

James S. Bielo, Ph.D.

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Department of Anthropology
Miami University

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Updated: November 2020

Research & Teaching Interests:

Anthropology of Religion
U.S. and Global Christianity
Anthropology of North America
Linguistic Anthropology

Ethnographic Methods & Writing
Digital Scholarship
History of Anthropological Theory
Urban Anthropology

Education:

Ph.D., 2007, Anthropology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

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., 2004, Anthropology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

B.A., 2001, Anthropology, Radford University, Radford, VA.

Publications:

Books (N=4; 1 in progress):

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

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

- Published reviews (N=15): *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2018); *Material Religions* (2018); *Reading Religion* (2018); *Review of Religious Research* (2019); *Sociology of Religion* (2019); *American Ethnologist* (2019); *American Studies* (2019); *Choice* (2019); *Visual Anthropology Review* (2019); *Material Religion* (2019); *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (2019); *Anthropological Quarterly* (2019); *Journal of Southern Religion* (2020); *American Journal of Sociology* (2020); *Social Anthropology* (2020)

- 2015 *Anthropology of Religion: The Basics*. New York: Routledge.
- Published reviews (N=3): *Religion* 46(1); *Choice* 53(4); *Reading Religion* (2018)
- 2011 *Emerging Evangelicals: Faith, Modernity, and the Desire for Authenticity*. New York: New York University Press.
- Published reviews (N=9): *Choice* (2012), *Anthropology Review Database* (2012); *Religion in American History Blog* (May 2012); *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51(2); *Religious Studies Review* 38(3); *Social Anthropology* 21(3); *Nova Religio* 17(1); *American Anthropologist* 115(4); *Review of Religious Research* (2014)
- 2009 *Words Upon the Word: An Ethnography of Evangelical Group Bible Study*. New York: New York University Press.
- Published reviews (N=11): *Anthropological Quarterly* (2009); *American Anthropologist* 112(2); *Books & Culture* (2010); *Choice* (2010); *American Ethnologist* 37(4); *Studies in Religion* (39); *Contemporary Sociology* (39); *Sociology of Religion* 72(1); *Review of Religious Research* (2011); *Advances in Research: Religion and Society* 2; *Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception* 1(2); *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 22(2)

Edited Collections (N=4; 2 in progress):

- In Press *The Bible and Global Tourism*. London: Bloomsbury. (co-editor: Lieke Wijnia)
- Contracted *Landscapes of Christianity: Destination, Temporality, Transformation*. London: Bloomsbury (co-editor: Amos Ron)
- 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* (Sept/Oct, 2010); *Ethos* 40(2); *Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception* 1(2); *Religion Bulletin* (December 2010)

Digital Scholarship (N=2):

- 2015-present Founder and Co-Curator of *Materializing the Bible*: an interactive catalogue of global biblical tourism sites. www.materializingthebible.com/
- Published reviews (3): *Journal of Heritage Tourism* (August 2018); *American Anthropologist* (October 2018); *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* (December 2019)
- 2011-present Co-Founder and Co-Curator of *AnthroCyBib*: resource site to develop

Journal Articles (N=24):

- 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* (Online first, April).
- 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.
- 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=16):

- 2019 Of Arks and Dragons: The Power of Entertainment in Creationist Historicity. In *The Varieties of Historical Experience*. Stephan Palmie and Charles Stewart, eds. 140-166. 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. 140-155. 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. 139-162. London: Bloomsbury.
- 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. 122-140. 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 Biblicalism. In *The Social Life of Scriptures: cross-cultural perspectives on Biblicalism*. 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 Biblicalism*. James S. Bielo, ed., 157-175. 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.

Essays & Other Writing (N=21):

- 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 Imagining Catholicism and Catholics. *Exchange: Journal of Contemporary Christianities in Context* 48(3): 195-203 (second author with Kristy Nabhan-Warren).
- 2019 Invited comment on “The Affective Therapeutics of Migrant Faith: Evangelical Christianity among Brazilians in Greater Washington, DC.” *Current Anthropology* 60(3).
- 2019 Quality: D.C.’s Museum of the Bible and Aesthetic Evaluation. *Material Religion* 15(1): 131-32.
- 2018 Anthropology, Theology, Critique. *Critical Research on Religion* 6(1): 28-34
- 2018 Sacred Scriptures. In *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Hilary Callan, ed. London: Wiley-Blackwell (Online first, September).
- 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.
- 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.
- 2013 Doing Religious Studies Dialogically. *Practical Matters* 6: 1-6.
- 2012 Religion Matters: reflections from an AAA teaching workshop. *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 3: 203-208.
- 2012 Religion-Secular, Tangled Divisions. *The Revealer*, September.
- 2012 Invited comment on “A Hyper-Real God and Modern Belief: toward an anthropological theory of mind.” *Current Anthropology* 53(4): 384-385.
- 2011 “Global Christianities.” *Sociology of Religion*. 72(2): 246-249.
- 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. (Archived online)

