

Donovan O. Schaefer

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Positions Held

2023– present	Associate Professor of Religious Studies <i>Secondary Faculty</i> , Annenberg School for Communication <i>Core Faculty</i> , Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies <i>Member of the Graduate Group</i> , Comparative Literature	University of Pennsylvania
2017–2023	Assistant Professor of Religious Studies	University of Pennsylvania
2014–2017	Departmental Lecturer in Science and Religion <i>Organizing Tutor in Theology and Religion</i> , Trinity College	University of Oxford
2012–2014	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow <i>Visiting Assistant Professor</i> , Department of Religion	Haverford College

Education

2012	Ph.D., Religion <i>Committee</i> : John D. Caputo, M. Gail Hamner, Patricia Cox Miller, Joanne Punzo Waghorne, R. Gustav Niebuhr.	Syracuse University
2007	M.Phil., Religion	Syracuse University
2005	M.A., Religion	Syracuse University
2003	B.A., Religion, Literature, and the Arts	University of British Columbia

Research Areas

Theory and philosophy of feeling/affect/emotion, religion, material culture, science, and secularisms.

Books

2022	<i>Wild Experiment: Feeling Science and Secularism after Darwin.</i> Winner of the 2023 Ludwik Fleck prize from the Society for Social Studies of Science. Winner of the 2023 International Society for Science and Religion book prize. Finalist for the 2023 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Analytical-Descriptive Studies, from the American Academy of	Duke University Press. 328 pp. ISBN 978-1-4780-1825-4.
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Religion.

Reviewed in *American Religion*; *Christian Century*; *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*; *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*; *Material Religion*; *Politics, Religion, and Ideology*; *Quarterly Review of Biology*; *Reading Religion*.

Review symposia in *Zygon*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (forthcoming), *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* (forthcoming).

Conference/workshop symposia at 4S (2023), American Academy of Religion (2023 & 2024), Drew University (2022), Foundation for Creative Social Research/Jawaharlal Nehru University (2022).

Podcasts on *New Books Network*, *Recovering Truth Project* (Arizona State University).

- 2019** ***The Evolution of Affect Theory: The Humanities, the Sciences, and the Study of Power.*** Cambridge University Press. 75 pp. ISBN 9781108765343.
Commissioned for the Cambridge Elements (short monographs) series “Histories of Emotions and the Senses.”
- 2015** ***Religious Affects: Animality, Evolution, and Power.*** Duke University Press. 304 + xi pp. ISBN 0822359901.
Reprint 2016.
Reviewed in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Cultural Studies*; *Times Literary Supplement*; *The Atlantic*; *Material Religion*; *Marginalia Review of Books*; *Reading Religion*; *Journal of the British Association for the Study of Religion*; *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*; *Critical Research on Religion*; *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*; *Humanimalia*; *Religious Studies Review*; *Relations*; *Animal Studies Journal*; *ESSSAT News and Reviews*; *Affectsphere*.
Review symposia in *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* (2018) and *Syndicate* (2018).
Conference symposia at American Academy of Religion (2016) and Society for Biblical Literature (2018) annual meetings.

Journal Articles

- 2024** **The Things of Order: Affect, Material Culture, *Dispositif*.** *Cultural Critique* 124 (Summer): 1–30. Peer reviewed. DOI: 10.1353/cul.2024.a926818
- “They Made Up Quiet Songs”:
Classification, Feeling, and Technique
in Science and Religion.** *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 59 (3): 850–70. DOI: 10.16995/zygon.17162
- 2023** **Voracious Secularism: Emotional Habitus and the Desire for Knowledge in Animal Experimentation.** *Religion* 54.4: 700–723. (Invited contribution to “Animal Spirits” special issue.) Peer reviewed. DOI: 10.1080/0048721X.2023.2258710
- Feeling Material Culture: Affect, Power, Sensation.** *Material Religion* 19.1: 82–84. (Invited contribution to “In Conversation” section.) DOI: 10.1080/17432200.2023.2170110
- 2022** **Visions of Contempt: Emotion and the Visual Culture of the Scopes Trial.** *Material Religion* 18.2: 250–276. DOI: 10.1080/17432200.2022.2048604 Peer reviewed.

	Rationalist Nostalgia: A Critical Response to Ruth Leys' <i>The Ascent of Affect</i>.	<i>Capacious</i> 2.4: 115–135. <i>Peer reviewed</i> . DOI: 10.22387/CAP2022.58
	The Territories of Thinking and Feeling: Rethinking Religion, Science, and Reason with Alister McGrath.	<i>Zygon</i> 57.1: 200–222. DOI 10.1111/zygo.12766 (Invited contribution to forum on the work of Alister McGrath.)
2021	Darwin's Orchids: Evolution, Natural Law, and the Diversity of Desire.	<i>GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies</i> 27.4: 525–550. <i>Peer reviewed</i> . DOI 10.1215/10642684-9316824.
2020	Whiteness and Civilization: Shame, Race, and the Rhetoric of Donald Trump.	<i>Journal of Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies</i> 17.1: 1–18. <i>Peer reviewed</i> . DOI 10.1080/14791420.2019.1667503.
	Talal Asad's Challenge to Religious Studies.	<i>Religion and Society</i> 11: 20–23. DOI 10.3167/arrs.2020.110102. (Invited contribution to "Portrait" section on the work of Talal Asad.)
2019	The Secular Twist: Nonreligion in the World Religions Classroom.	<i>Implicit Religion</i> 22.1: 86–93. (Invited response to symposium on podcast with <i>The Religious Studies Project</i> "Is Secularism a World Religion?")
	Mere Science: Mapping the Land Bridge between Emotion, Politics, and Ethics.	<i>Zygon</i> 54.2: 382–6. (Invited contribution to symposium on Lisa Sideris' <i>Consecrating Science</i> .)
	An Extension of Saturday Night: Affect and Downfall at Mars Hill.	<i>Religious Studies Review</i> 45.3: 287–89. (Invited contribution to symposium on Jessica Johnson's <i>Biblical Porn</i> .)
2018	Precopulatory Sexual Cannibalism and Other Accidents: Evolution, Material Trans Theory, and Natural Law.	<i>Studies in Gender and Sexuality</i> 19.1: 28–35. DOI 10.1080/15240657.2018.1419685.
2017	You Don't Know What Pain Is: Affect, the Lifeworld, and Animal Ethics.	<i>Studies in Christian Ethics</i> 30.1: 15–29.
	Animal Politics: Species, Evolution, and Religious Affects.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> 46.3–4: 40–45. (Invited response to symposium on <i>Religious Affects</i> .)
2016	Heavenbeast: A New Materialist Approach to <i>Ulysses</i>.	<i>Angelaki</i> 21.2: 119–137. <i>Peer reviewed</i> .
	The Fault in Us: Ethics, Infinity, and Celestial Bodies.	<i>Zygon</i> 51.3: 783–796.
2014	Blessed, Precious Mistakes: Evolution,	<i>International Journal for Philosophy of</i>

2012	Deconstruction, and New Atheism in America.	<i>Religion</i> 76: 75–94. <i>Peer reviewed.</i>
2012	Embodied Disbelief: Poststructural Feminist Atheism.	<i>Hypatia</i> 29.2: 371–387. <i>Peer reviewed.</i>
2013	Our Peculiar Institution: 12 Years a Slave, American Protestantism, and the Erotics of Racism.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> 43.1: 34–36.
2012	The Promise of Affect.	<i>Theory & Event</i> 16.2.
2012	Do Animals Have Religion? Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Religion and Embodiment.	<i>Anthrozoös</i> 25.S1 (25 th Anniversary Supplemental Issue): S173–S189. <i>Peer reviewed.</i>

