

# Jolyon Baraka Thomas

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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2021– Associate Professor, Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017–2021 Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015–2017 Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Civilizations,  
University of Pennsylvania
- 2014–2015 A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, University of  
Wisconsin–Madison

## EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD, Religion  
Princeton University Department of Religion  
Thesis: “Japan’s Preoccupation with Religious Freedom.”  
*A study of the politics of religious freedom during the time that  
Japan’s first modern constitution was in effect (1890–1945) and  
under the Allied Occupation (1945–1952).*
- 2011 MA, Religion (incidental)  
Princeton University Department of Religion  
Competencies: Asian religions; modern Japanese history
- 2008 MA, Asian Religion (terminal)  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Religion  
Thesis: “Religious *Manga* Culture: The Conflation of Religion  
and Entertainment in Contemporary Japan.”  
*A study of relationships between manga, anime, and Japanese  
religions based on two years of fieldwork in Tokyo (2005–2007).*
- 2001 BA, Religious Studies (with Elementary Education Certificate)  
Grinnell College Department of Religious Studies  
Student Teaching Portfolio (Thesis): “Multiculturalism and  
Motivation in Indian Education at the Sac and Fox  
Settlement School.”  
*A study of cultural expectations regarding learning outcomes and  
student motivation at a small elementary school serving students of the  
Meskwaki Tribe of central Iowa.*

**PUBLICATIONS***Monographs*

- Under revision\*  
2019\* *Difficult Subjects: Religion, Education, and the US-Japan Security Alliance.*  
*Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan.* University of Chicago Press. 356 pp.
- 2012\* *Drawing on Tradition: Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan.* University of Hawai'i Press. 199 pp.

*Trigraph*

- Under review\* *Animating Action*, coauthored with Yulia Frumer and Aike P. Rots. Under desk review. 71,000 words.

*Co-edited Volume*

- 2025\* *The New Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions.* Co-edited with Matthew D. McMullen. University of Hawai'i Press Nanzan Library Series. 552 pp.

*Solo-authored Journal Articles*

- Resubmitted† “Why Teach Religion? Scholars of Religion and Educational Policy in Post-Defeat Japan,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 50th Anniversary Special Issue. 13,000 words, resubmitted December 2024.
- 2024† “Why Religious Studies?” *Religious Studies Review* 50th Anniversary Special Issue 50, no. 2: 261–65.
- 2016† “Varieties of Religious Freedom in Japanese Buddhist Responses to the 1899 Religions Bill,” *Asian Journal of Law and Society* 3, no. 1: 49–70.
- 2016 (2015 issue)† “The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan,” *Material Religion* 11, no. 4: 485–506.
- 2015 (2014 issue)\*† “Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” *Japanese Religions* 39, nos. 1&2: 31–51.
- 2014\* “Religions Policies during the Allied Occupation of Japan, 1945–1952,” *Religion Compass* 8, no. 9: 275–86.
- 2012† “Horrific ‘Cults’ and Comic Religion: Manga after Aum,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 39, no. 1: 127–51.
- 2008 “Manga to shūkyō no genzai: ‘Nijū seiki shōnen’ to nijūisseiki no shūkyō ishiki.” *Gendai shūkyō 2008*: 120–42.
- 2007† “*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime*.” *Nova Religio* 10, no. 3: 73–95.
- Coauthored Journal Articles*  
2020\* “Why Scholars of Religion Must Investigate the Corporate Form,” with Levi McLaughlin, Aike P. Rots, and Chika Watanabe, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, September 2020, 88, no. 3: 693–725.

## Book Chapters

## Submitted\*

- “Public Good, Private Morality: Buddhists and the Politics of Education in Contemporary Japan.” In *Original Thoughts: Essays in Honor of Jacqueline I. Stone*, ed. Levi McLaughlin, Lori Meeks, and Mark Rowe. Submitted 5/2020.
- 2021\* “Microclimates of Religious Freedom.” In *The Changing Terrain of Religious Freedom*, ed. Jeffrey Edward Green and Heather J. Sharkey, 75–95. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2021\* “Double Standards in a Tripartite World.” In *At Home and Abroad*, ed. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd and Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, 196–219. Columbia University Press.
- 2019\* “Spirit/Medium: Critically Examining the Relationship between Anime and Animism.” In *Spirits and Animism in Modern Japan: The Invisible Empire*, ed. Fabio Rambelli, 157–70. Bloomsbury.
- 2018 “‘Shūkyō no jiyū’ o meguru Amerika no bundan jōkyō: kokunai no ronsō to gaikō seisaku,” Translated by Uemura Takeo. In *Ima shūkyō ni mukiau*, ed. Ikezawa Masaru, 165–82. Iwanami Shoten.
- 2009 “Religion and Japanese Film: Focus on *Anime*.” In *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film*, ed. John Lyden, 194–213. Routledge.
- 2007 “*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime* [abridged].” In *The Religion and Film Reader*, ed. Jolyon Mitchell and S. Brent Plate, 183–93. Routledge.

## Comparative Book Review Essays

- 2017 “Big Questions in the Study of Shintō.” Review of Breen, John; Teeuwen, Mark, *A New History of Shintō* and Hardacre, Helen, *Shintō: A History* and Scheid, Bernhard, ed., with Kate Wildman Nakai, *Kami Ways in Nationalist Territory: Shintō Studies in Prewar Japan and the West* and Takenaka, Akiko, *Yasukuni Shrine: History, Memory, and Japan’s Unending Postwar* and Teeuwen, Mark; Breen, John, *A Social History of the Ise Shrines: Divine Capital* and Zhong, Yijiang, *The Origin of Modern Shintō in Japan: The Vanquished Gods of Izumo*. [H-Japan, H-Net Reviews. November, 2017](#).
- 2013 “Review Article: The Concept of Religion in Modern Japan: Imposition, Invention, or Innovation?” *Religious Studies in Japan* 2: 3–21.

