

## CHAD E. SEALES

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### EDUCATION

- 2007**            Ph.D., Religious Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Fields of Study: American Religions *and* Religion and Culture
- 2000**            M.T.S., Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
Areas of Concentration: Sociology of Religion *and* Ethics and Society
- 1998**            B.A., Philosophy, University of Florida  
Minors: Religion *and* Applied and Professional Ethics

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 –**            Faculty Affiliate, Human Dimensions of Organization, University of Texas
- 2020 –**            Holder Designate, Brian F. Bolton Distinguished Professor in Secular  
Studies, University of Texas
- 2016 –**            Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Texas
- 2011 –**            Faculty Affiliate, Department of American Studies, University of Texas
- 2011 – 2016**      Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Texas
- 2009 – 2011**      Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, George Mason University
- 2007 – 2009**      Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, New College of Florida

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

1. Seales, Chad E., editor. *Routledge Handbook of Religion and American Culture* (London and New York: Routledge Press, March 2025), 510pp.  
Reviewed in *Journal of Religious History*

2. Seales, Chad E. *Religion Around Bono: Evangelical Enchantment and Neoliberal Capitalism* (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, November 2019), 189pp.

Reviewed in Reading Religion: The Review Forum of the American Academy of Religion. Book Panel at American Academy of Religion Annual Conference 2021.

3. Seales, Chad E. *The Secular Spectacle: Performing Religion in a Southern Town* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, December 2013), 238pp.

Reviewed in Marginalia of The Los Angeles Review of Books, The Journal of Southern Religion, Religion and Society: Advances in Research, Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, The Journal of Southern History, The Journal of Religion, The North Carolina Historical Review, The Catholic Historical Review, Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief, Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology.

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Special Issues**

4. Seales, Chad E., editor. "The Social Order of Things: A Materialist Model for Comparing Religion," *Religion* (Volume 55, Issue 2, March 2025), 106pp.

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

5. Seales, Chad E. "The Business Suit: Transitional Phenomena and Religious Comparison," *Religion* (Volume 55, Issue 2, March 2025): 435-447.

6. Seales, Chad E. "The System Will Not Be Labeled: GM Food Marketing and American Secularism," *Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture* (November 2022): 33-53.

7. Seales, Chad E. "Corporate Chaplaincy and the American Workplace," *Religion Compass* (Volume 6, Number 3, 2012): 195-203.

8. Seales, Chad E. "An Old Love for New Things: Southern Baptists and the Modern Technology of Indoor Baptistries," *Journal of Southern Religion* (Volume XIII, September 2011).

9. Seales, Chad E. "Allegories of Progress: Industrial Religion in the United States," co-authored with Richard Callahan and Kathryn Lofton, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (March 2010): 1-39.

10. Seales, Chad E. "Parades and Processions: Ritual Landscape and the Politics of Place in a Nuevo New South Town," *Numen* (Volume 55, Number 1, 2008): 44-67.

11. Seales, Chad E. "Cultivating the Desolate Meadows: Industry, Religion, and Social Differentiation in Siler City, North Carolina, 1884-1932," *North Carolina Historical Review* (January 2008): 57-87.

12. Seales, Chad E. "Burned Over Bono: U2's Rock 'n' Roll Messiah and His Religious Politic," *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* (Fall 2006).

## Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

13. Seales, Chad E. "Introduction," *Routledge Handbook of Religion and American Culture* (Routledge Press, March 2025), 1-10.
14. Seales, Chad E. "Purpose Driven Food: Evangelical Diet Marketing and Conscious Capitalism," *Selling the Sacred*, Mara Einstein and Sara McFarland Taylor, eds. (Routledge Press, 2024), 250-268.
15. Seales, Chad E. "The Land of Misfit Relics: Southern Protestants and the Sacred Play of Cultural Objects," *Southern Religions, Southern Cultures: Essays Honoring Charles Reagan Wilson*, Darren Grem, Ted Ownby, and James Thomas, eds. (University Press of Mississippi, 2019), 113-120.
16. Seales, Chad E. "Spatial Constructions of the American Secular" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, John Corrigan, ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).
17. Seales, Chad E. "Race and Religion in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*," *Coen: Framing Religion in Amoral Order*, Elijah Siegler, ed. (Baylor University Press, 2016), 109-123.
18. Seales, Chad E. "New Latino Destinations," co-authored with Manuel Vásquez and Marie Friedman Marquardt, *Latinas/os in the United States: Changing the Face of América*, Havidán Rodríguez, Rogelio Sáenz, and Cecilia Menjivar, eds. (Springer Publishing, 2008), 19-35.

## Reference Book Entries

19. Seales, Chad E. "Regionalism in the United States" (1,500 words) in *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, Peter N. Stearns, ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).
20. Seales, Chad E. "Congregations" (2,000 words) in *The Encyclopedia of Religion, Communication, and Media*, Daniel Stout, ed. (Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing Group, 2006).

## Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications

21. Seales, Chad E. "Corporate Missions: Commerce, Freedom, and the Public Good," (4,000 words) with Tim Rainey for the Forum on "The Corporate Form," *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere*, a digital publication of the Social Scientific Research Council (April 23, 2021).
22. Seales, Chad E. "U2Charist" (250 words) in *American Religious Sounds Project*, Isaac Weiner and Amy Derogatis, editors (<https://explore.religioussounds.osu.edu/public/recordings/30#>) (March 17, 2020).

23. Seales, Chad E. "Private Gifts, Public Possession," (1,500 words), for the Forum on "Gospel of Giving," *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere*, a digital publication of the Social Scientific Research Council (August 28, 2019).

24. Seales, Chad E. "Love and Debt: U2's Bono and the Religious Sincerity of Millennial Capitalism," (3,500 words), *Cosmologics: A Magazine of Science, Religion, and Culture* (Summer 2016).

25. Seales, Chad E. "To Know Good Blood: The Material Morality of Southern Religion," (4,000 words) Forum on Civil Religion and the Lost Cause, *Journal of Southern Religion* (Volume 17, June 2015).

26. Seales, Chad E. "A Hint of Irony" (2,000 words), Forum on John Lardas Modern's *Secularism in Antebellum America*, in *Religion in American History Blog* (June 12, 2013).

27. Seales, Chad E. Commentator (1,000 words), An Author Meets His Critics, Manuel A. Vásquez, *More than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* (Volume 3, Number 1, 2012), 185-202.