Book Chapters

2024	The Poverty of Excess: Religion, Affect, and the Unthinkable.	In: <i>The Unthinkable Body: Challenges of Embodiment in Religion, Politics, and Ethics</i> . Klein, Rebekka A. and Calvin D. Ullrich, eds. Mohr Siebeck. ISBN 978-3-16-163754-4. pp. 43–59. <i>Invited chapter.</i>
2023	Emotion.	In: <i>Animals and Religion</i> . Aftandilian, David, Barbara Ambros, and Aaron Gross, eds. Routledge. ISBN 978-1032330181. pp. 48–57. <i>Invited chapter.</i>
2023	Myth: Science and Religion Naturally Conflict.	In: <i>Stereotyping Religion: Critiquing Clichés, Vol. 2</i> . Martin, Craig and Brad Stoddard, eds. Bloomsbury. ISBN 978-1350263598. pp. 83–94. <i>Invited chapter.</i>
2022	Whiteness and Civilization: Shame, Race, and the Rhetoric of Donald Trump.	In: <i>Religion, Protest, and Social Upheaval</i> . Guth, Karen, Matthew Eggemeier, and Peter Fritz, eds. Fordham University Press. ISBN 978-0823299751. pp. 93–111. <i>Invited chapter, reprint of journal article of same title, peer-reviewed.</i>
2019	The Secular Experiment: Science, Feeling, and Atheist Apocalypticism.	In: <i>Affect and Emotion in Multi-Religious Secular Societies</i> . von Scheve, Christian, Anna Lea Berg, Meike Haken, and Nur Yasemin Ural, eds. Routledge. ISBN 9780815354345. pp. 211–227. <i>Invited chapter, reprinting material from chapter “The Wild Experiment,” below.</i>
2019	The Animality of Affect: Religion,	In: <i>Religion, Emotion, Sensation: Affect</i>

	Emotion, and Power.	<i>Theories and Theologies.</i> Bray, Karen, and Stephen D. Moore, eds. Fordham University Press. ISBN 9780815354345. pp. 19–37. <i>Invited chapter, peer reviewed, reprinting material from Evolution of Affect Theory, above.</i>
2018	Beautiful Facts: Religion, Secularism, and Affect.	In: <i>Feeling Religion.</i> Corrigan, John, ed. Duke University Press. ISBN 0822370379. pp. 69–92. <i>Invited chapter, double-blind peer reviewed.</i>
2017	The Science of Life.	In: <i>The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century Christian Thought.</i> Rasmussen, Joel, Judith Wolfe, & Johannes Zachhuber, eds. Oxford University Press. ISBN 0198718403. pp. 89–107. <i>Invited chapter.</i>
	The Wild Experiment: Emotion, Reason, and the Limits of Science.	In: <i>Are there Limits to Science?</i> Straine, Gillian, ed. Cambridge Scholars Press. ISBN 1443895814. pp. 61–79. <i>Invited chapter.</i>

Invited Talks and Lectures

2024	The Re-Disenchantment of the World: Thinking, Feeling, and Secularity.	Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network annual lecture. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Our Westminster: Race and Sacrality at Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery.	“Spiritual Powers” conference, Arizona State University. <i>Invited workshop participant.</i>
	Darwin’s Orchids: Evolution, Natural Law, and the Diversity of Desire.	University of Richmond. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	The Sense of Science: Feeling and Thinking after Darwin.	“Hopes and Fears: Emotions and Decision-Making in Historical Analysis of Science, Medicine, and Technology,” Johns Hopkins University. <i>Invited workshop participant.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing: Rethinking the Role of Conspiracy Theory in the 2024 U.S. Election Cycle.	University of Bonn. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing: A New Approach to Conspiracy Theory.	Duke Kunshan University, China. <i>Invited lecture as part of week-long scholar-in-residence event.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing: A New Approach	West Virginia University. <i>Invited lecture.</i>

	to Conspiracy Theory.	
	Feeling Is Believing: A New Approach to Conspiracy Theory.	Washington and Lee University. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Is a Monument a Text?	Material Texts Seminar, UPenn. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Is a Monument a Text?	University of Richmond. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Is Religion Belief?	Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University. <i>Invited panelist.</i>
	Thinking, Feeling, and the Way We Study Religion.	Religion after Syracuse roundtable discussion, Syracuse University. <i>Invited panelist.</i>
	Affect as Method: Against the Numb View of Embodiment.	New Key Concepts for the Study of Affect workshop, Freie Universität Berlin. <i>Invited workshop participant. Online.</i>
	Religious Animal Bodies.	West Chester University. “Sustainability and Spirituality” colloquium. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Book Talk: <i>Wild Experiment</i>.	Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. <i>Invited workshop.</i>
	The Affective Academic: Reflecting on Embodied Research and Emotional Pedagogy.	University of Richmond. <i>Invited workshop leader.</i>
	The Affective Academic: Reflecting on Embodied Research and Emotional Pedagogy.	Columbia University. <i>Invited workshop leader.</i>
	The Affective Academic: Reflecting on Embodied Research and Emotional Pedagogy.	West Virginia University. <i>Invited workshop leader.</i>
	The Affective Academic: Reflecting on Embodied Research and Emotional Pedagogy.	Duke Kunshan University. <i>Invited workshop leader.</i>
2023	The Re-Disenchantment of the World: Thinking, Feeling, and Secularity.	McLester Lecture, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Forging Feeling: The Downfall of the Confederate Monument.	University of Richmond. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Feeling, Thinking, and Secularity.	“Religion and Emotions” workshop, Humboldt University, Berlin. <i>Invited participant.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing: Conspiracy	Louisiana State University. <i>Invited</i>

	Theory, Apocalypticism, and Affect.	<i>speaker.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing: Conspiracy Theory, Apocalypticism, and Affect.	Kahn Lecture, Franklin and Marshall College. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Hard Feelings: Power, Secularity, and Public Material Culture.	“Material Secularities” workshop. University of Leipzig. <i>Invited workshop participant.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Feeling, Thinking, and Secularity.	“Affectivity, Religion, and Theology” digital workshop. University of Basel, Switzerland. <i>Invited keynote speaker.</i>
	Feeling Faithless: Taking the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies.	Discussing Atheism and the Study of Atheism for the 21 st Century workshop, Georgetown. <i>Invited participant.</i>
	The Affective Academic: Reflecting on Embodied Research and Emotional Pedagogy.	Collegium Institute, UPenn. <i>Invited workshop leader.</i>
	Hard Feelings: Power, Emotion, and Confederate Commemoration.	Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Richmond. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	God or Nature? Investigating the Evolutionary Origins of Humanity.	Veritas Forum, UPenn. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	CharismaTech: The Charisma Playlist.	The Vinyl Church gallery, Lancaster, PA. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
2022	How Reason Gets Racialized: Affect and Queer of Color Theory.	“Aesthetics and Affects of Power in the Context of Religion” workshop, University of Erfurt, Erfurt. <i>Invited keynote speaker. Online.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Affect, Cognition, and the Secular.	Princeton University. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Affect, Cognition, Cogency.	Drew University. Theology & Philosophical Study of Religion group. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Book Discussion on <i>Wild Experiment: Feeling Science and Secularism after Darwin.</i>	Rishikesh Dialogue on Consciousness, Foundation for Creative Social Research. <i>Invited workshop participant and respondent Online.</i>
	Voracious Secularism: Knowledge, Violence, and Desire.	University of California, Irvine. Knowing Life: The Ethics of Multi-Species Epistemologies. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Affect, Cognition, Cogency.	Columbia Affect Studies Seminar. <i>Invited seminar speaker. Online.</i>

