JENNIFER SCHEPER HUGHES

Curriculum Vitae

jhughes@ucr.edu

Areas of Specialization

History of religion in Mexico/New Spain. Catholic Studies. World Christianities. Material religion and theory of the object (especially the religious image). Ethnography of religion. Proximate histories of Christianity from 1500. Affective approaches to the study of religion and the history of emotion. Ritual and aesthetics. Theology and critical theory. Religion, catastrophe, and disease.

Professional Appointments

University of California, Riverside, Department of History
Professor July 2021 (Step V July 2023)
Associate Professor July 2012

Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
Yang Visiting Scholar of World Christianity 2024-5

Latino and Latin American Studies Research Center, University of California, Riverside.
Associate Director, 09/2022- 09/2024

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
Fellow 2016-17

University of California, Riverside, Department of Religious Studies
Associate Professor, July 2012
Assistant Professor, July 2006

University of California, Riverside, Latin American Studies Program
Cooperating Faculty, 2006-

Mt. Holyoke College, Department of Religion, South Hadley, MA
Visiting Assistant Professor, July 2005- June 2006

Education

Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Study of Religion, 2005
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA with affiliated studies and teaching at UC Berkeley
Dissertation co-chairs: Rosemary Radford Ruether (GTU) and William B. Taylor (UCB)

Master of Divinity, Religion and Society, 1996
Harvard University, Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
Thesis co-chairs: Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and Harvey Cox

Post-graduate study in African Christianity, Department of Religion, 7/93-5/94
University of Cape Town, South Africa
Advisor: Barney Pityana

B.A., Latin American Studies, Minor in History, 1992
University of California, Santa Cruz, CA. Highest Honors. Phi Beta Kappa.

Languages

Spanish and Portuguese.

Publications

Books

Catholic Women and Ritual Leadership in Twentieth Century Mexico and Central America (research in progress)

Church of the Dead: The Epidemic of 1576 and the Birth of Christianity in the Americas, New York University Press, 2021 (Hardcover). Audible (August 2021). Paperback (July 2023). https://nyupress.org/9781479802555/the-church-of-the-dead/

Reviewed in: *Church History*, *American Historical Review*, *American Religion*, *American Catholic Studies*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Christian Century*, *Reading Religion, Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions, Mélanges de science religieuse*, and others.

Awards:
Honorable Mention, Sixteenth Century Studies Society, Ronald H. Bainton Book Prize, 2022
Publishers' Weekly top five academic books on religion for 2021
Publishers' Weekly Starred Review and PW Picks
Nominee, 2022 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion

Conference book panels and published roundtables:
Book forum review roundtable, *Catholic Historical Review* 109:1 (Winter 2023)
Sixteenth Century Studies Society Annual Conference, Book Panel (October 2023)
American Academy of Religion, Book Panel (November 2022)
Saint Louis University, Center for Global Catholicism, Book Panel (October 2022).

Invited book talks:
In person: Dartmouth College, Princeton University, Université Paris-Sorbonne, Reed College, UC Berkeley, Saint Louis University, University of San Diego.
Virtual: The Newberry Library, University of Illinois (Chicago).
Graduate seminars (virtual): Stanford University, University of Michigan, University of Florida, Jesuit School of Theology (Berkeley).
Faculty reading group (virtual): Clemson College

Podcast Interviews: New Books Network, Infectious Historians

Biography of a Mexican Crucifix: Lived Religion and Local Faith from the Conquest to the Present, Oxford University Press, January 2010.

Reviewed in *Journal of Material Religion*, *The Americas*, *Church History*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Catholic Historical Review,* and others.
Book Panel: American Academy of Religion, November 2011, San Francisco, CA.
Invited Book Talks: Harvard University, USC-Huntington Library, Northwestern University and others.

Edited Volumes

Co-editor, with Yve Chavez, Jonathan Cordero, Ross Frank, Valentin Lopez, Renya Ramirez, Stan Rodriguez, Charlene Villaseñor. *Critical Mission Studies: California Indian Perspectives on Violence, Truth Telling, and Healing.* University of California Press (Spring 2027, in press).

Co-editor, with Pooyan Tamimi Arab and S. Brent Plate. *Routledge Handbook of Material Religion*. Routledge 2023. https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-Material-Religion/Arab-Hughes-Rodriguez-Plate/p/book/9780815385998. Paperback edition, April 2025.

Edited Special Issues of Journals

Co-editor, with Cynthia Neri Lewis, The Arts of Conquest in the California Missions. A Special issue of the *Journal of Latin American and Latinx Visual Cultures 2:3* (July 2020). https://doi.org/10.1525/lavc.2020.2.3.53

Co-editor, with Jalane Schmidt (UVA). Material Religion in Latin America. *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief 13:4* (December 2017). https://doi.org/10.1080/17432200.2017.1385344

Co-editor, with Maria das Dores Campos Machado (UFRP, Brazil). Spirits, Bodies, and Structures: Religion, Politics and Social Inequality in Latin America *Latin American Perspectives 43:3* (May 2016).

Co-editor, with Ariane Dalla Déa. Arts, Culture and Politics: Vol 1 and Vol. 2. *Latin American Perspectives* 39(2) March 2012 and 39(3) May 2012.

Journal Articles

"Lay Women and Religious Leadership in El Salvador", co-authored with Brianna Leavitt-Alcantara and Cecilia Kirkland (in preparation for submission to the journal of Ethnohistory).

"California *Confesionario*: Sin and Atonement in the Spanish Missions," co-authored with Valentin Lopez, Chair of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, (in preparation).

