

PAUL CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

History and Afroamerican & African Studies

University of Michigan

paulcjoh@umich.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2010- Professor
Departments of History and Afroamerican and African Studies
University of Michigan
- 2005 Associate Professor
Departments of History and Afroamerican and African Studies
University of Michigan
- 2003 Associate Professor
Department of Religious Studies
University of Missouri
- 1997-2002 Assistant Professor
Department of Religious Studies
University of Missouri

ADMINISTRATIVE and EDITORIAL POSITIONS

- 2015- Co-Editor, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*
- 2008-2014 Director, Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History
University of Michigan

EDUCATION

- 1997 Ph.D., History of Religions (Awarded with Distinction)
University of Chicago
- 1990 M.A., Religious Studies
University of Chicago
- 1986 B.A., Psychology, German, Religion (three majors completed)
Hope College, Holland, Michigan

RESEARCH and TEACHING AREAS

Anthropology of Religions	Afro-Atlantic Religions	Diasporic Forms
History of Religions	History of Brazil	Ritual and Materiality
Theory of Religion	Caribbean Religions	Spirit Possession
Church and State	Near-humanness	Religious Secrecy and Publics

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- In progress *Automaton Autonomy: Religion and Agency* (complete manuscript to be submitted to University of Chicago Press on July 1, 2018).
- 2018 *Ekkelesia: Rethinking Church and State in the Americas*. With Winnifred Fallers Sullivan and Pamela E. Klassen. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Release date March 1, 2018.
- 2014 *Spirited Things: The Work of "Possession" in Afro-Atlantic Religions*. Edited by Paul Christopher Johnson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2007 *Diaspora Conversions: Black Carib Religion and the Recovery of Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- **Awarded the Wesley-Logan Prize by the American Historical Association, 2008.
- 2002 *Secrets, Gossip and Gods: The Transformation of Brazilian Candomblé*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- **Awarded the Prize for Excellence by the American Academy of Religion, 2003.
- ### *Articles*
- [*peer-reviewed]
- *Invited essay, in progress "Legal Persons, Possessed Persons, and Healing in Afro-Atlantic Traditions." *Osiris: History of Science*, 2021. Special issue, "Medical Cultures, Traditions, and Law." Guest editor, Helen Tilley.
- Invited essay, in progress "Possession." *Oxford Handbook of Caribbean Religions*.
- *Invited essay, in progress "Fakery and Mimesis." *Journal for the Study of Religion*.
- *In press "Material Modes and Moods of 'Slave Anastácia,' Afro-Brazilian Saint." *Journal de la société des américanistes*.
- *In press "Photographe, esprit, esprit-photographe." *Archives de sciences sociales des religions*.
- *In press "Spirit Incorporation in Candomblé," in *Companion to Material Religion*. Edited by Manuel A. Vasquez and Vasudha Narayanan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

- *In press “The Dead Don’t Come Back like the Migrant Comes Back: Many Returns in the Garifuna Dügü.” In *Passages & Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death and Mortuary Rituals in the Caribbean*. Edited by Maarit Forde. Duke University Press.
- *2018 “Possession’s Native Land.” *Ethnos* 83/1: 1-16.
- *2018 “Afro-Latin American Religions.” Co-authored with Stephan Palmié. In *The Cambridge Handbook of Afro-Latin American Studies*. Edited by Alejandro de la Fuente and George Reid Andrews, 438-485.
- 2017 “Democracity, 2042.” Social Science Research Council, *The Immanent Frame*. (<https://tif.ssrc.org/category/is-this-all-there-is/>)
- *2017 “Possessed Persons and Legal Persons in Brazil.” *Maryland Journal of International Law* 29: 180-216.
- *2017 “L’automatisme: mécanismes de la religion en France et au Brésil.” *Asdimial: Revue genevoise d’anthropologie et d’histoire des religions* 11: 79-103.
- 2017 “Postface.” Postface à la seconde édition de Stefania Capone, *La quête de l’Afrique dans le Candomblé: pouvoir et tradition au Brésil*. Paris: Éditions Mimésis, 347-54.
- *2016 “Scholars Possessed! On Writing Africana Religions with the Left Hand.” *Journal of Africana Religions* 4/2: 154-185.
- 2016 “Criticisms, Debates, and Futures: The Anthropology of Religion in Hybrid-Human and Non-Human Worlds.” In *Social Religion*. Edited by Jeff Kripal. New York: Macmillan, 273-290.
- 2016 “Syncretism and Hybridisation.” *Oxford Handbook of the Study of Religion*. Edited by Steven Engler and Michael Stausberg. New York: Oxford University Press, 754-772.
- 2015 “Uma genealogia atlântica da ‘possessão de espíritos.’” *Translating the Americas*. On-line journal, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2015 Invited contributions, *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*. Edited by Robert Segal and Kocku von Stuckrad. Leiden: Brill.
 -“Possession” (3000 words).
 -“Diaspora” (3000 words).
- 2014 “Les marronages Garifuna: L’ethnogenèse d’un ‘tribu colonial.’” In *Les marronages: mémoires, patrimoines, identités, histoire*. Edited by Jean Moomou. Guyane, Guadeloupe, Martinique: Éditions Ibis Rouge, pp. 233-246.