	Longing to Believe: Affect, Cognition, Cogency.	“Thinking of the Body—The Body as Unthinkable” workshop, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum. <i>Invited workshop participant.</i>
	Longing to Critique: Thinking, Feeling and Secular Disenchantment.	Creative Theory Association, “Future of Thinking: Crisis and Possibilities” colloquium, Jawaharlal Nehru University. <i>Invited speaker. Online.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing.	60-Second Lecture series, Penn. <i>Invited public lecture.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Affect, Cognition, Cogency.	Department of History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing.	Penn homecoming weekend. <i>Invited public lecture.</i>
	Feeling Is Believing.	Penn Perspectives series. <i>Invited lecture delivered to graduating seniors at Penn.</i>
2021	Feeling Faithless: Taking the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies.	Universität Leipzig. <i>Invited lecture. Online.</i>
	Feeling Faithless: Taking the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies.	University of Oxford, “God, Science, and the Rise of No Religion: Towards New Principles of Constructive Engagement” workshop. <i>Invited participant. Online.</i>
	Religious Animal Bodies: Notes on an Affect Theory of Religion.	Union Theological Seminary. <i>Invited public lecture. Online.</i>
	Response to Teya Brooks Pribac’s <i>Enter the Animal</i>.	Counterpoints Navigating Knowledge Series. <i>Invited respondent. Online.</i>
2020	Feeling Faithless: Taking the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies.	University of North Carolina—Charlotte, Sensory Cultures of Religion, Fourth Annual Graduate Conference. <i>Keynote address. Online.</i>
2019	From Creationism to Climate Change Denial: An Affective Approach to Science Skepticism.	Australian Catholic University. <i>Public lecture.</i>
	Feeling Faithless: Taking the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies.	Macquarie University, Faithful Bodies: Affect Theory and Religion symposium. <i>Keynote address.</i>
	Feeling Faithless: Taking the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies.	Australian National University, Sacred Histories symposium. <i>Keynote address.</i>
	Longing to Believe: Affect, Conspiracy	Australian Catholic University, Affect,

	Theory, and Race.	Politics, and Knowledge workshop. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Whiteness and Civilization: Shame, Race, and the Alt-Right in the Age of Trump.	University of Toronto, Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Only Better Beasts: Emotion, Material Religion, and the Scopes Trial.	Georgetown University, Religion, Politics, and Culture Workshop. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Affects and Publics.	Lehigh University, "Religion and Its Many American Publics." <i>Invited symposium participant.</i>
	Parochial Enchantment: The Affects and Ethics of <i>Vibrant Matter</i>.	Union Theological Seminary, Insight Project Colloquium. <i>Invited symposium participant.</i>
	The Sentiments of Rationality: Feeling, Science, and Secularism after Darwin.	University of Oxford, Faculty of Theology and Religion. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	The Sentiments of Rationality: Feeling, Science, and Secularism after Darwin.	University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Desire, Power, and Digital Media.	Penn, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, South x Southeast Conference. <i>Invited respondent.</i>
	The Materiality of Choice.	Penn, Wolf Humanities Seminar on "Stuff." <i>Invited respondent to Sophia Rosenfeld.</i>
	Affect and Objects.	Penn, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Sites of Passage: Domestic Materials in Jewish Contexts. <i>Invited respondent.</i>
2018	Whiteness and Civilization: Shame, Race, and the Alt-Right in the Age of Trump.	Lancaster, PA, "Capacious: Affect Inquiry/Making Space." <i>Plenary speaker.</i>
	The Wild Experiment: Emotion, Science, and Secularism.	University of Dayton, "Once More with Feeling: Affect and the God of the Philosophers" conference. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
	Only Better Beasts: Emotion, Material Religion, and the Scopes Trial.	Bucknell University. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Darwin's Orchids: Queerness, Natural Law, and the Diversity of Desire.	Albright College. <i>Invited lecture.</i>
	Discussant for Cassie Adcock's "The Heads or Tails of Cow Protection in	Penn, Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism

2017

India: Religious Freedom or Secular Agriculture?"

faculty workshop series. *Invited discussant.*

Darwin, Queerly: Teleology, Nature, and the Diversity of Desire.

New York University, "Queer Humanimalities" colloquium. *Keynote speaker.*

You Don't Know What Pain Is: Emotion, the Lifeworld, and Animal Ethics.

Le Moyne College, "The Future of Being Human" series. *Invited lecture.*

Animal Religion: Evolution, Embodiment, and Affect.

Yale-National University of Singapore, "Explaining Religion: Anthropology, Social Cognition, and Phenomenology" colloquium. *Plenary speaker.*

Only Better Beasts: Emotion, Material Religion, and the Scopes Trial.

Queen's University, "Unraveling Religion 4: Bodies and Objects" conference. *Keynote speaker.*

Only Better Beasts: Emotion, Material Religion, and the Scopes Trial.

University of Manchester, Theory and Method in the Study of Religion Seminar Series. *Invited lecture.*

Whiteness and Civilization: Shame, Race, and the World Trump Built.

College of the Holy Cross, "Religion, Protest, and Social Upheaval" conference. *Plenary speaker.*

The Wild Experiment: Emotion, Science, and Secularism.

Swarthmore College, Haverford College, and Bryn Mawr College, TriCo Religion Senior Colloquium. *Daylong visiting scholar event.*

The Wild Experiment: Emotion, Science, and Secularism.

Eastern University, Templeton Honors Forum. *Invited lecture.*

Animality, Evolution, and Theory in the Humanities.

Philadelphia Seminar in Christian Origins. "Thinking with Ancient Animals" symposium. *Invited speaker.*

Jewish Perspectives on Religion and Science: A Response.

Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. "Jews and the Natural World: Bodies, Animals, and Evolution" symposium. *Invited respondent.*

Only Better Beasts: Emotion, Material Religion, and the Scopes Trial.

Freie Universität Berlin. *Invited lecture.*

The Animality of Affect: Religion, Emotion, and Power.

Freie Universität Berlin, "Governing by Affect" conference. *Plenary speaker.*

Rethinking Science and Religion.

North London Collegiate School, "Creation: A Dialogue between Science and Religion Interfaith Conference."

2016

The Animality of Affect: Religion, Emotion, and Power.

Plenary speaker.

Drew University Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium, "Affectivity and Divinity." Drew University. *Plenary speaker.*

You Don't Know What Pain Is: Affect, Animal Religion, and the Violence of Confinement.

Society for the Study of Christian Ethics annual conference, Cambridge University. *Plenary speaker.*

The Wild Experiment: Emotion, Secularism, and the Limits of Science.

Science and Religion Forum, Birmingham. *Plenary speaker.*

Secular Affects: Emotional Elements of Religion and Non-Religion.

"Inside Out: Affect(s) in Multi-Religious Secular Societies," Freie Universität Berlin. *Plenary speaker.*

It's Not What You Think: Affect, Politics, and American Racism.

Georgetown University. *Invited lecture.*

It's Not What You Think: Affect, Politics, and American Racism.