"Ruin and Redemption in Mexican Catholicism," *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Spring/Summer 2026, cover/lead article. https://bulletin.hds.harvard.edu/ruin-and-redemption-in-mexican-catholicism/

"Toward a Counter-history of Christianity: Theologies and Critical Analytics from Rosemary Radford Ruether," *Feminist Theology* 31:3 May 2023. Pages 314-323. https://doi.org/10.1177/09667350231163313

Young, Julia G., Lidia Ernestina Gómez García, Ramón A. Gutiérrez, J. Michelle Molina, Paul Ramírez, and Jennifer Scheper Hughes. Roundtable forum review of *The Church of the Dead: The Epidemic of 1576 and the Birth of Christianity in the Americas*, by Jennifer Hughes. *The Catholic Historical Review* 109, no. 1 (2023): 151-167. doi:10.1353/cat.2023.0006.

"Paying Tribute for the Dead: Religion and Spectral Labor in Sixteenth-Century Mexican Epidemics." *Labor: Studies in Working Class History* 20, no. 2 (2023): 30-49. https://doi.org/10.1215/15476715-10329792

"The Colony as Mystical Body of Christ: Theopolitical Embodiment in Mexico," *Social Analysis: The International Journal of Anthropology 64:4* (February 2021), 21-41. https://doi.org/10.3167/sa.2020.640402

"Religion and Emotion in the Archive of Empire," Documented: The Colonial Archive and the Future of the Americas, a special issue of *Hemispheres: A Magazine of the Americas* 27: Winter 2018, 33-35. https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/lacc_hemisphere/vol27/iss1/1/

"In the Absence of Bones," *Material Religion: The Journal of Arts, Objects and Belief* 13:13 (December 2017), 515-17. https://doi.org/10.1080/17432200.2017.1385925

"Cradling the Sacred: Image, Ritual and Affect in Mesoamerican and Mexican Material Religion," *History of Religions* 56:01 (August 2016), 55-107.
https://doi.org/10.1086/686768

"Take it Outside: Practicing Religion in Public," co-authored with Amanda Lucia (UCR), James Kyung-Jin Lee (UCLA), and S. Romi Mukerjee (Sciences Po, Paris), *BOOM: A Journal of California*, Winter 2015, pp55-63.

"God-bearers on Pilgrimage to Tepeyac: A Scholar of Religion Encounters the Material Dimension of Marian Devotion in Mexico," *Journal of Religion and the Arts* 18 (2014): 156-183.
https://doi.org/10.1163/15685292-01801009

Co-authored with Daisy Vargas, "The Traveling Image of the Holy Child of Atocha (Santo Niño de Atocha), Plateros, Mexico,", in *Conversation: An Online Journal of the Center for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion* 2014 (Yale University).

"*Mysterium Materiae*: Vital Matter and the Object as Evidence in the Study of Religion," *Bulletin for the Study of Religion 41:4. 16-24*. November 2012.
https://doi.org/10.1558/bsor.v41i4.16

"A Materialist Theory of Religion: The Latin American Frame," *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion: Journal of the North American Association for the Study of Religion 24:12 (2012) 430-444*.
https://doi.org/10.1163/15700682-12341236

"The Niño Jesus Doctor: Novelty and Innovation in Mexican Religion," *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions16:2* Nov. 2012: 4-26.
Winner of the 2013 Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religions (best article). https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2012.16.2.4

<u>Critical Introductions</u>
"Introducing Critical Mission Studies," co-authored with Yve Chavez, Jonathan Cordero, Ross Frank, Valentin Lopez, Renya Ramirez, Stan Rodriguez, Charlene Villaseñor, in *Introducing Critical Mission Studies,* University of California Press (in press, Spring 2027).

"Material Religion: Pasts, Presents, Futures," co-authored with Pooyan Arab and Brent Plate, in *Routledge Handbook of Material Religion*. Routledge 2023, 1-12.

"The Arts of Conquest in the California Missions: A Critical Introduction," co-authored with Cynthia Neri Lewis, *Journal of Latin American and Latinx Visual Cultures 2:3* (July 2020), 53-59.
https://doi.org/10.1525/lavc.2020.2.3.53

"Material Religion in Latin America: A Critical Introduction," co-authored with Jalane Schmidt, *Material Religion: The Journal of Arts, Objects and Belief* 13:13 (December 2017), 409-413.
https://doi.org/10.1080/17432200.2017.1385344

"Spirits, Bodies, Structures: Religion, Politics, and Social Inequality in Latin America," co-authored with Maria das Dores Campos Machado (UFRP), in Religion, Politics and Social Inequality in Latin America [Special Issue], *Latin American Perspectives* 43:3, (May 2016), 4-14.
https://www.jstor.org/stable/24765380

"Authenticity and Resistance: Latin American Art, Activism and Performance in the New Global Context," co-authored with Ariane Dalla Déa, *Latin American Perspectives: Arts, Culture and Politics Special Issue* 39(2) March 2012.

Book Chapters

"World Christianity Begins in Ruin: Concepts from the Founding of Mexican-Philippine Mission" in David Hempton and Gina Zurlo eds, *Christianity in Motion: Shifting Centers and Emerging Realities in World Christianity Studies in* Theology and Mission in World Christianity Series, Brill expected 2027 (final manuscript accepted and book under contract).

"*Geographia Sacra Mexicana*: Franciscan Imagining of World and Space (Tibesar Lecture). In J. Burns and T. Johnson, eds. *Landscapes and Languages: Exploring the Cultural Contours of La Florida and Beyond*, American Academy of Franciscan History, 2026.

Co-authored with Daisy Vargas, "Spectral Comrades and Comandantes: Latinx Hauntologies and the Day of the Dead in Orange County, CA. in Jessica Delgado and Chris Tirres eds., *New Directions in the Study of Latino and Latin American Religion,* University of New Mexico Press, 2025.