28. Seales, Chad E. "Claude Lévi-Strauss: Meeting the Myth," (1,000 words) *Religion Dispatches* (November 23, 2009).

## Book Reviews

29. Seales, Chad E. Review (800 words) of Charles McCrary, *Sincerely Held: American Secularism and Its Believers* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022) in *Journal of Church and State* (June 9, 2023).

30. Seales, Chad E. Review (600 words) of Christopher Carter, *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2021) in *Reading Religion* (the review forum of the American Academy of Religion) (February 20, 2023).

31. Seales, Chad E. Review (1,000 words) of Darren Dochuk, *Anointed With Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America* (New York: Basic Books, 2019) in *American Religion* (Spring 2021): 139-141.

32. Seales, Chad E. Review (600 words) of Christina Zanfagna, *Holy Hip Hop in the City of Angels* (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2017) in *Reading Religion* (the review forum of the American Academy of Religion) (June 25, 2019).

33. Seales, Chad E. Review (800 words) of James Dennis LoRusso, *Spirituality, Corporate Culture, and American Business: The Neoliberal Ethic and the Spirit of Global Capital* (London: Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2017), in *Reading Religion* (the review forum of the American Academy of Religion) (June 21, 2017).

34. Seales, Chad E. Review (1,200 words) of Annie Blazer, *Playing for God: Evangelical Women and the Unintended Consequences of Sports Ministry* (New York: New York University Press, 2015), in *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief* (September 2016), 518-520.

35. Seales, Chad E. Review (600 words) of Matthew Avery Sutton, *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism* (Cambridge and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014), in *Journal of Southern History* (May 2016): 471-472.
36. Seales, Chad E. Review (1,000 words) of Calvin White, Jr., *The Rise to Respectability: Race, Religion, and the Church of God in Christ* (Fayetteville, The University of Arkansas Press, 2012) in *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* (June 2014): 518-520.
37. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Walter H. Conser Jr. and Robert J. Cain, *Presbyterians in North Carolina: Race, Politics, and Religious Identity in Historical Perspective* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2012) in *The Journal of Southern History* (May 2013): 547-548.
38. Seales, Chad E. Review (800 words) of Manuel A. Vásquez, *More than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) in *Sociology of Religion* (Winter 2011): 485-487.
39. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Joe Creech, *Righteous Indignation: Religion and the Populist Revolution* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2006) in *Religious Studies Review* (September 2011): 230.
40. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of David Domke and Kevin Coe, *The God Strategy: How Religion Became a Political Weapon in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) in *Religious Studies Review* (September 2011): 230.
41. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Nancy Tatom Ammerman, *Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and their Partners* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005) in *Religious Studies Review* (September 2011): 229.
42. Seales, Chad E. Review (500 words) of Korie L. Edwards, *The Elusive Dream: The Power of Race in Interracial Churches* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) in *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Winter 2010): 470-471.
43. Seales, Chad E. Review (600 words) of Aaron K. Ketchell, *Holy Hills of the Ozarks: Religion and Tourism in Branson, Missouri* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007) in *Pneuma: The Journal for the Society of Pentecostal Studies* (2009): 142-143.
44. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Samuel S. Hill, ed., *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Volume 1: Religion* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006) in *Religious Studies Review* (October 2007): 330-331.
45. Seales, Chad E. Review (500 words) of Mary Beth Swetnam Mathews, *Rethinking Zion* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2006) in *North Carolina Historical Review* (April 2007): 232-233.
46. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Mark Chaves, *Congregations in America* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004) in *Religious Studies Review* (January 2006): 59.

47. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Jane I. Smith, and John L. Esposito, eds., *Religion and Immigration: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Experiences in the United States* (Oxford: AltaMira Press, 2003) in *Religious Studies Review* (April/July 2004): 228.

48. Seales, Chad E. Review (250 words) of Ho-Youn Kwon, Kwong Chung Kim, and R. Stephen Warner, eds., *Korean Americans and Their Religions: Pilgrims and Missionaries from a Different Shore* (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001) in *Religious Studies Review* (October 2002).

### **Op-Ed Contributions**

49. Seales, Chad E. “Blacks Leaving White Churches Should Surprise No One,” (700 words) Texas Perspectives, *Caller Times* (April 30, 2018). Reprinted as “Commentary: What To Do About Black Worshipers Leaving White Churches, Special to the *American-Statesman* (May 3, 2018). “Why Blacks are Leaving White Churches,” *Amarillo Globe News* (May 13, 2018). “That Blacks Are Leaving White Churches Should Surprise Nobody. Here is What to do About it,” Texas Perspectives, UTNews (May 17, 2018). “Why Blacks are Leaving White Churches,” *San Antonio Express-News* (May 18, 2018)

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

#### **Books**

50. Seales, Chad E. *Sweet Jesus: Evangelical Christianity and the American Food System*. In preparation, 50% complete. 4 out of 8 chapters drafted. 240ms. Pp. (In Progress).

#### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

51. Seales, Chad E. “The Secular Pastoral: Food Studies and the Study of Religion at American Public Universities,” for special issue, “Deserting the Study of Religion,” edited by Evan Berry, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* (Submitted).

#### **Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

52. Seales, Chad E. “Religion and Social Change in North America,” *De Gruyter Handbook on Religion and Social Change*, edited by Anna Peterson (Submitted).

#### **Book Reviews**

53. Seales, Chad E. Review (700 words) of Brian J. Miller, *Sanctifying Suburbia: How the Suburbs Became the Promised Land for American Evangelicals* in *Religious Studies Review* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025) (Submitted).

54. Seales, Chad E. Review (1,000 words) of Kati Curts, *Assembling Religion: The Ford Motor Company and the Transformation of Religion in America* (New York: NYU Press, 2025) in *Material Religion* (In Progress).

55. Seales, Chad E. Review (800 words) of Norman Wirzba, *Agrarian Spirit: Cultivating Faith, Community, and the Land* (Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame Press, 2022) in *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* (Submitted).

56. Seales, Chad E. Review (600 words) of Jamie L. Brummitt, *Protestant Relics in Early America* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025) in *Reading Religion* (the review forum of the American Academy of Religion) (In Progress).

## **MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Radio, Podcast, Television, and Documentary Film Appearances**

"Hundreds of Texas Congregations Vote to Leave the United Methodist Church," video interview, Will DuPree, KXAN (December 5, 2022).

"Lizzo's Rumors," *No Cure for Curiosity*, a podcast from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point hosted by Shanny Luft, Director of General Education (September 19, 2021).

