018/03/response-to-forum-on-wengers-religious.html>.

“The Quadcast: Are There Limits to Religious Freedom? An Interview with Yale Divinity School Professor Tisa Wenger,” January 30, 2018. <https://soundcloud.com/yaleuniversity/the-quadcast-are-there-limits-to-religious-freedom>.

“Five Books I Can’t Do Without,” in Books We Love, Part 3, curated by Roberto Sirvent, *Political Theology Network*, August 15, 2017, <http://www.politicaltheology.com/blog/books-we-love-part-3-roberto-sirvent/>.

“Tisa Wenger: Contesting Religious Freedom,” in *Cosmologics Magazine*, interview by Lewis West. <http://cosmologicsmagazine.com/>. Spring 2017.

“Pluralism, Native Americans, and American Religious History,” Newberry Library Blog, August 6, 2012, <https://www.newberry.org/pluralism-native-americans-and-american-religious-history>

“Religion, Religions, Religious… and Race,” Interview with Kelly Baker and Tisa Wenger, by Edward Blum, *Religion in American History: A Group Blog*, March 3, 2012. <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2012/03/religion-religions-religious-and-race.html>.

“Native American Religious Freedom: An Interview with Tisa Wenger,” by Paul Harvey, *Religion in American History: A Group Blog*, April 30, 2009, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2009/04/paul-harvey-my-colleague-in-young.html>.

For *Religion in the American West*, <http://relwest.blogspot.com>

“WHA in Denver: A Recap,” with Quincy Newell, October 15, 2012.

“Reflections from the California (Bay Area) Archives,” June 11, 2012.

“OAH 2012 in Milwaukee,” April 27, 2012.

“Religion and the Public School System: Why the West Matters,” April 16, 2012.

“Book of the Month: Darren Dochuk, *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt*,” December 5, 2011.

“Religion in the American West Seminar Meeting,” November 3, 2010.

“In Memoriam, David Weber,” August 31, 2010.

“Tribute to Ferenc Szasz,” June 23, 2010.

“Environmentalism vs. Indian Religious Freedom,” May 13, 2010.

## INVITED LECTURES

2023 *Religion and U.S. Empire* book event, Center for the Humanities, Tufts University. Respondent to critics, with Sylvester Johnson. March 15.

2022 “Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal.” Invited Lecture, 250th Anniversary, First Church of Christ in Farmington, Connecticut. October 16.

2021 “How Settler Colonialism Made American Religion.” Invited Lecture via Zoom. Loeb Institute for Religious Freedom, The George Washington University. April 15.

2019 “African Americans and Religious Freedom.” Keynote Address. Symposium: Disrupt the Narrative: Centering African American Perspectives on Religious Freedom. Religious Freedom Center, Freedom Forum Institute. Newseum, Washington, D.C. June 7.

2019 “Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal.” Keynote Address. Conference on Religion and Law in Canada and the United States. Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life, University of Alberta, Augustana Campus. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. April 13.

2019 “Making Sense of Missions: History and Ethics in the Hawai’i Mission Bicentennial.” Simpson-Hewett Lectures. New Haven, Connecticut, March 29.

2019 “The Contested History of American Religious Freedom.” Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. February 13.

2018 “The Contested History of American Religious Freedom.” Keynote address. Conceptions of Law: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the American Legal Landscape. Princeton University. Princeton, New Jersey. October 29.

2018 “Religious Freedom and US Empire.” Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. October 18.

2018 “Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal.” Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri. September 12.

2018 “The Contested History of Religious Freedom.” Wright Lecture, UU History and Heritage Society. Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, Kansas City, Missouri. June 22.

2018 “The Contested History of American Religious Freedom.” University of New Haven, New Haven, Connecticut. April 25.

2018 “The Contested History of American Religious Freedom: A Conversation with Dr. Tisa Wenger.” Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York. March 28.

2018 “Making Religion on the Reservation: Native Americans and the Dilemmas of Religious Freedom.” Religion and Public Life Lecture Series, Columbia University. March 22.

