**Erika C. Helgen, Ph.D.**

Yale Divinity School

409 Prospect Street / New Haven, CT 06511 [erika.helgen@yale.edu](mailto:erika.helgen@yale.edu)

# EDUCATION

**Yale University,** New Haven, CT Ph.D., History, December 2015

M.Phil., History, June 2012

M.A., History, June 2012

**University of Cambridge**, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, U.K. M.Phil., Latin American Studies, 2009

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

B.A., Romance Languages and Literature (Latin American Studies track), 2008

# PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Latin American Christianity, Yale Divinity School 2020-

Assistant Professor of Latin American Christianity, Yale Divinity School 2016-2020

Postdoctoral Fellow, Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research 2015-2016

# PUBLICATIONS

**Books**

*Spirits and Saints: Divine Healing, Spiritism, and the Transformation of the Catholic Church in Brazil*, manuscript in progress

*Histórias transnacionais: intelectuais, devoções e ordens católicas na América Latina durante o século XX*. Eds. Erika Helgen, Carlos André Silva de Moura, and Dirceu Salviano Marques Marroquim. Recife: Universidade de Pernambuco, 2021.

*Religious Conflict in Brazil: Protestants, Catholics, and the Rise of Religious Pluralism in the Early Twentieth Century.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020.

**Articles and chapters**

“Un santo antiprotestante: Frei Damião, conflicto religioso y la Restauración católica en Brasil, 1931-1945.” In *Histórias transnacionais: intelectuais, devoções e ordens católicas na América Latina durante o século XX*. Eds. Erika Helgen, Carlos André Silva de Moura, and Dirceu Salviano Marques Marroquim. Recife: Universidade de Pernambuco, 2021.

“Bishops, priests, and CELAM.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Christianity*. Eds. Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, Manuel Vásquez, and David Orique. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Religious Authority, lay modernity, and covenantal diplomacy: themes in recent works on the religious history of Mexico.” *Journal of Religious History* 36.3 (September 2012): 404-414.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**  Warren Dean Book Prize in Brazilian History, Honorable Mention for *Religious*  *Conflict in Brazil*  Arthur and Mary Wright Yale Dissertation Prize | 2022  2016 |
| Robert M. Leylan Fellowship for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences | 2014-2015 |
| Fulbright IIE Fellowship | 2012-2013 |
| Macmillan Center Dissertation Research Award | 2011-2012 |
| Macmillan Center Doctoral Fellowship Award | 2009-2011 |
| Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar (Harvard-Cambridge Fellowship) | 2008-2009 |
| **PRESENTATIONS**  **Selected Invited Lectures** |  |

“Religious Pluralism in Latin American History.” Earl Pople Lecture in World Christianity at Lafayette College, February 2024.

“Estudos de religião nos Estados Unidos: novas trajetórias.” Invited lecture given to the Faculdade Unida na Vitória, January 2023.

“The Historiography of Evangelicalism in Latin America.” Invited lecture given at the Evangelicals and Their Past Conference, Baylor University, October 2022.

“The Diversity of the Latin American and Latinx Religious Landscapes.” Invited lecture given to MCPS educators, January 2022.

“The History of the Liberation Theology Movement in Latin America.” Invited lecture given to West End United Methodist Church, February 2020.

**Selected Conference Presentations and Roundtables**

“The Santinha de Jacuba, Spiritism, and the Violence of the Brazilian Justice System.” Paper to be presented at the Latin American Studies Association conference, Bogotá, Colombia, May 2024.

“Spirits and Saints: Padre Eustáquio, Spiritism, and the Transformation of the Catholic Church in São Paulo, 1930-1945.” Paper presented at the Brazilian Studies Association conference, San Diego, April 2024.

“Book Roundtable: *Religious Conflict in Brazil: Protestants, Catholics, and the Rise of Religious Pluralism in the Early Twentieth Century* by Erika Helgenand *The Global Mission of the Jim Crow South* by João Chaves.” Panel held at the American Society of Church History conference, San Francisco, January 2024.

“Book Roundable: *Protesting Poverty* by Raimundo Barreto and *The Global Mission of the Jim Crow South* by João Chaves. Panel held at the American Academy of Religion conference, San Antonio, November 2023.

“Roundtable on Violence in Latin American and Latinx Christianity.” Panel held at the American Society for Church History conference, New Orleans, January 2022.

