**James S. Bielo, Ph.D.**

Curriculum Vitae – July 2023

Department of Religious Studies E-mail: bielojames@gmail.com

Northwestern UniversityWeb: [www.jamesbielo.com](http://www.jamesbielo.com)

Evanston, IL 60208

**Areas of Specialization**

# Anthropology of religion, U.S. and global Christianity, ethnographic methods and writing, material religion, anthropology of North America, linguistic anthropology, digital scholarship

**Education**

Ph.D., Anthropology, Michigan State University, 2007

*Dissertation*: Textual Ideology, Textual Practice: A Discourse-Centered Approach to

Protestant Bible Study. *Committee*: Dr. Fredric M. Roberts (Chair, Anthropology); Dr.

Mindy Morgan (Anthropology); Dr. David Dwyer (Anthropology, Linguistics); Dr. Amy

DeRogatis (Religious Studies)

M.A., Anthropology, Michigan State University, 2004

B.A., Anthropology, Radford University, 2001

**Academic Positions**

Miami University

2020-present Associate Professor, Anthropology

2015-2020 Assistant Professor, Anthropology

2012-2015 Lecturer, Anthropology

2008-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Michigan State University

2005-2008 Instructor, Anthropology

Grand Valley State University

2007-2008 Instructor, Anthropology

**Publications**

### **Books (N=5):**

2021 *Materializing the Bible: Scripture, Sensation, Place.* London: Bloomsbury.

2018 *Ark Encounter: The Making of a Creationist Theme Park*. New York: New York University Press.

* Published reviews (N=16): *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Jugaad: Material Religion in Context*; *Reading Religion*; *Review of Religious Research*; *Sociology of Religion*; *American Ethnologist*; *American Studies*; *Choice*; *Visual Anthropology Review*; *Material Religion*; *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*; *Anthropological Quarterly*; *Journal of Southern Religion*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *Social Anthropology*; *American Religion*

2015 *Anthropology of Religion: The Basics*. New York: Routledge.

* Published reviews (N=3): *Religion*; *Choice*; *Reading Religion*
* Translations: Portuguese (2022)

2011 *Emerging Evangelicals: Faith, Modernity, and the Desire for Authenticity*. New

York: New York University Press.

* Published reviews (N=9): *Choice*; *Anthropology Review Database*; *Religion in American History Blog*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Religious Studies Review*; *Social Anthropology*; *Nova Religio*; *American Anthropologist*; *Review of Religious Research*
1. *Words Upon the Word: An Ethnography of Evangelical Group Bible Study*. New

York: New York University Press.

* Published reviews (N=11): *Anthropological Quarterly*; *American Anthropologist*; *Books & Culture*; *Choice*; *American Ethnologist*; *Studies in Religion*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Sociology of Religion*; *Review of Religious Research*; *Advances in Research: Religion and Society*; *Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception*; *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*

***Edited Collections (N=7):***

Contracted *Museums as Ritual Sites:* Civilizing Rituals *Reconsidered*. London: Routledge (co-editor: Lieke Wijnia)

2022 *Landscapes of Christianity: Destination, Temporality, Transformation.* London: Bloomsbury (co-editor: Amos Ron)

* Published reviews: Bulletin for the British Association for the Study of Religions.

2021 *The Bible and Global Tourism*. London: Bloomsbury. (co-editor: Lieke Wijnia)

2018 Digital Scholarship and the Critical Study of Religion. Guest Editor for Thematic Forum, *Religion* 48(2): 252-301

2014 Religions and Their Publics. Guest Editor for essay series, *The Immanent Frame*, August-September (co-editor: Eric Hoenes del Pinal).

2013 Urban Christianities. Guest Editor for Special Issue, *Religion* 43(3): 301-420.

2009 *The Social Life of Scriptures: cross-cultural perspectives on Biblicism*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

* Published reviews (N=4): *Books & Culture*; *Ethos*; *Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception*; *Religion Bulletin*

***Digital Scholarship (N=2):***

2015-present Founder and Co-Curator: [*Materializing the Bible*](https://www.materializingthebible.com/)

* Published reviews (3): *Journal of Heritage Tourism*; *American*

*Anthropologist*; *Religion and Society: Advances in Research*

2011-present Co-Founder and Co-Curator: *[New Directions in the Anthropology of](https://www.new-directions.sps.ed.ac.uk/)*

*[Christianity](https://www.new-directions.sps.ed.ac.uk/)*

### **Journal Articles (N=30):**

2022 The Magic of Science and the Science of Magic in Evangelical Publicity. *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*. 17(2): 173-82.

2021 Re-assembling Fairs: eBay, circulation, and value. *Material Religion* 17(5): 654-55.

2021 eBay Method and the Study of Religion. *Material Religion* 17(5): 652-53. (co-authored with Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, Monica Mercado, and Katherine Dugan)

2020 Experiential Design and Religious Publicity at D.C.’s Museum of the Bible. *The*

*Senses and Society* 15(1): 98-113.