"Joe Biden is 2nd Catholic U.S. President: How His Reception is Different from JFK," video interview, Robert Hadlock, KXAN, Austin, Texas (January 20, 2021). Quoted in Kerry Breen, "Joe Biden is 2nd Catholic President in US History after JFK," *Today* and *NBC Washington* and *NBC Chicago* (January 20, 2021).

Media interviews for *Religion Around Bono* with "Conversations LIVE!" with Cyrus Webb, Northern Spirit Radio, "Sunday Magazine" (WCBS-FM, WNEW-FM, and WNYL-FM, New York), "The Tom Sumner Program" (Flint, MI), "The Jim Engster Show" (NPR affiliate, Baton Rouge, LA), "On the Bookshelf" (WTBF, Troy, AL), "A Touch of Grey" (nationally syndicated on more than 50 stations, including NYC's WOR and KRLA in LA), WGUV/WGVS Morning Show (NPR affiliate Grand Rapids, MI), "The K-Zone Lunchbox" (Fitchburg, MA), KVON "Conversations" (Napa, CA), "Jefferson Exchange" with Jefferson Public Radio (Regional NPR for southern Oregon), "Speaking of Writers" (Town Square Media Albany, NY), "Rising Up with Sonali" (March to June 2020).

"Trump Reinforces Right to Pray in Public Schools," Patsy Widakuswara, Voice of America (January 17, 2020).

"Documentary Project on United Methodist Denominational Restructuring," Erik Mauck (January 13, 2020).

"Religion, Science, Technology, and Ethics," Documentary Film Project for PBS, Lennlee Keep, KLRU, Austin (March 22, 2018).

Reviewer, *The Heretic* (documentary film on progressive evangelical Rob Bell), directed by Andrew Morgan (Bullfrog Films, 2018).

"Religious Evolution: How Churches are Adapting to a Changing Culture," Michael Perchick, KVUE, Austin (May 19, 2017).

"Sanctuary Churches," News Report, Michael Perchick, KVUE, Austin (March 31, 2017).

“Religious Holiday,” KLRU Arts in Context coverage of Billie Holiday event (aired March 14, 2017).

## **Newspaper and Magazine Interviews**

“Deus Ex Machina? Chad Seales Explores the Parallels Between AI and Religion,” Leora Visotzky and UT Austin Liberal Arts, *Extra Credit: UT Liberal Arts Substack* (November 5, 2025).

“The Hidden Religion of American Food: On Food Labeling, American Secularism, and Anxiety Turduckens,” Lauren Macknight, *Extra Credit: UT Liberal Arts Substack* (November 20, 2024).

“The Church of Summit Coffee,” Amber Burton, *Assembly* (September 19, 2023).

“Christianity Sees Losses of Young People, Latinos,” Bianca Moreno, *Austin Statesman* (July 3, 2023).

“Rebranding Jesus at the Super Bowl. But Is It Actually Offering More of the Same?” Molly Longman, *Texas Monthly* (February 11, 2023).

"Horse Troughs, Hot Tubs and Hashtags: Baptism Is Getting Wild," Ruth Graham, *The New York Times* (November 29, 2021).

“Interfaith Relationships Increasingly Accepted,” Anastasia Cooper, *The Shorthorn* (April 5, 2017).

## **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

### **Conference Presentations**

Panelist, “Pedagogies of Racial Capitalism: Contesting Capitalist Subject Formation in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century American Institutions,” a session of the North American Religions Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California (November 2024).

Respondent, “The Ritualization of Drugs across Religious Contexts,” a session of the Drugs and Religion Unit and the Ritual Studies Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California (November 2024).

Presenter, “Purpose Driven Food: American Evangelicalism and Conscious Capitalism,” a session of the North American Religions Unit and Religion and Food Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas (November 2023).

Respondent, "Finding American Religion in Unexpected Places," a session of the North American Religions Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado (November 2022).

Respondent, "The Gospel According to Bono: A Critical Conversation Around Neoliberal Religion," a session of the Religion and Popular Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas (November 2021).



“Neoliberal Religion around Africa,” in Empire of Capital, Empire of Humanity, a session of the Religion and U.S. Empire Seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado (November 2018).

Respondent, “Religions of Texas: The Study of Religion and the Making of Place,” Wildcard Session, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio (November 2016).

Panelist, “Hail Caesar!,” Film Discussion and Screening, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio (November 2016).

“Sweet Jesus: Southern Religion, Fast Food, and American Secularism,” in The Historical Paradoxes of Southern Studies: Methodological Reflections on the Study of Southern Religion, a session at the annual Southern Historical Association Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida (November 2016).

“For Africa with Love: U2’s Bono and the Religious Sincerity of Millennial Capitalism,” in Like You Mean It: Religious Sincerity in American Popular Music, a session of the Music and Religion Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia (November 2015).

“Hearts Strangely Warm: Religious Allegories of Industrial Food,” State of the Plate: Food and the Local/Global Nexus, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (March 2015).

“The Religious Difference: American Secularism and Civil Rights,” Southern American Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia (February 2015).

“Good Seed, High Yield: The Industrial Discourse of Megachurches and Agribusiness in the Late Twentieth-Century American South,” in Religious Cultures and Agriculture: Farming, Faith, and American Identity, a session of the annual meeting of the American Society of Church History, New York City, New York (January 2015).

“Drive-Through Jesus: Religious Technologies of the Fast Food Age,” in Religion and Industrial Food: Resisting and Reproducing Technologies of Corporatism, a co-sponsored session of The Comparative Religious Ethics Group and Religion and Food Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California (November 2014).

“A Hint of Irony,” in A Fabulous Rumor: Critical Interpretations of John Lardas Modern’s *Secularism in Antebellum America*, a co-sponsored session of the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group and Religion, Media, and Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois (November 2012).

Respondent, “Passion, Courage, and the Apollonian-Dionysian Dichotomy: Contesting Religion in Popular Music,” a session of the Religion and Popular Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago (November 2012).

“Now that is a Culture that Understands Suffering: Southern Protestant Responses to Latino Catholic Materiality in Siler City, North Carolina,” in *Objects and Materiality in Religious Cultural Practices*, a session at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, California (May 2012).

“We are Easter People: Anglo-American Reactions to Latino Catholic Good Friday Processions in Siler City, North Carolina,” in *Contested Realities in Twentieth Century American Religious Experiences*, a session of the History of Christianity Section at the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas, Texas (March 2012).

“Mechanics of Communication: Corporate Chaplaincy and the Discursive Formation of Industrial Religion,” in *Industrial Effervescence: Manufacturing Economic Selves and Producing Religious Collectivity in American History*, a session of the North American Religions Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, California (November 2011).