"Ritual Language and Sacred Labor in Greater Mexico from pre-Invasion to the Present," in the *Oxford Handbook of Ritual Language* (David Tavárez, ed.) Fall 2024.
https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192868091.013.4

"*Mortandad* as Hyperobject: Colonial Deathworlds and Epidemic Cataclysm in las Américas," *Routledge Handbook of Material Religion*, Pooyan Arab, Jennifer Hughes, and Brent Plate, eds. Routledge 2023.

"Objects of Devotion: Intimacy and Material Relations in Mexican Religion." In *Intimacies: Intersubjectivity in the Modern Christian Wes*t, Mary Dunn and Brenna Moore, eds. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020, 131-145.
https://iupress.org/9780253049865/religious-intimacies/

"Mapping the Autochthonous Indigenous Church: Toward a Decolonial History of Christianity in las Américas". In, Raimundo Barreto and Roberto Sirvent, eds, *Decolonial Christianities: Latinx and Latin American Perspectives*, Palgrave 2019. 91-106.

"The Sacred Art of Counter-Conquest: Material Christianity in Latin America." In *Oxford Handbook of Latin American Christianity*, Virginia Garrard, Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, David Orique, eds. Oxford University Press, 2020, 57-82
https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199860357.013.30

"Forward," in Francisco Lopez Morales, Nuevas miradas sobre la autenticidad e integridad en el Patrimonio Mundial de las Americas/New Views on Authenticity and Integrity in the World Heritage of the Americas. INAH: Mexico, 2018

"Ritual, History, and Emotion in Sacramental Spaces." In *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America: Essays on Synoptic Methods and Practices*, Karen Melvin and Sylvia Sellers-Garcia, eds., University of New Mexico Press, 2017. Award winner: D. Scott Palmer Best Edited Volume Prize from the New England Council of Latin American Studies.
https://www.unmpress.com/9780826359223/imagining-histories-of-colonial-latin-america/

"Traditionalist Catholicism in Mexico: Liturgical Renewal and Problem of Popular Religion in the Diocese of Cuernavaca." In *Catholics in the Vatican II Era: Local Histories of a Global Event*. Robert Orsi,

Timothy Matovina, and Kathleen Cummins, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2017, 64-85. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316493380

"The Conversion of Francis: The First Latin American Pope and the Women he Needs," co-authored with Nancy Scheper-Hughes. In *Global Latin America*, Matthew Gutmann and Jeffrey Lesser, eds. University of California Press, 2017. Pp 37-57. https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520277731/global-latin-america

"Contemporary Popular Catholicism in Latin America," in *The Cambridge History of Religion in Latin America*, Cambridge University Press, 2016. 482-492. https://doi.org/10.1017/CHO9781139032698

"The Final Conversion of Pope Francis," co-authored with Nancy Scheper-Hughes. *Berkeley Review of Latin American Studie*s, CLAS, Spring 2015.

"Theologies of Conquest: Bartolomé de las Casas and Indigenous Death in Mexico." In *Theologies of Feminist Liberation: A Festschrift in Honor of Rosemary Radford Ruether*, Emily Silverman and Dirk van der Horst, eds., Equinox Press, UK, 2012.

"The Catholic Church and Social Revolutionaries." In *Religion and Society in Latin America: Interpretive Essays from the Conquest to the Present*, ed. Lee Penyak and Walter Petry. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis. September 2009.

Book Reviews and Review Essays:

"Confession but No Absolution for Clergy Sexual Abuse" roundtable review of O'Neill's Kevin Lewis O'Neill's *Unforgivable: An Abusive Priest and the Church that Sent Him Abroad* (UC Press 2025), for *Religious Studies Review*, in press 2026.

Charlene Villaseñor Black, *Transforming Saints*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*. In Press, Fall 2023.

"Unexplained Revolutions: The Origins and Ends of Latin American Catholic Upheaval. A Roundtable Review of John McGreevy's Catholicism: A Global History" *Church History* Fall 2022.

Lilian Calles Barger, *The World Come of Age: An Intellectual History of Liberation Theology* (Oxford 2018). *Hispanic American Historical Review* 100:03 August 2020.

"Intimate Devotions and Local Histories: Archival Approaches to the Study of Colonial Mexican Religion." William B. Taylor, *Shrines and Miraculous Images: Religious Life in Mexico before the Reforma* (UNM, 2011). William B. Taylor, *Marvels and Miracles in Late Colonial Mexico* (UNM 2011). *History of Religions 2014 (54:01)*

John Lynch, *New Worlds: A Religious History of Latin America*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2012. *American Historical Review* (2013) 188 (5): 1566

Vincent Brown, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008)." *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, March 2012, 204-206.

Ann Taves, *Religious Experience Reconsidered: A Building-block Approach to the Study of Religion* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009) in *The Journal of Anglican and Episcopal History* (September 2011).

Javier Villa-Flores, *Dangerous Speech: A Social History of Blasphemy in Colonial Mexico* (University of Arizona Press, 2006) in *Hispanic American Historical Review* 88(4), 2008, pp 702-3.

Other Essays (non-refereed) and Reference Articles
"Vatican Reverses anti-Liberation Policies in Mexico," *Religion Dispatches*, June 24, 2014. Co-authored with Ruth Chojnacki.

"Spanish Explorations, Conquests, and Missions," "Portuguese Explorations, Conquests, and Missions," and "Padroado/Patronato". In *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Daniel Patte, ed, Cambridge University Press, September 2010.

"Narcoviolence and the Failure of the Church in Mexico," *Religion Dispatches* (online). September 2, 2010.