2020 Incorporating Space: Protestant Fundamentalism and Astronomical Authorization.

*Religions* 11, 594: 1-11.

2019 “Particles-to-People…Molecules-to-Man”: Creationist Poetics in Public Debates.

*Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 29(1): 4-26.

2019 “Where Prayers Where May be Whispered”: Promises of Presence in Protestant

Place-Making. *Ethnos* 85(4): 730-48.

2019 Imagining Catholicism and Catholics. *Exchange: Journal of Contemporary Christianities in Context* 48(3): 195-203 (co-authored with Kristy Nabhan-Warren).

2018 Anthropology, Theology, Critique. *Critical Research on Religion* 6(1): 28-34.

2018 Flower, Soil, Water, Stone: Biblical Landscapes Items and Protestant Materiality.

*Journal of Material Culture* 23(2): 368-387.

2018 Immersion as Shared Imperative: entertainment of/in digital scholarship. *Religion*

48(2): 291-301.

2018 Biblical Gardens and the Sensuality of Religious Pedagogy. *Material Religion* 14(1): 30-54.

2017 The Question of Cultural Change in the Social Scientific Study of Religion: Notes

from the Emerging Church. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(1): 19-

25.

2017 Replication as Religious Practice, Temporality as Religious Problem. *History &*

*Anthropology* 28(2): 131-148.

2016 Materializing the Bible: Ethnographic Methods for the Consumption Process.

*Practical Matters* 9: 1-17.

2015 Secular Studies Come of Age. *Thesis 11* 129(1): 119-130.

2014 “Act Like Men”: social engagement and evangelical masculinity. *Journal of Contemporary Religion.* 29(2): 233-248.

2013 Urban Christianities: place-making in late modernity. *Religion* 43(3): 301-311.

2013 Promises of Place: a future of comparative U.S. ethnography. *North American*

*Dialogue*. 16(1): 1-11.

2013 Doing Religious Studies Dialogically. *Practical Matters* 6: 1-6.

2012 Belief, Deconversion, and Authenticity among U.S. Emerging Evangelicals. *Ethos* 40(3): 258-276.

2011 City of Man, City of God: the re-urbanization of American Evangelicals. *City &*

*Society* 23(s1): 1-22.

2011 “How much of this is promise?” God as Sincere Speaker in Evangelical Bible

reading. *Anthropological Quarterly* 84(3): 611-634.

2011 Purity, Danger, and Redemption: notes on urban “missional” Evangelicals. *American Ethnologist* 38(2): 267-280.

2009 The “Emerging Church” in America: notes on the interaction of Christianities.

*Religion* 39: 219-232.

2008 Cultivating Intimacy: interactive frames for Evangelical Bible study. *Fieldwork in*

*Religion* 3(1): 52-70.

2008 On the Failure of “Meaning”: Bible reading in the anthropology of Christianity.

*Culture and Religion* 9(1): 1-21.

2007 “The Mind of Christ”: financial success, born-again personhood, and the anthropology of Christianity. *Ethnos* 72(3): 315-338.

2007 Recontextualizing the Bible in Small Group Discourse. *SALSA XIV: Texas*

*Linguistic Forum* Vol. 50. Austin: Texas Linguistics Forum.

2004 “Walking in the Spirit of Blood”: moral identity among born-again Christians.

*Ethnology* 43(3): 271-289.

### **Book Chapters (N=21):**

In Press Religion and Science. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Anthropology of Religion*, edited by Joel Robbins and Simon Coleman. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

In Press Materiality and Attachment: Universality and Locality at Roman Catholic Pilgrimage Sites. In *American Patroness: Marian Shrines and the Making of U.S. Catholicism*, edited by Karen Park and Kate Dugan. New York: Fordham University Press (co-authored with Claire Vaughn)

2023 Materializing Jesus’ Nazareth: Translation as Imagineering. In *Routledge Handbook on Translation and Religion*, edited by Hephzibah Israel, 268-283. London: Routledge.

2020 Theme Parks. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and American Popular Culture*. Dan W. Clanton, Jr. and Terry R. Clark, eds. 453-71. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2019 Of Arks and Dragons: The Power of Entertainment in Creationist Historicity. In *The Varieties of Historical Experience.* Stephan Palmie and Charles Stewart, eds. 140-66. London and New York: Routledge.

2019 The Materiality of Myth: Authorizing Fundamentalism at Ark Encounter. In *Christian Tourist Attractions, Mythmaking, and Identity Formation*. Erin Roberts and Jennifer Eyl, eds. 43-57. London: Bloomsbury.