“Keep Clean, and Sweet, and Pure: From Material Religion to Material Morality,” in *Rematerializing Religion: Critical Applications of Manual A. Vásquez’s *More than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion**, a session of the Religion and the Social Sciences Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, California (November 2011).

“Ten Commandments of Banking: A Case Study of Religious Prescription During a Time of Financial Crisis,” Chesapeake American Studies Annual Conference: New American Spaces, Fairfax, Virginia (April 2011).

“You Can’t Crucify Jesus on the Protestant Lawn: Visual Culture, Christian Sacrifice, and Contested Space in a Nuevo New South Town,” Chesapeake American Studies Annual Conference: New American Spaces, Washington D.C. (March 2010).

“A Word Fitly Spoken: Conspicuous Consumption and Pecuniary Emulation in the Industrial South,” in *Veblen’s Theory of the Leisure Class: Rethinking Religion and Economy in an Age of Crisis*, a co-sponsored session of the Religion and the Social Sciences Section and Sociology of Religion Consultation at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (November 2009).

“A Useful Invention: Indoor Baptisteries, Urban Status, and the Industrialization of the American South,” in *Reconsidering Region: Religion in the South*, a session of the Religion and America Section at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Regional Meeting, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (March 2009).

“Chemical Fluid to Rayon: The Miracle of Industrial Conversion in the Modern American South,” in *Soap, Coal, and Rayon: Miraculous Elements of Modern Industry*, a joint session of the Science, Technology, and Religion Group and the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Consultation at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California (November 2007).

“Religious Politics of U.S. Corporate Philanthropy in Africa,” Hot Topics Series, New College Foundation, New College of Florida, Sarasota, Florida (November 2007).

“Las Tiendas de Chatham Avenue: Visual Culture and Contested Public Space in a Nuevo New South Town, 1990-2006,” in *Latinos in the U.S. South, 1850-2006*, a session at the Annual Conference of the Southern Historical Association, Richmond, Virginia (November 2007).

“Layering the Local: Landscape and the Ritual Production of Place in a Nuevo New South Town,” in *Narrating the Local: Methodological Reflections on Ethnographies of Religious Practice*, a session of the Religion and Social Sciences Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C (November 2006).

“Patriotic Bodies: Sacrament and Sacrifice in Siler City Fourth of July Parades, 1901-1932,” Interdisciplinary Conference for Graduate Research on the American South, Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (November 2006).

“Where’s the Parade?: Local Effects of Globalization on Southern Civic and Religious Life,” in *Shifting Cultures and New Global Identities in the South*, a session of the Navigating the Global American South Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (March 2006).

“U2’s Bono as Public Theologian of an Emerging World Polity,” in *Music Matters*, a session of the Religion and Popular Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia (November 2003).

“Cuban Catholics as Elite Facilitators of a Pan-Latina/o Movement in the Archdiocese of Atlanta,” in *Postmodern Perplexities: Pluralism and Religious Institutions*, a session of the Religion and Social Sciences Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada (November 2002).

“Responses to September 11<sup>th</sup> among College Students at a North Carolina Congregation,” in *September 11<sup>th</sup>*, a session at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah (October 2002).

### **Invited Talks**

“Religion, Secularism, and Critiques of Industrial Food,” Religious Studies Departmental Colloquium, UT-Austin (September 29, 2023).

“Sweet Jesus: How Evangelicalism Became the Religion of Industrial Agriculture, and How It Might Help End It,” University of Mainz, Germany (July 11, 2023).

“The State of Higher Education in Texas,” joint presentation with Sean Theriault, UT-Austin, in Graduate Seminar, University of Mainz, Germany (July 11, 2023).

“Love and Debt: The Product Red Campaign and the Racial Dynamics of Neoliberal Religion,” University of Mainz, Germany (July 5, 2023).

“How Evangelicalism Became the Religion of Factory Farming, and How It Might Help End It,” American Studies Workshop, UT-Austin (March 24, 2023).

“American Evangelicalism,” Tower Fellows Distinguished Speaker Series, UT-Austin (January 25, 2023).

"The System Will Not Be Labeled: Industrial Food and American Democracy," for "The Status of American Democracy" Lecture Series, The Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany (via Zoom, December 10, 2021).

“Global Evangelicalism and Corporate Philanthropy,” Department of Religious Studies, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada (via Zoom, October 6, 2020).

“Buy, Believe, Save, and be Saved,” Department of Comparative Studies and Department of Music, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (postponed during pandemic).

“Structure/Infrastructure,” Material Secularisms Workshop, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (February 28, 2020).

"The Gospel According to Bono," Religion in Public Event Series, Religious Studies, UT Austin, George Washington Carver Museum, Austin, Texas (September 2019).

“Public Ritual and Civic Life: Reflections on Race, Religion, and Secularism in the American South,” Mercer University, Macon, Georgia (September 2016).

“Religion in the South: The State of the Field,” Porter Fortune, Jr. History Symposium, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi (February 2015).

“To Know Good Blood: The Material Morality of Southern Religion,” The Southern Intellectual History Circle, Edgefield, South Carolina (February 2015).

“The Land of Misfit Relics: American Protestants and the Sacred Play of Cultural Objects,” Matter of Contention: Relics and Other Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions, a colloquium sponsored by the Harrington Fellowship Program of the UT Austin Office of the President, University of Texas, Austin, Texas (April 2012).

“Miracles of Industry: Industrial Religion in Evangelical America,” Religion Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida (November 14, 2008).

“Protestant and Catholic Ritual Histories in Siler City, North Carolina,” Poverty and Pluralism Course, Professor Peter Kaufman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (February 2006).

## RESEARCH FUNDING

*Completed:*

**Henry Luce Foundation**

PI: Seales, Chad E., Religious Studies Department, UT Austin. "Religions Texas." (Fall 2019-Spring 2022)

Total Funding: \$350,000

**Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, UT Austin, Super Seed Grant for Action that Promote Community Transformation**

PI: Karla Peña, American Studies Department, UT-Austin "Assessing and Designing a Community-Centered Food Studies Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts at UT-Austin" (Fall 2022-Spring 2023).

Co-PI: Seales, Chad E., Religious Studies Department, UT Austin

Total Funding: \$3,000

Relative contributions to project: PI (60%); Co-PI (40%)

**Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, UT Austin, Super Seed Grant for Action that Promote Community Transformation**

PI: Seales, Chad E. Religious Studies Department, UT Austin. "Assessing and Improving Departmental Climate" (Fall 2020-Spring 2021).