Grants, Awards, and Honors

Awards:
Honorable Mention, Sixteenth Century Studies Society, Ronald H. Bainton Book Prize, 2022. For *Church of the Dead* (NYU 2021)

Starred Review, Publishers Weekly 2023. For *Church of the Dead* (NYU 2021)

Best Five Academic Books on Religion for 2021, Publishers Weekly. For *Church of the Dead* (NYU 2021)

Nominee, Grawemeyer Award in Religion 2023. For *Church of the Dead* (NYU 2021)

D. Scott Palmer Best Edited Volume Prize from the New England Council of Latin American Studies. For *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America: Essays on Synoptic Methods and Practices*, Karen Melvin and Sylvia Sellers-Garcia, eds., University of New Mexico Press, 2017 which included J. Hughes chapter, "Ritual, History, and Emotion in Sacramental Spaces."

Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religions. Award for best article 2014 for "The Niño Jesus Doctor: Novelty and Innovation in Mexican Religion".

Extramural Grants:
Campus Principal Investigator, "Critical Mission Studies", Multicampus Research Initiative Programs, University of California Office of the President. January 2019-Dec 2021. $1.03 million for fostering new research on California mission history in collaboration with California Indian tribal nations and communities.

Principal Investigator. "Shared Pasts/Shared Futures: The Missions of California, Alta y Baja." UC-Mexico Initiative Launch, University of California Office of the President $25,000 January 2016-June 2017.

Convener. Mellon Seminar, "Advancing Intercultural Studies: Immigrant and Minority Religions," Spring 2015. Center for Ideas and Society, UC Riverside.

Principal Investigator. Religions in Global Diaspora and Public Affairs: Public Religion in Secular Cityscapes, Luce Foundation. A collaborative humanities study of immigration and public religion in California. UC Humanities Research Initiative. $75,000 (2013-2015).

Lived History of Vatican II Research Grant, University of Notre Dame, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, $8,000 (2011-2014). For the study of popular religion in Mexico after the Second Vatican Council.

Chancellor's Research Initiative Grant, Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion, UC Riverside $12,000 (2011-12).

Fellowships and Residencies:
Radcliffe Summer Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University 2026.

Yang Visiting Scholar of World Christianity AY 2024-5. Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

Resident, Center for the Study of World Religions, AY 2024-25. Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

Maury Green Fellow 2016-17, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. "Contagion and the Sacred in Mexico: Epidemic Disease, Indigenous Death, and the Birth of New World Catholicism." $75,000

University of California President's Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities (2010-11). $25,000. "Epidemics and New World Religions". Supporting a year of research leave.

Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Honors:
Outstanding Dissertation Proposal of the Year Award (2003), Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.

Episcopal Church Foundation Doctoral Fellow, $25,000 (2001-2003)

Newhall Award for Teaching and Research (2001-2002, 2004), Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California.

Presidential Fellow (1999-2001). Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California.

Joseph Coleman Richard's Scholar for Excellence in Field Education, 1995-6. Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA.

Highest Honors, UC Santa Cruz, Latin American Studies, 1992.

Phi Beta Kappa, UC Santa Cruz, CA, 1992.

Exhibitions, Curatorial Work, Public History

Organizer, A California Indian Tour of Mission San Diego and Old Town San Diego," with Stanley Rodriguez, President Kumeyaay Community College. November 2024. 38 attendees (faculty, students).

Curator, with Joanna Szupinska-Myers. "Alinka Echeverría: Faith and Vision". California Museum of Photography. November 1, 2014-Janaury 24, 2015.

Curatorial Essay, Gallery Guide: Alinka Echeverría; Faith and Vision". California Museum of Photography. November 1, 2014-Janaury 24, 2015.

Exhibition wall text, "The Road to Tepeyac," "Small Miracles," and "Deep Blindness". Alinka

Echeverría; Faith and Vision". California Museum of Photography. November 1, 2014-Janaury 24, 2015.

Films

Director and Producer, *Night of Altars/Noche de Altares: Recreating Day of the Dead in California*, 36 min, 2016. Premier screening, Downtown Independent Theater, Los Angeles, CA., Friday, October 23, 2015. Funded by the Luce Foundation.

Ph.D. Student Advisees (committee chair/advisor)

Guillermo Marquez, UCR Department of History. PhD in progress, "Destierro: Space and Displacement in Colonial Mexico".

Kim Diaz, UCR, Ph.D Department of Religion. Summer 2026 "Muscular Christianity and the Game of Empire in the United States and Mexico," Department of Religious Studies. Instructor, Occidental College.

Christopher Valencia, PhD Summer 2026 "God, Gifts and Graffiti Art: Religion and Presence on the Streets of San Bernardino", Department of Religion, Dissertation in progress. Assistant Professor (non-tenure track) at Hendrix College.

Blanca Nuñez, UCR Ph.D. Fall 2024, "Feminist History and Class Politics in Mexico: The Radicalizing Activism of Concha Michel (1920-1940)". Lecturer, Azusa Pacific University.

Kristian Díaz, UCR Ph. D. 2022, University of Denver (external advisor), "Transnational Religious Pluralism and Identity Formation: Oscar Romero and Salvadoran Diaspora after the Civil War".

Daisy Vargas, UCR, Ph.D. 2018, "Latino Religions and the Law". Department of History. Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2017-18). Assistant Professor of Religious Studies (tenure track), University of Arizona.

Harold Morales, UCR, Ph.D 2012, Dissertation, "Latino Muslims by Design." Department of Religious Studies. Professor with tenure, Morgan State University, MD.

MA and BA. Student Advisees (thesis chair/advisor)

Erin Routon, UCR, MA thesis Religious Studies. Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Houston.