2018 An Anthropologist is Listening: A Reply to Ethnographic Theology. In *Theologically-Engaged Anthropology*. J. Derrick Lemons, ed. 140-55. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2018 Fun-damentalism: “As-If” Experiences at a Creationist Theme Park. In *Enjoying Religion: Pleasure and Fun in Established and New Religious Movements*. Frans Jespers, Karin van Nieuwkerk, and Paul van der Velde, eds. 39-62. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

2018 Providence and Publicity in Waiting for a Creationist Theme Park. In *Ethnographies of Waiting: Doubt, Hope, and Uncertainty*. Manpreet K. Janeja and Andreas Bandak, eds. 139-62. London: Bloomsbury.

2018 Sacred Scriptures. In *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Hilary Callan, ed. London: Wiley-Blackwell (Online first, September).

2017 Performing the Bible. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America*. Paul Gutjahr, ed. 484-503. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2017 The Plausibility of Immersion: Limits and Creativity in Materializing the Bible. In *Christianity and The Limits of Materiality*. Minna Opas and Anna Haapalainen, eds. 122-40. London: Bloomsbury.

2017 Literalism as Creativity: Making a Creationist Theme Park, Reassessing a Scriptural Ideology. In *The Bible in American Life*. Philip Goff, Arthur E. Farnsley II, and Peter J. Theusen, eds. 292-304. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

2016 The Ancient-Future Time-Crystal: On the Temporality of Emerging Christianity. In *Crossing Boundaries, Redefining Faith: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Emerging Church Movement*. Michael Clawson and April Stace, eds. 71-91. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers (co-author: Jon Bialecki)

2016 Creationist History-Making: Producing a Heterodox Past. In *Lost City, Found Pyramid: Understanding Alternative Archaeologies and Pseudoscientific Practices*. Jeb J. Card and David S. Anderson, eds. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press.

2015 Literally Creative: Intertextual Gaps and Artistic Agency. In *Scripturalizing the Human: The Written as the Political*. Vincent L. Wimbush, ed. 20-34. New York: Routledge.

2014 “FORMED”: Emerging evangelicals navigate two transformations. In *The New Evangelical Social Engagement*. Brian Steensland and Philip Goff, eds. 31-49. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2013 Writing Religion. In *Missionary Impositions: conversion, resistance, and other challenges to objectivity in religious ethnography*. Hillary K. Crane and Deana Weibel, eds. 1-10. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

2009 Encountering Biblicism. In *The Social Life of Scriptures: cross-cultural perspectives on Biblicism*. James S. Bielo, ed., 1-9. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

2009 Textual Ideology, Textual Practice: Evangelical Bible Reading in Group Study. In *The Social Life of Scriptures: cross-cultural perspectives on Biblicism*. James S. Bielo, ed., 157-75. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

2003 Social Solidarity: how the Arsenal changed the social world of the surrounding

region. In *The Radford Arsenal: Impacts and Cultural Change in an Appalachian Region*. Mary B. LaLone, et al., eds., 95-108. Radford, VA: Brightside Press.

***Invited Essays (N=19):***

2023 “Noah’s Ark.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Vol. 21: 568-69. Berlin: DeGruyter.

2022 Invited comment on “Belief-Inclusive Research: Does strategically ‘bracketing out’ a researcher’s (religious) beliefs and doubts limit access to ethnographic data? *Current Anthropology* (Online first, October)

2022 Orlando’s Holy Land Experience Closed in 2021 After 20 Years: Does it Matter? *The Commons*, August. (co-authored with Jana Mathews)

2020 Invited comment on “Nazareth Village and the Creation of the Holy Land in Israel-Palestine: The Question of Evangelical Orthodoxy.” *Current Anthropology* (Online first, May)

2019 Like-able Me, Like-able There. *American Religion*, December.

2019 On Innovation. *The Jugaad Project: Material Religion in Context,* December.

2019 Invited comment on “The Affective Therapeutics of Migrant Faith: Evangelical Christianity among Brazilians in Greater Washington, DC.” *Current Anthropology* 60(3).

2018 Materializing the Bible in the Global South. In *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the Global South*. Mark A. Lamport, ed. 494-496. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

2019 Quality: D.C.’s Museum of the Bible and Aesthetic Evaluation. *Material Religion* 15(1): 131-32.

2016 What Difference Can It Make? *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 34(2): 145-47.

2015 Replicating the Holy Land in the U.S. (a Materializing the Bible Road Trip). *Material Religions*, December.

2014 Making a Biblical Theme Park. *The Immanent Frame* exchange on “Religions and Their Publics,” August.

2014 When Prayers Become Things. *The Materiality of Prayer*, May.

2013 Missionization. *Oxford Bibliographies.* Edited by John Jackson. New York: Oxford University Press, June.

2013 Walking Prayer. *The Materiality of Prayer*, June.

2013 Does Fragmentation = Change? *The Immanent Frame* exchange on “The new

evangelicals,” January.

2012 Religion Matters: reflections from an AAA teaching workshop. *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 3: 203-208.

