

# BENJAMIN TRAVIS HOLLENBACH

## Curriculum Vitae

[bhollenb@umich.edu](mailto:bhollenb@umich.edu)

Department of Anthropology  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI

### EDUCATION

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- 2022 Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Michigan  
Doctoral Committee: Gayle Rubin (co-chair), Andrew Shryock (co-chair),  
Webb Keane, Paul Christopher Johnson
- 2020 Graduate Teacher Certificate, University of Michigan
- 2020 Graduate Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
University of Michigan
- 2017 M.A., Anthropology, University of Michigan
- 2013 B.A. (Summa Cum Laude), Anthropology and Classics  
Franklin & Marshall College

### EMPLOYMENT

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- 2022 - Lecturer I, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

### COURSES TAUGHT

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- Fall 2022 “Introduction to Anthropology”  
Winter 2023  
Fall 2023  
Winter 2024  
Summer 2024  
Fall 2024
- Winter 2023 “Cults, Coercion, and Kool-Aid: The Anthropology of New Religious  
Fall 2023 Movements”
- Winter 2024 “I Am Beautiful and I Know I’m Beautiful: Queerness and Anthropology”
- Fall 2024 “Anthropology of the Body”

### RESEARCH AND WRITING FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2020 Holstein Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, Riverside
- 2020 Marshall Weinberg Award, University of Michigan
- 2019 Sweetland Center for Writing Junior Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2017 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Research Grant
- 2017 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Michigan

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 JOURNAL ARTICLES
 

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Hollenbach, Benjamin. 2024. "Being LGBTQ+ in U.S. Protestant Churches." *Sapiens Anthropology Magazine*.

Hollenbach, Benjamin. 2023. "Pastors, Preaching, and Parking Lot Conversations: Clergy's Tactics of LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Mainline Protestant Churches." *Anthropological Forum*.

Hollenbach, Benjamin. "God Loves Me Too: Theology and Institutional Change in Queer-Affirming Mainline Protestant Congregations." *Journal of Religion & Society*. (Under Review)

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 BOOK REVIEWS
 

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2021 Hollenbach, Benjamin. Book Review: *Black, Gay, British, Christian, Queer: The Church and the Famine of Grace*. Jarel Robinson-Brown. *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*.

2018 Hollenbach, Benjamin. Book Review: *Our Witness: The Unheard Stories of LGBT+ Christians*. ed. Brandan Robertson. *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*.

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 GRADUATE TEACHING
 

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2022 Instructor of Record, "Interfaith Organizing and Social Justice." Residential College, University of Michigan.

2020 Instructor of Record, "DRAG! Gender, Race, Performance, Resistance." Department of English, University of Michigan.

2020 Instructor of Record, "Faith, Politics, Sex: Community and Conflict in American Christianity." Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.

2019 Head Graduate Student Instructor for "Introduction to Anthropology" with Thomas Chivens. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

2019 Head Graduate Student Instructor for "Introduction to Anthropology" with Thomas Chivens. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

2017 Head Graduate Student Instructor for "Introduction to Anthropology" with Thomas Chivens. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

2016 Graduate Student Instructor for "Childbirth and Culture" with Elisha Renne. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

2016 Graduate Student Instructor for "Introduction to Anthropology" with Thomas Chivens. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

2015 Graduate Student Instructor for “Childbirth and Culture” with Elisha Renne. Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

#### INVITED TALKS

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2024 “God Loves Me Too: Theology and Institutional Change in Queer-Affirming Mainline Protestant Congregations.” Kripke Center Symposium on Religion and Social Change. Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

2023 “The Anthropology of Religion.” “Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology” with Christina McSherry, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA.

2022 “The Anthropology of Religion.” “Introduction to Anthropology” with Christina McSherry, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA.

2021 “All Are Welcome: Queer Inclusion and Mainline Protestantism in the United States.” Creating Connections Consortium (C3) Summit, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.