Matthew Casey, UCR MA thesis Religious Studies. Associate Clinical Professor of History, Arizona State University.

Gabriela Perez, UCR, BA honors thesis. PhD Candidate UCLA Chicano Studies

Rebecca Villarreal, UCR, BA Honors thesis. Research Librarian, Harvard Divinity School Library.

Editorial Boards

Editorial Advisory Board Member, *Mexican Studies/Estudios* Mexicanos, Fall 2026-

Editorial Advisory Board Member, Catholic Practice in the Americas Book Series, Fordham University Press, Fall 2021-

Co-Editor in Chief, *Anglican Theological Review*, August 2022- present

Editorial Advisory Board Member, *Material Religion: Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*, 01/2020-

Editorial Collective Member, *Latin American Perspectives*, 05/2010-2022

Editor*, Journal for South-South Dialogue and Exchange*, (Religion Exchange Program, Cape Town, South Africa) 1993-1994.

Named Lectures/Conference Keynotes

Hackett Lecture in Global Christianity. Center for the Study of World Religions. Harvard Divinity School, April 7 2025.

Tibesar Lecture and Conference keynote: "Franciscan Affects and Landscapes of Loss in Sixteenth Century Mexico", Archive of American Franciscan History, Saint Augustine Florida, March 2023

Conference Keynote: "*Corpus Coloniae Mysticum*: Indigenous Bodies and the Body of Christ in Mexico," Religion in the Americas Conference, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, April 2018.

Conference Keynote: "Latino Liturgies of the Dead: Strangers and Pilgrims on the Streets of California," *Strangers and Pilgrims / Étrangers et voyageurs Déplacements et métamorphoses spatiales du religieux dans les mondes Anglophones*. Université Paris. January 28-29, 2016.

Conference Keynote: "Material Cultures of Guadalupan Devotion at the Tepeyac Hill Shrine," Guadalupe: Reinterpretations of Text and Icon. Cal State University, Dominguez Hills. September 2015.

Annual Distinguished Lecture: "Narco-saints and Crisis in Mexico," Department of Religion, University of the Incarnate World, March 2011. San Antonio, TX.

Invited Talks

"Political Theologies of Embodiment in Sixteenth-Century Mexico". Conference on Embodiment and Religious Life. University of Oxford, UK. June 2025.

"World Christianity and the Labor of Salvage: Concepts from Latin American Catholicism," Radcliffe Workshop, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, March 2025.

"Meanings of the Cargo System in Mexico, Central America, and at Harvard", Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, January 30th, 2025.

"Church of the Dead" (invited book talk). Dartmouth University, November 2024.

"Unexplained Revolutions" Roundtable Response on John McGreevy's Catholicism: A Global History" Sponsored by American Society for Church History and Boston University Center for Global Christianity. Nov 17, 2023. (Virtual)

Roundtable Panelists. Processing the Pandemic III: Hope. An Interdisciplinary Approach to Emotions in the Wake of COVID 19. University of Warwick U.K. and The Newberry Library, April 14th, 2023. (Virtual)

"Indigenous Horizons of American Catholicism," *Horizons catholiques dans le monde anglophone*, Université Paris-Sorbonne, Condorcet, Paris, France March 20, 2023.

"Medicine as Sacrament: The Church of the Dead," Luce Lecture in Religion and Health. University of California, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, November 8th, 2022

"Critical Mission Studies: Curating California's Missions," (virtual) ENCRYM, Mexico, November 8th, 2022 (virtual)

Respondent, Book panel on *The Church of the Dead*, Center for Research on Global Catholicisms, Saint Louis University, October 20, 2022.

"Religion and Spectral Labor in Mexico," Sacred Underground Seminar, University of Southern California, October 28th, 2022.

"Mexican Futures in a Post Pandemic World: Religious Visions in Two Colonial Maps," Processing the Pandemic Series, The Newberry Library (virtual), October 15, 2022

"What Catholic Pasts and Catholic Futures Orient our Studies?" Building Catholic Studies Where We Are, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, April 28-30, 2022

"The Church of the Dead" (Invited book talk), Religion and the Public Conversation Series, Center for Culture, Society, and Religion, Princeton University, March 2022.

"The Church of the Dead," (Invited book talk), University of San Diego, February 2022

"The Church of the Dead: Epidemics and the Origins of Christianity in Mexico," (Invited book talk). Reed College, Portland, OR, September 2021.

"Religion, Art, and Epidemic Disease in Mexico," COVID-19 The Arts in Times of Contagion. Department of Art History, UCLA, April 9, 2020

"On Ruin," The Future of Material Religion Symposium. Utrecht University, the Netherlands. July 2018.

"Christian Cartographies in a Ruined World: Maps and Landscapes in 16th Century Mexico." School of Religion Master class series. University of Southern California. April 16, 2018.

"Affect," Theopolitics from/of Las Américas: A Workshop, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, May 19, 2017.

"Contagion and the Sacred in Mexico," Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, April 19, 2017.

"'We Bleed from our Noses': Religious Responses to Hemorrhagic Fever in Mexico," History of Medicine Workshop, Harvard University, Department of History of Science, April 3, 2017.

"Latino Religious Practice and Community Identity: Performance and Public Space in California," A Mellon-sponsored workshop on Religion in Contemporary Public Life in the Americas. Mt. Holyoke College, April 2017.

"Material Religion and Indigenous Christianity in Latin America: The Sacred Art of Counter-conquest", Boston University, Latin American Studies and Program in the Study of Religion, January 25th, 2017.

"Blood, Religion, and Bodies in Sixteenth-Century Mexico." Religion, Race, Colonialism: A Conference in Memory of Maria Elena Martínez. Princeton University, Department of Religious Studies, March 3-4, 2017.