2012 Invited comment on “A Hyper-Real God and Modern Belief: toward an

anthropological theory of mind.” *Current Anthropology* 53(4): 384-385.

2011 Why Some Theories Work and Others Do Not: Analyzing Discourse in the First

Bush-Kerry Debate (or, Why George Bush Is Incredibly Articulate…For Real). In *The Joy of Language: Proceedings of a symposium honoring the colleagues of David Dwyer on the occasion of his retirement*. David Dwyer, ed. Pp. 7-1—7-10.

***Review Essays & Book Reviews (N=20):***

2022 Racialization and Theology in the Anthropology of Religion. *American Anthropologist* (online first, January)

2022 The Privilege of Being Banal: Art, Secularism, and Catholicism in Paris. *Material*

*Religion* (Online first, February).

2021 Hidden Heretics: Jewish Doubt in the Digital Age. *Journal of Linguistic*

*Anthropology* (Online first, June)

2020 Saving History: How White Evangelicals Tour the Nation’s Capital and Redeem a

Christian America. *Material Religion* (online first, August).

2020 Return to the City of Joseph: Modern Mormonism’s Contest for the Soul of

Nauvoo. *Mormon Studies Review* 7: 106-09.

2016 A Companion to the Anthropology of Religion. *Social Anthropology* 24(1): 103-106.

2016 Shades of White Flight: Evangelical Congregations and Urban Departure.

*Marginalia Review of Books*, online January

2015 The Slain God: Anthropologists and the Christian Faith. *Journal of*

*Anthropological Research* 71: 597-98.

2015 Hittin’ the Prayer Bones: Materiality of Spirit in the Pentecostal South. *New*

*Directions in the Anthropology of Christianity*, online November*.*

2014 The Secular Spectacle: Performing Religion in a Southern Town. *Advances in Research: Religion and Society.* 5: 277-78.

2014 Ecologies of Faith in New York City: the Evolution of Religious Institutions.

*Critical Research on Religion.* 2: 322-323.

2014 God’s Agents: Biblical Publicity in Contemporary England. *American*

*Ethnologist*. 41(3): 602-604.

2013 Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City: Religion, Immigration, and Civic

Engagement in Miami. *The Journal of Latin American & Caribbean Anthropology*. 18(3): 531-533

2013 Sacred Subdivisions: The Postsuburban Transformation of American

Evangelicalism*. Anthropological Quarterly* 86(4): 1153-1158.

2013 The Color of Sound: Race, Religion, and Music in Brazil. *New Directions in the Anthropology of Christianity*, online May.

2012 “A Faith Between.” Moral Ambition: Mobilization and Social Outreach in

Evangelical Megachurches. *Current Anthropology* 53(3): 362-364.

2012 Religion-Secular, Tangled Divisions. *The Revealer,* online, September.

2011 “Global Christianities.” *Sociology of Religion*. 72(2): 246-249.

2010 Native Christians: Modes and Effects of Christianity among Indigenous

Peoples of the Americas. *Religion and Society: Advances in Research.* 1: 222-224.

2010 City of God: Christian Citizenship in Postwar Guatemala*. Anthropology News.*

December: 45. (co-author, Eric Hoenes del Pinal)

# **Presentations**

***Invited Lectures & Workshops (N=30):***

2022 Re-Selling Religion: ethnography and Christian material culture in circulation. Dept. of Religious Studies, Northwestern University).

2022 Choreographing Sonic Experience in Biblical Tourism. (The American Religious Sounds Project conference, Ohio State University). (Zoom)

2022 Ways of Remaining: Circulating Materializing Scripture. (Mormon Studies Conference: A Plurality of Scriptures, Claremont Graduate University).

2022 Making the Biblical Past Real. (Interdisciplinary Seminar, Reception: Practices and Strategies for Interpreting Texts, University of Oslo). (Zoom)

2021 Biblical Tourism, Sensory Choreography, and the Power of Entertainment. (Dept. of Religious Studies, Northwestern University). (Zoom)

2019 Biblical Tourism, Sensory Choreography, and the Power of Entertainment. (Dept. of Religion, Wesleyan University).

2018 Modern Christianity and Immersive Aesthetics: Past, Present, Future. (Dept. of Religious Studies and Dept. of Anthropology, Indiana University).

2018 Testimonies of/from the Land: How Protestants Mobilize Biblical Landscape Materials. (Sensory Cultures of Religion Research Group, Yale University).

2017 Particles-to-People…Molecules-to-Man: Creationist Poetics and the Public Struggle for Legitimacy. (What the L? Language Research at Miami, Miami University).

2017 Creative Creationists: Ark Encounter and the Power of Entertainment. (Institute for Learning in Retirement, Miami University).

2017 Creative Creationists: Ark Encounter and the Power of Entertainment. (Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University).