2018 “African Americans, Quakers, and the Racial Limits of Religious Freedom.” Haverford College Distinguished Lecture Series. Haverford, Pennsylvania. March 20.

2018 “Race, Empire, and American Religious Freedom.” Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. March 12.

2018 Religion and the State. Public Panel. Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society, Center for Ethics and Human Values, Ohio State University. January 26.

2017 “Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal.” Crossroads of Religion and Politics. Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. October 16.

2017 "Race, Empire, and American Religious Freedom." Armstrong Lecture. Department of Religion, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan. February 16.

2016 “Unitarians in an Age of Empire,” Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society Keynote Speaker. UU History Convocation 2016, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. October 28.

2016 “Race, Religious Freedom, and the Tri-Faith Movement, 1925-1950.” Conference on Religious Freedom in the 21st Century, Claremont Graduate University. March 25.

2015 “Mapping Religion in the Philippines: Religious Freedom and the Unsettled Secularisms of U.S. Empire.” Religion and Media Pre-Conference Workshop, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia. November 20.

2015 "Indian Dances and the Settler Secular: Making Religion on the Reservation.” Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. October 19.

2015 “Mapping Religion in the Philippines: The Unsettled Secularisms of U.S. Empire.” Keynote Speaker. University of Toronto Graduate Student Conference: Divine Maps, Sacred Stories: Cartography and History in Religious Imaginations. Toronto, Ontario. April 16.

2013 “Freedom of Worship.” Public panel on The Four Freedoms: FDR’s Legacy of Liberty for the United States and the World. Center for Presidential History, Southern Methodist University. Dallas, Texas. November 7.

2013 “Race, Racism, and American Religious Freedom.” Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. March 20.

2010 “We Have a Religion: The Ironies of Religious Freedom in Native American History,” and “Sacred Places and Same-Sex Marriage: American Models of Religion and the Secular.” Guest Scholar. Center for the Study of Religion, Law, and Democracy, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon. March 11.

2010 “The Ironies of Religious Freedom: ‘Religion’ and ‘Religious’ Minorities in the U.S.” Invited paper, Religious-Secular Distinctions Conference, British Academy, London. January 15, 2010.

2009 “We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom.” Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque. August 9.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2024 “’This is Not our Notion of Christian Liberty’: Baptist Formations in a Settler State.” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California, January 5.

2023 Panelist: Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Barton Scott’s *Slandering the Sacred.* Law, Religion, and Culture Group. American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 20.

2023 “’He Has Not Instructed Them by Books’: Divine Authority on Kiikapoi Lands.” Invited conference presentation. “By the Mouth of His Holy Prophets:” Sacred Discourse in Nineteenth-Century America.” Heidelberg Center for American Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany. May 26.

2022 Panelist. Roundtable on Charles McCrary, *Sincerely Held: American Secularism and its Believers*. Law, Religion, and Culture Group, American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 20.

2022 Respondent. Roundtable on *Religion and US Empire*, edited by Tisa Wenger and Sylvester Johnson. Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Group, American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 19.

2022 Chair and Comment. “The Politics of Religious Pluralism.” American Political History Conference: The Past, Present, and Future of American Democracy. Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. June 10.

2022 Panelist. “Religious Freedom in the Age of Pandemic.” 7th Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture. Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. June 4.

2021 “Settler Secularism: Baptist Missions, Indian Removals, and the Structures of American Religion.” Session on The United States as a Settler State, Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas, November 20-22.

2021 Chair. “Race and Revival: Charismatic Religion and Community Building in the West.” Western Historical Association Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon. October 27-30.

2021 Panelist. Roundtable on Peter Coviello’s *Make Yourselves Gods: Mormons and the Unfinished Business of American Secularism.* San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 7-10. (Moved online.)

2021 Panelist. “Settler Colonialism and American Religion.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting. Online. <https://bit.ly/AHA21ColonialReligion>. January 6.

2020 Respondent. “The Contested West: Networks of Religion, Race, and Nation.” Panel, Religion and the American West Seminar. Online. December 7.

2020 Chair. “Weaponizing Religious Authenticity.” Panel, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Online. December 3.