2020 “Have You Ever Prayed to Saint Cher? Reflections of a Queer Anthropologist of Religion.” “Anthropological Methods” with Misty Bastian, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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2023 Panel Co-Organizer and Chair, “Beyond Assumed Antagonism: Emergent Scholarship in Queer and Trans Studies and the Anthropology of Religion.” Presenter, “Queerly Beloved, We Have Assembled... Queer Religious Knowledge in U.S. Mainline Protestantism.” Transitions. The 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Toronto, ON. (Expected November)

2023 “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made:” Queerness and the Sacred in Affirming Christian Institutions. Religion, Empowering or Oppressing People and Communities? Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Salt Lake City, UT. (Expected October)

2022 “God Adores All of Me: Queerness and Reconciliation in U.S. Mainline Protestantism.” UCR-QTSR IV. UCR Conference on Queer and Trans Studies in Religion. Riverside, CA.

2021 “Avoiding Parking Lot Conversations: Preaching on Controversial Topics in U.S. Mainline Protestantism.” Truth and Responsibility. The 2021 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Baltimore, MD.

2021 “Politics is a Dirty Word! Welcoming Queer Congregants in U.S. Mainline Protestantism.” From Ethics To Politics. Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Conference.

2021 “Contested Reinterpretations: Queer Inclusion, ‘Clobber Passages, and Mainline Protestantism in the United States.” Palimpsest in Practice: Reimagining Time, Narrative, Movement. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anthropology in Transit Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Irvine. Irvine, CA.

- 2021 “What Does It Mean To Welcome? Ritual, Liturgy, and Queer Inclusion in Mainline Protestantism.” UCR-QTSR III. UCR Conference on Queer and Trans Studies in Religion. Riverside, CA.
- 2020 “What is Religion? Anthropology, Faith, and a Complicated Legacy.” Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County Transformative Conversations Series, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2020 “I do not think it means what you think it means: Rejecting Anti-LGBTQ+ Biblical Interpretations.” Washtenaw County Conference, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2020 “Forging New Paths: Cultivating LGBTQ+ Welcoming Spaces Beyond Reconciling in Christ Designations.” Washtenaw County Conference, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2019 “The Politics of Non-Confrontation: LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Sermonizing in Mainline Protestantism.” Diversifying the Social Scientific Study of Religion: The Next Seventy Years. Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. St. Louis, MO.
- 2019 “We Are Called to Build Heaven on Earth: Representing LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the United Church of Christ.” Voices of Representation. Andean Circle and Religion in the Early Modern Atlantic Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop Conference. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2018 “Silent Faith: Mainline Protestants, LGBTQ Inclusion, and Religious Devotion.” Cartographies of Silence: A Conference for Readers and Writers. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Comparative Literature Intra-Student Faculty Forum (CLIFF) Conference. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2018 “Partitioning Space, Politicizing Welcome: Presbyterian Debates Around LGBTQ Inclusion.” Resistance, Resilience, Adaptation. The 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Jose, CA.
- 2018 “Leading By Example: Cultivating Inclusivity in Progressive Congregations.” Faith, TBLGQ Inclusion, and Human Rights: An Interfaith Conference. Inclusive Justice Michigan Fall Conference. Clawson, MI.
- 2017 “Meaning Well: Negotiating ‘Sincerity’ and LGBTQ Inclusion in Mainline Protestantism.” Anthropology Matters! The 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C.
- 2017 “Holy Journeys, Holy Referendums: ‘Evolving’ on LGBTQ Equity in American Open and Affirming Congregations.” Ways of Knowing 2017: Fifth Annual Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School. Cambridge, MA.
- 2016 “Mary Magdalene Meets the Supreme Court Plaintiffs: Christian Art and LGBTQ Inclusion in the United States.” Ways of Knowing 2016: Fifth Annual Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School. Cambridge, MA.

#### CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENT TALKS

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- 2023 “Same Sex Marriage and American Christianity.” “What is Marriage? Histories and Structures of Marital Institutions” with Gayle Rubin, University of Michigan.
- 2023 “Graduate Teaching: An Overview.” “First-Year Graduate Proseminar in Anthropology” with Andrew Marshall, University of Michigan.