Emory University, Oxford College. *Invited lecture.*

You Don't Know What Pain Is: Affect, Animal Religion, and the Violence of Confinement.

Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions and the Harvard Islamic Law Project. *Invited lecture.*

You Don't Know What Pain Is: Affect, Animal Religion, and the Violence of Confinement.

University of Florida. *Invited lecture.*

You Don't Know What Pain Is: Affect, Animal Religion, and the Violence of Confinement.

Wesleyan University. *Invited lecture.*

The Animality of Affect: Religion, Emotion, and Power.

Sewanee, the University of the South. *Invited lecture.*

The Animality of Affect: Religion, Emotion, and Power.

Syracuse University. *Invited lecture.*

2015

Beautiful Facts: Secularism, Religion, and Affects.

Religion and Emotion NEH Working Group, National Humanities Center, Duke University. *Invited speaker.*

Biology, History, and Metaphysics: Science in Nineteenth-Century Christian Thought.

"Dimensions in Nineteenth Century Christian Thought" colloquium, Oxford. *Invited workshop participant.*

2014

The Order of Affects: Power, Knowledge, and Materiality.

Theory and Things Symposium, Syracuse University. *Invited speaker.*

2013

Animal Bodies Are Not Digital

Lightning Talks Series, Haverford College. *Invited speaker.*

	Post-Atheism	Cross-listed Series, Haverford College. <i>Invited speaker.</i>
2012	Political Affect: The American Case.	Religion and Media Workshop, AAR, Chicago, IL. <i>Invited session leader.</i>
2010	Cognitive Science and Religion: A Way In and a Way Out.	Syracuse University Dept. of Religion Biennial Retreat, Cazenovia, NY. <i>Invited speaker.</i>

Book Reviews

2024	Review of Grant Bollmer's <i>The Affect Lab: The History and Limits of Measuring Emotion.</i>	<i>Isis.</i> Forthcoming.
2023	Review of Anthony B. Pinn's <i>Interplay of Things: Religion, Art, and Presence Together.</i>	<i>Material Religion.</i> 19.1: 91–3. DOI: 10.1080/17432200.2023.2170105
	Review of Jason Bivins's <i>Embattled America: The Rise of Anti-politics and America's Obsession with Religion.</i>	<i>American Religion.</i> 5.1: 172–174. DOI: 10.2979/amerreli.5.1.14
2022	Review of Alec Ryrie's <i>Unbelievers: An Emotional History of Doubt.</i>	<i>Religion and Its Publics</i> blog. April 21, 2022.
2021	Review of Teya Brooks Pribac's <i>Enter the Animal: Cross-Species Perspectives on Grief and Spirituality.</i>	<i>Animal Studies Journal</i> 10.2: 201–206. DOI: 10.14453/asj.v10i2.9
	Review of Andrew Jewett's <i>Science Under Fire: Challenges to Scientific Authority in Modern America.</i>	<i>Isis.</i> 112.3: 655–656.
2019	Review of David Chidester's <i>Religion: Material Dynamics.</i>	<i>Reading Religion.</i> February 2019.
	American Mania: A Review of Lawrence Grossberg's <i>Under the Cover of Chaos: Trump and the Battle for the American Right.</i>	<i>Cultural Studies.</i> 34.1: 169–71. DOI: 10.1080/09502386.2019.1584904
2017	A Thinking Heart: A Review of John P. Gluck's <i>Voracious Science and Vulnerable Animals.</i>	<i>PsycCRITIQUES.</i> 62.14. (Selected for <i>PsycCRITIQUES</i> “Spotlight” series.)
2016	The Modern Mosaic of Science and Religion.	<i>Marginalia Review of Books.</i> Sept. 2016. (Review essay on Peter Harrison's <i>Territories of Science and Religion.</i>)
	Review of James William Jones's <i>Can Science Explain Religion? The</i>	<i>Religious Studies Review.</i> 42.2: 93.

	<i>Cognitive Science Debate.</i>	
	Review of Christian Smith and Richard P. Cimino’s <i>Atheist Awakening: Secular Activism and Community in America.</i>	<i>American Studies.</i> 50.2: E31.
	Review of Aaron S. Gross’s <i>The Animal Question in Religion: Theoretical Stakes, Practical Implications.</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.</i> 10.4: 516–518.
2015	How Not to Do What We Always Do: A Review of Hector A. Garcia’s <i>Alpha God.</i>	<i>The Revealer.</i> Oct. 2015.
	Review of Linda A. Mercadante’s <i>Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but Not Religious.</i>	<i>Secularism and Nonreligion.</i> 4.1: Art. 9. DOI 10.5334/snr.bb
2011	On Dictionaryism: The Good News and Maledictions of Religious Literacy.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion.</i> 40.2: 3–8. (Review of Stephen Prothero’s <i>God Is Not One.</i>)
2009	The Shape of the Field: Bruce Lincoln’s <i>Discourse and the Construction of Society.</i>	<i>Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin.</i> 38.3: 58–60.

Selected Online Writings

2024	“To Perpetuate a False Image of History”: Perspectives on Confederate Commemoration from the Black Press.	<i>Introductory essay for online project “A False Image of History”: Perspectives on Confederate Commemoration from the Black Press.”</i> April 2024.
	For 150 Years, Black Journalists Have Known What Confederate Monuments Really Stood For.	<i>The Conversation.</i> Republished by the <i>New Pittsburgh Courier, Philadelphia Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, Yahoo News, and more than a dozen other platforms.</i> February 2024.
2023	The City’s Salvation: Frank Rizzo and White Christian Nationalism in Philadelphia.	<i>Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab blog, University of Virginia.</i> February 2023.
2022	Buying into Conspiracy Theories Can Be Exciting – That’s What Makes Them Dangerous.	<i>The Conversation.</i> Republished by <i>Salon, Religion News Service, the Harvard Nieman Lab, Neuroscience News, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and more than 50 other platforms.</i> July 2022.
	Hiding in Horror: Feeling and	<i>Counterpoint: Navigating Knowledge blog.</i>

	Believing Climate Science.	July 2022.
	Feeling Science, Thinking Religion.	<i>International Society for Science and Religion blog.</i> August 2022.
	Secular Rationality/Secular Affects.	<i>Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network blog.</i> August 2022.
	Atheists, Social Media, and American Politics.	Interview of Chris Stedman. <i>The Revealer.</i> November 2022.
	Faithless Feeling: Does a Lack of Religion Really “Knock Color out of Life”?	<i>OnlySky Media. Invited contribution.</i> December 2022.
2021	How Do Words Work? A Response to Craig Martin.	<i>The Religious Studies Project.</i> Invited response to Craig Martin’s <i>Discourse and Ideology.</i> December 2021.
2020	Affect.	<i>The Immanent Frame.</i> Invited contribution to “A Universe of Terms.” April 2020.
2019	The Codex of Feeling: Affect Theory and Ancient Texts.	<i>Ancient Jew Review.</i> January 2019.
	The Face of the Sovereign.	<i>Political Theology.</i> February 2019.
	Credulity, or Science as an Intoxication.	<i>The Immanent Frame.</i> Part of the “Modernity’s Resonances” symposium. Response to Emily Ogden’s <i>Credulity.</i> February 2019.
	The Monograph as Laboratory.	<i>The Philosophers’ Cocoon</i> blog. April 2019.
2018	Material Mourning in the Secular Sculpture Garden.	<i>The Immanent Frame.</i> March 2018.
2017	Rational Passions.	<i>Syndicate.</i> Five essays in dialogue with five responses to <i>Religious Affects</i> from Pamela Klassen, Devin Singh, Yasemin Ural, Christopher Carter, Jason Blum. October–December 2017.
	The Trembling Hive: A New Fable of the Bees.	
	The Stickiness of Classification.	
	White Winter Blues.	
	The Material Foucault.	
	Ideology Becomes an Addiction.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog, April 11, 2017.
2016	It’s Not What You Think: Affect Theory and Power Take to the Stage.	Duke University Press blog. February 15, 2016.
	Trump’s Evangelical Support in the Gut, Not the Theology.	<i>Religion Dispatches.</i> March 21, 2016.