2020 Respondent. “International Intermediaries: Missionaries and the Shaping of Global Consciousness in the Nineteenth-Century United States,” American Society of Church History. New York. January 5.

2019 “Settler Secularism and the Study of Religion.” Panel Organizer: Decolonizing the Study of Religion. American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 9.

2019 “Religious Freedom Under U.S. Empire.” Invited to present and to organize panel: How Religious Freedom Makes Religion. Conceptualising Religion/Konzeptualisierungen von Religion. Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft. International Association for the History of Religions. Leibniz Universität Hannover. Hannover, Germany, September 6.

2019 “Spiriting the Johnstons: The Production of Science and Religion on a Settler Colonial Frontier.” Symposium on Critical Approaches to Science and Religion. Ohio University, Akron, Ohio, August 16-17.

2019 “Making Settler Religion: Missionary Benevolence in the Early Republic.” Making a Republic Imperial: Program in Early American Economy & Society 2019 Conference, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Library Company of Philadelphia, March 28.

2019 Chair and Comment. “U.S. Religious Nationalisms and the Construction of Indigenous Identities.” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. Chicago, January 6.

2019 Roundtable Panel. *The Oxford Handbook of Race and Religion in America*. American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. Chicago, January 4.

2018 Chair and Comment. “Empire of Capital, Empire of Humanity.” Religion and US Empire Seminar, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 17.

2018 Respondent. “Critical Issues in the Study of Catholicism and Colonialism.” Roman Catholic Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, November 19.

2018 Plenary Panel. Beyond Identity Politics? Scholars Conference on American Jewish History. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. June 17-19.

2018 Panelist. Race, Religion, and the Nation State. American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. Washington, D.C., January 4-7.

2017 Respondent. Author Meets Critics Roundtable. Tisa Wenger*, Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal*. Law, Religion, and Culture Group. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts. November.

2017 Panelist. Author Meets Critics: A Conversation about Finbarr Curtis’s *The Production of American Religious Freedom*. Religion and Economy Unit and Secularism and Secularity Unit. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts, November.

2017 Roundtable Respondent. Is Dissent Secular?: Religion, Disruption, and the Liberal State. American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. November 11.

2017 Chair and Comment, “Opening Religious Frontiers (or Why Religion Should Matter to Historians). Western History Association. San Diego, California, November 2.

2017 Chair and Comment, “Foreign Religions and Foreign Relations: U.S. Engagements with the World in the 19th Century.” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Arlington, Virginia. June 24.

2017 Panelist. Cultural Production and American Religion. 5th Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture. Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, Indianapolis, Indiana. June 3.

2016 Panelist. Author Meets Critics Roundtable on John Corrigan, *Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America*. North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas. November 21.

2015 Panelist. Neutrality, Separation, and Religion: Does Religious Diversity Challenge Traditional Accommodations? Law, Religion, and Politics Conference. Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut. November 6.

2015 “Religious Freedom and U.S. Empire.” Religious Cultures of U.S. Imperialism Panel. American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario. October 10.

2015 “Pluralism, Secularism, and Religious Freedom in the Southern Baptist Convention.” Jointly sponsored session at the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and American Society of Church History, New York City. January 4.

2013 Panelist, “What Can the Study of American Judaism Bring to Religious Studies? A Roundtable on Theory and Methods,” Study of Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland. November 25.

2013 Panelist, “Religion and U.S. Empire,” North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland. November 25.

2013 “The Cult Scare and the Shifting Politics of American Religious Freedom, 1975-1985.” No Person Shall Bee Any Wise Molested: Religious Freedom Cultural Conflict, and the Moral Role of the State. A conference for the collaborative project “The Spectacle of Toleration: Learning from the Lively Experiment.” Newport, Rhode Island. October 3.

2013 Panelist, “Preparing for 2050: The Changing Face of Race in America,” International Festival of Arts & Ideas, New Haven, Connecticut. June 16.

2013 “The Invention of Religious Freedom as an American Ideal,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Francisco. April 14.