## Book Review Roundtables

- 2024 “Why So Serious?” Review of Charles McCrary, *Sincerely Held: American Secularism and Its Believers*. *Religious Studies Review* 50, no. 3: 483–86

- 2023 Mark R. Mullins, Jolyon Baraka Thomas, and Matthew D. McMullen, “Religion, Politics, and the Law in Postwar Japan,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 49, no. 1: 115–46
- Book Reviews*
- 2024 “Caleb Carter, *A Path into the Mountains: Mount Togakushi and Shugendō*,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 50, no. 1: 226–31
- 2023 “Ioannis Gaitanidis, *Spirituality and Alternativity in Contemporary Japan: Beyond Religion?*” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 91, no. 2: 513–15
- 2019 “Helen Hardacre, *Shintō: A History*,” *Japan Review* 32: 233–34.
- 2018 “James Mark Shields, *Against Harmony: Progressive and Radical Buddhism in Modern Japan*,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86, no. 2: 568–71.
- 2016 “Trent Maxey, *The Greatest Problem: Religion and State Formation in Meiji Japan*,” *Journal of Religion* 96, no. 4: 571–72.
- 2016 “Isomae Jun’ichi, *Religious Discourse in Modern Japan: Religion, State, Shintō*,” *Monumenta Nipponica* 71, no. 1: 186–91.
- 2016 “[Religious Freedom, Past and Future](#)” (review of Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion*), *The Immanent Frame*, 31 March 2016.
- 2014 “Benjamin Dorman, *Celebrity Gods: New Religions, Media, and Authority in Occupied Japan*,” *Nova Religio* 17, no. 4: 104–105.
- 2010 “Mark W. MacWilliams, ed. *Japanese Visual Culture: Explorations in the World of Manga and Anime*,” *Asian Ethnology* 69, no. 1: 188–90.
- Outreach Publications*
- 2023 “[Hitozukuri: How Japanese Educators Used Religion to ‘Make’ Ideal Humans](#),” *Aeon*
- 2021 “[Schools, Megachurches, and the Corporate Form](#),” dialogue with Heather Mellquist Lehto, *The Immanent Frame*
- 2021 “[Investigating the Corporate Form in Practice: Heterarchy, Hitozukuri, Hello Kitty, and the Public Good](#),” with Levi McLaughlin, Aike P. Rots, and Chika Watanabe, *The Immanent Frame*
- 2021 “[A Study of American Kokutai](#),” *American Religion*
- 2021 “[Introduction: American Religion, Inside Out](#),” *American Religion*
- 2021 “[The Two Faces of Religious Freedom](#),” *Berkley Forum*, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs
- 2020 “[Spirits of Renewal](#),” *Tricycle*, Winter 2020, 87–89.
- 2020 “[Lessons from Hiroshima, 75 Years Later](#),” *Penn Today*
- 2020 “[What If Buddha and Jesus Were Roommates?](#)” *Tricycle*

- 2020 “Foreword: Depicting Religion in Contemporary Japan,”  
Nakamura Hikaru, *Saint Young Men* Omnibus Edition, vol. 2.  
New York: Kodansha Comics, Kodansha USA Publishing.
- 2019 “Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan,” *Dharma  
World*
- 2019 “[Religious Freedom, Weapon of Choice](#),” *The Revealer*
- 2019 “[What is Shintō?](#)” *Nippon.com*
- 2019 “[Even Religious Freedom Victories Harbor Defeats](#),” *Killing the  
Buddha*
- 2019 “[Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan](#),” *Nonreligion and  
Secularity Research Network Blog*
- 2019 “[Domesticity & Spirituality: Kondo is Not an Animist](#),” *Marginalia  
Review of Books*
- 2018 “[Religious Freedom and the U.S.-Japan Alliance](#),” in *Expert Voices on  
Japan: Security, Economic, Social, and Foreign Policy  
Recommendations, U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Cohort IV* ed.  
Arthur Alexander, 157–67. Washington, D.C. Maureen and  
Mike Mansfield Foundation.
- 2016 “[Teaching True Believers](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “[Training the Religious Memory](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “[Corporate Profit through Buddhist Kitsch](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “[Tongue in Cheek, Just in Case](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2015 “Welcome to Ryohoji!” *Tricycle*, Summer 2015, 64–65; 100.
- 2015 “[Field Notes on Drinking at a Buddhist Bar](#),” *Sacred Matters*
- 2014 “[Treating Religious Freedom as a Human Right is a Problem, Not a  
Solution](#),” *PluRel Blog: The Politics of Religious Freedom*,  
11 December 2014.
- 2013 “[Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters,  
World War II](#),” *Dissertation Reviews: Fresh From the Archives*, 4  
March 2013.
- 2013 “[Archives on the Allied Occupation of Japan](#),” *Dissertation Reviews:  
Fresh From the Archives*, 4 February 2013.
- 2010 “[What would Jesus and Buddha do ... on holiday?](#)” *The Guardian*,  
“Comment is Free: Belief,” 22 December 2010.
- Selected Translation*  
2021\* Bukkyō Seito Dōshikai (Fraternity of Puritan Buddhists), “Our  
Manifesto (1900),” in Orion Klautau and Hans-Martin  
Krämer, eds. *Buddhism and Modernity: Sources from Nineteenth-  
Century Japan*. University of Hawai‘i Press, 2021.

*Conference Proceedings*

- 2022 “The Allied Occupation of Japan and Religious Freedom/*Nihon senryō to ‘shinkyō no jiyū’*,” *Kamizono* 28 (the 2021 Meiji Jingū Autumn Seminar Lecture at SOAS, London)
- 2013 “Facing Forward, Looking Back: Religion and Film Studies in the Last Decade” (with J. Kickasola, J.C. Lyden, S.B. Plate, A. Sison, S.J. Nayar, S. Knauss, and R. Wagner), *Journal of Religion and Film* 17, no. 1: 60–69.
- 2010 “Seiyō kara mita Nihon eiga no shūkyōsei.” In *Kokusai kenkyū fōramu: Eiga no naka no shūkyō bunka: hōkokusho*, ed. Inoue Nobutaka, 35–46.

