

RACHEL McBRIDE LINDSEY, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT

Academic Appointments:

Associate Professor, Department of Theological Studies, American Religion and Culture, Saint Louis University, 2022—present
Assistant Professor, Department of Theological Studies, American Religion and Culture, Saint Louis University, 2019-2022
Assistant Professor (NTI), Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016-2019
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:

“Record and Revelation: Religion and Visual Grammars of American Citizenship in the American Century,” under contract with UNC Press
Religion and Digital Humanities: Material Religion, co-edited with Emily Clark (DeGruyter: Berlin and Boston, Mass., 2022).
A Communion of Shadows: Photography and Religion in Nineteenth-Century America (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

Reviews:

Journal of American Studies (January 2020)
Early Popular Visual Culture (vol. 17, iss. 3-4, 2019)
Anglican & Episcopal History (September 2019)
Material Religion (July 2019)
Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions (February 2019)
American Historical Review (January 2019)
Journal of American History (December 2018)
Journal of Folklore Research (November 2018)

Studies in American Culture (October 2018)
Reading Religion (December 2017)

Other Refereed Publications:

Journal 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.

Book Chapters

“The Hermit’s Camera: Global Catholicism through the Lens of Thomas Merton,” *Translations, Transgressions, and Transformations: The Global Movement of Objects in Catholic Cultures* (University of New Mexico Press, under review).

“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).

Conference Proceedings

“The Case: 1949,” *The Journal of Gods and Monsters* 5.1 (June 2025), Special Issue on the Exorcist, 50 Years Later, Revised and Expanded Panel Proceedings from the 2023 American Academy of Religion Panel, *The Exorcist, 50 Years Later*, 26-30.

“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.

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews:

Promeey, Sally. *Religion in Plain View: Public Aesthetics of American Display*. University of Chicago Press, 2024. *Annals of Iowa*. Submitted.

Allred, Mason Kamana. *Seeing Things: Technologies of Vision and the Making of Mormonism*. University of North Carolina Press, 2023. *Mormon Studies Review*. Submitted.

Swenson, James R. *In a Rugged Land: Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and the Three Mormon Towns Collaboration, 1953-1954*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2018. *Mormon Studies Review* vol. 7 (2020), 101-106.

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* vol. 101 no. 4 (2021), 540-541.

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).

Digital Projects

“Where’s Religion?” www.wheresreligion.org. Custom built, open-source mobile application and website to advance the study of religion through digital methods of identifying, capturing, indexing, and retrieving visual and aural artifacts. The *Where’s Religion* mobile app scaffolds human-subject and place-based research for humanities researchers, whether in classrooms or independently, and enables researchers to publish their findings on a global, scalable, searchable website. This project advances the study of religion and public understandings of religion by building a repository of “lived religion” to better account for the diversity of religion in public life. Collaboration with Research Computing and Open Source with SLU. *Where’s Religion* is a product of the Center on Lived Religion and extends from previous work with Lived Religion in the Digital Age, both of which received generous grants from the Henry Luce Foundation and are under my direction. 2023—

Lived Religion in the Digital Age. www.religioninplace.org. 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. Supported by the Henry Luce Foundation. 2018-2022.

“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](http://www.newslink.org).

American Religious Sounds Project, <http://religioussounds.osu.edu>. Pilot-site collaborator. PIs Isaac Weiner (Ohio State University) and Amy DeRogatis (Michigan State University). Spring 2018.

Other Professional Writing:

“The Dangerous Power of the Photo-Op,” *Religion and Politics*, June 9, 2020, <https://religionandpolitics.org/2020/06/09/the-dangerous-power-of-the-photo-op/>

“French King, Catholic Saint, American Icon: Provoking Religion, Race, and Public Memory in an American City,” *American Religion* (June 2020) <https://american-religion.org/apotheosis>.

“American Milagros: Michael Tracy’s Borderlands of Sacred Art and State Violence,” *Political Theology Network* (April 1, 2019).

“Borderlands of the Sacred: Religion, Objects, and the American State on the Southern U.S. Border,” *The Immanent Frame* (October 30, 2018)

“An Ozarks Native Crosses the Show Me State,” *Religion & Politics* (September 18, 2018), <https://religionandpolitics.org/2018/09/18/missouri-an-ozarks-native-crosses-the-show-me-state/>

“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.

Public Humanities

El Sueño Americano/The American Dream, convener of traveling exhibit of photographs by Tom Kiefer hosted at the Saint Louis University Museum of Art, Fall 2021.

Pertenencias/Belongings, exhibit of photographs by Tom Kiefer at the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, Saint Louis University, curatorial team, Fall 2021.

“*Belief, Unbound: Photographs and text by Lauren Pond*,” Curated (with Pauline Lee) public photography exhibit, Fall 2019.