2012 “Religious Freedom and the Jewish Question, 1900-1920,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago. November 17.

2012 “Pluralism, Secularism, and Southern Baptist Ideologies of Religious Freedom,” Discourses of Pluralism and Secularism Panel, Society for U.S. Intellectual History Annual Meeting, New York City. (Conference cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy.) November 1.

2011 “Indian Dances and the Politics of Religious Freedom, 1900-1930,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Sacramento. May 19.

2011 “Getting Religion: New Themes for the Study of the American West,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Boston. (Organized and chaired panel, “Why Study Religion in the American West?”) January 8.

2010 Comment on session, “Defining Religious Freedom: Reading Tisa Wenger’s *We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom*.” North American Religions Section and Native Traditions in the Americas Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta. October 30.

2010 “Native Americans and the Dilemmas of Religious Freedom,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. April 8.

2009 “The Ironies of Religious Freedom in Native American History,” Indigenous Religious Traditions Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montréal. November 9.

2009 “Rewriting the First Amendment: Competing American Secularisms, 1850-1900.” International Conference on Religious Freedom, Pluralism, and Secularisms, Delhi, India. January 6.

2008 “Race, Religion, and Nation: Protestant Home Missions in the American West, 1870-1930,” American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C. January 4.

2007 “Native American Religions in the Modern Quest for Re-enchantment,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Phoenix. April 14.

2007 “Defining Religion in Indian Affairs,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Berkeley, California. March 26.

2006 Panelist, “Piety, Practice, Performance: Action and Embodiment in American Christianity,” History of Christianity Section, American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C. Nov. 19.

2006 Panelist, “Race and Ethnicity in the American West/Special Session: Re-imagining and Re-conceptualizing the Religious History of the American West,”American Academy of Religion Western Region, Claremont, California. March 13.

2006 Conference Co-Convener, “Through the Lens of Race and Ethnicity: Re-envisioning the Religious History of the American West,” funded by Institute for Humanities Research, Department of Religious Studies, and Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. March 3-4.

2005 “‘Religious Liberty for the Individual’: Indian Dances and the Politics of Religious Freedom in the 1920s,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Tempe, AZ. March 13.

2004 “The Practice of Dance for the Future of Christianity: ‘Eurythmic Worship’ in New York’s Roaring Twenties,” History of American Christian Practice Project Final Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. October 22.

2004 “Competing Theories of Religion in the Pueblo Dance Controversy,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Boston. March 25.

2003 “Religious Freedom Debates in the Pueblo Dance Controversy,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta. November 22.

2002 “Savage Debauchery or Sacred Communion? Gendered Constructions of Primitive Religion in the Pueblo Dance Controversy,” Berkshire Women’s History Conference, Storrs, Conn. June 7.

2002 “Original American Quakers or Loathsome Sodomites? Comparative Religion in the Pueblo Dance Controversy,” American Society of Church History, San Francisco. January 6.

2001 “Contesting Primitive Religion: Pueblo Views of Religion in the Dance Controversy,” American Academy of Religion, Denver. November 17.

1999 “‘The Women Had Full Sway’: Women’s Missionary Societies and Racial Uplift in the A.M.E. Church, 1860-1900,” American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Region, Arlington, Virginia. February 26.

1999 “Mother, Christ, Communist, and Feminist: The Shifting Representations of Ann Lee,” American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Region, Arlington, Virginia. February 25.

1998 “Gender and Knowledge in the Religious Experience of Rebecca Cox Jackson,” Graduate Student Conference on Gender and Knowledge, Rutgers University Institute for Research on Women, New Brunswick, New Jersey. April 3.

1995 “Female Physicality in Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich,” American Academy of Religion Western Region, Redlands, California. March.

## WORKSHOPS AND COLLOQUIA

2022 Panelist, Book event for Kathryn Gin Lum, *Heathen*, Brown University. September 16.

2022 Discussion of Tisa Wenger’s *Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal*. Yale Law School Reading Group. Outside the Law: Examining Legal Questions Through the Perspective of the Humanities. March 16.