	Affect Theory Is an Animalism.	<i>WTF Affect</i> blog. (With Maya Pindyck.) May 2016.
	Smelling the Sacred: Better Lived Religion through Chemistry.	<i>Religion Dispatches</i> . May 24, 2016.
	Animal Dress-up: On Hiroshi Watanabe.	<i>Capilano Review</i> . 3.29 (Summer 2016): 92–94.
	The Shared Fantasy of Redemptive Violence between ISIS and the Islamophobic Right.	<i>Religion Dispatches</i> . July 18, 2016.
2015	Dad Wanted a Boy: Feminism, Transcendence, and Cuarón’s <i>Gravity</i>.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog, January 30, 2015.
	Did Pope Francis Just Change the Course of the Science–Religion Dialogue?	<i>Religion Dispatches</i> . June 18, 2015.
2014	Partisan Science: Evolution and Creationism in Postsecular American Politics.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog. April 4, 2014.
	Defining Postsecularism.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog. April 16, 2014.
	Religion as Little Something: Kathleen Stewart’s <i>Ordinary Affects</i>	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog. June 23, 2014.
	<i>Calvary</i>: Imaging Postsecular Sacrifice.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog. August 25, 2014.
2013	An Institution Is Not a Text: Pope Francis, Affect, and Power.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog. December 13, 2013.
2012	<i>A Separation</i>: Religion, Class, Secularism.	<i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> blog, March 30, 2012.

Interviews

2025	Dialogue with Kevin Schilbrack.	<i>Here’s an Idea</i> blog. <i>Forthcoming</i> .
2023	<i>Wild Experiment: Feeling Science and Secularism after Darwin</i>.	Interview with Alison Renna for the <i>New Books Network</i> podcast.
	<i>The City’s Salvation: Frank Rizzo and White Christian Nationalism in Philadelphia</i>.	Podcast written and recorded for the Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab, University of Virginia.
2022	Knowledge, Feeling, and Belief.	Interview with Charlie McCrary, Tracy Fessenden, and John Carlson for the “Recovering Truth” podcast, Arizona State University.

	What Role do Feelings Play in Conspiracy, Racism and Climate Denial?	Interview with Megan Goodwin. <i>Religion Dispatches</i> .
	Cognition Feels.	Interview with Katelyn Silva. <i>Omnia</i> .
	Q&A with Author Donovan O. Schaefer.	Interview with Jessica Covil-Manset. <i>Duke University Press blog</i> .
	Why Are There So Many Conspiracy Theories Out There?	Interview with Aaron Rand and Natasha Hall. <i>CJAD Montreal</i> .
2021	The Classical Ideas Podcast.	Interview with guest host Brian Carwana. Episode 191.
	Fear and Loathing in Science Podcast.	Interview with Penn Arts and Sciences, season 3, episode 1, "Facts vs. Feelings."
	CreatureKind Podcast.	Interview with Shea Watts.
2017	Debating Religion: Science, Religion, and Reductionism.	Interview with Jessica Frazier. The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.
2016	Trauma Makes You: An Interview with Donovan O. Schaefer.	Interview with Nathan Rein and Matthew Sheedy. <i>Bulletin for the Study of Religion</i> 45.2.
	In the Beginning Was Not the Word: Why Belief in the Primacy of Language Leads to a Misunderstanding of Richard Dawkins, Islamophobia, and Politics.	Interview with Andrew Aghapour and Michael Schulson. <i>Religion Dispatches</i> . Feb. 11, 2016.
	Interview with the Author: <i>Religious Affects</i>.	Interview with Tenzan Eaghll. <i>Practicum</i> blog. March 3, 2016.
	Writing Space Interview.	Interview with Greg Seigworth. <i>WTF Affect</i> blog. April 2016.
	Is Secularism a World Religion?	Interview with Christopher Cotter. <i>The Religious Studies Project</i> podcast. November 28, 2016.
	An Interview with Donovan Schaefer on Religious Affects.	Interview with Christian von Scheve, Freie Universität Berlin. November 28, 2016.

Conference Papers

2024	Feeling Is Believing: Affect, Cognition, Cogency.	"Cognitive Representations in Religion" conference, Oxford, UK.
	Some Binaries Are Harder to Move on from than Others.	American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual meeting, San Diego, CA.

2023

Gospel, Apocalypse, Conspiracy Theory? A Question of Genre.

AAR, San Diego, CA. *Invited participant at panel session on Andrew Jacobs' Gospel Thrillers.*

Religion in Theoryland.

North American Association for the Study of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, CA. *Invited roundtable participant.*

“Our Westminster”: Sacralizing White Supremacy at Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery.

American Studies Association annual meeting, Baltimore, MD.

Feeling Faithless: Cognitive Emotions and the Affective Life of Atheism.

“Atheism Explained?” conference, Oxford, UK.

The Re-Disenchantment of the World: Weber’s “Science as a Vocation” and the Affects of *Wissenschaft*.

Society for Social Studies of Science annual meeting, Free University of Amsterdam.

Academic Affects and Cruel Optimism.

Society for Social Studies of Science annual meeting, Free University of Amsterdam. *Panel co-organizer.*

The Work of Bad Writing.

Society for the Study of Affect, Promises/Impasses/Threats/Settlings conference, Lancaster, PA. *Stream organizer.*

The Anatomy of Meaning: A Historical-Philosophical Account.

Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network conference, Ottawa, ON.

Hard Feelings: Power, Public Monuments, and the Global Far Right.

Political Theology Network conference, Villanova University.

Response to Author Meets Critics Session on *Wild Experiment*.

Society for Social Studies of Science annual meeting, Honolulu, HI.

Response to Author Meets Critics Session on *Wild Experiment*.

AAR, San Antonio, TX.

When Do We Love (a) Theory Too Much?

AAR, San Antonio, TX. *Invited participant at roundtable on “History and Theory.”*

2022

The Longing to Believe: Rationality, Secularity, and Conspiracy Theory.

Political Theology Network conference, Arizona State University.

Power–Knowledge–Pleasure: Rethinking the Religious/Secular Binary with Foucault.

AAR, Denver, CO.

Craving for Rationality: Relinking Feeling and Thinking in James.

AAR, Denver, CO.

