

ALYSSA MALDONADO-ESTRADA

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Religion, Kalamazoo College, 2018-
Marlene Crandell Francis Chair in the Humanities, 2021-

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Princeton University, Religion

M.A. Princeton University, Religion

B.A. Vassar College, Religion and Sociology with Distinction, General and Departmental Honors
Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic Devotion in Williamsburg, Brooklyn (NYU Press, 2020)

(Reviewed in *Sociology of Religion*, *Religion*, *American Catholic Studies*, *American Religion*, Reading Religion (online), *Italian American Review*, Notre Dame's Cushwa Center American Catholic Studies Newsletter, *National Catholic Reporter*, The Religious Studies Project (online), *Material Religion*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, *Catholic Library World*)

Articles and Chapters

"Catholic Devotion in the Americas," *Religion Compass* 13, no. 1 (January 2019).

Men, Tattoos, and Catholic Devotion in Brooklyn, *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* 16, no. 3 (May 26, 2020), 1-20.

"Forum: Studying Masculinities Catholic Style" *American Catholic Studies* 132, no. 2 (Summer 2021).

"Irreverence and Ethnography: Studying Catholic Masculinities," *American Catholic Studies* 132, no. 2 (Summer 2021).

"My Poison Rosary: On eBay and Desire." *Material Religion* 17, no. 5 (November 1, 2021): 656–57,

Maldonado-Estrada, Alyssa, Monica L. Mercado, Katherine Dugan, and James S. Bielo. "eBay Method and the Study of Religion." *Material Religion* 17, no. 5 (November 1, 2021) 1–3.

"Latinx Christianity: Conversion and Colombianidad in Queens, NY" in the *Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2022.

Maldonado-Estrada, Alyssa., "Latinx Devotional Stuff and Material Religion." In *Bloomsbury Religion in North America* ed. Lloyd Barba. London: Bloomsbury, 2023.

Digital/Public Scholarship

“Rosary Revelations: The History of Prayer,” Marian Library-University of Dayton Blog, October 13, 2022, <https://udayton.edu/blogs/marianlibrary/2022-10-13-rosary-revelations-the-history-of-prayer.php>

“What Should Catholics Think of Tattoos?” *U.S. Catholic*, May 13, 2022, <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202205/what-should-catholics-think-of-tattoos/>.

Claire Sadar and Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, “Sacred Spaces: Special Mosque Edition—While many Christians have been pushed out of their longtime places of worship, Muslims have spent decades configuring residential and commercial buildings,” *DigBoston*, May 5, 2022, <https://digboston.com/sacred-spaces-special-mosque-edition/>.

Claire Sadar and Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, “Special Feature: Desacralized Pt. 2 It’s Going to Be Hard Driving Down that Street—As another historic Black Boston institution is gentrified, a congregation displaced by condos reflects on this trend and what it means,” *DigBoston*, January 26, 2022, <https://digboston.com/desacralized-pt-2-its-going-to-be-hard-to-drive-down-that-street/>.

Claire Sadar and Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, “Special Feature: Desacralized (As more and more former Boston churches are being converted into luxury housing, is the city missing out on potential arts and community spaces?)” *DigBoston*, October 1, 2021, <https://digboston.com/special-feature-desacralized/>.

(cover story and interview) *U.S. Catholic Magazine*, “Labor of Love; Masculinity and Faith Intersect at a Brooklyn parish festival” <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202106/masculinity-and-faith-intersect-at-brooklyn-parish-festival/>

Empire State Engagements: Lifeblood of the Parish. June 1, 2021. <https://youtu.be/KqloyGA7-z4>

The Religious Studies Project Podcast, “Masculinity and the Body Languages of Catholicism.” May 24, 2021. <https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/masculinity-and-the-body-languages-of-catholicism/>

“The Enchanted & Catholic World of Tattoo Artists,” The Commons, *Association for Public Religion and Intellectual Life*, February 2021. <https://www.aprilonline.org/the-enchanted-catholic-world-of-tattoo-artists/>

“Authentic Survivors: Religion and Gentrification in Williamsburg, Brooklyn,” *Gotham Center for New York City History*, January 21, 2021. <https://www.gothamcenter.org/blog/authentic-survivors-religion-and-gentrification-in-williamsburg-brooklyn>

“New book tells how priest, laypeople worked for justice in South Bronx,” *National Catholic Reporter*, January 9, 2021. <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/new-book-tells-how-priest-laypeople-worked-justice-south-bronx>.

“The Classical Ideas Podcast: EP 173: ‘Lifeblood of the Parish’ w/Dr. Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada.” <https://classicalideaspodcast.libsyn.com/ep-173-lifeblood-of-the-parish-wdr-alyssa-maldonado-estrada>.

“Distance Learning on Insta: Using Instagram Posts & Stories to Co-Create and Share Student Ideas — Teaching Commons | Kalamazoo College.” <https://teachingcommons.kzoo.edu/2020/08/25/distance-learnign-on-insta-using-instagram-posts-stories-to-co-create-and-share-student-ideas-alyssa-maldonado-estrada/>.

Expert featured on the BBC World Service Documentary “The Instagram Witches of Brooklyn.” <https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-byAHOn8n5/?igshid=1gi64jwzdxz5o>

“Tattoos as Sacramentals,” *American Religion*, Sept. 3, 2019, <https://www.american-religion.org/provocations/tattoos-as-sacramentals>.