2016 More than Reading: Materializing the Bible. (Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University).

2016 More than Reading: Materializing the Bible (Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen).

2016 Response to Keynote Address. Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Portland.

2015 Immersive Christianity: Entertainment and Religion in Global Context. “Religion and Society Research Seminar” (Dept. of Theology and Religion, Durham University).

2015 Performing the Bible. “Anthropology of Christianity Working Group” (Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh).

2015 Theologically-Engaged Anthropology workshop (Templeton-funded workshop, University of Georgia).

2015 Immersive Christianity: on religion, entertainment, and globalization. (Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Wheaton College).

2015 Immersive Christianity: on religion, entertainment, and globalization. “Applied Philosophy Lyceum” (Dept. of Philosophy, Middle Tennessee State University).

2015 Text and Ethnography in Jewish Life workshop. (Dept. of Religion, Emory University).

2014 Immersive Christianity: on religion, entertainment, and globalization. Keynote Lecture for German Association for the Study of Religion (University of Heidelberg).

2014 Evangelical Holy Land Reconstructions and the Dilemma of Authenticity. A Point of Reference, Meaning, Culture, Image, and Local Reality in the Space of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

2014 How to Read a Map of Eden: Immersive Entertainment in the Making of a Biblical Theme Park. (Dept. of Anthropology, Ben Gurion University).

2014 Fused Magisteria: On Creationist History-Making. “The Varieties of Historical Experience” conference. (University of Chicago).

2013 Dialogic Evangelicalism (or, How to Read a Map of Eden). (Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Waterloo).

2013 Promises of Place: ethnographic reflections on the theological power of dwelling. (Conrad Grebel University College).

2012 Scripturalizing the Human. Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont.

2012 The New Evangelical Social Engagement. The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indianapolis.

2009 Global Christianities: Anthropological Insights. “Public Forum on Globalization”

(Miami University-Hamilton).

2007 Small Group Bible Studies as Interpretive Communities. “Religion and American

Culture Colloquium” (Dept. of Religious Studies, Michigan State University).

# ***Conference Panels Organized (N=13):***

2022 ebay Method and the Study of Religion. American Academy of Religion, Denver. (co-organizer: Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada)

2021 Evaluating Creativity: Between Commodity and Everyday Repertoire. American Anthropological Association, Virtual (co-organizer: Urmila Mohan)

2021 The Politics of Joy. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Virtual (co-organizer: Elana Resnick)

2021 Author-Meets-Critics for *The Divine Institution: White Evangelicalism’s Politics of the Family*. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Virtual

2019 Anthropologist Walks into an Archive: Writing Lived Religion from Ethnographic and Historical Sources. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Toronto. (co-organizer: Ingie Hovland)

2019 Oscillating Mediation: Tracing Religious Technologies from Erasure to Hyper-Presence. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Toronto. (co-organizer: Hillary Kaell)

2017 Critique as Horizon, Critique as Specter: Reflections from the Anthropology of Religion. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans. (co-organizer: Rebekka King)

2016 On, Off, and Between Grids: Ethnographic Perspectives. Society for the Anthropology of North America, Halifax.

2015 Politics of Discernment in Christian Practice. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego. (co-organizer: Fred Klaits)

2012 Religions and Their Publics: Crossing Borders in a Post-Secular World. American Anthropological Association, San Francisco. (Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Invited Session) (co-organizer: Eric Hoenes del Pinal)

2012 Late Modern Christianities: Ethnographic Reflections on Religious Publics and Public Religion. American Ethnological Society, New York City.

2011 The Urban Life of Christianities: Power, Place, and Performance. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Santa Fe.

2006 Encountering the Text: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Biblicism.

American Anthropological Association, San Jose.

***Conference Presentations (N=36):***

2021 Creator Gods: Experiential Design and Choreographed Creativity. American Anthropological Association, Virtual.

2021 The End(s) of Joy: Notes on the Indeterminacy of Choreographed Affect. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Virtual.

2020 Collaboration and Creativity in Faculty-Student Research: Reflections from *Materializing the Bible*. Digital Humanities Forum, Miami University, Virtual.

2020 Technology as Prosthesis at D.C.’s Museum of the Bible. University of St. Andrews Conference on Aesthetics, Virtual.

2019 Scattered Archive, Forgotten Place: Tracing Promises of Presence at Kentucky’s Holy Land. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Toronto.

2019 Technology as Prosthesis at D.C.’s Museum of the Bible. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Toronto.

2017 Biblical Gardens and the Sensuality of Religious Pedagogy. American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.

2016 Trust in an Age of Insecurity. Society for the Anthropology of North America, Halifax.

2015 A Trans-Medial Bible: performing scripture, producing a creationist theme park. Material Religion: Embodiment, Materiality, Technology, Durham.

2015 Discernment as Professional Activity: notes from a creationist design studio. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego.

