

Richard T. Yoder

rty5025@psu.edu

+1 (770) 316-5776

<https://history.la.psu.edu/directory/richard-yoder/>

Department of History
The Pennsylvania State University
108 Weaver Building
212 Curtin Road
University Park, PA 16802

EDUCATION

Present Ph.D. Candidate – The Pennsylvania State University – History

Dissertation: “Unorthodox Flesh: Gender, Religious Convulsions, and Charismatic Knowledge in Early Modern France.”

Projected Defense: January 16, 2026

Advisor: Ronnie Po-chia Hsia

Subfields: Early Modern Global History, Modern Global History, Gender History

2019 M.Phil – University of Oxford – Theology (Ecclesiastical History)

Distinction

2017 B.A. – University of Virginia – Religious Studies

Minor in Anthropology

High Distinction

Jefferson Scholar, Echols Scholar, Raven Society

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Volumes

2024 French Translator and Co-Editor with Shaun Blanchard. *Jansenism: An International Anthology*. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2024.

Refereed Articles and Essays

2021 “From the Dove to the Eagle: Jansenist Visual Culture Between Piety and Polemic.” *The Catholic Historical Review*, 107, no. 4 (Fall 2021).

Refereed Articles and Essays Under Review

“Women, Miracles, and the Church of Utrecht: 1724-1734.” In *Lay Agency in the Context of Ecclesiastical Crisis: The Case of the Utrecht Schism (1723/24)*. Ed. Genji Yasuhira, Dick Schoon, and Peter-Ben Smit. Leiden: Brill. Accepted and forthcoming.

“Jansenism and Atlantic Slavery in the Long Eighteenth Century.” Received a revise and resubmit from *French Colonial History*, September 2024; now under revision.

“‘The Heart of Judith’: Convulsionary Jansenism and the Gender of Knowledge.” Submitted and under review for an edited volume.

Invited Submissions

“The Catholic Body.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Catholicism and the Early Modern World*, Ed. R. Po-chia Hsia (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Under contract.

Book Reviews

2024 Carlos Eire. *They Flew: A History of the Impossible*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2023. *Preternature*, vol. 13, no. 2 (2024): 296-300.

2023 Bryn Geffert and LeRoy Boerneke. *Catholics Without Rome: Old Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, and the Reunion Negotiations of the 1870s*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. 2022. *Newman Studies Journal*, vol. 20, no. 2 (2023): 102-04.

2022 Anne Marie Louise d’Orléans, Duchesse de Montpensier. *Œuvres Complètes, Vol. I et II. Mémoires*. Ed. Jean Garapon. Paris: Éditions Champion, 2020. *The Sixteenth-Century Journal*, vol. 53, no. 4 (2022): 1115-18.

2022 Daniel J. Watkins. *Berruyer’s Bible: Public Opinion and the Politics of Enlightenment Catholicism in France*. Montréal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2021. *The Journal of Religious History*, vol. 46, no. 3 (2022): 590-92.

Non-Refereed Publications

2025 Co-author with Shaun Blanchard. “A Rival Magisterium.” *Commonweal*, April 2025, pg. 34-39.

2022 “The Angel in the Top-Hat.” *Genealogies of Modernity Journal Blog*. Genealogies of Modernity Project. May 10, 2022

2022 “Jansenist Orientalism.” *Genealogies of Modernity Journal Blog*. Genealogies of Modernity Project. March 15, 2022.

2022 “Spiritual Abuse and Orthodox Disavowal.” *Genealogies of Modernity Journal Blog*. Genealogies of Modernity Project. February 10, 2022.

2020 “Magic and Modernity.” Review of Michael Hunter, *The Decline of Magic: Britain in the Enlightenment* (Yale University Press, 2020). *Genealogies of Modernity Journal Blog*. Genealogies of Modernity Project. April 20, 2020.

2019 “When a Pope Writes and the Church Rebels.” *Church Life Journal*. *ChurchLifeJournal.nd.edu*. The McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame. November 12, 2019.

2018 “On the wings of the Dawn – the lure of the Occult.” *Church Times*. December 18, 2018. pg. 19-20.