Book Reviews (N=15):

- 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*.
- 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. *AnthroCyBib: The Anthropology of Christianity Bibliographic Blog*, 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. *AnthroCyBib: The Anthropology of Christianity Bibliographic Blog*, May.
- 2012 "A Faith Between." Moral Ambition: Mobilization and Social Outreach in Evangelical Megachurches. *Current Anthropology* 53(3): 362-364.
- 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)

Teaching:

Positions Held:

- Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Miami University, July 2020-present
- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Miami University, Fall 2015-June 2020
- Lecturer, Dept. of Anthropology, Miami University, Fall 2012-Spring 2015
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Miami University, Fall 2008-Summer 2012
- Adjunct Instructor, Dept. of Anthropology, Michigan State University, Fall 2005-Fall 2006, Summer 2007–Spring 2008
- Adjunct Instructor, Dept. of Anthropology, Grand Valley State University, Spring 2007, Summer 2008.

Courses Taught (N=14):

- Senior Seminar in Anthropology (400-level, Miami)
- Anthropology of Religion (400-level, Miami)
- Ethnographic Field Methods (400-level, MSU)

- Language and Culture (400-level, MSU; 200-level Miami)
- Ethnography of Communication (400-level, Miami)
- Language and Power (300-level, Miami)
- Travelers, Migrants, and Refugees (300-level, Miami)
- Foundations of Cultural Anthropology (200-level, Miami)
- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (200-level, GVSU)
- Bio-Cultural Evolution (200-level, MSU)
- Cultural Diversity in the United States (100-level, Miami)
- Peoples of the World (100-level, Miami)
- Culture and Environment (300-level, GVSU)
- Christianity in the U.S. (MSU, Evening College (alumni lifelong learning course))
- Independent Study: I have mentored undergraduate and graduate students on a range of topics, including: semiotics; ethnographic field methods; global hip-hop; U.S. Pentecostalism; global water sustainability; Native North America; Catholic humanitarianism in Haiti; Buddhist education in rural Japan; gender identity in urban Morocco; U.S. environmental activism; local food movements; Baha'i in Northern Ireland; collegiate gaming and fantasy; Ethnomusicology; Social entrepreneurship; U.S. creationism; Digital folklore; art activism among Latino youth; gendered language among Korean young adults; beauty and emotional labor in Vietnamese nail salons; urban eco-village and neighborhood restructuring; public communication of science; Christian tourism and pilgrimage

Undergraduate Mentorship:

- Miami University, Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Goldman Memorial Prize (2019-20)
- Miami University, Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Dean's Scholar Award (2018-19)
- Miami University, Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)
- Miami University, Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Research Award (2017)
- Michigan State University, Faculty Mentor; McNair/SROP Scholars Program (2007).
- 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." (2006)

Graduate Mentorship:

- 2019-present, 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.

Professional Service:

Creative Works:

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

Advisory and/or Editorial Board Member:

- 2018, judge for the Clifford Geertz Book Prize awarded by the Society for the Anthropology of 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*
- 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.
- GRANTS: National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences Program

Professional Association Membership & Service:

- *Present (or former) member of:* American Anthropological Association; Society for the Anthropology of Religion; American Academy of Religion; Institute for Signifying Scriptures; Society for Linguistic Anthropology; Society for the Anthropology of North America; American Ethnological Society; Central States Anthropological Society; Southern Anthropological Society; Association for the Sociology of Religion; Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2013- 2015: section editor, Society for the Anthropology of North America (American Anthropological Association).
- 2016-present: steering committee co-chair, Anthropology of Religion section (American Academy of Religion).
- 2010-2016: steering committee member, Anthropology of Religion section (American Academy of Religion).
- 2020-present: member-at-large, Society for the Anthropology of Religion (American Anthropological Association)

Presentations:

Invited Research Lectures & Workshops (N=25):