2014 How to Build an Ark: Intertextuality and Authority among Creationist Artists. North American Association for the Study of Religion, San Diego

2014 The Plausibility of Immersion: the limits of materiality in making a biblical theme park. Christianity and the Limits of Materiality, University of Turku, Finland.

2014 Literalism as Creativity: the making of a biblical theme park. The Bible in American Life Conference, Indianapolis.

2013 Creationism beyond Religion-Science: rewriting narrative limits. American Anthropological Association, Chicago.

2013 “Act Like Men”: social engagement and evangelical masculinity. Public

Anthropology Conference at American University, Washington, DC.

2013 The Creative Aspect of Creationists. Society for the Anthropology of Religion,

Pasadena.

2012 Creationists at Play: Imagining Religious and Tourist Publics. American

Anthropological Association, San Francisco.

2012 Creationists at Play: Christian Leisure Meets Imagineering. American Academy of Religion, Chicago.

2012 Creationists at Play: ethnographic notes from a religious theme park in-the-making. American Ethnological Society, New York City.

2011 Healing the Heart’s Idols: Biblical Counseling and Evangelical Care of Self. American Anthropological Association, Montreal.

2011 Notes on the re-urbanization of American Evangelicals. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Santa Fe.

2010 The Kingdom as Chronotope: Evangelical dialogues about Second Comings, incarnations, and re-creations. American Anthropological Association, New Orleans.

2010 Textual Ideologies: Power and Circulation. American Academy of Religion, Atlanta.

2010 Emerging Evangelicals, Sense of Place, and Late Modernity. Association for the Sociology of Religion, Atlanta.

2009 Why Blogs Matter among America’s Emerging Evangelicals. American

Anthropological Association, Philadelphia.

2009 A Question of Authenticity: The Emerging Church and the Problem of “Real” Christian Identity. Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Asilomar.

2008 The Problem with Propositions: Ideologies of Belief and Language Among

Emerging Evangelicals. American Anthropological Association, San Francisco.

2008 Recoiling from Reference: Language Ideologies among Emerging Evangelicals. Arizona Linguistics and Anthropology Symposium, Tuscon.

2008 Preparing to Witness: Narratives of Attempted Conversion among

American Evangelicals. Georgetown University Round Table – Telling Stories: Building Bridges among Language, Narrative, Identity, Interaction, Society and Culture, Washington D.C.

2007 “Are You a Christian?” and Other Key Questions: A Case in Reflexive

Ethnography. American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.

2007 Ideologies: Linguistic, Semiotic, Textual. Society for the Anthropology of

Religion, Phoenix.

2006 Dialectical Interpretations: textual ideology and practice in conservative

Christian Biblicism. American Anthropological Association, San Jose.

2006 Navigating Religion and Spirituality: contesting categories in a Mainline

women's Bible study. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland.

2006 Recontextualizing the Bible in Small Group Discourse. Symposium About

Language and Society–Austin, Austin.

2004 “These Aren’t Just Words, It’s Life”: moral identity through Bible study

discourse. Central States Anthropological Society, Milwaukee.

2001 Religious Experience in an African-American Church: Sunday service and

beyond. Southern Anthropological Society, Nashville.

***Conference Roundtables (N=11):***

2022 “eBay Method and the Study of Religion.” American Academy of Religion, Denver.

2021 “Digital Methods in the Study of Religion.” American Academy of Religion, Virtual.

2021 “The Social Lives of the Qur’an and the Anthropology of Scriptures. American Anthropological Association, Virtual.

2017 “Critique as Horizon, Critique as Specter: Reflections from the Anthropology of Religion.” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans.

2015 Author Meets Critics*, The Slain God: Anthropologists and the Christian Faith*. American Anthropological Association, Denver.

2014 “Theology as Productive Ethnographic Partner.” American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.

2014 “Book Publishing and the Anthropology of North America.” American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.

2014 Author Meets Critics: *The Deconstructed Church: Understanding Emerging Christianity*. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis.

2013 “What is “Emerging”? A Workshop on Conceptualizing Social and Religious Change in post-Boomer America.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston.

2011 “Teaching the Anthropology of Religion.” American Anthropological Association, Montreal.

2007 “Being a recent Ph.D.” American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.

***Conference Panel Discussant (N=9):***

2023 “Museums, Monuments, and Memory: Studying Christian Communities through

Historic Sites and ‘Sacred’ Spaces.” American Society of Church History, Philadelphia.

2022 “Scripture, Everyday Ethics, and Power: A Comparative Ethnographic Perspective.” American Academy of Religion, Denver.

2017 “Anthropology of Catholicism: Challenges and Opportunities.” American Academy of Religion, Boston.

2016 “Inter-Disciplinary Perspectives on Holy Land Pilgrimage.” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio.

2016 “Ethnographies of Public Religion.” Southern Anthropological Society, Huntington.

2015 “Religion, Art, and Creativity in the Global City.” American Anthropological Association, Denver.

