

**Alexandra Kirby Sokolow**  
**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Doctoral Candidate**

233 Claudia Cohen Hall  
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Philadelphia, PA 19104

she/her/hers  
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**EDUCATION**

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<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>Religious Studies   University of Pennsylvania</b>	2025 (expected)
	In progress dissertation: “Buddhist Exceptionalism Behind Bars: Transforming Race, Religion, and Power” Advisor: Dr. Jolyon Thomas	
<b>M.A. (incidental)</b>	<b>Religious Studies   University of Pennsylvania</b>	2023
<b>M.A. (terminal)</b>	<b>Religious Studies   New York University</b>	2018
	Thesis: “Materializing Postmemory: A Study of Embodiment in Second- and Third-Generation Holocaust Documentaries” Advisor: Dr. Angela Zito	
<b>B.A.</b>	<b>Religion (with honors)   Wesleyan University</b>	2014
	Thesis: <a href="#">“Cyberspirituality: Constructing Religion Through the Internet”</a> Advisor: Dr. Justine Buck Quijada	

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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<b>SAS Dean's Travel Subvention</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2023
<b>SASgov Research Grant</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2023
<b>Wolf Humanities Center Doctoral Fellow</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2023-2024
<b>Dissertation Research Award</b> , SAS, University of Pennsylvania	2023-2024
<b>Israel Goldstein Prize</b> , Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania	2022
<b>Meltzer Graduate Fellowship</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2021 - 2022
<b>Sidney H. Ellis Graduate Fellowship</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2020 - 2021
<b>SAS Dean's Travel Subvention</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2020
<b>GAPSA Research Council Travel Grant</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2020
<b>Benjamin Franklin Fellowship</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2019 - 2024
<b>Departmental Fellowship</b> , Religious Studies, New York University	2016 - 2018

## PRESENTATIONS

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“Buddhist Exceptionalism Behind Bars: Transforming Religion, Race, and Power,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2023 (forthcoming, paper accepted).

“Feeling Diagnosis: Uncertainty and Pleasure in the Medical Model of Disability,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2023 (forthcoming, paper accepted).

“Transforming the Incarcerated Self: Buddhist Modernism in American Prisons,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, December 2020 (online conference).

“Accessibility in the Online Classroom and Beyond, co-presenter, University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies Colloquium, September 2020 (online).

“Materializing Postmemory: A Study of Embodiment in Second- and Third-Generation Holocaust Documentaries,” Concordia University Annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference, Montréal, QC, Canada, February 2020.

“Materializing Postmemory: A Study of Embodiment in Second- and Third-Generation Holocaust Documentaries,” Queen’s University Context & Meaning graduate research conference, Kingston, ON Canada, January 2020.

“Materializing Postmemory: A Study of Embodiment in Second- and Third-Generation Holocaust Documentaries,” Boston University Graduate Conference on Religion and Technology, Boston, MA, September 2018.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Reviews

McDaniel, Justin and Sokolow, Kirby. “KARMA AND PUNISHMENT: Prison Chaplaincy in Japan by Adam J. Lyons.” *Pacific Affairs* 95, no. 4 (December 2022): 855–857. <https://pacificaffairs.ubc.ca/book-reviews/karma-and-punishment-prison-chaplaincy-in-japan-by-adam-j-lyons/>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of Pennsylvania

**Teaching Assistant to Professor Justin McDaniel** Fall 2023 (current position)

Course: “Introduction to Buddhism”

Responsibilities: Leading two, one-hour recitation classes each week. Grading assignments and providing detailed feedback to students. Meeting one-on-one with students to discuss class material and assignments.

**Teaching Assistant to Professor Anthea Butler** Spring 2023  
Course: "Religion from Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter"  
Responsibilities: Graded essays and provided detailed, individual feedback to students.  
Led one class on the topic of "Christian Views on Segregation."

**Teaching Assistant to Professor Steven Weitzman** Spring 2021  
Course: "Jews, Race, and Religion" (online format)  
Responsibilities: Graded writing assignments and provided detailed, individual feedback to students. Met with students to discuss class material and academic paper-writing.

**Teaching Assistant to Professor Jolyon Thomas** Fall 2020  
Course: "The Religion of Anime" (online format)  
Responsibilities: Taught two, one-hour recitation classes each week. Graded writing assignments and provided detailed, individual feedback to students. Met one-on-one with students to discuss class material and academic paper-writing.

## **SERVICE**

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### **University of Pennsylvania**

**Research Assistant to Dr. Jolyon Thomas** Fall 2022  
**SASgov Student Government Representative for Religious Studies** 2021-2022

### **Community**

**Prison Health News** January 2023 - Present  
Wrote and fact-checked articles for the quarterly newsletter, which is distributed in prisons across the U.S. Corresponded with both incarcerated and non-incarcerated Advisory Board members. Participated in monthly general meetings and newsletter planning meetings. <https://prisonhealth.news/>

## **LANGUAGES**

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**English:** Native language  
**French:** Professional reading proficiency, moderate writing and speaking proficiency  
**Spanish:** Professional reading proficiency

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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**American Academy of Religion**