2021	<p>Re-Disenchanting Weber: Looking again at “Science as a Vocation.”</p> <p>Secular Páthos: Religion, Pathology, and Belief in the Work of William James.</p> <p>Longing to Believe: Affect, Cognition, Cogency.</p>	<p>Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network conference. <i>Presented digitally.</i></p> <p>AAR, San Antonio, TX. <i>Invited participant in roundtable on “The Pathological and Religion in North America.”</i></p> <p>Psychology and the Other conference. <i>Presented digitally.</i></p>
2020	<p>The Charisma of Bad Prose: Feeling Writing in Theory.</p>	<p>AAR. <i>Presented digitally.</i></p>
2019	<p>The Faith of the Enlightenment: Theology, Religious Studies, and the Affective Science of Cognition.</p> <p>Science as an Intoxication.</p> <p>From Affect Theory to Science and Religion.</p> <p>From Creationism to Climate Change Denial: An Affective Approach to Science Skepticism.</p> <p>From Secular Bodies to Secular Affects: Understanding Cultures of Unbelief through Affect Theory.</p> <p>Feeling Is Believing: Emotion Science, Cognition, and Religion.</p>	<p>AAR, San Diego, CA. <i>Co-presenter with Simeon Zabl. Panel organizer.</i></p> <p>AAR, San Diego, CA. <i>Invited participant in roundtable on “Modernity’s Resonances.”</i></p> <p>Annual meeting of the International Society for Science and Religion, San Diego, CA. <i>Invited participant.</i></p> <p>Annual meeting of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, Cork, Ireland.</p> <p>Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network conference, Rome, Italy.</p> <p>Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO. <i>Invited panel participant.</i></p>
2018	<p>Mere Science: Mapping the Land Bridge between Emotion, Science, and Ethics.</p> <p>An Extension of Saturday Night: Affect, the Pornopticon, and the Downfall of Mars Hill.</p> <p>The Codex of Feeling: Affect Theory and Ancient Texts.</p>	<p>AAR, Denver, CO. <i>Invited discussant for roundtable on Lisa Sideris’ Consecrating Science.</i></p> <p>AAR, Denver, CO. <i>Invited discussant for roundtable on Jessica Johnson’s Biblical Porn.</i></p> <p>AAR, Denver, CO. <i>Invited discussant for roundtable on Maia Kotrosits’ Rethinking Early Christian Identity.</i></p>
2017	<p>The Lust to Believe: Paranoia, Conspiracy Theory, and Apocalypticism.</p> <p>Precopulatory Sexual Cannibalism and Other Accidents: Desire,</p>	<p>AAR, Boston, MA.</p> <p>“Religion, Society, and the Science of Life” conference, Ian Ramsey Centre,</p>

	Evolution, and Natural Law.	Oxford.
2016	Is Secularism a World Religion?	British Association for the Study of Religion annual conference, Wolverhampton.
	Animal Politics: Species, Evolution, and Religious Affects.	AAR, San Antonio, TX. <i>Invited response to session on Religious Affects.</i>
	Only Better Beasts: On the Animality of Secularism.	“A Postsecular Age?” conference, Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford.
	The Mat of Matter.	“Human Transcendence: Philosophies beyond Mere Materialism” symposium, The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.
	Unbecoming: Considering the Bio-Logic of Affect.	Society for European Philosophy annual conference, London.
2015	Secular Animacy Hierarchies: Violence and Reason after “Faith and Knowledge.”	“Re-Reading Derrida’s ‘Faith and Knowledge’” conference, University of Nottingham.
	Affect and the Animality of Religion: Toward a Theory of the Waterfall Dance.	“The Human Difference?” conference, Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford.
	Animal Method: The Materialist Shift in Aaron S. Gross’ <i>The Question of the Animal and Religion</i> .	AAR, Atlanta, GA.
	Imaging Postsecular Sacrifice: <i>Calvary</i> and Economies of Attachment.	AAR, Atlanta, GA.
2014	Let’s Be Queer about Darwin: Teleology, Desire, and Religion.	“Evolution and Historical Explanation” conference, Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford.
	Dad Wanted a Boy: Gender, Embodiment, and Transcendence in <i>Gravity</i> and <i>2001</i> .	AAR, San Diego, CA.
	Being and Noneness: Post-atheism, Religion, and the Intransigence of Data.	AAR, San Diego, CA.
2013	Heavenbeast: Affect, Accident, and Animality in Joyce’s <i>Ulysses</i> .	Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto, ON.
	The Limits of the Text: Affect, Undecidability, and Embodiment in <i>Infinite Jest</i> and <i>Ulysses</i> .	“Return of the Text” conference, Le Moyne College and Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
	Theses on Guns, Apocalypticism, and	AAR, Baltimore, MD.

	American Religion.	
	Animalism: Religion, Affect, and Non-Sovereign Bodies.	AAR, Baltimore, MD.
2012	What Does It Feel Like to Be an Atheist? Affective Disciplines and Atheism after Darwin.	AAR, Chicago, IL.
	Compulsory Affectivity: Affect, Animality, and the Nonhuman Turn.	“The Nonhuman Turn in 21 st -Century Studies” conference, Center for 21 st -Century Studies, UW-Milwaukee.
	Embodied Disbelief: Poststructural Feminist Atheism.	“The Varieties of Continental Thought in Religion” conference, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON.
2011	Blessed, Precious Mistakes: Deconstruction, Evolution, and the New Atheism.	“The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion,” Postmodernism, Culture, and Religion conference, Syracuse University.
	Dances of Awe: Embodiment, Affect, and the Animal Religions.	“Animals as Religious Subjects” conference, European Forum for the Study of Religion and Ecology, Chester University, UK.
	The Irreducibility of Affect: Nietzsche, Foucault, and Frustration.	“Anatomy of Affect” symposium, SU Humanities Center, SU.
	Songs of Love and Hate: Religion, Affect, and the Park51 Controversy.	“Self Among Selves: Emotion and the Common Life” conference, SU.
	<i>Se Plastiquer: Freedom and Metaphysics in Catherine Malabou’s What Should We Do with Our Brain?</i>	Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy conference, Villanova University, Philadelphia, PA.
2010	The Metaphysics of the Metaphysical: The New Age Body in <i>What the Bleep Do We Know!?</i>	Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion (AAR-EIR), University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON.
	Tight Genes: Feminism, Evolutionary Theory and the Dancing Religious Body.	AAR, Atlanta, GA.
2009	Modern Society is Dead: The Politics and Poetics of Religious Nostalgia.	AAR-EIR, LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY. <i>Panel organizer.</i>
	Love/FOXP2: Language, Genetics, and the Ethical Relation in Levinas.	AAR, Montreal, QC.
2008	Vivekananda, Müller, and Ramakrishna: Scholarship, Devotion, and Indian Nationalism in the Late 19th Century.	AAR-EIR, McGill University, Montreal, QC. <i>Graduate Paper Competition Prize.</i>

2007	New Critical Perspectives on Teaching World Religions.	AAR-EIR, Waterloo University, Waterloo, ON. <i>Panel organizer.</i>
2006	Resources for Theorizing an Animal-Oriented Ethics in Badiou's <i>Ethics</i>.	AAR-EIR, Laval University, Quebec City, QC. <i>Panel organizer.</i>
2005	Theoretical Foundations for a Zoocentric Ethics.	AAR-EIR, McGill University, Montreal, QC.

Teaching Areas

Material religion; science and religion; theory and method in the study of religion; American religion; religion and film; continental philosophy of religion; religion, gender, and sexuality; religion and globalization.