“#ArchCityReligion: Photographs from *Religion in the Midwest*, by Lauren Pond, with additional photographs by Saint Louis University Students.” Curated (with Pauline Lee) campus gallery photography exhibit, Spring 2019.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Profession:

President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2022-2024

Religion and the Arts Award Jury, American Academy of Religion, 2021—2024

Vice President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2020—2022. Responsibilities included updating procedures for submitting and evaluating proposals, rebuilding the region’s website, planning the annual meeting with other members of the leadership team, and scheduling the annual meeting.

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

Arts, Literature, and Religion Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2018-2022

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

Manuscript Reviewer:

Book press:

Oxford University Press

Cambridge University Press

University of Chicago Press

University of Missouri Press

Journals:

Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief

Journal of Body and Religion

University:

Founding Director, Center on Lived Religion, 2023-2027

Campus Reads Committee, St. Louis Literary Awards Program, 2022—

Walter J. Ong, S.J., Center for Digital Humanities Advisory Board, 2020-2023

Mentoring for Mission in Teaching, Saint Louis University, 2018-2019

Director search committee, Walter J. Ong, S.J., Center for Digital Humanities, Spring 2019

Co-Director, Lived Religion in the Digital Age, 2018-2023

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

Cultures of American Religion Workshop, American Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016-present
(*internal Mellon grants awarded for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 speakers' series)

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

Department:

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Theological Studies, 2023--

Communications and Publicity Committee, Department of Theological Studies, 2023--

Danforth Chair Search Committee, Department of Theological Studies, 2022-2023

Late Antiquity Search Committees, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2021-2022.

Faculty Mentor, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2020-

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University 2019-2023

Religion and Complex Social Issues, Department of Theological Studies, SLU, 2018-present

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

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

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

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

COURSES, MENTORING, and ADVISING

Undergraduate Courses:

Theological Foundations (THEO 1000): Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018

Race and Religion in America (THEO 2333): Fall 2020

American Christianity (THEO 2350): Spring 2018; Spring 2020

Introduction to World Religions (THEO 2710): Spring 2019; Fall 2019; Winter 21-22; 22-23; 23-24; Spring 2024; Winter 24-25

Arch City Religion (THEO 2930/THEO 2700): Spring 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2019

Religion, Art, and Politics in America (THEO 3930): Spring 2017

Religious Freedom in the U.S. (THEO 3930) Summer: 2017; Fall 2020

Religion, Law, and Citizenship in the U.S. (THEO 4930): Spring 2021

Holy Stuff: Seeing and Studying Religious Objects, Ignite Seminar (CORE 1000): Fall 2022; Fall 2023

Religion and Politics in the US (THEO 2500; UCC Writing): Fall 2024

Graduate Courses:

Writing Religion (THEO 6930): Spring 2020

Theories and Methods (THEO 6000): Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

Historiographies of American religion (THEO 6980): Summer 2021

Religion and Culture (THEO 4930/5930): Fall 2022

Undergraduate Theses Advised:

Olivia Lindstrom, 2019-2020

Caroline Anderson, 2017-2018

Dissertation Committees:

Kelly Bratkowski, Theological Studies, Spring 2023—

Elizabeth Eikmann, American Studies, Fall 2019—Summer 2021

Religion and Public Life Graduate Fellows (LRDA):

David Justice, 2018-2019
Deepan Rajaratnam, 2019-2020
Elizabeth Eikmann, 2020-2021

Faculty Mentor, Certificate in University Teaching Skills, Reinert Center for Teaching and Learning, SLU
Laura Estes, 2020-2021

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Foundation Grantwinner Award, Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships, Saint Louis University, 2024

Grant, Theology Program, Henry Luce Foundation, for “Lived Religion in the Digital Age,” 2022-2024; NCE through 2025 (\$470,000)

Beaumont Scholarship Research Award (internal), Saint Louis University, “Record and Revelation,” 2022-2023

Mellon Faculty Summer Research Award (internal), Saint Louis University, “Record and Revelation,” 2021

Donald G. Brennan Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, Saint Louis University, 2021

Young Scholars of American Religion Fellowship, Center on Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, 2019-2022 (cohort extended due to COVID-19)

Advancing Public Scholarship on Religion and Theology Grant, Theology Program, Henry Luce Foundation, for “Lived Religion in the Digital Age,” August 2018—December 2022 (\$400,000)

Fund for Intellectual Renewal and Enrichment Grant, Saint Louis University College of Arts & Sciences
January 2021 (\$1,500)—to acquire 60 books for Religion and Complex Social Issues Series
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)

Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Research Travel Grant, Summer 2018 (\$1,000)

Co-Curricular Grant, Saint Louis University College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2022 (\$500) THEO 5930/4930

Spring 2021 (\$450) THEO 4930

Spring 2020 (\$450) THEO 6930

Fall 2020 (\$400) THEO 3930

Spring 2018 (\$500) THEO 2930

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

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, and INVITED LECTURES

Conference Co-Organizer:

“Mapping Spaces, Embodying Territories: Spatial Humanities and GIScience Across the Disciplines,” April 3-5, 2025. With Emily Dumler-Winckler (CREST).