- 2022 “Same Sex Marriage and American Christianity.” “What is Marriage? Histories and Structures of Marital Institutions” with Gayle Rubin, University of Michigan.
- 2022 “Graduate Teaching: An Overview.” “First-Year Graduate Proseminar in Anthropology” with Andrew Marshall, University of Michigan.
- 2022 “Same Sex Marriage and American Christianity.” “What is Marriage? Histories and Structures of Marital Institutions” with Gayle Rubin, University of Michigan.
- 2022 “Teaching at the Graduate Level.” “First-Year Graduate Proseminar in Anthropology” with Kelly Askew, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “Inclusive Graduate Teaching.” “First-Year Graduate Proseminar in Anthropology” with Laura MacLatchy, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “Liturgy and Welcome: Queer Inclusion in Protestantism.” “Language and Religion: From Word to World” with Yeon-Ju Bae, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “Dinner Table No-No’s: Interpreting *Religion* and *Politics* Anthropologically.” “Introduction to Anthropology” with Leigh Stuckey, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “Religious Refusals and Queer Healthcare.” “Medical Anthropology” with Holly Peters-Golden, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “Ethnographic Methods” with Leigh Stuckey, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “English Language Institute Winter Course” with Karishma Collette, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “Designing Writing-Intensive Seminars and Assignment Sequences.” I Sweetland Center for Writing, University of Michigan.
- 2020 “Teaching Online Discussion Sections: Strategies and Best Practices.” Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2020 “Matching Sneakers and Rock Star Wannabes: What is a ‘Cult?’” “Introduction to Anthropology” with Leigh Stuckey, University of Michigan.
- 2020 “Inclusive Graduate Teaching.” “First-Year Graduate Proseminar in Anthropology” with Laura MacLatchy, University of Michigan.
- 2020 “Wellness, Organization, and Graduate Education.” “First-Year Graduate Proseminar in Anthropology” with Laura MacLatchy, University of Michigan.
- 2020 “Religion, Anthropology, and the Flying Spaghetti Monster.” “Introduction to Anthropology” with Thomas Chivens, University of Michigan.
- 2020 “Don’t Drink the Kool-Aid! Cult, Religion, Anthropology.” “Introduction to Anthropology” with Leigh Stuckey, University of Michigan.

## SERVICE

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- 2024 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Co-Advisor, Kassidy Bright
- 2024 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Reader, Kye Lynn
- 2023 - Team Member, Foundational Course Initiative (Introduction to Anthropology), Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan.
- 2021 Internship Fellow, The Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, University of Michigan.
- 2021 Jury Member, Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion. Society for

the Anthropology of Religion (SAR).

- 2021 Editorial Assistant, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.
- 2020-2021 Graduate Student Instructor Consultant, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan.
- 2020-2021 Mentor, Anthropology Undergraduate-Graduate Mentoring Program (AUGMENT), University of Michigan.
- 2020 Research Associate II, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2020 Instructional Aid, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
- 2019 Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Race and Ethnicity Learning Community for Graduate Student Instructors, University of Michigan.
- 2019 Partnership with the Program on Intergroup Relations for Anthropology Course Development, University of Michigan.
- 2019-2020 Graduate Student Representative, Department of Anthropology Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, University of Michigan.
- 2019-2020 Graduate Student Coordinator, “Religion in the Premodern Atlantic Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop,” University of Michigan.
- 2016-2017 Graduate Student Coordinator, “Religion in the Premodern Atlantic Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop,” University of Michigan.
- 2015-2016 Co-chair, Michigan Anthropology Graduate Students Organization.

#### AWARDS

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- 2024 “Honored Instructor” and Guest of Honor, University of Michigan Housing. “Introduction to Anthropology.”
- 2023 “Honored Instructor,” University of Michigan Housing. “Introduction to Anthropology.”
- 2020 “Rackham Graduate School Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.” “Introduction to Anthropology” with Thomas Chivens.
- 2019 “Honored Instructor,” University of Michigan Housing. “Introduction to Anthropology” with Thomas Chivens.
- 2019 “Outstanding GSI Award” Department of Anthropology. “Introduction to Anthropology” with Thomas Chivens.
- 2016 “Outstanding GSI Award” Department of Anthropology. “Introduction to Anthropology” with Thomas Chivens.