Total Funding: \$3,000

**College of Liberal Arts, College Research Fellowship**

Seales, Chad E. "Religion Around Bono" (Fall 2017).

Total Funding: 1 semester of salary

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Visiting Fellow, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany (Summer 2023).

American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Development Grant (2016).

Rapoport Fellow Faculty Mentor, UT Austin (Fall 2015-Spring 2016).

College Research Fellowship, UT Austin (Fall 2012).

Summer Research Assignment, UT Austin (Summer 2012).

Future Faculty Fellowship, Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC (August 2006).

Graduate Summer Research Grant, Center for the Study of the American South, UNC (Summer 2006).

Graduate Education Advancement Board Recognition Award, UNC (Spring 2006).

Research Travel Award, Perry Fellowship in Religious Studies, UNC (Summer 2004).

Weiss Urban Livability Fellow, UNC (2001-2002).

Theta Phi Honor Society, Candler School of Theology, Emory University (Spring 2000).

Jonathan M. Daniels Fellow, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA (Summer 1999).

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Florida (Spring 1998).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Texas at Austin**

*Graduate Courses Taught as Associate Professor of Religious Studies, 2016-2025*

Supervised Teaching	Approaches to the Study of Religion in North America
Method and Theory	Capitalism and Religion
Religion and Secularism	

*Undergraduate Courses Taught as Associate Professor of Religious Studies, 2016-2025*

Religion and Social Justice	Religion and Film
Introduction to the Study of Religion	African American Religions
Religion in the Workplace	Social Inequality and Religion
Ethical Food Systems	Research Methods in the Study of Religion

*Graduate Courses Taught as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2011-2016*

Capitalism and Religion	Method and Theory in the Study of Religion
Approaches to the Study of Religion	Ethnographies of Religion

*Undergraduate Courses Taught as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2011-2016*

Evangelical Christianity	What is Religion?
Religion and Film	Religion in the U.S. South
Introduction to the Study of Religion	

### **George Mason University**

*Courses Taught as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2009-2011*

Religion and Film	Religion in America
Evangelical Christianity	Human Religious Experience

### **New College of Florida**

*Courses Taught as Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, 2007-2009*

Religion in America	Introduction to the Study of Religion
Evangelical America	Religion in the American South
Islam in America	Introduction to Islamic Civilization
Religion and Economy	

*Tutorials Taught as Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, 2007-2009*

Religion and Social Theory	Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in the U.S.
Santeria in the United States	Race and Gender in American Religious History
Atheist Traditions in America	Sociology of Religion

## **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

*Courses Taught as Teaching Fellow, Spring 2006-Spring 2007*

Evangelical Traditions in America

Social Theory and Cultural Diversity

Religion in America

Sociology of Religion (Independent Study)

## **ADVISING AND STUDENT RELATED SERVICE**

### **University of Texas at Austin**

*Graduate Student Advising*

Chloe Landen, Ph.D. Student, Religious Studies Department (Fall 2024-)

Gabrielle Heenan, Ph.D. Student, Religious Studies Department (Fall 2023-)

Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson, Ph.D. Student, Religious Studies Department (Fall 2022-)

Jade Evans, Ph.D. Student (ABD), Religious Studies Department (Fall 2021-).

*Dissertation Committee Work*

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Sergio Glajar, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2027).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Aneeq Ejaz, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2027).

Advisor, Ph.D Thesis, Jade Evans, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2027).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Sarah Schuster, English Department (Spring 2026).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Aixin Aydin, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2025).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Michel Lee, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2019).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Josh Urich, Religious Studies Department (Fall 2018).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Elena Kravchenko, Religious Studies Department (Spring 2017).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Thesis, Brooke Schepp, Psychology Department (Spring 2016).

*Ph.D. Exams*

Advisor, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson (Spring 2025).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Aneeq Ejaz (Spring 2025).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Rikki Liu (Spring 2025).

Advisor, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Jade Evans, (Spring 2024).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Aixin Aydin, Religious Studies (Spring 2022).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, David St. John, Asian Studies (Spring 2020).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Alex Kreger, Religious Studies (Spring 2019).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Bruce Boville, Middle Eastern Studies (Spring 2018).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Michel Lee, Religious Studies (Spring 2017).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Ryan Fitzgerald, Religious Studies (Spring 2017).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Andrea Gutierrez, Asian Studies (Fall 2016).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Josh Urich, Religious Studies (Spring 2016).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Elena Kravchenko, Religious Studies (Spring 2015).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Katharine Batlan, Religious Studies (Spring 2015).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Michael Flexsenhar, Religious Studies (Spring 2014).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Tony Keddie, Religious Studies (Spring 2014).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Benjamin Cox, Religious Studies (Spring 2014).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Justin Doran, Religious Studies (Spring 2014).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Michael Amoruso, Religious Studies (Fall 2013).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Michael Jones, Asian Studies (Fall 2012).

Committee Member, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams, Christian Current, Asian Studies (Fall 2012).

#### *Graduate Theses*

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Chloe Landen, “Narratives of Sacred Womanhood and Anti-Lynching Activism: The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching (ASWPL),” (Fall 2025-Spring 2026).

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Gabrielle Heenan, “Guiding Secularism: Exploring the Management of Religion in the Louisiana Writers Project,” (Fall 2024-Spring 2025).

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Jade Evans, “Black Women’s Leadership in Political Occupation and Sacred Memorial Practices at George Floyd Square,” (Spring 2023).



M.A. Thesis Advisor, Donatus Nnani, "The Religious Psychology of a Muslim Soldier," (Spring 2023).

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Drake Konow, "Imunização Racional: Tim Maia and the Limits of Religious Music in Brazil" (Spring 2022)

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Lucianne Nelson, "Here and In-Between: Race, Religion, and Adoption" (Spring 2021).

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Megan Selander, "Santeria Subreddit and Communal Formation" (Spring 2021).

M.A. Thesis Advisor, Katherine Sanchez, "Heroes Wear Dupptas: Muslim Representation in American Comic Books" (Spring 2016).

M.A. Thesis Committee Member, Brice Bongiovanni, "The Hispanic Institute: Integrating and Interpreting Racial Politics to Mainline Protestantism, 1966-1975" (Spring 2018).

M.A. Thesis Committee Member, Josh Urich, "Where's Barnum?: Skepticism in Antebellum America" (Spring 2015).

#### *Graduate Research*

Faculty Sponsor, Health Communication Scholars Program, Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson, "Religion as Intervention in the Health Stigma and Discrimination Framework" (Fall 2023-Spring 2024).