**RESEARCH AWARDS**

- 2020 American Academy of Religion Excellence in the Study of Religion Book Award Co-Winner, Analytical-Descriptive Studies (for *Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan*)
- 2009, 2007, 2005 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) Edward Seidensticker Prize for best paper on Japan; School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Conference
- 2007 Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religions, for “Shūkyō Asobi and Miyazaki Hayao’s Anime,” *Nova Religio* 10, no. 3 (2007).

**TEACHING AWARDS**

- 2012 Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Teaching Award
- 2011 Princeton University Department of Religion Teaching Award

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2022–23 Mellon Fellows Program, University of Pennsylvania
- 2021 Sacred Writes Public Scholarship on Religion Fellowship
- 2020–2021 Wolf Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2018–2020 Abe Fellowship (Social Science Research Council/Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership)
- 2016–2018 Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership “U.S.-Japan Network for the Future” Program, Cohort IV
- 2013–2014 Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship
- 2012–2013 Fulbright-IIE Graduate Research Fellowship (Japan)
- 2007–2008 University of Hawai‘i Center for Japanese Studies John Fee Embree Scholarship
- 2005–2007 Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship

2005 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship

### GRANTS

2023–25 Penn Faculty Working Group Grant, The Religions of Asia Project

2023 Penn Undergraduate Research Mentoring Grant

2020 Association for Asian Studies Northeast Asia Council Seminars on Teaching about Japan Grant

2018 University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences Research Opportunity Grant, publication support for *Faking Liberties*.

2017 University of Pennsylvania Center for East Asian Studies Travel Grant

2016 University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences Conference Support Grant for the conference “What Isn’t Shintō?” held at the University of Pennsylvania in September 2016.

2016 University of Pennsylvania University Research Foundation Grant for the conference “What Isn’t Shintō?” held at the University of Pennsylvania in September 2016.

2015 Association for Asian Studies Northeast Asia Council Small Scholarly Conference Grant for the conference “What Isn’t Shintō?” University of Pennsylvania, September 2016.

2012 University of Maryland Twentieth Century Japan Research Award

2011 Association for Asian Studies Northeast Asia Council Graduate Student Travel Grant

2011 Princeton University Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant

2009 University of Hawai‘i SPAS Travel Grant

2005 University of Hawai‘i CJS Graduate Student Travel Grant

### INVITED LECTURES AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES

2024 (Nov) “Difficult Subjects: Religion and Education under the US-Japan Alliance,” University of California-Riverside

2024 (Nov) “How Japanese Buddhists Tried to Make Bad Kids Good,” University of California-Los Angeles

2024 (Sept) “Religion and the New Consumer Choice Model of Public Education,” University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill  
McLester Lecture

2024 (Apr) “Promissory Talk and the Limits of the Historical Imagination,” University of Michigan Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Lecture Series: Against History

- 2024 (Feb) “Difficult Subjects: Religion and Education under the US-Japan Alliance,” 39th Annual Loy H. Witherspoon Lecture in Religious Studies, UNC-Charlotte
- 2023 (Nov) “How Japanese Buddhists Tried, and Failed, To Make Bad Kids Good,” College of Charleston
- 2023 (Jun) “*Shūkyō no jiyū no rinen to jissen: gendai Amerika o jirei ni*,” University of Tokyo Department of Religious Studies
- 2023 (Feb) “Private Academies and the Public Good: A Cold War History of Religion and Education in Japan and the United States,” Cornell University
- 2022 (Nov) “The Strange Career of Religion in Cold War-Era Japanese Public Education,” Amherst College
- 2021 (Nov) “Confessions of an Unconventional Japanologist,” North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources
- 2021 (Oct) “The Allied Occupation of Japan, Religious Freedom, and Japanese Public Schools,” School of Oriental and African Studies Meiji Jingū Intercultural Research Institute Lecture
- 2021 (Sep) “Difficult Subjects: Religion and Public Schools in Contemporary Japan,” University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies
- 2021 (Apr) “The Religion of Anime,” University of North Carolina, Charlotte
- 2021 (Mar) “Disaster Pedagogy,” Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 (Mar) “Faking Liberties, Difficult Subjects,” Duke University
- 2021 (Mar) “Religious Freedom and Buddhist Liberation,” University of California, Los Angeles
- 2021 (Jan) “Difficult Subjects: Religion and the Politics of Public Schooling in Japan and the United States,” University of Chester Department of Theology and Religious Studies
- 2021 (Jan) “Juvenile Delinquency and Moral Instruction in Japan and the US, 1950–1970,” University of Toronto Department for the Study of Religion
- 2020 (Dec) “Race, Racism, and Religious Studies,” Centering Race & Gender in the Contemporary Study of Religion Roundtable, Stanford University.
- 2020 (Oct) “Buddhist Religious Freedom, in Victory and in Defeat,” Osgoode Colloquium in Law, Religion, and Social Thought, York University/University of Toronto.
- 2020 (Oct) “The True Teaching? Japanese Buddhists and the Quasi-Sectarian Politics of Public Schooling,” Institute for Buddhist Studies Numata Lecture.
- 2020\*\*\* *Several scheduled in-person lectures canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic*