“Revolutionary Prophecies: Popular Saints and the Making of the Military in 20th-Century Brazil.” Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association, May 2019.

“Protecting the Parish, Protecting the Nation: Protestants, Catholics, and Local Conflicts over National Identity in Brazil, 1930-1954.” Paper presented at the American Society for Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2018.

“Migration, Drought, and the Pentecostalization of Catholic Anti-Protestantism in Brazil, 1911-1945.” Paper presented to the American Academy of Religion Conference, Boston, MA, November 2017.

“Anti-Protestant Violence and the Spiritual and Political Purification of the Brazilian Northeast, 1916- 1945.” Paper presented to the Latin American Studies Association, New York, NY, May 2016. (Panel organizer: “Converts, Infidels, and Sinners: The Politics of Religious Violence in 20th and 21st-century Latin America).

“Anti-Protestant Violence and the Making of a Popular Saint, 1930-1945.” Paper presented to the Brazilian Studies Association, Providence, RI, March 2016. (Panel chair and organizer: “From Reincarnation to Space Exploration: New Approaches to History and Popular Culture in the Brazilian Northeast”).

“From Bergoglio to Francis: The History and Significance of Catholicism’s First Latin American Pope.” Lecture given at St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN, February 2016.

“Protestantism in Latin America.” Lecture given at St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN, November 2015.

“A priest, a pastor, and an assassination: religious violence in the Brazilian Northeast.” Paper presented to the Brazilian Studies Association, London, United Kingdom, August 2014. (Panel chair and organizer: “Remapping the Brazilian Religious Landscape: New Perspectives on Pentecostalism, Catholicism, and Spiritism”).

“Religion from Below: Liberation Theology and the Progressive Catholic Church in Latin America.” Lecture given at the Yale Summer Institute for Educators: Latin American Upheavals, New Haven, CT, July 2014.

“Quem não crê, brasileiro não é: Protestantism and Citizenship in Brazil.” Paper presented to the Questioning Spaces of Citizenship Conference at Columbia University, New York, April 2014.

“Folk Catholicism, Romanization, and the Catholic Restoration: Patricia Pessar and New Approaches to Religious History.” Paper presented to the Latin American Studies Association, Washington, D.C., June 2013.

“Catholic anti-communism in Vargas’ Brazil, 1930-1945.” Paper presented to the Conference on Latin American History, New Orleans, January 2013.

“An Unholy War: Anti-Protestantism and Religious Violence in Brazil.” Paper presented at the Coloquio Internacional ‘Historia, Protestantismo e Identidad en las Américas,’ Universidad Nacional Autónoma, Mexico City, October 2011.

“Missionaries, Saints, and Holy Utopias: Religion in Colonial Latin America.” Lecture given at the Yale Summer Institute for Educators: Colonial Latin America, New Haven, CT, July 2011.

“Roman Revival: The Catholic Restoration under Vargas, 1930-1945.” Paper presented at the Latin American History Graduate Student Retreat, New Haven, April 2011.

“A Promise Fulfilled? The Origins and Implications of Brazil's Emergence on the Global Stage.” PIER Behind the Headlines Workshop, New Haven, April 2011.

“A Change in Ecclesiology: Latin American Liberation Theology and the End of Ecclesial Inequality.” Paper presented to the Latin American Studies Association, Rio de Janeiro, June 2009.

**COURSES TAUGHT**

Yale University, New Haven, CT

History of Modern Christianity

Pentecostal History

Religion in Latin American History

Latin American Liberation Theology: History and Sources

Religion, Resistance, and Rebellion in Latin America

Global Catholicism

Religion and Popular Culture in Latin America

Pentecostalism in Latin America

U.S. Catholic History Remapped

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Co-Founder, Brazil-U.S. Network on the History of Christianity 2023-Present

Council Member, American Society of Church History (ASCH) 2017-2020

Referee Work:

Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, *Luso-Brazilian Review, Catholic Historical Review, Modern Intellectual History, Revista de Estudios Sociales, Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Church History, Radical Americas, The Americas*

# LANGUAGE SKILLS

Portuguese: Fluent Spanish: Fluent

Italian: Advanced

French (reading only): Advanced Nahuatl (reading only): Intermediate

Dutch (reading only): Intermediate

Swedish (reading only): Beginner

# PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

American Society of Church History

Conference on Latin American History Latin American Studies Association Brazilian Studies Association American Academy of Religion