#### *Graduate Conference Courses*

Religion and Social Movements, Chloe Landen (Spring 2025).

Religion in the American South, Peyton White (Fall 2024).

Race and Secularism, Gabrielle Heenan (Spring 2024).

Religion, Gender, and Health, Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson (Fall 2023).

Ritual and Sacrifice in the American South, Jade Evans (Summer 2022).

Islam in America, Donatus Nnani (Summer 2022).

Research Methods in Religious Studies, Lucianne Nelson (Fall 2021).

Religion, Music, and Capitalism, Drake Konow (Summer 2021).

Religions in North America, Megan Selander (Fall 2019).

Secularism and Ritual Studies, Bruce Boville, Middle Eastern Studies (Spring 2018)

Secularism, Alex Kreger, Religious Studies (Spring 2018).

American Religious History, Michel Lee, Religious Studies (Spring 2017).

North American Religions, Katharine Batlan, Religious Studies (Spring 2015).

Religion and Class, Tony Keddie, Religious Studies (Fall 2013).

Material Religion, Elena Kravchenko, Religious Studies (Fall 2013).

Religion in the American South, Justin Doran, Katharine Batlan, Religious Studies (Fall 2013).

Diasporic Religion, Michael Flexsenhar, Religious Studies (Fall 2013).

*Undergraduate Sponsored Courses*

Zubia Akhtar, Kylie Heitzenrater, Mary Papadopoulos, Zoya Zia Independent Research in Religious Studies (Muslim Voices Project) (Fall 2019).

Zubia Akhtar, Joseph Leggett, Nishita Pondugla, Independent Research in Religious Studies (Topics in Social Justice) (Fall 2019).

Katherine Sanchez, UGS 122, Religion and Sci-fi Television (Spring 2014).

*Undergraduate Theses*

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Will Erard, "Belief and Uncertainty Among Religious Nones," (Spring 2025).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Plan II, Rosemary Sands, "A Study of Religious Movements and Leadership in the United States," (Fall 2024-Spring 2025).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Plan II, Daniel Li, "Consumer Religion: The Cultural Impact of Amazon Prime," (Fall 2022-Spring 2023).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Megan Fletcher, "Religion and Capital Punishment in Texas," (Fall 2022-Spring 2023).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Savannah Ward, "Piety, Politics, and Racial Justice in America," (Fall 2021-Spring 2022).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Plan II, Ava Moran, "Conservative Religion and Conspiracy Theories in American Politics," (Fall 2021-Spring 2022).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Emma Dalley Bartram, "The Evolution of Gender Roles in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and its Mental Health Implications," (Fall 2021-Spring 2022).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Avery Conyngham, "American Evangelical Responses to Covid-19," (Fall 2020-Spring 2021).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Gerard Apruzzese, "Religion, Race, and Zoning in Austin and New York City," (Fall 2020-Spring 2021).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Donatus Nnani, "Religion and Access to Public Services in Gatesville and Bernie, Texas," (Fall 2020-Spring 2021). *Recognized as Dean's Distinguished Graduate.*

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Nishita Pondugula (COLA Dean's Distinguished Graduate 2020), "Religion and Access to Women's Healthcare," (Spring 2019-Spring 2020). *Recognized as Dean's Distinguished Graduate.*

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, Rachel Evans, "Religion and Policing," (Fall 2018-Spring 2019).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, "Political Prophets: The Use, Impact, and Limits of Religious Rhetoric in the Modern United States," Miles Wilson (Spring 2018).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Humanities Honors Thesis, "Documentary Film on Faith and Spirituality among College Students," John Grewell (Fall 2017).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Department of History, "Among Friends: Philadelphian Quaker Women's Discourse in the Revolutionary Era," Kathleen Telling (Spring 2017).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Department of Rhetoric and Writing, Timothy Harakal, "A Reverend's Rhetoric: Recruiting for Missions to the Muslim World (Spring 2016).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Religious Studies, "Hierarchies of Power: Negotiating Public Space in the City of Austin," Raymond Huerta (Fall 2015-Spring 2016).

Supervisor, Plan II Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Mac McCann, "MCs and Marx: Examining Rap from a Historical Materialist Approach" (Fall 2015-Spring 2016).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Tori Pell, "Medieval Spain and the Antebellum South" (Summer 2015-Fall 2015).

Second Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Callie Crispin, "A Case Study in Unitarian Universalism," (Fall 2014-Spring 2015).

Supervisor, Plan II Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Brooke Willard, "The Ever-Expanding Bible Belt: The American Protestant Church and the Rising Obesity Epidemic" (Fall 2013-Spring 2014).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Erica Dietzel, "We Shall Overcome: Freedom Songs and the Civil Rights Movement." Religious Studies (Fall 2013-Spring 2014).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Kate Sanchez, "Popular Religion and Nerd Culture," Religious Studies (Fall 2013-Spring 2014).

Second Reader, Plan II Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Tiffany Pon, "Halal Fast Food," (Fall 2013-Spring 2014).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Jessica Bethel, “A Biblical Worldview and the Southern Baptist Convention.” Religious Studies (Fall 2011-Spring 2012).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Aaron Watkins, “On the Use and Abuse of Religious Studies for the Purpose of Life.” Religious Studies (Fall 2011-Spring 2012).

#### *Undergraduate Research*

Supervisor, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, Will Erard, “Linguistic Analysis of God Concepts,” (Spring 2023).

Supervisor, Religion and Housing Inequality Research Assistant, Gerard Apruzzese (Fall 2021-Spring 2022).

Supervisor, Independent Research (RS 362), Shane Wagoner, “Religion and Society,” (Spring 2017).

Supervisor, Independent Research (RS 362), Patrick Golden, “Religion and Politics,” (Spring 2016).

Supervisor, Independent Research (RS 362), Raymond Huerta, “Religion and Homelessness,” (Fall 2015).

Supervisor, Independent Research, Mark Hicks, “Religion and Business: Theoretical Models,” (Spring 2014).

Supervisor, Undergraduate Research Experience (UGS 310), Nicholas Reel, “Qualitative Research Methods, Economic Theory, and the Study of Religion,” (Spring 2012).

Supervisor, Connecting Experience Internship (BDP 321), Erica Dietzel, “Religion and Volunteerism at Pine Ridge Reservation in Wanblee, South Dakota.” Religious Studies (Summer 2012).

#### *Undergraduate Advising*

Supervisor, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement Intellectual Entrepreneurship PreGrad Internship, Rachel Evans (2018).

Advisor, Plan II Honors, Sophomore, Timothy Harakal (2015).