2014 “Anointing Sounds: Holy Ghost Reservoirs in an Age of Mass Media.” IASPM-UA Annual Conference, Chapel Hill.

2013 “How to Do Things With Scripture: Lived Religion and Sacred Texts in Christian and Muslim Contexts.” American Academy of Religion, Baltimore.

2010 “Crossing the Lines: Anthropology and Evangelicalism in the Americas.” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta.

**Teaching**

***Courses Taught (N=15):***

Miami University

Anthropology of Religion

Waste and Re-Use in Global Perspective

Language and Power

Travelers, Migrants, and Refugees

Ethnography of Communication

Cultural Diversity in the United States

Foundations of Cultural Anthropology

Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Peoples of the World

Senior Seminar in Anthropology

Michigan State University

Ethnographic Field Methods

Language and Culture

Bio-Cultural Anthropology

Grand Valley State University

 Introduction to Anthropology

 Culture and Environment

***Graduate Mentorship:***

2022-present Duke University, Outsider Reader, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of Religious

Studies), Topic: Language and Embodiment at an Insight Meditation in Durham,

North Carolina.

2020-present Brown University, Outside Reader, MA Thesis (Dept. of Anthropology), Topic:

Evangelicalism and Museums.

2021-2023 Princeton University, Outside Reader, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of Religion),

Topic: Splitting Sides: On Humor in 21st Century American Evangelical Media.

2021 Massey University, Examiner, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of Social Anthropology), Topic: Anglican Social Justice in New Zealand.

2021 Lund University, Examiner, Doctoral Dissertation (Theology and Religious

Studies), Topic: Ethnography of Reading in Israel.

2019-2022 Miami University, Committee Member, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of Educational Leadership), Topic: Transfer Student Receptive Culture.

2016-19 Miami University, Committee Member, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of

Educational Leadership), Topic: A/r/tivism among Latino Youth.

2015-17 Miami University, Committee Member, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of

Educational Leadership), Topic: Ethnographic study of higher education assessment.

2015-16 University of Helsinki, Pre-Examiner, Doctoral Dissertation (Social and Cultural

Anthropology), Topic: Russian evangelicalism.

2014-16 Lund University, Second Supervisor, Doctoral Dissertation (Theology and

Religious Studies). Topic: Christian Zionism in Israel.

2014-14 University of Sydney, Examiner, MA Thesis (Dept. of Anthropology). Topic:

Alpha Course and evangelical reading practices.

2012-14 University of Louisville, Outside Reader, Doctoral Dissertation (Dept. of

Humanities), Topic: Creation Museum and Religion-Science.

2012-13 University of Cincinnati, Mentor, Preparing Future Faculty program.

2011-13 Miami University, Committee Member, MA Thesis (Dept. of Sociology and

Gerontology), Topic: Evangelical megachurches and age integration.

2011-13 Miami University, Committee Member, MA Thesis (Dept. of Comparative Religion), Topic: Religious change in the PC-USA.

2011 Miami University, Committee Member, MA Tutorial (Dept. of Political Science), Topic: Media in Pakistan.

2009-11 Miami University, Committee Member, MA Thesis (Dept. of Comparative Religion), Topic: Holy Land Experience and evangelical entertainment.

***Undergraduate Research Mentorship:***

2021 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2019-2020 Miami University, Undergraduate Goldman Memorial Prize

2019 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2018-2019 Miami University, Undergraduate Dean’s Scholar Award

2018 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2017 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2017 Miami University, Undergraduate Research Award

2016 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2015 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2014 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2013 Miami University, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

2007 Michigan State University, McNair/SROP Scholars Program

2006 Michigan State University, On-Campus Assistant Director; Undergraduate

Ethnographic Field School and Internship Program. Director: Fredric M. Roberts. Topic: “The Changing Food System of Prescott, Arizona.”

# **Funding & Awards**

2022 Undergraduate Research Apprentice, awarded by The Humanities Center at

Miami University. $1000.

2020 Soundscapes of Religious Tourism: Layered Aural Experiences at an Evangelical

Museum. The American Religious Sounds Project. $3,000.

2017 Undergraduate Research Apprentice, awarded by The Humanities Center at

Miami University. $1,000.

2016 Undergraduate Research Apprentice, awarded by The Humanities Center at

Miami University. $1,000.

2014 “Religion as Creativity.” Collaborative Research Challenge, awarded by

The Humanities Center at Miami University. (co-authored with John Cinnamon,

Rory Johnson, Nathan French) $10,000.

2014 Undergraduate Research Apprentice, awarded by The Humanities Center at

Miami University. $1,000.

2014 Howe Writing Center Grant for Individual Faculty at Miami University. $2,000.

2013 Howe Writing Center Grant for Individual Faculty at Miami University. $2,000.

2007 Ron Hart Outstanding Teaching Award, awarded by the Michigan State

University Department of Anthropology

2004 Graduate Student Research Enhancement Award, awarded by the Michigan State

University Graduate School. $450.