- 2020 (Feb) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” *Religious Freedom: A Global Conversation*. Villanova University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA
- 2020 (Feb) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom and the U.S. Occupation of Japan,” Harvard University Reischauer Institute, Cambridge, MA
- 2019 (Oct) “Filling the Spiritual Vacuum: The Educational Legacy of Occupation Reforms in Japan,” University of Tokyo Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia
- 2019 (Sept) “From Mikadoism to Marie Kondō: A Media History of the American Reception of Japanese Religions,” Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE
- 2019 (May) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom, American-Occupied Japan, and Postwar Politics,” Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- 2019 (May) “Nijū seiki nihon ni okeru ‘shinkyō no jiyū’ gensetsu: kenpō kaishaku—senryō seisaku—shūkyōgaku,” Tōhoku University, Sendai, Japan
- 2019 (Apr) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” Kyūshū University, Japan
- 2019 (Apr) “Japanese Buddhists and Religious Freedom,” Ōtani University, Kyoto, Japan
- 2019 (Apr) “Difficult Subjects: Religious Freedom, the American Occupation, and Postwar Education,” Social Science Research Council/Japan Foundation Abe Fellow Lecture, I-House Tokyo
- 2019 (Apr) “Contemporary Legacies of Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” University of Indiana
- 2019 (Apr) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” University of Virginia
- 2019 (Apr) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” Washington University in Saint Louis, MO
- 2019 (Mar) “Legacies of Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto
- 2019 (Jan) “Nijū seiki nihon ni okeru ‘shinkyō no jiyū’ gensetsu: kenpō kaishaku—senryō seisaku—shūkyōgaku,” Nanzan University Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan
- 2018 (Nov) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” University of Vermont, VT
- 2018 (Feb) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Young Harris College, GA

- 2018 (Jan) “Japan, the American Occupation, and the Problem of Religious Freedom,” Dartmouth College, NH
- 2018 (Jan) “Japan, the American Occupation, and the Problem of Religious Freedom,” The Pennsylvania State University, PA
- 2017 (Nov) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Lewis & Clark College, OR
- 2017 (Nov) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Grinnell College, IA
- 2017 (Oct) “Spirit/Medium/Media: A Critical Examination of the Relationship between Animism, Animators, and Anime,” Johns Hopkins University, MD
- 2017 (Apr) “Spirits as Mediums in Animated Media,” Illinois Wesleyan University, IL
- 2017 (Mar) “The Politics of Religion in Postwar Japanese Public School Education,” Columbia University
- 2016 (Nov) “Japanese Religion and Anime: Framing Religious Subjects in an Irreligious Place,” Community College of Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 (Sept) “The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan,” University of Alabama Day Lecture, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2015 (May) “Religious Frames of Mind: Viewing Contemporary Japanese Religion through Anime,” Carleton College, Northfield, MN
- 2015 (Mar) “Hurry and Take Refuge in Me Right Now: Sexy Cartoons and Video Games at the Tokyo Temple Ryōhōji,” University of Cincinnati, OH
- 2014 (Oct) “Japan’s Preoccupation with Religious Freedom: Buddhist Activism during the Meiji Constitutional Period, 1890–1947,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 (Feb) “Hurry and Take Refuge in Me: Media Outreach and Material Religion at a Tokyo Temple,” Bates College, Lewiston, ME
- 2014 (Feb) “Japan’s Preoccupation with Religious Freedom,” Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
- 2013 (Nov) “Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan,” North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2010 (Apr) “Recreating Religion in Contemporary Japanese Visual Culture: A Focus on the Animated Films of Miyazaki Hayao,” Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX
- 2007 (Mar) “Recreating Religion: Religious *Manga* Culture in Contemporary Japan,” Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZED**

2022 (Oct) Annual Meeting, Mid-Atlantic Region of the Association for Asian Studies. *MARAAS at 50: Where is Asian Studies Now?*

**WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED**

2023 (Feb) Symposium: “The Scholar of Religion in the Public Sphere,” University of Pennsylvania. Co-organized with Donovan Schaefer

2022 (Jun) Workshop: “Creating New Materials for Teaching about Japanese Religions,” University of Pennsylvania

2020 (Feb) Symposium: “Material Secularisms,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Co-organized with Donovan Schaefer.

2016 (Sept) Workshop and Symposium: “What *Isn't* Shintō?” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

2016 (Mar) Symposium: “Picturebooks, Priests’ Wives, and Politics: Making Buddhism at Home in Contemporary Japan,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**PLENARY MODERATED**

2021 (Mar) Plenary Discussion, “Race and Racisms in Asian Studies,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting

**SELECTED RESPONSES**

2024 (Nov) Roundtable Respondent to Leslie Ribovich, *Without a Prayer*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting

2024 (Nov) Roundtable Respondent, “Reimagining the Mid-Century,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting

2024 (Nov) Roundtable Respondent, “Cross-Currents: Interdisciplinary Applications of Religious Studies,” North American Association for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting

2024 (Mar) Roundtable Respondent, “Denaturalizing Culturalism and Essentialism in the Research and Teaching of Japan,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle

2023 (Nov) Roundtable Respondent, “*Practically Religious* in Practice,” Society for the Study of Japanese Religions, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio

2023 (Jan) Roundtable Respondent to Charles McCrary, *Sincerely Held*, American Society of Church History Annual Meeting

2021 (Oct) Roundtable Respondent to Peter Coviello, *Make Yourselves Gods*, American Studies Association Annual Meeting

2021 (May) Roundtable Respondent to J. Brent Crosson, *Experiments with Power*, Society for the Anthropology of Religion

- 2021 (Apr) Roundtable Respondent to Davarian Baldwin, *In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower*, AAUP-Penn, “Community Justice and the Ivory Tower”
- 2021 (Mar) Roundtable Respondent on Presidential Plenary Panel “Global Asias: Undisciplining as an Emergent Field,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting
- 2020 (Dec) Roundtable Respondent, “Weaponizing Religious Authenticity,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston
- 2020 (Sept) Respondent to Kate Wildman Nakai and Fumiko Miyazaki, *Christian Sorcerers on Trial*, University of British Columbia
- 2019 (Nov) Respondent to Hirafuji Kikuko, “*Kami no sugata ni miru kodai to gendai*,” The Idea of Antiquity in Modern Japanese Religious Culture Workshop, Harvard University
- 2012 (Nov) Roundtable Respondent, “Facing Forward, Looking Back: Religion and Film Studies in the Last Decade,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2012 (Apr) Respondent to Inoue Nobutaka, “Religion in Film and Religious Culture Education in Contemporary Japan,” University of Southern California Symposium, “Religion in the Public Sphere: Japan and the World,” Los Angeles