"Contagion and the Sacred in Mexico," Radcliffe Institute Fellows Lecture, Harvard University, December 14, 2016.

"Epidemics, Indigenous Death, and the Ambivalent Origins of American Christianity," Workshop in American History and Culture, Université Paris-Sorbonne, February 2, 2016.

"The Mexican Analogical Imagination: Image, Ritual and Affect in Mexican Material Religion," Material Religion Conference. September 2015. Duke University, Durham, NC.

"Mexican Necroscapes and the Ritual-Political Imaginary of the Agentic Dead," The Supernatural in Religious Studies Research Workshop, University of Southern California, February 27-28, 2015.

"Liberation Undone: The Dismantling of the Liberationist Church and its Consequences for Mexico." Catholicisms in the Americas Conference. March 2014. Georgetown University, VA.

"Vibrant Materiality in a Latin American Frame," Vibrant Materiality: Religion, Embodiment, and the Life of Things: An Interdisciplinary Symposium. Northwestern University. April 27, 2012. Chicago, IL.

"Tenderness and Affection in Mesoamerican Material Religion," Sensory Cultures of Religion Lecture Series, March 20, 2012. Yale University, New Haven, CT.

"Religious images as agents, objects, and subjects in Latin American practice", University of Southern California, March 2012. Los Angeles, CA.

"Mexican Kairos: Religious Responses to Epidemic Disease in Sixteenth Century Mexico," Department of Religious Studies, January 2012. University of Texas, Austin. Austin, TX.

"Novelty and Innovation in Mexican Religion," Workshop on American Religion, Department of Religious Studies, Princeton University, October 2010. Princeton, NJ.

"The Gospel of Totolapan: Lived Religion in Mexico." Latin American Studies Lecture Series, Department of History, May 2010, University of California, Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara, CA.

"Biography of a Mexican Crucifix," Five Colleges Religion Seminar. October 2005. Amherst, MA

Scholarly Association Conference Papers

"Pandemic Temporalities: Imagining Post-Pandemic Futures in Sixteenth Century Mexico," Renaissance Studies Society, San Francisco February 2026.

"Spectral Comrades," Book Panel on *Religion the Américas*, American Academy of Religion, Boston November, 2025.

"Tequitl and the Sources of Material Religion in Sixteenth Century Mexico", Sixteenth Century Studies Society, Portland, OR October 2025.

"Speaking of the Cargo: Ritual Language and Labor in Greater Mexico from Pre-Invasion to the Present", Book Panel. Society of Linguistic Anthropology (American Anthropological Association), Chicago, IL May 2025. https://www.2025slaconference.org/program

A California Confesionario: Critical Mission Studies: California Indian Perspectives. American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November of 2024

Participant. "A Carnival of Gods in the Panthéon," American Catholic Historical Society Seminar. April 2024.

"Religion, Protest, and Spectral Labor in the Mexican Mortandad", New Perspectives on Religion, Identity, and the Social Order in Preconquest and Early Colonial Mexico (Panel), American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA Jan 2024.

Respondent. New Research on Illness, Healing and Religion panel. American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA Jan 2024.

"Spectral Labor and Protesting the 'Tribute for the Dead' in the Mexican *Mortandad*", American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, San Antonio, TX November 2023.

Respondent. Mesoamerican Religion panel. American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, San Antonio, TX November 2023.

Roundtable on *The Church of the Dead*: Book Panel Respondent, Sixteenth Century Studies Society Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD October 2023

"Ekklesia of the Dead": Book Panel respondent, American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, Nov 2022,

"The Church of the Dead," American Catholic Historical Association/American Historical Association National Meetings. New Orleans, LA, January 2022 (Cancelled due to COVID)

"Indigenous Countermaps of Mexican Catholicism", The Making and Unmaking of Catholic Cities and Towns, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2021.

"Capitalism, Dis-ease, and the Long Shadow of COVID-19 Roundtable," American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2021.

"Thinking about Sin and Confession in the California Missions," Critical Mission Studies Conference, Sycuan, CA November 2021.

"Contagion, Religion, and the Cities Roundtable," American Academy of Religion (online), November 2020.

"Critical Responses to Robert Chao Romero's *Brown Church* (a panel discussion), American Academy of Religion (online), November 2020.

Critical Terms in the History of Christianity: "Mission", American Historical Association/American Society of Church History, January 2020, New York, New York.

Critical Terms in the History of Christianity: "Blood", American Historical Association/American Society of Church History, January 2020, New York, New York.

"Contagion and the Sacred in Mexico," Roundtable on Contagion, American Academy of Religion, Nov 2019, San Diego, CA

"On Debt," Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee, American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. Nov. 2018

"Indigenous Responses to Epidemic Cataclysm in the Sixteenth Century," Religion in the Latino/a Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. Nov. 2018.

"*Ecclesia ex mortuis*: Indigenous Bodies, and the Body of Christ." Critical Issues in the Study of Catholicism and Colonialism Roundtable, Roman Catholic Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. Nov. 2018.

"At Play in the Fields of the Lord: Latino Religious Practice in the Streets of Los Angeles" American Studies Association. November 9, 2014. Los Angeles, CA.

"Day of the Dead and the Invention of Public Religion in California" American Academy of Religion Meetings, 11/23/2014 San Diego, CA.

"Placing the Subfield: North American Religions, Religion in the America and Beyond." Roundtable discussion sponsored by the North American Religions Section; Anthropology of Religion Group; Asian North American Religion, Culture and Society Group; Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group; North American Hinduism Group; Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group. American Academy of Religion, November, 2013 Baltimore, MD.