Midwest American Academy of Religion, February 29-March 2, 2024. Missouri State University. *President*.

Midwest American Academy of Religion, March 23-25, 2023. Missouri State University. *President*.

Midwest American Academy of Religion, March 3-5, 2022 (Virtual Annual Meeting). *Vice President*.

Midwest American Academy of Religion, April 22-23, 29-30, 2021 (Virtual Annual Meeting),
<https://sites.google.com/view/midwestaar/home>

Symposium Organizer:

“Religion in Place: Spaces | Borders | Bodies,” academic and public symposium organizer and convener (with Pauline Lee), Saint Louis University, October 10-12, 2019. (16 panelists and 2 public lectures)

Workshop Organizer:

“Where's Religion? Pilot Testers Cohort Meeting,” Saint Louis University, May 7-10, 2024.

“Sacred Writes Workshop,” Saint Louis University, October 12-14, 2023.

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:

“Setting the Table: Religion in Carrie Mae Weems’s *Kitchen Table Series* (1990),” American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 20-24, 2025

“I don’t want anyone thinking I’m getting converted’: Learning Religious Boundaries from Margaret Bourke White’s Year(s) Among the Jesuits,” American Society of Church History, San Francisco, January 4-7, 2024

“Mascots at Catholic, Jesuit Universities in the American West: The Billiken,” American Catholic Historical Association, San Francisco, January 4-6, 2024

“The Hermit’s Camera: Thomas Merton’s Visual Catholicism at the End of the World,” American Academy of Religion, Austin, TX, November 18-22, 2023

“The Hermit’s Camera: Global Catholicism through the Lens of Thomas Merton,” Translations, Transgressions, and Transformations: The Global Movement of Objects in Catholic Cultures, Center for Research on Global Catholicism, Saint Louis University, October 20-21, 2023.

“Maggie and the Jesuits: Toward a Contact Sheet Theory of Religion,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 18-22, 2022.

“The World Maggie Built: Margaret Bourke-White and the Birth of Modern American Citizenship,” Women and Early Photography Symposium, University of Aberdeen and University of California, Riverside, June 1, 2022

“Billfolds and Wallets,” Catholicism in 10 Objects, Roman Catholic Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, December 10, 2020.

“The Spirit Postmistress of the Midwest: The Scandalous Career of Rev. Mrs. Josie K. Fulsom,” 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:

“Book Panel: Sally Promey, *Religion in Plain View*,” American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 20-24, 2025

“Rethinking Religious Studies Programs: Adapting Religious Studies Classrooms to Changes in Religious and Racial Demographics,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 23-26, 2024

“None of the Above: Implications of Changing Student Demographics in Introductory Theology Courses at Jesuit Catholic Colleges and Universities,” AJCU Arts and Sciences Deans Meeting, Saint Louis University, October 24-25, 2024

“The Lives and Afterlives of *The Exorcist* (1973): The 1949 Case,” American Academy of Religion, Austin, TX, November 18-22, 2023

“On and Beyond Positionality: A Conversation,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 18-22, 2022.

“Centering Community: A Roundtable Discussion on Lived Religion and the City,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 18-22, 2022.

“Public Scholarship and Teaching,” Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI), June 2-4, 2022

“Arch City Religion: Religion, Sounds, and Student Digital Research,” American Religious Sounds Project Symposium, The Ohio State University, May 24-25, 2022

“What is a Catholic Object?,” Global Catholicism and Material Culture Roundtable, Center for Research on Global Catholicism, Saint Louis University, April 18, 2022

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

“Veiled Prophet: Public Displays and Hidden Mysteries,” Guest lecture in SLU History Department Senior Seminar on Mystery Cults. Invitation from Dr. Douglas Boin. May 2, 2022.

“Gods of Jesusland: Navigating Religious Diversity and Decolonizing the Study of Religion in the American Midwest,” workshop leader, Religious Diversity in the Land Grant University Classroom Series, University of Missouri, Columbia. Supported by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Spring 2021

“#ArchCityReligion: Rethinking Lived Religion from America’s Heartland,” First Friday’s Mass and Speaker Series, Office of Mission and Identity, Saint Louis University, February 7, 2020

“The Shadow of the Arch: Religion and Race in St. Louis,” University of Missouri, Religion in Missouri Lecture Series, March 2019

“#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

“A Communion of Shadows: Relics, History, and Beholding in Nineteenth-Century American Photographs,” University of Pennsylvania, January 21, 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

Community Lectures and Talks

“Arch City Religion: Contexts, Approaches, and Sources for Studying Religion in St. Louis,” St. Louis Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs, April 29, 2022

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion
Organization of American Historians
American Studies Association
American Society of Church History
American Catholic Historical Association