### **REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2019 (Nov) “Debunking as Pedagogy: Reforming Religion in Post-Defeat Japan,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2018 (Dec) “‘Japanese People Don’t See Race’: Exclusionary Practices in Public Education,” Anthropology of Japan in Japan Fall Conference, Nagoya
- 2018 (Nov) “Religion and the Controversial Subject of Constitutional Law,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver
- 2018 (Nov) “Inculcating Corporate Morality in Public Schools: A Comparative Look at Japan and the U.S.,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver
- 2018 (Apr) “Geographies of Religious Education during the Allied Occupation of Japan,” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, New Orleans
- 2017 (Aug) “Public Good and Private Morality: Buddhist Contributions to the 2006 Revision of the Japanese Fundamental Law on Education,” International Association of Buddhist Studies Meeting, Toronto

- 2016 (Sept) “Nichibei kankei ni okeru shinkyō no jiyū: tokushusei to fuhensei no mondai,” Japanese Association of Religious Studies Annual Meeting, Tokyo
- 2016 (Apr) “The Sacred Spaces and Secular Subjects of the Postwar Japanese Public School,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle. Served as panel organizer and chair for the session “What *Isn't* Shintō?”
- 2015 (Mar) “The Concept of Religious Freedom in Japanese Buddhist Responses to Mixed Residence,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2014 (Nov) “The Japanese Birth of Religious Freedom as a Human Right,” Religion, Law, and Culture Group Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2014 (Nov) “Hurry and Take Refuge in Me: Material Religion and Media Outreach at the Tokyo Temple Ryōhōji,” Buddhism Section Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2013 (Nov) “Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” Japanese Religions Group and Buddhism Section Panel, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- 2013 (Nov) “State Shintō as a Heretical Secularism,” Global Secularisms Conference, New York University, New York
- 2011 (Nov) “Horrific and Comic: Manga Depictions of Religion after Aum,” Japanese Religions Group Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco
- 2011 (Oct) “The Customary and the Civil in Meiji Constitutional Religious Freedom,” Mid-Atlantic Region for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Princeton
- 2011 (Mar) “Japan’s Pre-Occupation with ‘State Shintō’ and Religious Freedom,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Honolulu
- 2010 (Jun) “On the Category of ‘New Religions’ (*Shinshūkyō*) in Twentieth Century Japan,” Asian Studies Conference Japan, Tokyo
- 2009 (Dec) “Historiography, Modernity, and Secularism: Reconsidering the Disestablishment of State Shintō during the Allied Occupation of Japan,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
- 2009 (Mar) “Historiography, Modernity, and Secularism: Issues in the Historical Study of the Allied Occupation of Japan,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Conference, Honolulu

- 2007 (Mar) “Twenty-first Century Spirituality in *20<sup>th</sup> Century Boys*: New Religious Movements in *Manga*,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies Graduate Conference, Honolulu
- 2007 (Mar) “Twenty-first Century Spirituality in *20<sup>th</sup> Century Boys*: New Religious Movements in *Manga*,” Harvard East Asia Society Graduate Student Conference, Cambridge, MA
- 2005 (Nov) “*Shūkyō Asobi* and Miyazaki Hayao’s *Anime*,” Japanese Religions Group Panel Presentation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
- 2005 (Mar) “*Asobi Shūkyō*: The Religious Elements of Entertainment in Contemporary Japan,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies Graduate Conference, Honolulu
- 2001 (Apr) “In ‘Trane-ing’: John Coltrane’s Spiritual Discipline in Music,” Grinnell College Africana Studies Conference, Grinnell, IA

### **WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, COLLOQUIA, AND SEMINARS**

- 2024 (Sept) “Publics and Privates: Education Sex in the United States, 1968–1996,” University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Religious Studies Theory Reading Group
- 2024 (Mar) *Difficult Subjects* manuscript workshop, Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania
- 2023 (Dec) *Animating Action* manuscript workshop, University of Oslo
- 2023 (Sept) “Black Buddhisms: Enhancing Current Offerings,” Princeton University
- 2023 (Sept) “Black Buddhisms: Facilitating Graduate Pathways,” Princeton University
- 2023 (Jun) “Scholars of Religion as Educational Policy Actors in Postwar Japan,” Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture
- 2021 (Oct) “Comparison: What Is It Good For?” Ohio State University Department of Comparative Studies
- 2021 (Mar) “Why Scholars of Religion Must Investigate the Corporate Form,” Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion
- 2021 (Feb) “The 1958 Rollout of Morality Education in Japanese Public Schools,” Columbia University Modern Japan Seminar
- 2021 (Feb) Buddhist Bodies Collective, University of Winnipeg
- 2021 (Feb) “Freedom of Choice,” University of Pennsylvania Wolf Humanities Center Faculty Workshop
- 2021 (Jan) “Faking Liberties: Religious Freedom in American-Occupied Japan,” University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies Book Celebration Series