"Intimate Others on the Missionary Frontier: Indigenous Bodies and Christian Practice in New Spain." American Society of Ethnohistory Meetings, September 15, 2013. New Orleans, LA.

"Cradling as a Ritual Posture in Mesoamerican Religion," Latin American Studies Association, May 23-26, 2012, San Francisco, CA.

"Ritual postures and Religious Art in Mexican and Mexican-American Cultures", Association of Scholars of Christianity and the History of Art, February 21, 2012. Los Angeles, CA.

"The Object as Evidence in American Religion," North American Association for the Study of Religion, November 2011, San Francisco, CA.

"Cradling and Presentation: Affection and Tenderness for the Object in Mesoamerican Religion," Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, American Academy of Religion, November 2011, San Francisco, CA.

Conference Book Panel on *Biography of a Mexican Crucifix* (Hughes) and *Latino Catholicism* (Matovina), Roman Catholic Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, November 2011, San Francisco, CA.

"Material Religion: On the Agency of Objects," North American Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, November 2011, San Francisco, CA.

"Religious Responses to Demographic Catastrophe in Mexico," Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, July 2011. Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico.

"Material Religion and Culture in Latin America: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches," USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, University of Southern California, Huntington Library, March 2011. Pasadena, CA.

"Religious Innovation and Indigenous Death in Colonial Mexico," Native American Traditions Group, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 2010.

"From Small Pox to Swine Flu: Images and Epidemics in Mexico," Religion, Disease and Epidemics in Mexico Panel, Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies, April 2010, Boulder, CO.

"Local Religion and Global Civil Society in Latin America," Luce Project on Religion in Global Civil Society. Orfalea Center for global and International Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, January 16, 2010. Santa Barbara, CA.

"Liberation Theology in Historical Context", Religion in Latin American and Caribbean Group, American Academic of Religion, Montreal, November 2009. Montreal, Canada.

"Biography of a Mexican Crucifix: Art, Aesthetics, and Affect in the Study of Latin American and Latino/a Religion". Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, February 2009. Cambridge, MA.

"¡Romero Presente! Popular Devotion to San Oscar Romero," Saints and Social Worlds Panel, History of Christianity Section. American Academic of Religion, San Diego, November 2007.

"The Gentle Devotions of a Rebellious People: Local Religion and Popular Practice in Morelos, Mexico," Religion, Religiosity and Spirituality Track. Latin American Studies Association Congress. Montreal, September 2007. Montreal, Canada.

Session Chair, The Irruption of the Mystical in the Modern, Religion, Religiosity and Spirituality Track. Latin American Studies Association Congress. Montreal, September 2007. Montreal, Canada.

"The Case of María Tiburcia: Mexican Itinerant Preacher and Curandera," American Academy of Religion, Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group and Ritual Studies group. November 2005. Philadelphia, PA.

"Religion and Transnationalism in Latin America," Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History. July 2005. Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico.

"Spiritual Practice versus Art in a Mexican Cult," American Academy of Religion, Christian Spirituality Group: Spiritual Practice in Latino/a Art and Devotion. San Antonio, Texas. November 2004.

"The Bishop, the Cristo, and the Aesthetics of Liberation," Tepoztlán Institute on Transnational History of the Americas. July 2004. Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico.

"Approaches to the Study of Race in Brazil: A Response to John French," Tepoztlán Institute on Transnational History of the Americas. July 2004. Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico.

"The Iconography of Suffering: Indigenous Perspectives on Christian Self-inflicted Violence and the Brutality of the Crucifix in Colonial Mexico," American Academy of Religion Meetings, Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group. November 2003. Atlanta, GA.

Conference Organizing

Organizer, with Stanley Rodriguez, Critical Mission Studies Conference, at UCSD, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and on Kumeyaay land in Baja, CA. November 2021.

Organizer, with Renya Rodriguez and Valentin Lopez, "Critical Mission Studies: From Truth Telling to Healing," at Historic Santa Cruz Mission, CA, August 2021.

Co-Organizer, with Charlene Villasenor Black, "Arts of Conquest in the Spanish California Missions," funded by the Terra Foundation, UCLA 2019.

Organizer, Critical Mission Studies, Gathering of California Indian leaders to discuss legacy of the California Missions, March 2019, UC Riverside.

Organizer (with Steve Hackel), California Missions as Shared Heritage: A binational summit, UC Riverside/Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA June 2-3, 2016.

Organizer, California Getting Religion, January 22, 2016. Co-sponsored by UCHRI, BOOM: A Journal of California, CHASS Office of the Dean, and the Department of Religious Studies.

Organizer, with Jennifer Nájera, Objects of Devotion/*Objetos de Devoción*: Latin American Religious Material Cultures. UC Riverside, Culver Center for the Arts, California Museum of Photography, and UC Humanities Research Institute. December 12-13, 2014.

Organizer, with Jalane Schmidt, Material Religion in Latin America Panel, Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA), San Francisco 2012.

Organizer, Religion, Disease and Epidemics in Mexico Panel, Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies, Boulder, CO, April 2010.

Organizer, with Jonathan Walton and Michael Alexander, Re-imagining American Religions Conference, UC Riverside, Riverside, California, March 2010.

Organizing Committee, Crisis and Opportunities in Latin America Conference, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA, March 2010.

Session Chair, "Two books at the intersection of Religion and Art: David Carrasco and Laura Pérez" Religion in Latin American and Caribbean Group, American Academic of Religion, Chicago, November 2008.

University Leadership

Member, Graduate Counsel, University of California Academic Senate, Riverside Division, Fall 2025-

Graduate program review team member, Department of Comparative Literatures, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2026.

Served on a special, confidential task assigned by the Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development, University of California, Riverside. Fall 2025-6.