2003 National Science Foundation Pre-Dissertation Training Grant, awarded through the Michigan State University Department of Anthropology. $2,500.

# **Professional Service**

***Creative Works:***

2016-2022: curated Materializing the Bible physical archive (1000+ items) and donated to the Newberry Library (Chicago, IL)

2013-present: book series founder and co-editor, “Anthropology of Contemporary North America” (University of Nebraska Press).

2021-present: book series co-editor, “New Directions in the Anthropology of Christianity” (Bloomsbury Press).

***Advisory and/or Editorial Board Member:***

2023-present: advisory board member, “Religious Communities in the Virtual Age” (Manchester Metropolitan University)

2021-present: journal editorial board member, *Religion*

2016-present: book series editorial board member, *Space, Place, and Religion* (Bloomsbury)

2015-present: peer-review journal advisory board member, *Global Christianity – Studies in Religion and Society*

2014-present: advisory board member, Institute for Signifying Scriptures

2011-2014: advisory panel member for “Roadman” documentary on the Native American Church (Trickster Films)

***Peer Reviewer:***

Journals: *Religion*; *Anthropological Theory; Sociology of Religion*; *American Ethnologist; Current Anthropology*; *Journal of Ritual Studies*; *Culture and Religion*; *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*; *Ethnos*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Qualitative Sociology*; *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*; *Journal of Religion in Africa*; *American Anthropologist*; *Social Analysis*; *Anthropological Quarterly*; *Ethos*; *Language Policy*; *Cultural Anthropology*; *Advances in Research: Religion and Society*; *Michigan Academician*; *SAGE Open*; *City and Society; Journal of Contemporary Religion; Journal of the Anthropology of North America; Religion, State, & Society; Comparative Studies in Society and History; Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory; Material Religion; The Senses & Society; Practical Matters; Journal of Material Culture; Religion Compass; History and Anthropology; Space and Culture; Sociology of Islam*

Books: New York University Press; Penn State University Press; Lynne Rienner; Indiana University Press; Oxford University Press; Routledge; Bloomsbury; University of California Press; Palgrave Macmillan; McGill-Queen’s University Press; Rutgers University Press; University of Alberta Press; University of Michigan Press; Wiley-Blackwell; Berghahn; Brill; Fordham University Press

Grants: National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences Program

***Professional Association Membership & Service:***

2022, chair for the Clifford Geertz Book Prize awarded by the Society for the Anthropology of Religion (American Anthropological Association)

2020-present: member-at-large, Society for the Anthropology of Religion (American Anthropological Association)

2018, judge for the Clifford Geertz Book Prize awarded by the Society for the Anthropology of Religion (American Anthropological Association)

2018-present: steering committee co-chair, Anthropology of Religion section (American Academy of Religion)

2013-2018: steering committee member, Anthropology of Religion section (American Academy of Religion)

2013- 2015: section editor, Society for the Anthropology of North America (American Anthropological Association)

***Guest Lecturer (outside Miami University)* (N=30):**

Cultural Politics of Dinosaurs (Pomona College; Zoom, 2020)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Zoom, fall 2020)

Introduction to Religion (Wesleyan University; Zoom, 2020)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Skype, spring 2020)

Essentials of Cultural Anthropology (CUNY-Queens College; Skype, 2019)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Skype, fall 2019)

Anthropology of Religion (Brown University; Skype, 2019)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Skype, spring 2019)

Essentials of Cultural Anthropology (CUNY-Queens College; Skype, 2018)

American Religious Experience (California Lutheran University; Skype, 2018)

Christianity (University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Skype, 2018)

The History of the Object Lesson in the American Sunday School (Yale University, 2017)

Fieldwork in Religious Communities (Amherst College, 2017)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Skype, 2017)

Creation and Destruction in the Ancient World and Today (Centre College; Skype, 2017)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Oklahoma; Skype, 2016)

Religion and Science (Ben Gurion University, 2016)

Christianity (University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Skype, 2016)

Anthropology of Religion (University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Skype, 2016)

Anthropology of Religion (Pacific University; Skype, 2015)

Evangelicalism in the U.S. (Michigan State University; Skype, 2014)

Anthropology of Evangelicalism (CUNY-Queens College; Skype, 2014)

Senior Seminar in Religious Studies (Appalachian State University; Skype, 2014)

Ethnography of Religion (University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Skype, 2014)

Ethnography of the U.S.A. (University of Edinburgh; Skype, 2013)

Anthropology of Religion (Teachers College at Columbia University, 2013)

People of the Book (Emory University; Skype, 2012)

Language and Religion (University of California-San Diego; Skype, 2010)

Language and Religion (New York University; Skype, 2009)

Introduction to Anthropology (Kalamazoo College, 2008)