Advisor, Plan II Honors, Sophomore, Mac McCann (2014).

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### **Religious Studies Department, University of Texas**

Graduate Studies Committee Chair (2023-present)

Graduate Advisor (2022-present)

Associate Chair, Religious Studies, University of Texas (2019-2022)

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Assistant Professor, Ancient Mediterranean Religions, Religious Studies (Fall 2024-Spring 2025).

Member, Religious Studies Undergraduate Program Committee (Fall 2023-present).

Member, Institute for the Study of Ancient Christianity Steering Committee (Fall 2021-Spring 2022; Fall 2023-Spring 2024).

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Associate or Full Professor, Ancient Mediterranean Religions, Religious Studies (Fall 2021-Spring 2022).

Faculty Mentor, Khytie Brown, tenure-track Assistant Professor (Fall 2021-present).

Faculty Sponsor, *Religiology*, the Research Blog of the Religious Studies Department (Fall 2019-Spring 2022; Spring 2024).

Chair, Religious Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Fall 2019-Spring 2022)

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee for Brent Crosson (Summer 2020-Fall 2020).

Member, Faculty Merit Review Committee, Religious Studies (Spring 2020).

Chair, Faculty Search Committee, tenure-track Assistant Professor, Gender and Sexuality or Race and Ethnicity, Religious Studies (Fall 2019-Spring 2020).

Member, Faculty Search Committee, tenure-track Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies (Spring 2019).

Member, Religious Studies Minor Faculty Committee (Fall 2018-Spring 2019).

Coordinator, Religious Studies Departmental Undergraduate 2017-2018 Assessment (Fall 2018).

Member, Promotion Committee to Full Professor for Jennifer Graber, Religious Studies (Fall 2018).

Member, Executive Assistant Hiring Committee, Religious Studies (May 2018).

Area Chair, Religion in the Americas, Religious Studies ((Fall 2014- Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Spring 2018).

Chair, Third Year Review Committee for Assistant Professor Brent Crosson (Spring 2018).

### **Provost's and President's Office, University of Texas**

Participant, Mid-Year Academic Leadership Symposium, sponsored by Faculty Affairs with the Provost's Office and President's Office (January 2022).

Member, Provost's Task Force on the Future of UT Libraries (Fall 2018-Spring 2019).

### **College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas**

Curriculum Design and Assessment Committee, College of Liberal Arts (2022-2024).  
Reviewer, VPR Research & Creative Grants (Fall 2021).

Member, FRA and SRA Review Committee (Fall 2019-Spring 2021).

Member, Undergraduate Research Scholarship Committee (Fall 2019-Spring 2022).

### **Academic Conferences and Events**

Organizer, *The Mormon Giant*, documentary film screening at the Harry Ransom Center featuring David Walker, University of California, Santa Barbara (Spring 2025).

Co-organizer, *Spiritual Powers: A Conference on Cultural Icons*, Arizona State University (April 2024).

Organizer, Ethical Food Studies Initiative, University of Texas (Fall 2023-ongoing).

Organizer, "The Social Order of Things: Material Religion in the Americas," Academic Conference, UT-Austin (October 2022).

Organizer, Religious Studies Departmental Colloquium (Fall 2018-Spring 2020).

Organizer, "New Religions and Those Who Study Them," a Public Lecture by Prof. William Ashcraft, Truman State University (October 2018).

Organizer, "Exploring the Desegregation of the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C.: Catholics, Race, and Social Justice," a Public Lecture by Prof. Sue Ridgley, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Co-Sponsored by the Religious Studies Departments, American Studies Department, and the Department of History (March 2, 2018).

Organizer, "No Sympathy for the Devil: God, Pop, and the Movement That (May Have) Changed America," a Public Lecture by Prof. David Stowe, Michigan State University, sponsored by the Religious Studies Department (February 23, 2018).

Co-organizer, "Religions Texas: Mapping Diversity" Conference, UT Austin (January 26-27, 2017).

Co-organizer, Religions Texas Community Event: Religion Around Billie Holiday – Music Performance and Academic Discussion Featuring Jazz Artists Pamela Hart and Prof. Tracy Fessenden (Arizona State University), Victory Grill, Austin (January 25, 2017).

Organizer, Religions Texas Community Event: Jazz as American Religious Experience – Music Performance and Academic Discussion featuring Prof. John Traphagan's Jazz Trio and Prof. Jason Bivins (North Carolina State University), Mozart's Café, Austin (October 6, 2016).

Moderator, “Religious Studies Honors Thesis Symposium,” Religious Studies, UT (April 2016).

Respondent, “Enchanting Media,” a panel session of Magic, Miracles, and the Paranormal in Religious Imaginaries, Religious Studies Graduate Conference, Austin (April 2016).

Organizer, Religions Texas Community Event: Coen Bros’ *Hail Caesar!* – Screening and Discussion Featuring Prof. Elijah Siegler (College of Charleston), Alamo Draft House on Lamar (March 7, 2016).

Panelist, Faculty Interfaith Panel, Hindu Students Association, University of Texas, Austin (February 2015).

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Latin American Religions, Religious Studies, (Fall 2014).

Member, Ad hoc Committee to Re-examine “Transregional/Comparative” Area, Religious Studies (Fall 2014).

Respondent, “Agents of Remixing,” a panel session of the Remixing Religion: New Models for the Study of Religious Synthesis, Religious Studies Graduate Student Conference, Austin (April 2014).

Organizer, Religion in the Americas Colloquium, Religious Studies (Spring 2013).

Invited Speaker, “Religion and Politics,” Religious Studies Student Committee (April 8, 2013).

Graduate Admissions Committee, Religion in the Americas Representative (Spring 2013).  
Invited Speaker, Graduate Student Discussion on Pedagogy, Religious Studies (April 16, 2012).

Respondent, Workshop on Religion and Fundamentalism featuring Professor Torkel Brekke from the University of Oslo, co-sponsored by Religious Studies and Asian Studies (April 12, 2012).

Invited Speaker, “Advice from New Teachers,” American Studies Graduate Seminar, AMS 398t (March 8, 2012)

Presenter, “That’s a Lady’s Plate: Performing Gendered Order at a Southern Protestant Barbecue,” Religious Studies Student Committee Meeting (February 29, 2012).

Chair, “Religion in Life,” a session of the Central Texas Colloquium on Religion Research Conference, Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas (February 18, 2012).

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Religion in the Americas (Fall 2011 – Spring 2013).

Organizer, Religion in the Americas Colloquium, Religious Studies (Spring 2012).