Representative to the Assembly (elected), Academic Senate, University of California, July 2023-July 2025

Associate Chair, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2022-Summer 2024.

Chair, Women's Faculty Association, UC Riverside August 2019-2024.

Member, Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching, UC Riverside Academic Senate, 2018-2020

Member, Thriving Campus Communities Strategic Visioning Committee, UC Riverside, 2019-2021

Project Lead: Spanish Missions as Shared Heritage. UC-Mexico Initiative, UC Office of the President, 2015-2018

Fellow, UC-CORO Leadership Collaborative, 1/2016-8/2016 (withdrew to take up fellowship at Radcliffe Institute).

Member, UC-Mexico Initiative--Humanities and the Arts Steering Committee, University of California, Office of the President, 2015- 2016

Member, Executive Council, Academic Senate, University of California, Riverside 7/2012- 7/2016

Chair, Faculty Welfare Committee, Academic Senate, University of California, Riverside, 2014-2016

Chair, Senate Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Harassment, Academic Senate, University of California, 2014-2015

Co-Founder and Co-Chair (with Erica Edwards), CHASS Mid-career Research Initiative, to support the work of Associate women professors on the path to full professor. Funding from CHASS Office of the Dean, Center for Ideas and Society, and the Departments of English, History, Religious Studies.

Member, Academic Senate, Committee on Academic Freedom, University of California, Riverside, 2014- 2016.

Member, Board of Directors, Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside 2013-2017

Invited Participant, Joint Office of the President Faculty Dialogue Regarding Disciplinary Process (Sexual Harassment), UC Irvine, January 13, 2016

Invited Participant, Campus Shared Services Operational Excellence Meeting, UC Berkeley, 04/2015

CARE Advocate Recruitment Committee, Office of the Chancellor, University of California, Riverside, 2015

Chair, Harassment and Conflict Resolution Workshop for Senate Leaders, University of California, Riverside, 03/2014.

Vice-Chair (elected), Academic Senate, Riverside Division. University of California, Riverside 2013-2014

Chair (elected), CHASS Executive Committee, Academic Senate, (College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) University of California, Riverside, 2012- 2013

Member (elected), Executive Committee, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, UC Riverside Academic Senate, 2011-12.

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of History, UC Riverside, Fall2012, Winter 2013.

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Religious Studies, UC Riverside, 2009-2010, 2011-12.

Member and collaborating faculty, Latin American Studies Committee, University of California, Riverside. 2007- present

Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Religious Studies, UCR 2009, 2010

Member, University Library and Communications Committee, Academic Senate, University of California, Riverside, 2009, 2010

Co-chair, Departmental Colloquium Series, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside. 2008-09

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside. 2006-7, 2008-9

Student representative, Doctoral Council, Graduate Theological Union, 2002-2004

Member, Student Advisory Committee, Graduate Theological Union, 2001-2002 and 2004-2005

Diversity Training Workshop Facilitator, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA 1995

Service to the Profession

Onsite Review Board Member, Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP), University of California Office of the President, Winter 2026.

Review Board and Chair (as of 2024), American Catholic Historical Association, Ellis Dissertation Award, 2022-2025.

Reviewer, Fellowship applications, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies (2018- present)

Reviewer, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2011-12, 2019- present. Onsite Review Board during COVID.

Reviewer, Anthropology of Religion Unit, Five-year review, American Academy of Religion, Fall 2018.

Co-Chair Religion and Spirituality Track, Latin American Studies Association Congress (2018), Barcelona, Spain.

Member, Standing Committee on Contingent and Adjunct Labor, American Academy of Religion, January 2018-2021.

Review Board, Multi-campus Research Programs and Initiatives, University of California Office of the President, Fall 2016. Reviewing proposals for grant awards totaling in excess of $3,000,000.

Steering Committee Co-chair, Latino/a Critical and Comparative Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, 2014-2016

Steering Committee Member, North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion, 2014-2021

Program Unit Chair, Religion in Latin American and the Caribbean Group, American Academy of Religion, November 2007- 2012

Founding Co-Director, Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion, Center for the Study of Ideas and Society, UC Riverside, 2011-

Reviewer, Grant Proposals, Social Science Research Council, 2011-12

Related Work Experience

Latino Health Institute, Boston, MA

HIV/AIDS Advocate and Homeless Case Manager, 5/97 to 8/99

Provided advocacy and crisis/case management in Spanish and Portuguese for homeless Latinos and Brazilians living with HIV for largest Latino agency in Greater Boston. Coordinated care with other state and non-profit organizations. Managed budget, complied with federal reporting guidelines. Organized peer-advocacy group.

Tri-city Community Action Program, Malden, MA

HIV/AIDS Advocate and Homeless Case Manager, 57/96 to 5/97

Provided advocacy and crisis/case management in Spanish and English for dual-diagnosis homeless people living with HIV/AIDS including veterans. Coordinated care with other state and non-profit organizations.

East Boston Ecumenical Community Council, Boston, MA

Tenant Organizer, Field education intern, AY 1994-1995

Organized for tenants' rights in diverse, working-poor immigrant community among Central Americans, Brazilians, Cambodians, and Italian-Americans.

Trauma Center for Victims of Violence and Torture, Cape Town, South Africa

Refugee Translator and Advocate, AY 1993-1994

Provided translation, counseling, and needs assessment for Angolan refugees, war victims, rape victims, and adolescent soldiers.

Professional Associations/Memberships

American Academy of Religion (since 2001)
Latin American Studies Association (since 2007)
Society for Ethnohistory (since 2012)
American Historical Association (since 2013)
Sixteenth Century Studies Society (Since 2021)
Renaissance Studies of America (2025)
American Catholic Historical Association (Since 2015)
American Society of Church History