- 2020 (Feb) “Morality Becomes A Proper Subject,” University of Pennsylvania Boardman Symposium, *Material Secularisms*, Philadelphia
- 2019 (Nov) “Planning for *The New Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions*,” Society for the Study of Japanese Religions Meeting-in-Conjunction, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 2019 (Oct) “Traversing the Uncanny Valley: Robotic Other, Meet No-Self,” Religion in Place: Spaces | Borders | Bodies, St. Louis University
- 2019 (Sept) “Didactic Constitutionalism: Religious Activism, Educational Reform, and Constitutional Revision in Contemporary Japan,” University of Pennsylvania Lauder Institute Seminar
- 2019 (Sept) “Making Moral Subjects: The 1958 Rollout of ‘Morality Time’ in Japanese Public Schools,” University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies Colloquium
- 2019 (May) “Public Good and Private Morality: Japanese Buddhist Responses to the the 2006 Revision of the Fundamental Law on Education,” Original Thoughts: A Conference in Honor of Jacqueline Stone, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 2019 (May) “Beigun senryō seisaku to shūkyōgaku ni yotte tsukurareta ‘shinshūkyō’ gainen,” Shinshūkyō rekishizō no saikōchiku Working Group, Kokugakuin University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 (Apr) “Making Morality: Moral Education in Japanese Public Schools and Society, Postwar & Present,” Indiana University
- 2019 (Apr) “American Publics Respond to Japanese Religions,” Religion and Its Many American Publics, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
- 2019 (Apr) “Sources on Education Reform in Occupied Japan,” University of Virginia Department of Religious Studies
- 2019 (Apr) “Sacred Spaces and Secular Subjects,” Washington University in St. Louis East Asian Studies Workshop
- 2018 (Dec) “Pedagogical Constitutionalism: Religious Activism, Educational Reform, and Legal Revision in Contemporary Japan,” Kyoto Asian Studies Group
- 2018 (Nov) “‘Japanese People Don’t See Race’: Linguistic Tics, Ambient Norms, and the Constructed Qualities of Race and Religion in Contemporary Japan,” Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline Workshop on Race and Religion, Denver
- 2018 (Oct) “*Kasanerareru gazō: anime gijutsu to shūkyō ishiki*,” International Shintō Studies Association Symposium: Anime to Kami, Kyoto
- 2018 (June) “Inculcating Corporate Morality in Public Schools,” Corporate Religion in Asia Workshop, Oslo, Norway
- 2018, 2017 (May) “Double Standards in a Tripartite World,” The Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad Workshop, Geneva, IL

- 2018 (Feb) “Buddhism and the Politics of Public School Education in Postwar Japan,” Columbia University Buddhist Studies Workshop
- 2017 (Feb) “Spirits as Mediums in Animated Media,” Invisible Empire: Spirits and Animism in Contemporary Japan, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 (Nov) “Framing Religious Subjects in an Irreligious Place: Procedural and Ethical Hurdles in Studying the Religion of Japanese Manga and Anime,” Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline Workshop on Aesthetics and Religion, San Antonio
- 2015 (Sept) “The Buddhist Virtues of Raging Lust and Crass Materialism in Contemporary Japan,” University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies Colloquium
- 2015 (Mar) “The Postwar World that Religious Studies Made,” University of Western Michigan Workshop “Against Insularity: Moving Beyond ‘Japanese Religions’”
- 2014 (Nov) “Made in Japan: The Manufacture and Export of Religious Freedom during the Allied Occupation,” University of Chicago Human Rights Workshop
- 2014 (Mar) “Expedient Memes: Ryōhōji’s Media Mix Outreach,” National University of Singapore Workshop on Material Religion, Film, and Video in Asia
- 2013 (Nov) “Free Inquiry and Japanese Buddhist Studies: The Case of Katō Totsudō,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Religion Brown Bag Colloquium
- 2013 (Jun) “Senryō ka senkyō ka? GHQ no shūkyō seisaku,” Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture Graduate Workshop, Nagoya
- 2013 (Apr) “Resisting Resistance: Buddhists and Religious Freedom, 1926–1945,” Modern Japan History Workshop, Tokyo
- 2011 (Aug) “Horrific and Comic: Manga after Aum,” at “Aftermath: Japanese Religions after the Aum Shinrikyō Affair,” Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo
- 2009 (Nov) “Historiography, Modernity, and Secularism: Reconsidering the Disestablishment of State Shintō during the Allied Occupation of Japan,” Princeton University East Asian Studies Lunch Colloquium, Princeton, NJ
- 2009 (Sept) “*Seiyō kara mita Nihon eiga no shūkyōsei*,” International Research Forum, “Religious Culture in Film,” Kokugakuin University, Tokyo



**SELECTED PUBLIC-FACING INTERVIEWS**

- 2023 (Mar) Jolyon Thomas, interview on *Counterpoint with Amanda VanStone*, Australian Broadcast Corporation, radio, March 13, 2023. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/counterpoint/counterpoint/102036722>
- 2021 (Oct) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Gregory Soden, *The Classical Ideas Podcast*, podcast audio, October 24, 2021. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/dir-4mhc8-10b7d06d>
- 2021 (Oct) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Kristian Petersen, *Religious Studies News*, podcast audio, October 14, 2021. <https://rsn.aarweb.org/competing-constructions-religious-freedom-allied-occupied-japan>
- 2021 (Oct) Jolyon Thomas, interview with *Keeping it 101*, podcast audio, October 13, 2021. <https://keepingit101.com/e403>
- 2021 (Apr) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Allison Alexy, *Michigan Talks Japan*, podcast audio, April 1, 2021. <https://michigan-talks-japan.simplecast.com/episodes/jolyon-baraka-thomas-i0iUxJ6F>
- 2020 (Sept) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Brandon Baker and James Browning, “Understanding Death,” *Penn Today*, podcast audio, September 18, 2020. <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/understanding-death>
- 2020 (May) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Brett Esaki, *The Religious Studies Project*, podcast audio, May 11, 2020. <https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/race-religious-freedom-and-empire-in-post-war-japan/>
- 2020 (Jan) “What Can We Learn from the Religion Policy of the US Occupation of Japan? An Interview with Jolyon Thomas,” *Religion & Diplomacy*, January 22, 2020. <https://religionanddiplomacy.org.uk/2020/01/28/what-can-we-learn-from-the-religion-policy-of-the-us-occupation-of-japan-an-interview-with-jolyon-thomas/>
- 2019 (Oct) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Nathan Hopson, *New Books in East Asian Studies Podcast*, podcast audio, October 17, 2019. <https://megaphone.link/LIT4231607588>
- 2019 (May) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Gregory Soden, *The Classical Ideas Podcast*, podcast audio, May 19, 2019. <http://classicalideaspodcast.libsyn.com/ep-114-dr-jolyon-thomas-on-wwii-religious-freedom-and-the-american-occupation-of-japan>
- 2019 (Apr) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Tristan Grunow, *Japan on the Record*, podcast audio, April 16, 2019. <https://share.transistor.fm/s/2ed47766>