Presenter, “You Can’t Crucify Jesus on the Protestant Lawn: Displaying Religious Narratives of Bodily Resurrection in Material Cultures of Secular Life,” Religious Studies Departmental Colloquium (November 14, 2011).

Departmental Faculty Representative, Liberal Arts Family Weekend Reception (October 21, 2011).

### **Professional Trainings**

Participant, TracDat User Training for Curriculum Assessment (September 2018).

Participant, *Faculty Search Committee Workshop* (August 2018).

Participant, *Increasing Competitiveness in Foundation Grant Support*, UT Austin (February 21, 2018).

Participant, *Faculty Excellence and Diversity: Recruitment Strategies for Search Committees Workshop*, Dr. Bettie Jeanne Taylor (January 19, 2018).

### **University Press Book Series**

*Iconologies* Series Editor, University of Chicago Press (2023-present).

*Religion Around* Series Editor, Penn State University Press (2020-2023).

### **American Academy of Religion**

Presider, "Author Meets Critics: J. Brent Crosson's *Experiments with Power: Obeah and the Remaking of Religion* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020)," Critical Theory and Discourses of the Religion Group *and* Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, virtual (November 2020).

Steering Committee Member, Religion and Economy Group, American Academy of Religion (2016-2018).

Co-chair, Religion and Popular Culture Group, American Academy of Religion (2013-2017).

Presider, “Beyond Pop Culture as Text: Rethinking Religion and Popular Culture,” Religion and Popular Culture Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio (November 2016).

Chair, History of Christianity Section, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (2013-2014).

Presider, “Religious Economies Reconsidered: Critical Reflections on the Work of R. Andrew Chesnut and the Study of Religion in the Americas,” History of Christianity Section, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (March 2014).



Presider, “Ecumenism, Social Reform, and Politics within the History of Christianity,” a session of the History of Christianity Section at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, a regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas (March 2013).

Steering Committee, Religion and Popular Culture Group, American Academy of Religion (2010-2012).

Presider, “Religious Travel and Tourism: Imagined and Practiced,” a session of the Religion and Popular Culture Group at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta (October 2010).

### **External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion Cases (ad hoc since 2018)**

Tenure promotion review to Associate Professor for Dr. Kati Curts, Religious Studies Department, Sewanee—The University of the South (Spring 2024).

Promotion review to Professor for Dr. Isaac Weiner, Department of Comparative Studies and the Center for the Study of Religion, The Ohio State University (Fall 2023).

Tenure promotion review to Associate Professor for Dr. Gale Kenny, Department of Religion at Barnard College, Columbia University (Fall 2023).

Tenure promotion review to Associate Professor for Dr. Daniel Vaca, Brown University (Fall 2022).

Tenure promotion review to Associate Professor for Dr. Brett Grainger, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Villanova University (Fall 2019).

Tenure promotion review to Associate Professor for Dr. Cara Burnidge, Department of Philosophy and World Religions, University of Northern Iowa (Fall 2018).

### **George Mason University**

Presenter, Faculty Research Lecture Series, Department of Religious Studies (March 2010).

Faculty Fellow, Student Life (2010-2011).

Religious Studies Major Enrollment Committee (Spring 2010).

### **New College of Florida**

Humanities Division Representative to the IRB (2007-2009).

Organizer, Guest Speakers on Islam, Anna Bigelow and Latif Bolat (May 2008)

Chair, “Reformation England,” a session of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, Sarasota, Florida (March 2008).

## **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

“Religious Studies at UNC from Arnold Nash to the Founding of the Ph.D. Program,”  
Panelist for Roundtable Discussion, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (October 2010).

Graduate Student Council Representative, Department of Religious Studies (2005-2007).

Co-organizer and Moderator, Teaching Religion in the South Conference (May 2006).

Invited Panel on Religion and Spirituality in Counseling, School of Education, North  
Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina (April 2006).

## **Manuscript Reviewer (ad hoc since 2016)**

*American Religion*, University of North Carolina Press, Routledge Press, *Journal for the Study of Religion*,  
*Nature and Culture*, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, *Journal of the American Academy of*  
*Religion*, *Journal of Southern Religion*, New York University Press, *Religion*, *American Journal of*  
*Sociology*, *Culture and Religion*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Material Religion*, *Southeastern Geographer*,  
*Nova Religio*, University Press of Kansas, Penn State University Press, *Journal of Religion and Business*  
*Ethics*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Healthcare*, University of Michigan Press,  
*Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*

## **LOCAL SERVICE**

Invited Speaker, “Religion and Social Inequality,” SWIFT Class, Tarrytown United Methodist Church,  
Austin (June 22, 2025).

Invited Speaker, “Secular Studies in Higher Education,” Austin Area Freedom From Religion  
Foundation Chapter, Ruiz Public Library, Austin (May 18, 2025).

Invited Speaker, “American Religion and Racial History,” and “Food Justice and American Spirituality,”  
Tarrytown United Methodist Church, Austin (January 24 and 31, 2021).

Invited Speaker, “Religion, Race, and Mass Incarceration in the United States,” University United  
Methodist Church, Austin (July 18, 2018).

Invited Speaker, “Race, Justice, and Mass Incarceration in the United States,” St. David’s Episcopal  
Church, Austin (June 13, 2018).

Invited Speaker, “Divinely Sanctioned: Race and Gender in American Evangelicalism,” St. David’s  
Episcopal Church, Austin (April 22, 2018).

Invited Speaker, “Religion and Food,” University United Methodist Church, Austin (February 2015).

Invited Speaker, “Religion and Immigration,” University United Methodist Church, Austin (February  
2014).

Invited Speaker, “The Religion and Culture of John Wesley,” Wilson Wade Lecture, University United Methodist (November 2013).

Invited Speaker, “Southern Evangelicalism and Fast Food,” University United Methodist Church, Austin, (October 2013).

Invited Speaker, “Religious Studies at UT,” University United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas (July 2013).

Invited Speaker, “Religion in the South,” Tarrytown Methodist Church, Austin (July 2013).

Invited Speaker, “Corporate Philanthropy,” University United Methodist Church, Austin (November 2011).

Consultant, Congregational Study, St. Mark Methodist Church, Pensacola, Florida (March 2008).

Linking into North Carolina Program (LINC): Connecting Students and the State (Fall 2005).

Americorps VISTA, Hands on Atlanta (2000-2001).

Ethics and Servant Leadership Program, Center for Ethics at Emory University (1999).

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion  
American Sociological Association  
American Society of Church History  
American Studies Association  
Latin American Studies Association