- *2014 “Objects of Possession: Spirits, Photography and the Entangled Arts of Appearance.” In *Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice*. Edited by Sally Promey. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 25-46.
- 2014 “Introduction: Spirits and Things in the Making of the Afro-Atlantic World,” in *Spirited Things: The Work of “Possession” in Afro-Atlantic Religions*. Edited by Paul Christopher Johnson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2014 “Toward an Atlantic Genealogy of ‘Spirit Possession.’” In *Spirited Things: The Work of “Possession” in Afro-Atlantic Religions*. Edited by Paul Christopher Johnson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2014 “Theorizing Africana Religions.” *Journal of Africana Religions* 2 (1): 135-39.
- 2013 Response essay to Stephan Palmié, “Mixed Blessings and Sorrowful Mysteries: Second Thoughts on Hybridity.” *Current Anthropology* 53 (4).
- 2013 “Whence ‘Spirit Possession?’” In *The Handbook of Contemporary Animism*, edited by Graham Harvey. London: Routledge, pp. 325-41.
- 2013 “Religions of the African Diaspora: ‘Religion,’ ‘Africa,’ ‘Diaspora.’” In *A Companion to Diaspora and Transnationalism*. Edited by Girish Daswani and Ato Quayson. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 509-24.
- 2013 “History-Machines! Featuring the Pequod, the Nautilus, the Secularism Book, the Harrow, Mr. Spear’s Penetrator, and Other Astonishing Inventions.” *Religion in American History*.
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/>
- *2012 “Religion and Diaspora.” *Religion and Society* 3 (1): 95-114.
- 2012 “Bodies and Things in the Forest of Symbols.” *Religion* 42 (4): 633-643.
- *2011 “An Atlantic Genealogy of ‘Spirit Possession’.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 53/2: 393-425.
- 2011 “Technologies of Spirit.” In *Frequencies: A Collaborative Genealogy of Spirituality*. Social Science Research Council. (<http://freq.uenci.es/>)
- 2011 Invited encyclopedia articles, *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. Edited by Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof. New York: Sage.
-“Candomblé” (3000 words)
-“Diaspora” (3000 words)
“Karl Marx” (1000 words)

World Book Encyclopedia: “Candomblé” (500 words)

- 2008 “Vodou Purchase: The Louisiana Purchase in a Caribbean Perspective.” In *New Territories, New Perspectives: The Religious Impact of the Louisiana Purchase*. Edited by Richard J. Callahan. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, pp. 146-67.
- *2007 “On Leaving and Joining Africanness Through Religion: The “Black Caribs” Across Multiple Diasporic Horizons.” *Journal of Religion in Africa* 37(2): 174-211.
- 2006 “Introduction,” in special issue of *Culture and Religion* (guest editors Paul Christopher Johnson and Mary Keller), “The Work of Possession(s).” 7(2): 111 – 122.
- *2006 “Secretism and the Apotheosis of Duvalier.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 74(2): 420-445.
- 2006 “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” In *Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance*. Edited by R. Marie Griffith and Barbara D. Savage. Johns Hopkins Press, pp. 37-58.
- *2005 “Savage Civil Religion.” *Numen* 52: 289-324.
- 2004 Invited long encyclopedia article, “Religion and Transculturation: The Caribbean.” *Encyclopedia of Religion, 2nd Edition*. New York: Macmillan.
- 2004 Invited long encyclopedia article, “Garifuna Religion.” *Encyclopedia of Religion, 2nd Edition*. New York: Macmillan.
- *2005 “Three Paths to Legitimacy: African Diaspora Religions and the State.” *Culture and Religion* 6 (1): 79-105.
- 2003 “Misrecognition and Rituals.” In *Encyclopedia of Religious Rituals*. New York: Routledge, 249-52.
- *2002 “Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of ‘Indigenous Religions.’” *History of Religions* 41 (4): 301-27.
- *2002 “Models of the Body in the Ethnographic Study of Religion: The Cases of Brazilian Candomblé and the Garifuna of the Caribbean.” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 14:170-95.
- 2002 “Death and Memory at Ground Zero: A Historian of Religion’s Report.” *Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 31 (1): 3-7.