Courses Taught

Penn, graduate	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion Affect Theory and Power Religion and Cinema Deleuze and Affect Theory (independent study, four students) Material Secularisms (independent study, three students)
Penn, undergraduate	Science and Religion Religion and Evolution Sacred Stuff: Religious Bodies, Places, and Objects
Oxford, graduate	Science and Religion (seminars and tutorials) Global Christianity (tutorials)
Oxford, undergraduate	Religion and Religions Sociology of Religion Science and Religion Introduction to the Study of Religion Nature of Religion Psychology of Religion God, Christ, and Salvation Christian Doctrine of Creation
Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford	Bridging the Two Cultures Program (tutorials)
Haverford College	Philosophy of Religion Religion, Sex, and Power Religion, America, and the Science of Life Religion, Emotion, and Global Cinema
Le Moyne	Gender, Sexuality, and Religion

College

Syracuse
University

Religions of the World
Animal Religion

Doctoral Students (Primary or Co-Supervisor)

2016–2024	Tyler Tully	Oxford
2016–2021	Matthew Pritchard	Oxford
2016–2020	Justine Ellis	Oxford
2015–2018	Marek Sullivan	Oxford
2015–2020	Stefani Ruper	Oxford

Doctoral Students (Committee Member/Examiner)

2024–present	Hunter Edwards	Drew Univ.
2024–present	Lauren Strumos	Univ. of Ottawa
2024–present	Mackenzie Oglesby	UNC-Chapel Hill
2023–present	Penelope Lusk	Penn
2023	Ritu Varghese	NIT Rourkela
2021–present	Amiel Wayne	Drew Univ.
2021–present	Kirby Sokolow	Penn
2020–2022	Mari Ovsepyan	Oxford
2020–2024	Rawad Wehbe	Penn
2020	Brian Carwana	Univ. of Toronto
2019	Ali Noori	Penn
2019–2024	Max Dugan	Penn
2019–2023	Erez DeGolan	Columbia
2016–2020	Jonathan Sparks-Franklin	Indiana
2018–2024	Angela Xia	Penn
2018–2019	Alex Weisberg	New York Univ.
2017–2018	Susanne Kerekes	Penn
2017–2018	Venise Adjibodou	Penn

Undergraduate Theses Supervised

2023–2024	Brooke Giddon	Penn
2022–2023	Cole Fairchild	Penn
2021–2022	Madison Hynson	Penn
2020–2021	Zovinar Khrimian (Rose Prize winner)	Penn

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships (selected)

2025	University Research Foundation Research Grant	Penn (\$5000)
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	for “The Scopes Trial at 100: Secularism, Race, and Education” Conference	
2024–2025	Virginia Public Humanities Fellow	Virginia Humanities. (\$15000)
2024–2025	Visiting Scholar	Department of English, University of Richmond.
2024	International Collaborative Research Grant for “The Material Secular: A Cross-Continental Research Project”	American Academy of Religion. (\$3258)
	Grant for Faculty Mentoring Undergraduate Research	Provost’s Office and Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Penn. (\$8000)
	Finalist, Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Analytical-Descriptive Studies (for <i>Wild Experiment</i>)	American Academy of Religion.
	Ten Top-Rated Professors at Penn	<i>The Daily Pennsylvanian.</i>
2023	Ludwik Fleck Prize (for <i>Wild Experiment</i>)	Society for Social Studies of Science.
	Annual Book Prize, “For Professionals and Educators” Category (for <i>Wild Experiment</i>)	International Society for Science and Religion
	Humanities, Urbanism, and Design Colloquium Membership	University of Pennsylvania. (\$4500)
	Coolidge Fellowship	Association for Public Religion and Intellectual Life/Auburn Media Summer program on “Memory.”
	Mellon Research Fellowship	Virginia Museum of History and Culture. (\$1000)

	Grant for Faculty Mentoring Undergraduate Research	Provost's Office and Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Penn. (\$8000)
	"Building a Public-Facing Overview of Historic Black Perspectives on Confederate Commemoration" Research Grant	Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration, Penn (\$4000)
2022	Learning with Charlottesville: Narratives on Religion, Race & Democracy Summer Institute Fellowship	Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab, University of Virginia (\$2000)
	Penn Undergraduate Research Mentor Award	Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Penn (\$10,000)
2019–2020	School of Arts and Sciences Conference Support Grant for "Material Secularisms" Conference	Penn (\$2000)
	University Research Foundation Research Grant for "Material Secularisms" Conference	Penn (\$3000)
	Regional Development Grant for "Material Secularisms" Conference	American Academy of Religion (\$2000)
2018–2019	Wolf Humanities Center Faculty Fellow	Penn
2018–2020	Co-investigator (with PI Simeon Zahl, Cambridge) on "Affect and Knowledge-production in Theology and Religious Studies"	Templeton World Charities Foundation (£146,313.47)
2017	Award for Excellence	University of Oxford (~£1000)
	Short-term Research Fellowship	Freie Universität Berlin (€2500)
	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Seal of Excellence	European Commission
2015	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy	United Kingdom
2013–2015	Collaborative Research Grant (with PI John Corrigan, Florida State) "How Do We Study Religion and Emotion?"	American Academy of Religion

2012–2014	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship	Haverford College
2013	Student Research Assistant Grant	Haverford College
2010–2011	Humanities Center Dissertation Fellow	Syracuse University (\$21,000)
2008–2010	Teaching Fellow/Mentor	Syracuse University
2009	Outstanding TA Award	Syracuse University
2008	Graduate Paper Competition Prize	AAR-EIR Conference
2007	Summer Fellowship	Syracuse University
2003–2006	Syracuse University Fellowship	Syracuse University (\$15,000/a)
2001	Belle Mulholland Memorial Prize in Religious Studies	University of British Columbia (\$500 CDN)

Conferences, Workshops, and Other Events Organized

2025	The Scopes Trial at 100: Secularism, Race, and Education.	<i>Organizer.</i> Designed and implemented 1.5-day symposium at Penn.
2023	The Scholar of Religion in the Public Sphere.	<i>Co-organizer.</i> Designed and implemented 1.5-day symposium at Penn with Jolyon Thomas.
	Making Theory Accessible.	<i>Workshop leader.</i> Co-designed with Michael Shea at Penn for grad student-oriented workshop in the Comparative Literature program.
2022	Virtual Book Launch for Justin McDaniel's <i>Wayward Distractions</i>.	<i>Organizer.</i> Coordinated virtual book launch for Justin McDaniel's <i>Wayward Distractions: Ornament, Emotion, Zombies, and the Study of Buddhism in Thailand</i> at Penn.
2020	Material Secularisms.	<i>Co-organizer.</i> Designed and implemented 3-day symposium at Penn with Jolyon Thomas. Curated permanent

		archive of grad student responses to the event at web.sas.upenn.edu/material-secularisms/
2018	Once More with Feeling: Affect and the God of the Philosophers. Charismatic Affects.	<i>Co-organizer.</i> Conference hosted at the University of Dayton, February 24–25. <i>Organizer and leader.</i> Workshop at “Capacious: Affect Inquiry/Making Space” conference, August 8–11, Lancaster, PA.
2017	Religion, Society, and the Science of Life. An Introduction to the Academic Job Market.	<i>Co-organizer.</i> Conference hosted by the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, Oxford, July 19–22. <i>Organizer and presenter.</i> Created and led graduate student workshop for the Penn Religious Studies Department Colloquium.
2016	A Postsecular Age? Secularism and Sacrifice.	<i>Co-organizer.</i> Conference hosted by the Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford, July 27–30. <i>Presenter and co-organizer of series of 8 seminars.</i> Interdisciplinary Seminars in the Study of Religion series, Hilary Term. Supported by a grant from the Ian Ramsey Centre.
2015	The Human Difference? Secularism and Sacrifice: Embodied Economies of Value.	<i>Co-organizer.</i> Conference hosted by the Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford, July 22–25. <i>Co-organizer.</i> Panel for the Philosophy of Religion group of the American Academy of Religion for the 2015 annual meeting.
2014	Visceral Nation: Religion/Affect in Postsecular America.	<i>Organizer.</i> Day-long conference at Haverford College, March 28.
2013	Religion, Affect and Emotion Unit.	<i>Founder.</i> Created new program unit at American Academy of Religion. Granted permanent unit status January 2018.
2012	Embodied Pedagogy: Affect in the Classroom. The Affective Turn in Religious Studies.	<i>Organizer & presenter.</i> Graduate workshop for the SU Religion Department, March 23, 2012. <i>Organizer & presenter.</i> Exploratory Session at AAR (four-paper panel).