2021 Host. Book Celebration: Nicole Myers Turner, *Soul Liberty: The Evolution of Black Religious Politics in Postemancipation Virginia.* Yale University Department of Religious Studies. Online, March 15.

2021 Commentator. Book Celebration: Jolyon Baraka Thomas, *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan*. University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies. Online, January 21.

2019 Discussion with Eliyahu Stern. Yale Seminar on Religious Studies. Yale University. February 25.

2019 Panelist, Forum on Emily Ogden’s *Credulity*. Americanist Colloquium, Department of English, Yale University. February 21.

2019 “Settler Secularism: The Grounds of American Religion.” Critical Encounters: Conversations in American Studies. Sponsored by Public Humanities at Yale. Yale University. January 30.

2018 “Missionaries, ‘Native Liberty,’ and Colonial Secularisms in the Belgian Congo.” Colloquium on American Religion, Politics, and Culture, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri. September 13.

2018 Distinguished Panelist, Manuscript Workshop for Melissa Borja, Department of American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. April 19-20.

2016 “Making Religion on the Reservation: Native Americans and the Settler Secular.” Yale Group for the Study of Native Americans. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. October 25.

2016 “Making American Whiteness: Jewish Identity and the Tri-faith Movement.” Columbia University Seminar on Religion in America. Columbia University, New York. October 6, 2016.

2015 “Religious Freedom and the Logics of War and Empire.” American Religious History Workshop. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. December 7.

2013 “Religious Freedom: The Making of an American Ideal, 1740-1830.” Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. Washington University, St. Louis. January 31.

2012 “Religious Freedom in Twentieth Century America.” Pre-circulated paper, Princeton Workshop on American Religious History, Princeton University. April 26.

2010 “Indian Dances and the Politics of Religious Freedom, 1870-1930.” Yale Law Journal reading group, Yale University. November 18.

2010 “The Ironies of Religious Freedom in Native American History.” Religion, Politics, and Society Workshop, MacMillan Center, Yale University. April 5.

2010 “The Ironies of Religious Freedom in Native American History.” American Religious History Workshop, Yale University. March 1.

2006 “‘Our Own Great Spirit’: Pueblo Indians and Christianity in the Early Twentieth Century.” Arizona State University Graduate Studies Conference, Christianity and Colonialism in the Southwest and Beyond, Tempe, Arizona. March 31.

## COURSES TAUGHT AT YALE

HIST 570/AMST 836/MHHR 705/REL 779: American Religion in the Archives—2021, 2024

REL 715: History of Modern Christianity (with Erika Helgen)—2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024

REL 759: Land, Ecology, and Religion in US History—2019, 2022

REL 703: Methods and Sources of Religious History—2010, 2016, 2017, 2019

REL 730: Native Americans and Christianity—2013, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2023

REL 763: Primary Readings in American Christianity, 1870-1940—2011, 2013, 2017

REL 705: Race and Religion in American History—2009, 2012, 2014

REL 745: Race, Religion, and Theology in America—2016 (co-taught with Chloë Starr)

AMST 705/HIST 582/RLST 705: Readings in Religion and American Society—2013, 2019, 2022

REL 781/AMST 804: Readings in US Law and Religion (with Sally Promey)—2023

REL 718: Religion in the American West—2010, 2012, 2015, 2018

REL 768: Religion, Art, and Resistance to Empire (with Joyce Mercer)—2020

AMST 804/REL 728: Religion and U.S. Empire (with Zareena Grewal)—2017, 2020, 2023

REL 720: Religious Freedom in U.S. History--2010, 2013, 2015, 2017

REL 715: Transitional Moments II: American Religious History—2010, 2011, 2014, 2016

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

#### Museum Consulting

Faculty convener, Public Fellows in Religion and the American West 2020-2023  
Fellowship program for junior scholars to accompany the New-York   
Historical Society exhibit, *Acts of Faith: Religion in the American West*.   
Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Advisory Panel for the Exhibit, Acts of Faith: Religion in the American West, 2019-2023  
New-York Historical Society, Fall 2023

Board of Advisors, National Museum of American Religion 2019-2022  
(Nonprofit and proposed museum.) Washington, D.C.