- 2019 (Feb) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Tristan Grunow, *The Meiji at 150 Podcast*, podcast audio, February 22, 2019. <https://meijiat150.podbean.com/e/episode-96-dr-jolyon-thomas-penn/>
- 2016 (Jun) [Interview for Pause and Select YouTube channel](#), 16 June 2016
- 2015 (Sept) [Interview at University of Alabama](#), 23 September 2015
- 2014 (Sept) Jolyon Thomas, interview with Kristian Peterson, *New Books in Religion Podcast*, podcast audio, September 6, 2014. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/jolyon-thomas-drawing-on-tradition-manga-anime-and-religion-in-contemporary-japan-university-of-hawaii-press-2012-2/>.

### SELECTED OUTREACH LECTURES

- 2024 (Oct) “The Religion of Anime,” Foreign Service Institute
- 2024 (Jan) “Teaching Manga, Anime, and Traditional Japanese Culture,” Penn Museum
- 2023 (Mar) Roundtable: The Changing Terrain of Religious Freedom, University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences Board of Advisors Meeting
- 2018 (Jun) “Religious Freedom and the U.S.-Japan Alliance,” Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation Capitol Hill Event “Expert Voices on Japan,” Washington, DC

### SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2022– Commissioner, Japan-US Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and Panelist, United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)†
- 2021–2024 Northeast Asia Council Member, Association for Asian Studies\*
- 2020 Co-author, “Petition to the Association for Asian Studies Board of Directors in Support of Black Scholars of Asia”
- 2020–2030 Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Global Buddhism*
- 2020– Editorial Consultant, *Nova Religio*
- 2019– Associate Editor (Editorial Board Member), *American Religion*
- 2018–2022 Editorial Consultant, *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*
- 2018–2021 Religion and the Arts Award Jury, American Academy of Religion
- 2018 Fulbright Japan Interview Panelist, Philosophy Field
- 2015–2021 Steering Committee Member, Japanese Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion\*
- 2014–2017 Editor, Asian Traditions, *The Marginalia Review of Books*
- 2012–2014 H-Shukyo Book Review Editor

<i>Peer review (books)</i>	Bloomsbury Press, New York University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, University of Alabama Press, University of Chicago Press, University of Hawai'i Press
<i>Peer review (journals)</i>	<i>American Ethnologist, American Journal of Political Science, Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus, Asian Ethnology, History of Science, Japan Review, Japanese Journal of Religious Studies, Japanese Studies, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Journal of Global Buddhism, Journal of Law and Religion, Journal of Religion and Film, Modern American History, Nova Religio, Religion Compass, Religions, Silva Iaponicarum, Social Science Japan Journal, US-Japan Women's Journal</i>
<i>Peer review (funding)</i>	Austrian Science Fund, University of Ghent

### **UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

2024–2025	Interim Chair, University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies
2022–2024	Chair, University of Pennsylvania Graduate Group in Religious Studies
2022–2024	Executive Committee Member, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania*
2022–2023	Japan Global Issues Film Series Curator, University of Pennsylvania
2021–2022	Application Review Committee, Associate Professor of Japanese Culture & Literature, University of Oslo
2020–2021	Interim Chair, University of Pennsylvania Graduate Group in Religious Studies
2020–2021	Fulbright Faculty Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania
2019–2020	University of Pennsylvania Faculty Working Group on Global Inquiries
2019–2020	Executive Committee Member, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania*
2019–2020	Penn Forum on Japan “Third Thursdays” Speaker Series Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania
2019–2020	Department of Religious Studies Colloquium Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania
2019–2020	Department of Religious Studies Technology & Outreach Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania
2019–2020	Fulbright Faculty Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania
2017–2018	Executive Committee Member, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania*
2017–2018	University of Pennsylvania Center for East Asian Studies Humanities Colloquium Chair

2017–2018	University of Pennsylvania Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism, “States of Religious Freedom” Faculty Planning Committee Member
2016–2017	Faculty Planning Group Member, Initiative on Global Inquiries, University of Pennsylvania
2016–2017	Fulbright Faculty Committee Member, University of Pennsylvania
2016–2017	East Asian Languages and Civilizations Japanese Studies Major Advisor, University of Pennsylvania
2016–2017	Pre-major Advisor for School of Arts and Sciences Undergraduates, University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2016	Chair, PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania
2015–2017	Executive Committee Member, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania*
2009–2010	Class Year Representative, Princeton University Religion Department Graduate Student Committee
2008–2009	Departmental Representative, Princeton University Graduate Student Government

### **MENTORING**

2021	Association for Asian Studies Mentoring Program for Junior Black Scholars
2020–2021	Coordinator, Junior Scholars Mentoring Program, American Academy of Religion Japanese Religions Unit
2020	Sandra Park, University of Chicago, through Association for Asian Studies Committee on Korean Studies Mentoring Program (tenure-track position, University of Arizona)