- 2019 Biblical Tourism, Sensory Choreography, and the Power of Entertainment. (Dept. of Religion, Wesleyan University). Middletown.
- 2018 Modern Christianity and Immersive Aesthetics: Past, Present, Future. (Dept. of Religious Studies and Dept. of Anthropology, Indiana University). Bloomington.
- 2018 Testimonies of/from the Land: How Protestants Mobilize Biblical Landscape Materials. (Sensory Cultures of Religion Research Group, Yale University). New Haven.
- 2017 Particles-to-People...Molecules-to-Man: Creationist Poetics and the Public Struggle for Legitimacy. (What the L? Language Research at Miami, Miami University). Oxford.
- 2017 Creative Creationists: Ark Encounter and the Power of Entertainment. (Institute for Learning in Retirement, Miami University). Oxford.
- 2017 Creative Creationists: Ark Encounter and the Power of Entertainment. (Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University). New Haven.
- 2016 More than Reading: Materializing the Bible. (Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University). Lund, Sweden.
- 2016 More than Reading: Materializing the Bible (Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen). Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 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). Durham, England.
- 2015 Performing the Bible. "Anthropology of Christianity Working Group" (Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh). Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2015 Theologically-Engaged Anthropology (Templeton-funded workshop). Atlanta.

- 2015 Immersive Christianity: on religion, entertainment, and globalization. (Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Wheaton College). Wheaton.
- 2015 Immersive Christianity: on religion, entertainment, and globalization. “Applied Philosophy Lyceum” (Dept. of Philosophy, Middle Tennessee State University), Murfreesboro.
- 2015 Text and Ethnography in Jewish Life. Emory University, Atlanta.
- 2014 Immersive Christianity: on religion, entertainment, and globalization. Keynote Lecture for German Association for the Study of Religion (University of Heidelberg), Germany.
- 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. Ben Gurion University, Beersheba, Israel.
- 2014 Fused Magisteria: On Creationist History-Making. The Varieties of Historical Experience (University of Chicago), Chicago.
- 2013 Dialogic Evangelicalism (or, How to Read a Map of Eden). University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada.
- 2013 Promises of Place: ethnographic reflections on the theological power of dwelling. Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Canada.
- 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), Hamilton.
- 2007 Small Group Bible Studies as Interpretive Communities. Religion and American Culture Colloquium (Michigan State University), East Lansing.

Conference Panels Organized (N=9):

- 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 Klaitz)
- 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 Biblicalism. American Anthropological Association, San Jose.

Conference Presentations (N=49):

- 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, St. Andrews. (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.
- 2017 Discussant, "Anthropology of Catholicism: Challenges and Opportunities." American Academy of Religion, Boston.
- 2017 Roundtable participant, "Critique as Horizon, Critique as Specter: Reflections from the Anthropology of Religion." Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans.
- 2016 Discussant, "Inter-Disciplinary Perspectives on Holy Land Pilgrimage." American Academy of Religion, San Antonio.
- 2016 Trust in an Age of Insecurity. Society for the Anthropology of North America, Halifax.
- 2016 Discussant, "Ethnographies of Public Religion." Southern Anthropological Society, Huntington.
- 2015 Discussant, "Religion, Art, and Creativity in the Global City." American Anthropological Association, Denver.
- 2015 Roundtable Participant, "Author Meets Critics, *The Slain God: Anthropologists and the Christian Faith*." American Anthropological Association, Denver.
- 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 Roundtable Participant, "Theology as Productive Ethnographic Partner." American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 Roundtable Participant, "Book Publishing and the Anthropology of North America." American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 How to Build an Ark: Intertextuality and Authority among Creationist Artists. North American Association for the Study of Religion, San Diego
- 2014 Roundtable Participant, "Author Meets Critics: *The Deconstructed Church: Understanding Emerging Christianity*." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis.
- 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.

- 2014 Discussant, “Anointing Sounds: Holy Ghost Reservoirs in an Age of Mass Media.” IASPM-UA Annual Conference, Chapel Hill.
- 2013 Creationism beyond Religion-Science: rewriting narrative limits. American Anthropological Association, Chicago.
- 2013 Discussant, “How To Do Things With Scripture: Lived Religion and Sacred Texts in Christian and Muslim Contexts.” American Academy of Religion, Baltimore.
- 2013 Roundtable Participant, “What is “Emerging”? A Workshop on Conceptualizing Social and Religious Change in post-Boomer America.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston.
- 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 Roundtable Participant, “Teaching the Anthropology of Religion.” American Anthropological Association, Montreal.
- 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 Discussant, “Crossing the Lines: Anthropology and Evangelicalism in the Americas.” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta.
- 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, Tucson.
- 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 Roundtable Participant, “Being a recent Ph.D.” 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.