- *2001 “Law, Religion and ‘Public Health’ in the Republic of Brazil.” *Law and Social Inquiry* 26 (1): 9-33.
- *1999 “The Fetish and McGwire’s Balls,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 68 (2): 243-264.
- *1998 “Naming and ‘African-ness’ in Brazilian Umbanda,” *Palara: Publication of the Afro-Latin Research Association* 3: 47-64.
- *1998 “The Knife,” *Anthropology and Humanism*, 23 (2):1-5.
(Awarded honorable mention in the 1997 fiction competition)
- *1997 “The ‘Rationality’ of a Buddhist King: Mongkut, King of Siam, 1852-1868.” In *Sacred Biography in South and Southeastern Asian Buddhism*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 232-259.
- *1997 “Kicking, Stripping and Re-dressing a Saint in Black: Visions of Public Space in Brazil’s Recent Holy War.” *History of Religions* 37 (2): 122-141.
- *1996 “Notes (and Problems) on ‘Participant-Observation’ from Urban Brazil.” *Religion* 26 (2): 183-196.
- *1995 “Shamanism From Ecuador to Oak Park: A Case Study in New Age Ritual Appropriation.” *Religion* 25 (2): 163-178.

Articles Reprinted in Edited Volumes

- 2017 “Kicking, Stripping and Re-dressing a Saint in Black: Visions of Public Space in Brazil’s Recent Holy War,” *History of Religions* 37 (2): 122-141; reprinted in Russian translation as “Pinki, razdevanie i pereodevanie sviatoi: publichnoe prostranstvo v nedavnei brazil’skoi ‘sviashchennoi voine’”, *Gosudarstvo, religiia, tserkov’ v Rossii i za rubezhom* 35(2): 123–149.
- 2013 “Whence ‘Spirit Possession’?,” reprinted in *The Handbook of Contemporary Animism*. Edited by Graham Harvey. London: Routledge, 325-41.
- 2013 “Death and Memory at Ground Zero: A Historian of Religion’s Report,” reprinted in *Reinventing Religious Studies: Key Writings in the History of a Discipline*. Edited by Scott S. Elliott. London: Acumen
- 2008 “On Leaving and Joining Africanness Through Religion: The “Black Caribs” Across Multiple Diasporic Horizons,” reprinted in *Africas of the Americas: Beyond the Search for Origins in the Study of Afro-Atlantic Religions*. Edited by Stephan Palmié. Brill.

- 2008 “Savage Civil Religion,” reprinted in *Religion, Terror and Violence: Religious Studies Perspectives*. Edited by Philip L. Tite and Bryan Rennie. London: Routledge.
- 2004 “Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of Indigenous Religions,” reprinted in *Indigenous Diasporas and Dislocations: Unsettling Western Fixations*. Edited by Graham Harvey and Charles D Thompson Jr. London: Ashgate. 37-52
- 2002 “Shamanism from Ecuador to Oak Park: A Case Study in New Age Ritual Appropriation,” reprinted in *Shamanism: A Reader*. Edited by Graham Harvey. New York: Routledge. 334-54.
- 2001 “The Fetish and McGwire’s Balls,” reprinted in *From Season to Season: Sports as American Religion*. Edited by Joseph L. Price. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press. 77-98.