Visiting Scholar, “Out of Many: Religious Pluralism in America: An NEH Bridging 2012-2013  
Cultures in Community Colleges Program,” Newberry Library, Chicago.   
 Seminar workshop June 25-29, 2012

#### Professional Associations

Research Grants Jury, American Academy of Religion 2022-2025

Steering Committee, Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Group 2021-2024  
American Academy of Religion

Steering Committee, Religion and US Empire Seminar 2014-2018  
American Academy of Religion

Council Member, American Society of Church History 2013-2016

Arrington-Prucha Prize Committee, Western History Association 2013-2015

Co-Chair, Law, Religion and Culture Group, American Academy of Religion 2010-2013

Steering Committee, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group 2009-2012   
American Academy of Religion

Steering Committee Member and Website Editor, Religion in the American West 2007-2012  
Seminar, American Academy of Religion

Program Committee, American Society of Church History Winter Meeting 2012

Program Committee, North American Association for the Study of Religion 2011  
Annual Meeting

Co-Chair, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Consultation/Group 2005-2009   
American Academy of Religion

Women’s Caucus Representative, American Academy of Religion, Western Region 2005-2008

#### Yale University

Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, Religious Studies Department 2022-

Faculty Coordinator, Religion and Ecology, Yale Divinity School 2022-

Faculty Coordinator, History of Christianity, Yale Divinity School 2022-2023

Pelikan Award Selection Committee, Yale University Press 2019-

Task Force on Antiracism, Yale Divinity School 2020-2021

Histories of Colonialism and Modernity Reading Group, Convener 2019-2020

Search Committee, African American Religious History, YDS 2018-2020

Curriculum Committee, Yale Divinity School 2015-2018, 2021, 2023

Admissions Committee, Yale Divinity School 2012-2014, 2019

Search Committee, Dean of the Chapel, Yale Divinity School 2010-2011

Finance & Development Task Force, Long Range Planning, YDS 2010-2011

Worship Committee, Yale Divinity School 2010-2011

Professional Studies Committee, Yale Divinity School 2009-2010, 2019-‘20

#### Arizona State University

Advisory Board, Institute for Humanities Research 2006-2008

Graduate Committee, Department of Religious Studies 2004-2005

#### Editorial Boards

Religion Compass, Religion in the Americas, Blackwell Publishing 2008-2010, 2020-

Journal of the American Academy of Religion 2017-2024

Religio et Lex, Center for the Study of Religious Freedom 2016-2018  
Virginia Wesleyan University

Religious Studies Review, Religion and Law Editorial Board 2016-2018

#### Referee and Peer Reviews

--Journals: *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* (2008, 2009), *American Indian Quarterly* (2014, 2015), *Church History* (2022), *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2023); *Critical Research on Religion* (2020, 2021), *Human Rights Review* (2012), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2005), *Journal of Religion* (2014), *Journal of Religious History* (2012), *MAVCOR Journal* (2019), *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* (2010), *Pacific Historical Review* (2011), *Religion* (2011, 2017, 2018), *Religion & American Culture* (2022, 2023), *Religion Compass* (2009), *Western Historical Quarterly* (2011, 2016)

--Book Manuscripts: Columbia University Press (2012), New York University Press (2017, 2022), Oxford University Press (2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019), Princeton University Press (2018, 2019), Routledge Press (2007, 2009, 2010), University of Alabama Press (2012), University of Chicago Press (2016, 2018, 2020), University of Nebraska Press (2018, 2022), University of Oklahoma Press (2020), University of Pennsylvania Press (2020), University of Virginia Press (2022, 2023), University Press of Florida (2008, 2009), Yale University Press (2020)

--Fellowship Committees: Fellowships Panel, Religious Studies, National Endowment for the Humanities (2009); Referee, American Academy in Berlin (2017)

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion, American Society of Church History, American Studies Association, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, North American Association for the Study of Religion, Society for Historians of the Early Republic, Western History Association