### **PH.D. STUDENTS SUPERVISED**

Coursework	Júlio César de Melo do Nascimento, University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies
Candidacy	Kirby Sokolow, “Buddhism Behind Bars: Transforming Race, Religion, and Power,” University of Pennsylvania Department of Religious Studies
2021 (Apr)	Mark Bookman, “Politics and Prosthetics: 150 Years of Disability in Japan,” University of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (3-year postdoc, Tokyo College, University of Tokyo)

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE WORK**

In progress	Stephen Garrett, “Spirit Poles and Sacred Cairns: Shamans and Empire under Aisin Gioro Rule,” University of Pennsylvania, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
In progress	Shino Yokotsuka, “Japan’s Challenge of Embracing Differences: Public School as a Battlefield for Religious Nationalism and Religious Freedom/Freedom of Conscience,” University of Massachusetts Boston, Department of Global Governance, Human Security, and Conflict Resolution
In progress	Caitlin Adkins, “The ‘Criminal Woman’ in Contemporary Japan: Sexualized Spectacle and Mediated Policy,” University of Pennsylvania, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
In progress	Hector Kilgoe, “African American Fatherland: Black Nationalism, American Empire, and the Civilizing Mission, 1816–1915,” University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies
2024 (Jul)	Angela Xia, “The Rest of Life: Care and Aging in American Protestantism, 1916–2000,” University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies
2018 (May)	Gina Elia, “Limits of Human Wisdom: Religious Literary Modernity in Republican Era China,” University of Pennsylvania, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
2016 (Jul)	Frank Clements, “Worldly Ascetics: Managing Family, Status, and Territory in Early Modern Shugendō,” University of Pennsylvania, East Asian Languages and Civilizations

**GENERAL EXAMS PROCTORED**

Scheduled Fall 2025	Jay Zhang (East Asian Religions)
Scheduled Jan 2025	Sam Herrmann (Critical Secularism Studies)
2024 (Nov)	Claire Elliot (Buddhism, Non-Buddhism, and Politics)
2024 (Mar)	Stephen Garrett (Politics, Governance, and Asian Religions)
2022 (Dec)	Kirby Sokolow (Buddhism; Research Prospectus)
2022 (Aug)	Caitlin Adkins (Japanese Religions, Media, Gender, and Capitalism)
2021 (Dec)	Hector Kilgoe (Religion, U.S. Empire, and Foreign Policy)
2020 (Oct)	Dotno Pount (Politics, Governance, and Asian Religions)
2018 (Jul)	Mark Bookman (Japanese Popular Culture; Research Prospectus)

**MA COMMITTEE WORK**

July 2018	John Grisafi, “U.S. Occupation and the Religious Cold War in Korea: Religious Policy and Strategy of the U.S. Occupation of South Korea, 1945–1948,” University of Pennsylvania, East Asian Languages and Civilizations.
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**LANGUAGE EXAMS PROCTORED**

Dec 2017 Paul McBain, Japanese Language Reading Exam

**UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES SUPERVISED**

2018 Erin Gallagher, “Janus Faces of the Fan Community: Identity, Secrets, and the Public/Private Divide among Female Fans of Japanese Boys Love Media,” University of Pennsylvania Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORED**

2023 Erika Kishino and Sergio Carballido Murcio, *Difficult Subjects*

2020–21 Sally Chen, “Is It All A Mirage? Religious Freedom and False Choice in America,” Wolf Humanities Center and Andrea Mitchell Center Undergraduate Fellowships

**COURSES TAUGHT**

Annually The Religion of Anime (lecture, formerly Japanese Popular Culture)

Annually From Penitentiaries to PILOTs: Religion and Institutions in Pennsylvania (first-year seminar)

Biennially Violence, Tolerance, and Freedom (undergrad seminar)

Biennially The Politics of Shintō (under/grad seminar)

*Independent Studies*

Spring 2025 Modern Buddhism in Japan (1 grad student)

Fall 2024 Japanese Religions (1 grad student)

Spring 2024 Critical Secularism Studies (1 grad student)

Fall 2023 East Asian Religions (4 grad students)

Fall 2023 Religion and Law Enforcement (1 undergraduate)

Spring 2021 Institutional Religion (1 grad student)

Fall 2020 Readings in Buddhist Studies (1 grad student)

*Ad Hoc and Discontinued Offerings*

Spring 2024 Love and Sex in Buddhism (under/grad seminar)

Annually, Fall Asian Religions in the Global Imagination (under/grad seminar)

Fall 2017 Japan Studies Majors’ Seminar: Japan’s Others (5 students)

Spring 2017 Japanese History & Civilization (graduate seminar, 10 students)

Spring 2017 Sects & Violence in East Asia (seminar, 8 students)

Spring 2016 Japanese Religions (graduate seminar, 3 students)

Fall 2014 Love and Sex in Buddhism (UW-Madison, 14 students)

## **TEACHING CERTIFICATION**

2003 K–6 Classroom Teacher Certification, State of Iowa

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING**

2014 (Dec) The Op-Ed Project Workshop

2006–2007 Translator/Editor (*chōsain, kenkyū hojoin*), Encyclopedia of Shintō Project, Kokugakuin University, Tokyo

2002–2004 Classroom Teacher, Japan International Education Center, Tokyo

Fall 2001 Student Teacher, Fourth Grade, Sac and Fox Settlement School, Meskwaki (American Indian) Nation, Tama County, IA

1996–1997 Teacher's Associate, Smouse School Behavioral Disorders Department, Des Moines, IA

### *Non-degree Programs*

2012–13; 2006–07 Research Student, University of Tokyo Department of Religious Studies, Tokyo, Japan

2005–2006 Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies Summer & 10-month programs, Yokohama, Japan

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

American Society of Church History

Association for Asian Studies

International Association for Buddhist Studies

Japanese Association for Religious Studies

Modern Japan History Association

Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native)

Advanced Japanese (2006 Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 1)

Basic Spanish (coursework in high school and college)

### *Reading proficiency in*

Classical Japanese and Sino-Japanese (*kanbun*)

German