Book Reviews

- In press Luis Nicolau Parés, The Formation of Candomblé: Vodun History and Ritual in Brazil. *Hispanic American Historical Review*.
- 2017 Marilyn McKillop Wells, Among the Garifuna: Family Tales and Ethnography from the Caribbean Coast. *New West Indian Guide*.
- 2013 Keith McNeal, Trance and Modernity in the Southern Caribbean. *New West Indian Guide*.
- 2013 Kelly Hayes, Holy Harlots: Femininity, Sexuality and Black Magic in Brazil. *History of Religions*.
- 2012 Manuel Vásquez, More Than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion. *Religion*.
- 2011 Stefania Capone, Searching for Africa in Brazil: Power and Tradition in Candomblé. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- 2011 Beatriz Goís Dantas, Nagô Grandma and White Papa: Candomblé and the Creation of Afro-Brazilian Identity. *Nova Religio*.
- 2009 Thomas A. Tweed, Crossing and Dwelling: A New Theory of Religion. *History of Religions: An International Journal for Comparative Historical Studies*

- 2009 Anna L Peterson and Manuel A. Vásquez, editors, Latin American Religions: Histories and Documents in Context. *Catholic Historical Review*.
- 2008 Nicole Von Germeten, Black Blood Brothers: Confraternities and Social Mobility for Afro-Mexicans. *Religious Studies Review*.
- 2008 Emma Cohen, The Mind Possessed: The Cognition of Spirit Possession in an Afro-Brazilian Religious Tradition. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2008 Kristina Wirtz, Ritual, Discourse, and Community in Cuban Santería: Speaking a Sacred World. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 64 (4).
- 2008 Joseph A. Palacio, editor. The Garifuna, A Nation Across Borders: Essays in Social Anthropology. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.
- 2005 Jacob K. Olupona, editor. Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- 2005 Patricia R. Pessar, From Fanatics to Folk: Brazilian Millenarianism and Popular Culture. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2004 Margarite Fernández Olmos and Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, Creole Religions of the Caribbean: An Introduction from Vodou and Santería to Obeah and Espiritismo. *Journal of Haitian Studies*.
- 2004 Neil L. Whitehead, Dark Shamans: Kanaimà and the Poetics of Violent Death. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2004 James V. Spickard, J. Shawn Landres and Meredith B. McGuire, Personal Knowledge and Beyond: Reshaping the Ethnography of Religion. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2002 Rachel E. Harding, A Refuge in Thunder: Candomblé and Alternative Spaces of Blackness. *History of Religions*.
- 2002 André Corten and Ruth Marshall-Fratani, eds. Between Babel and Pentecost: Transnational Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America. *American Journal of Sociology*.
- 2000 John Burdick, Blessed Anastácia: Women, Race and Popular Christianity in Brazil. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2000 Thomas M. Cohen, The Fire of Tongues: António Vieira and the Missionary Church in Brazil and Portugal. *Journal of Religion*.

- 1999 Anthony Gill, Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America. *American Journal of Sociology*.
- 1995 Joseph M. Murphy, Working the Spirit: Ceremonies of the African Diaspora and Karen McCarthy Brown, Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn. *Journal of Religion*.
- 1993 Todd A. Diacon, Millenarian Vision, Capitalist Reality: Brazil's Contestado Rebellion, 1912-1916. *Journal of Religion*.
- 1993 David Parkin, Sacred Void. *Journal of Religion*.
- 1993 David J. Hess, Spirits and Scientists: Ideology, Spiritism and Brazilian Culture. *Journal of Religion*.

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2014-18 Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Michigan.
- 2009 Wesley-Logan Prize for *Diaspora Conversions: Black Carib Religion and the Recovery of Africa* (University of California Press, 2007), American Historical Association. Award for best book on the history of the African diaspora.
- 2008 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.
- 2008 Institute for the Humanities Fellowship, University of Michigan.
- 2005 American Society for the Study of Religion. Nominated and elected honorary society of senior scholars.
- 2003 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence, for *Secrets, Gossip and Gods: The Transformation of Brazilian Candomblé* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- 2003 Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University.
- 2003 NEH Fellowship Award—full-year fellowship.
National Endowment for the Humanities
- 2001 NEH Fellowship Award—full-year fellowship.
National Endowment for the Humanities
- 1998 Susan Colver Rosenberger Dissertation Prize, University of Chicago
Awarded to best dissertation on religion over a three-year period.

