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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

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

Teaching Experience:

Saint Louis University:

Arch City Religion: Religious Faith and Practice in St. Louis
Religion, Art, and Politics in America
Theological Foundations.

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.

Department of Religion, 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

PUBLICATIONS and PROJECTS

Books:

A Communion of Shadows: Photography and Religion in Nineteenth-Century America
[UNC Press, forthcoming October 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:

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

"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, forthcoming 2017).

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews:

- 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*, ed. Mark A. Lamport (Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming).
- "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:

- "'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

"Collections: A Communion of Shadows," Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, Yale University, mavcor.yale.edu (under construction). 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. The site will enable access to many images not included in the book as well as broader pedagogical application of the book's arguments and research.

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.

Works-in-progress:

Articles and Book Chapters:

"A New Testament: Religion and Vernacular Photography in Nineteenth-Century America"

Reviews:

"SUDARIOS," review of Erika Diettes's exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, Saint Louis University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

National:

Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Working Group, American Academy of Religion, 2017-2020

Regional:

Material and Sensory Culture Section Chair, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2013-2018

University:

Academic Affairs Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, Saint Louis University, Spring 2017

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

Religion and Politics Film Series, organizer, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014-2015

Performance and Popular Culture Initiative, American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014-2015

Material and Visual Culture Initiative, American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014-2015

Undergraduate Curriculum Advisor, Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, 2013-2015

Seminar Coordinator, Danforth Distinguished Lectures, Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, November 19, 2013

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

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

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Grace May Tilton subvention award, Princeton University Program in American Studies, 2015

Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies, 2011-2012

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

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

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

James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship 2005-2006

Rose Marie and Martin H. Boone, Jr. Religious Studies Scholarship 2004-2005

James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship 2003-2004

Rose Marie and Martin H. Boone, Jr. Religious Studies Scholarship 2002-2003

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, and INVITED LECTURES

Panel Organizer:

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

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

Religious Freedom and Civil Rights in America, Washington University in St. Louis, October 21, 2015

"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:

"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

"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:

"Simon Dinnerstein and the Fulbright Triptych Symposium," Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri, Columbia, September 21-22, 2017

"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:

"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