EXTERNAL AWARDS

- 2025-26 The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation, Fellow
- 2024-25 The Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Open Study/Research Grant, France
- 2024 The Chateaubriand Fellowship, The French Embassy in America (declined)
- 2024 The Marjorie M. and Lancelot L. Farrar Memorial Award, The Society for French Historical Studies
- 2023 Mother Theodore Guerin Research Travel Grant, The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame
- 2022 John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award – American Catholic Historical Association
- 2022 Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant for Research in European, African, or Asian History – American Historical Association
- 2021 The Peter Guilday Prize, American Catholic Historical Association, for my article “From the Dove to the Eagle: Jansenist Visual Culture Between Piety and Polemic” (*Catholic Historical Review*, Fall 2021)
- 2020 Presidential Travel Grant – American Catholic Historical Association

INTERNAL AWARDS (Research)

- 2024 Penn State Religious Studies Initiative, Graduate Student Paper Award, for “Women, Miracles, and the Church of Utrecht: 1724-1734”
- 2023 Penn State Consortium on Early Modern and Medieval Studies (CEMMS) Grad Student Award, 2nd Place
- 2022 Penn State Liberal Arts Research and Graduate Studies (RGSO) Research Grant
- 2022 Penn State Consortium on Early Modern and Medieval Studies (CEMMS) Grad Student Award, 2nd Place
- 2022 Ann Richards Paper Competition Award – Best ABD Research Paper, First Place
Paper: “Jansenism and Atlantic Slavery in the Long Eighteenth Century”
- 2022 Knight Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2021 Charles and Harriet Pencak Endowment, Penn State University
- 2021 Ann Richards Paper Competition Award – Best Pre-ABD Research Paper, First Place
Paper: “Hysterical Knowledge: Gender, Miracles, and Authority at Saint-Médard”
- 2021 Ann Richards Paper Competition Award – Best Historiography, First Place (tied)
Paper: “Holy Entanglements: The Recent Historiography of Jesuit *Accommodatio* in South India.”
- 2019 Ted H. and Tracy Winfree McCourtney Family Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in American History, Penn State University

INTERNAL AWARDS (Teaching)

- 2024 E-tu Zen Sun Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Penn State Department of History
- 2023 Department Nominee, Denise Haunani Solomon Outstanding Teaching Award for Graduate Students, Penn State University

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2025 “Prophets in the Cemetery: The Strange Case of the Convulsionnaires.” Lecture for the Penn State History Roundtable (undergrad group), October 28, 2023.

- 2024 “Bodies of Ink: Convulsionary Women and the Entranced Sign.” Work-in-Progress talk for the Penn State Society for the Study of Religion (SSR), April 10, 2024.
- 2024 “Convulsive Intimacies: Queering Jansenist Masculinity.” Work-in-Progress talk for the Penn State Consortium on Early Modern and Medieval Studies (CEMMS), January 25, 2024.
- 2023 “Strange Bodies: Sex with Spirits in Early Modern Europe.” Lecture for the Penn State History Roundtable (undergrad group), October 11, 2023.
- 2023 “The Terror of Grace: Nuns and Martyrs in Revolutionary France.” Pre-Performance Lecture for *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Penn State Opera Theatre, March 17-18, 2023.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Panels Organized

- 2025 “Gender, Resistance, and Authority in the Early Modern Catholic Archive,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, AHA Annual Meeting, January 3-5, 2025, New York, NY. Panel co-organizer.
Paper presented: “The Poisoned Pear: Gender, Disability, and Inspiration in a Jansenist Prison Narrative.”
- 2024 “Science and Religious Boundaries in the Long Eighteenth Century, I and II,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Meeting, April 4, 2024, Toronto, ON. Panel co-organizer.
- 2024 “Masculinities and Intimacies.” Society for French Historical Studies (SFHS) Annual Meeting, March 15, 2024, Hempstead, NY. Panel organizer.
Paper presented: “*Convulsionnaire* Men Together.”

Selected Papers Presented

- 2026 “The Convulsionary Enlightenment of Père Louis Guidi.” Society for French Historical Studies (SFHS) Annual Meeting, March 5-8, 2026, Philadelphia, PA. (accepted and forthcoming)
- 2026 “Divine Revenge and Disability in Jansenist Paris.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 8-11, 2026, Chicago, IL. (accepted and forthcoming)
- 2024 “An Eighteenth-Century Conventual Writer Between Rousseau and the Sacred Heart,” International Scholars of the History of Women Religious Association (ISHWRA) Workshop: Cultures of Engagement: Female Religious Communities in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, July 10, 2024, Durham, UK.
- 2023 “Disability and Female Agency in the French Convulsionary Movement,” Penn State Graduate Exhibition, March 20-24, 2023, University Park, PA (online).