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

- 2020 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)
- 2019 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)
- 2018 Essentials of Cultural Anthropology (CUNY-Queens College; Skype)
- 2018 American Religious Experience (California Lutheran University; Skype)
- 2018 Christianity (University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Skype)
- 2017 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)
- 2016 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)
- 2015 Anthropology of Religion (Pacific University; Skype)
- 2014 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)
- 2013 Ethnography of the U.S.A. (University of Edinburgh; Skype)
- 2013 Anthropology of Religion (Teachers College at Columbia University)
- 2012 People of the Book (Emory University; Skype)
- 2010 Language and Religion (University of California-San Diego; Skype)
- 2009 Language and Religion (New York University; Skype)
- 2008 Introduction to Anthropology (Kalamazoo College)

Funding & Awards:

- 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.

Grants Submitted (not awarded)

- 2019 “Sun, Surf, and Salvation: Re-Creating the Holy Land in the Caribbean.” Global Religion Research Initiative
- 2018 “Materializing the Bible,” Course Hero-Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching
- 2017 “The Public Work of an Urban Eco-Village: A Collaborative Ethnographic Study,” Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2017 “Materializing the Bible,” Franklin Research Grant (American Philosophical Society)
- 2017 “Curricular Materialities: Techniques and Technologies of Religious Pedagogy,” Henry Luce Foundation. (co-authors: Anderson Blanton and Gordon Mikoski)
- 2017 Faculty Research Award, Charles Redd Center, Brigham Young University
- 2016 Sceptic Lifeworlds: what is scientific unbelieving? Understanding Unbelief project at the University of Kent, funded by the John Templeton Foundation
- 2016 Religion, Modernity, and the Material: Biblical Economies in the USA. Independent Social Research Foundation (co-author: Crispin Paine)
- 2016 “Materializing the Bible.” Digital Humanities Fellowship, The Humanities Center at Miami University
- 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities – Enduring Questions
- 2011 National Endowment for the Humanities – Summer Stipend
- 2005 Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Writing Fellowship
- 2004 National Science Foundation – Dissertation Funding
- 2004 Valparaiso Dissertation Funding
- 2004 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

Research:

Anthropology of Christianity:

- July 2015 - present: *Principal Investigator*, archival research, critical discourse analysis, ethnographic fieldwork
Topic: Materializing the Bible
- Sep 2011 – Dec 2016: *Principal Investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: Creationism and Religious Entertainment
- Aug 2010 – Apr 2011: *Principal Investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: Biblical counseling.
- Oct 2007 – Apr 2011: *Principal Investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: Emerging Evangelicalism.
- June 2004 – Dec 2005: *Principal investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: Evangelical Bible study. (dissertation)
- May 2003 – Aug 2003: *Principal investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: Evangelical Bible study. (pre-dissertation)
- Jan 2002 – May 2002: *Principal investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: Evangelical Bible study. (pre-dissertation)
- Sep 2001 – Dec 2002: *Research assistant* for Fredric Roberts, Ph.D.
Topic: Congregational studies.
- Aug 2000 – Dec 2000: *Principal investigator*, ethnographic fieldwork.
Topic: African-American Protestantism.

Oral History:

- May 2001 – Aug 2001: *Research assistant* for Tempe Historical Museum
Topic: History of early Tempe.
- Aug 2000 – Apr 2001: *Research assistant* for Mary LaLone, Ph.D.
Topic: The Radford Arsenal in central Appalachia.
- Aug 2000 – Dec 2000: *Research assistant* for Mary LaLone, Ph.D.
Topic: Economic livelihood in central Appalachia.
- Aug 1999 – Dec 1999: *Research assistant* for Melinda Wagner, Ph.D.
Topic: Sense of place in central Appalachia.

Other Topics:

- Aug 2004 – Aug 2005: *Research assistant* for Tom Tomlinson, Ph.D.
Topic: Family & Health Professionals' Perceptions of PVS Patients.
- Mar 2004 – Sep 2004: *Research assistant* for Linda Hunt, Ph.D.
Topic: Race and Ethnicity in Genetics Research.
- Feb 2003 – May 2003: *Research assistant* for John Schweitzer, Ph.D.
Topic: Community in urban neighborhoods.

References:

Matthew Engelke, Ph.D. (Professor)
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