Expert interviewed for NYTimes story “A 72-Foot Spire and a 116-Year-Old Tradition in Need of a Few Brooklyn Hipsters,” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/11/nyregion/giglio-feast-williamsburg.html>

“Loving Saint Paulinus: Patron Saint of Williamsburg, Brooklyn,” *The Global Catholic Review* (blog), June 17, 2019, <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/theglobalcatholicreview/2019/06/loving-saint-paulinus-patron-saint-of-williamsburg-brooklyn/>.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editor, *Material Religion, The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* (2021-)

Co-Chair Men, Masculinities, and Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion (2020-)

Mentor (for Latinx PhD students), Hispanic Theological Initiative (2023-)

Membership Committee, American Catholic Historical Association (2022-)

Advisory Board, Center for the Study of Religion and the City (2021-2022)

Sources Curator and Section Editor, *American Religion (Web)*, Indiana University Press (2019-2021)

Editorial Board Member, *American Religion*, Indiana University Press (2019-)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Associated Church Press 2021 Best of the Church Press Awards, Honorable Mention Theme issue, section or series in a newspaper or newsletter, “Desacralized Parts 1 & 2” by Claire Sadar and Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada in *The Dig*

Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Marian Library, University of Dayton, Summer 2022 for project “Reinventing the Rosary: Innovation and Catholic Prayer”

Media Partner: Religious Architecture and Sacred Space with DigBoston, 2021 <https://www.sacred-writes.org/digboston>

Sacred Writes Public Scholarship on Religion Fellow, 2021

Named one of the Young Scholars in American Religion, IUPUI's Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, 2020-2023 cohort

KEYNOTES & INVITED TALKS

- 2023 Vassar College: "Brooklyn Catholicism and the Ghosts of Gentrification," Annual Frederic C. Wood Lecture
- 2023 Princeton University: "Symposium: Art and Devotion: New Accounts of Religious Culture, Race, and Gender," Princeton Graduate Book Forum
- 2022 Museum of the City of New York: "Religion, Race, and Urban Space in NYC" for opening of exhibit City of Faith: Religion, Activism, and Urban Space
- 2022 University of Notre Dame Center for Religion and Society: "Devotion in the Skin and Bones: Ethnography and the Catholic Body in Brooklyn"
- 2022 John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College CUNY *Lifblood of the Parish* Book Talk, The Philip V. Cannistraro Seminar Series in Italian American Studies
- 2022 Northwestern University: "Ethnography & Lifblood of the Parish," Religious Studies Graduate Students Association
- 2022 Midwest Academy of American Religion: "Spontaneity, Positionality, and Navigating Ethnographic Fieldwork," Graduate Student Workshop
- 2022 NYU Center for Religion and Media: The Power of Catholicism in Secular France, a conversation on *The Privilege of Being Banal: Art Secularism and Catholicism in Paris*
- 2021 *Commonweal Magazine*, "Making Money, Making Saints: Masculinity and Catholic Devotion in Brooklyn"
- 2021 University of Limerick: Inaugural Speaker, Material Culture and Heritages of Religion in Ireland Research Network
- 2021 Virginia Commonwealth University: "Devotion and the Body Languages of Catholicism," Bishop Walter F. Sullivan Catholic Studies Lecture Series
- 2021 Vassar College: "From the Lower East Side to Academia: First Gen Experiences and the Joys of Liberal Arts," Keynote Address, Summer Immersion in the Liberal Arts 2021
- 2021 University of Pennsylvania, Lifblood of the Parish Book Talk, New Books Colloquium

- 2021 Barnard College & Barnard Center for Research on Women: “Crafting Objects, Crafting Community: Gender and Material Culture in American Religion”
- 2020 University of Utah-Rocky Mountain American Religion Seminar: *Lifeblood of the Parish* book event

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS & PANELS

- 2023 “Fashioning Masculinities Post-Bad Bunny: World Building & Aesthetic Play in Contemporary Reggaeton,” Thinking with Bad Bunny Symposium, Centro for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College
- 2023 “‘The Rosary is Boring, So What?’ Catholic Haptics and the Senses of American Catholicism,” Panel: Vernacular Religion: A Tribute to Leonard Norman Primiano, American Society of Church History
- 2023 “Dirt & Celluloid: On Collecting the Rosary,” Panel: “Material Religion on Catholic eBay,” American Historical Association/American Catholic Historical Association
- 2022 “Response: Religion, Moral Panics, and American Cities,” American Academy of Religion
- 2022 “Of Plastic and Algorithms: Researching the Material History of the Rosary,” Panel: eBay Method and the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion
- 2022 “Author Meets Critics: *Lifeblood of the Parish*,” Association for the Sociology of Religion
- 2022 “Patenting Devotion: Toward a Catholic Haptics,” Building Catholic Studies Where We Are Symposium, Panel: What Counts as a Catholic Archive?, University of New Mexico
- 2022 “My Chemical Romance’s Our Lady of Sorrows: Catholicism and the Post 9/11 Aesthetics of Emo,” Panel: Highway to Purgatory: Catholic Sounds and Sensibilities in the Age of Cocaine, American Catholic Historical Association
- 2021 “The Talking Rosary,” Panel: What Does Catholicism Sound Like?, American Academy of Religion
- 2021 “Masculinity, Money, and Survival: Keeping a Parish Alive in Brooklyn,” Panel: Work, Sex, and Money, Generating Catholic Masculinities, American Academy of Religion
- 2021 Book panel featuring *Lifeblood of the Parish*: “Ethnography, Performance, and Religious and Cultural Identity in the Twenty-First Century” American Academy of Religion
- 2021 Webinar: “Studying Masculinities, Catholic-Style,” American Catholic Historical Association