- 2023 “A Different Kind of Sister: *Convulsionnaire* Women and Prophetic Authority,” Sorores Research Group, Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, March 9, 2023, San Juan, PR.
- 2023 “Catholic Women in Dissent: The Case of Convulsionary Jansenism,” Penn State Graduates in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (GWGSS) Conference, February 24, 2023, University Park, PA (online)
- 2023 “Convulsions, Disability, and Healing in Eighteenth-Century Jansenism,” American Society for Church History Annual Conference, January 6, 2023, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 “Jacqueline-Aimée Brohon: Victim-Soul and Revolutionary Prophet,” Symposium: *Women and Religion in Eighteenth-Century France: Ideas, Controversies, & Representations*, Queen Mary University of London, June 24, 2022 (online)
- 2022 “*Les Pierres de Scandale*: Jacqueline-Aimée Brohon and Her Revolutionary Reception,” American Catholic Historical Association Spring Meeting, April 22, 2022, Scranton, PA.
- 2022 “The Heart of Judith: Jansenism and the Gendered Epistemology of Religious Convulsions,” Research Group in Early Modern Religious Dissidents & Radicalism (EMoDiR), Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, March 31, 2022, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2022 “Jansenism and Atlantic Slavery in the Long Eighteenth Century,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, AHA Annual Meeting, January 6, 2022, New Orleans, LA.
- 2021 “The Other Port-Royal: Towards a Model of Jansenist Masculinity,” Sixteenth-Century Society & Conference, October 29, 2021, San Diego, CA.
- 2020 “From the Dove to the Eagle: Jansenist Visual Culture Between Piety and Polemic,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, AHA Annual Meeting, January 4, 2020, New York, NY.

Panels Chaired

- 2026 “From Sickrooms to Battlefields: Modern Approaches to Health, Science, and Dying,” American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, AHA Annual Meeting, January 9, 2026, Chicago, IL. (accepted and forthcoming)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- Spring 2023 *World History to 1500*
Fall 2021 *The History of Madness, Mental Illness, and Psychiatry*, taught through Penn State World Campus (online learning)

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2024 *American Civilization to 1877*
Fall 2023 *American Civilization since 1877*
Guest Lecture: "Watergate, Recession, Malaise: The 1970's," Nov. 15, 2023
Fall 2022 *The History of Western Medicine*
Guest Lecture: "Enlightenment Medicine," Sept. 27, 2022
Spring 2021 *Political Islam, Past and Present*, taught through Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum (DISC) (online learning) by Julie Stephens (Rutgers University)
Fall 2020 *Early Modern Empires of Islam* (online learning)
Guest Lecture: "Mughal Religious Syncretism," Oct. 12, 2020

Guest Lecturing

- Fall 2025 *Renaissance and Reformation* (instructor: Ronnie Po-chia Hsia)
Guest Lecture: "The Swiss and Radical Reformations," Oct. 28, 2025
Guest Lecture: "The Peasants' Revolt of 1525," Oct. 30, 2025

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- 2025 Jury Member (Interviewer) for Fulbright French Language Teaching Assistant applications, Fulbright Franco-American Commission
2024 External Reviewer, article, for *Preternature*
2024 External Reviewer, book manuscript, for Catholic University of America Press
2023-24 President, History Graduate Student Association (HGSA)
2023-24 President, Episcopal at Penn State
2023 External Reviewer, article, for *Newman Studies Journal*
2022-25 UVA Religious Studies Alumni Council (inaugural member)
2022 Presented to peers on conferences and academic community as part of the Penn State History Department's 602b professionalization series
2022 Co-organizer, Penn State Consortium on Early Modern and Medieval Studies' annual graduate student roundtable, March 16, 2022.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 Aiken County History Museum Summer Intern (Aiken County, SC), Summer Intern
2017 Aiken County History Museum Summer Intern (Aiken County, SC), Summer Intern

LANGUAGES

French: Advanced reading and speaking
Portuguese: Intermediate reading, basic speaking
Latin: Intermediate reading
Italian: Some reading knowledge
Dutch: Some reading knowledge

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The American Historical Association
The Society for French Historical Research
The American Catholic Historical Association
The American Society of Church History
The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
The Western Society for French History
La Société Européenne d'Histoire Religieuse
The Renaissance Society of America (lapsed)
The Sixteenth-Century Society & Conference (lapsed)