2011	The Anatomy of Affect: New Approaches to Embodied Emotion.	<i>Organizer.</i> Symposium at the SU Humanities Center, April 2011. Speakers: Kimerer LaMothe, Karmen MacKendrick, M. Gail Hamner, Donovan Schaefer.
	Embodied Pedagogy.	<i>Organizer and presenter.</i> Graduate workshop for the SU Religion Department, April 4, 2011.
2006	The Role of the Scholar of Religion in the Public Sphere.	<i>Organizer.</i> Religion Graduate Students Organization Bi- Annual Retreat. Syracuse, NY, May 2006.

Other Research Supervised

2024	Olivia Haynie and Justin Seward	Summer undergraduate research students, through the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Penn.
2023	Justin Seward	Summer undergraduate research student, funded by Mellon Summer Fellowship, Price Lab for Digital Humanities, Penn.
	Olivia Haynie and Liv McClary	Summer undergraduate research students, through the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Penn.
2022	Olivia Haynie and Justin Seward	Summer undergraduate research students, through the Penn Undergraduate Research Mentorship award, Penn.
	Nina Quynh Pham	Summer undergraduate research student, Penn.
2021	Liesl Dietrich	Summer undergraduate research student, Penn.
2020	Jack Kiyonaga	Summer undergraduate research student, Penn.
	Luis Juarez Ortiz	Summer undergraduate research student, Penn.
2019	Scheherazade Khan	Graduate student translator of Latin text, Penn.
2013	David Roza	Summer undergraduate research

student, Haverford College.

Professional Service

2024–2025	Ludwik Fleck Prize Committee, Society for Social Studies of Science	<i>Committee member.</i>
2024– present	Science, Technology, and Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion	<i>Co-chair.</i>
2024	NAASR Conversation Series, North American Association for the Study of Religion.	<i>Interviewer for Christopher Brey on In Defense of Sex.</i>
2022– present	Science and Religion as Critical Discourse Book Series, Lexington Press.	<i>Editorial board member.</i>
2021–2024	Science, Technology, and Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion	<i>Steering Committee Member.</i>
2020	German Research Foundation	<i>External Reviewer.</i>
	Macquarie University Research Fellowship	<i>Independent Reviewer.</i>
2019	Society for the Study of Affect Summer School	<i>Selection Committee Member.</i>
2018– present	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>	<i>Editorial Board Member.</i>
2018– present	Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit, American Academy of Religion	<i>Steering Committee Member.</i>
2016– present	<i>Capacious: The Journal for Emerging Affect Inquiry</i>	<i>Editorial Board Member.</i>
2015–2017	<i>The Oxford Theologian</i> alumni magazine	<i>Managing Editor.</i> Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford.
2015–2017	B.A. Theology and Religion Board of Examiners	<i>Examiner.</i> Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford.
2015–2017	Master of Studies in Study of Religion Board of Examiners	<i>Examiner.</i> Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford.
2015–2017	Study of Religion Group	<i>Secretary.</i> Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford.

2015–2017	Post-Graduate Diploma Program	<i>Director of Studies.</i> Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford.
2015–2021	Animals and Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion	<i>Steering committee member.</i>
2013–2018	Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit, American Academy of Religion	<i>Co-chair and co-founder.</i>
2011	Humanities Dissertation Fellow Selection Committee, Syracuse University Humanities Center	<i>Graduate Representative.</i>
2010–2011	Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University	<i>Graduate Representative.</i>
2010–2011	Faculty Search, Department of Religion, Syracuse University	<i>Graduate Representative.</i>
2010–2013	Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory	<i>Assistant Editor.</i>
2009–2017	Bulletin for the Study of Religion	<i>Associate Editor.</i>
2008–2011	Teaching Fellowship Program, The Graduate School, Syracuse University	<i>Teaching Fellow/Teaching Mentor.</i> Planned and organized TA Orientation Program for new TAs.
2005–2006	Graduate Admissions Committee, SU Department of Religion	<i>Graduate Representative.</i>
2005–2006	SU Religion Grad Students Organization	<i>Co-president.</i>

Service to the University of Pennsylvania

2025	BEN Talks: NYC and Palo Alto	<i>Invited speaker.</i>
2024–present	Religious Studies Graduate Group	<i>Chair of the Graduate Group</i>
2024–present	Penn Psychedelics Collaborative	<i>Faculty advisory board member.</i>
2024	Quaker Days 60-Second Lecture Series	<i>Invited speaker.</i>
2024	Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and	<i>Invited workshop leader, “Teaching a Combined Graduate and Undergraduate</i>

	Innovation	<i>Class.”</i>
2023	MindCORE Summer Fellowship Program	<i>Invited speaker.</i>
2022–2023	Wolf Humanities Center	<i>Fellows Selection Committee.</i>
2021–2022	Religious Studies Graduate Group	<i>Interim Chair of the Graduate Group.</i>
	Colloquium Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Penn	<i>Interim Chair.</i>
2021	Center for Teaching and Learning Grad Student Workshop Series, Syllabus Workshop	<i>Invited speaker.</i>
2020	Material Secularisms Conference	<i>Co-organizer (with Jolyon Thomas).</i>
2018–2019	Faculty Search, Department of Religion, Penn	<i>Search Committee Member.</i>
2018–2019	Wolf Humanities Center	<i>Fellows Selection Committee.</i>
2018	Quaker Days Collegepalooza, Penn	<i>Invited faculty lecture “What Is Religion and How Do We Study It?”</i>
	Penn Career Services, “Interviewing for Faculty Jobs” panel	<i>Invited Panelist.</i>
	Race, Rights, and Religion Conference	<i>Session Chair and Moderator.</i>
2017–present	Graduate selection committee, Department of Religious Studies	<i>Selection Committee Member.</i>
2017	CURF Undergraduate Advisory Board, “Clash of Art and Science? Unexpected Unions” panel	<i>Invited Panelist.</i>

Journals and Publishers Served as Peer Reviewer

Capacious
Critical Research on Religion
Early American Studies
Emotions: History, Culture, Society
Feminist Scholarship
Feminist Studies

Hypatia
Implicit Religion
Journal of the American Academy of Religion
Journal of Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies
Journal of Extreme Anthropology
Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies
Journal of Religious History
Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture
Method and Theory in the Study of Religion
Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences
Political Theology
Religion and Society
Religion Compass
Secular Studies
Secularism and Nonreligion
Society and Animals
Zygon
Bloomsbury
Cambridge University Press
Duke University Press
Fordham University Press
Palgrave Macmillan
Polity Press
Routledge
Yale University Press

Professional Memberships

- American Academy of Religion
- American Studies Association
- European Forum for the Study of Religion and the Environment
- International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture
- International Society for Science and Religion
- North American Association for the Study of Religion
- Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network
- Political Theology Network
- Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Society for the Study of Affect
- Theta Chi Beta

Research Languages

Reading level French, German, and Japanese

Citizenship

Dual: Canadian & US