- 1998 Honorable Mention for “The Knife”
Anthropology and Humanism
Competition for best short story related to ethnography.
- 1997 Ph.D. Awarded with Distinction
University of Chicago
- 1995 Dissertation Fellowship
Fulbright-Hays

RESEARCH WORKING GROUPS

- 2017-2021 Fellow, “Material Economies of Religion in the Americas: Arts, Objects, Spaces, Mediations.” Center for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, Yale University. Henry Luce Foundation funded five-year collaborative project. Yearly conferences and publishing project.
- 2012-13 Faculty Seminar on Religion and the Secular. University of Michigan. Convened and directed by Paul Christopher Johnson and Tomoko Masuzawa.
- 2009-11 Fellow, Yale Initiative for the Study of Religion and Visual Culture. Funded three-year conference and publishing project with 15 invited scholars resulting in the volume, *Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice*. Edited by Sally Promey New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014.

SELECTED PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

- 2018 “Agency and Religion.” The Arctic University of Norway. Tromsø, Norway. June 2.
- 2018 “The Dead Don’t Come Back Like a Migrant Comes Back: Many Returns in the Garifuna Dügü.” University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. April 20.
- 2018 “An Automaton’s Interiority: Ajeeb in Brazil, 1896.” Penn State University. College Station, PN. March 12.
- 2018 “Moods, Materials, and Modes of an Afro-Brazilian Saint, ‘Slave Anastácia.’” Rice University. Houston, TX. February 19.
- 2018 “An Automaton’s Interiority: Ajeeb in Brazil, 1896.” Columbia University, Society of Fellows. New York, NY. February 8.

- 2017 “Legal Nearhumans: How the Dead Speak in Court.” American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC, December 1.
- 2017 “Spirited Things: Materials and the Body in Brazilian Candomblé.” University of Vermont, November 28.
- 2017 “Modes of ‘Return’: Ancestors, Migrants and the Senses in the Caribbean.” University of Wisconsin, September 22.
- 2017 “Possessed Persons and Legal Persons in Brazil.” Northwestern University, May 6.
- 2017 “Automaton Ajeeb in Brazil, 1897.” Yale Conference on Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, June 8.
- 2017 Invited response, “Conjuring Time and the Spirits of Capitalism.” American Historical Association. Denver, CO, January 7.
- 2016 “O automatismo: as mecânicas da religião na França e no Brasil.” Universidade Federal da Bahia. Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, June 3.
- 2015 “Automatic: Mechanics of Religion in France and Brazil.” Keynote address, Annual Conference of the Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Geneva, Switzerland, November 7.
- 2015 “Spirit Photography and the Spirit of Photography.” Les techniques du (faire) croire. EHESS, Paris, May 27.
- 2015 Invited response, “Ghosts of Modernity: Spiritism and History in Catalonia, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.” American Historical Association. New York, NY. January 4.
- 2014 “Possessed Persons and Legal Persons in Brazil.” University of Cape Town, South Africa, February 5.
- 2014 Invited response, “What Possessed You?” American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC. December 4.
- 2014 Invited response, “Rethinking Church, State, and Sovereignty: Comparative Historical Contexts in the Americas.” San Diego, CA. November 23.
- 2014 “Comparison and Reconceptualizing ‘Black Atlantic Religions.’” American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA. November 22.
- 2014 Invited response, “Bahia and the Afro-Atlantic World.” Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Chicago, IL. May 24.

- 2013 "Spirit-Children, Climbing: 'Children' in Afro-Brazilian Religions." American Society for the Study of Religion. Chapel Hill, NC. April 26.
- 2013 "Objects of Possession: Photography and the Case of Juca Rosa, Rio de Janeiro, 1871." Socio-Cultural Anthropology Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. February 21.
- 2013 "Crepuscular Secularism: The Post-secular Intellectual in Europe and the Middle East." International Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. March 18.
- 2012 "Objects of Possession: Photography, Spirits, and the Entangled Arts of Appearance. University of Toronto. October 12.
- 2012 "In the Laboratory of 'Possession.'" CUNY Graduate Center, New York. May 2.
- 2012 "In the Laboratory of 'Possession.'" University of Texas, Austin. January 17.
- 2011 "In the Laboratory of 'Possession.'" University of Chicago. October 27.
- 2011 "A Visible Invisibility: The (Photographic) Look of Possession." Yale University. November 2.
- 2011 "Sacred Spaces, Texts, and Languages." Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies, University of Michigan. September 26.
- 2011 "The Dead Don't Come Back like the Migrant Comes Back: Many Returns in the Garifuna Dügü." University of the West Indies, Barbados. June 6.
- 2011 "An Atlantic Genealogy of 'Spirit Possession,'" École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, March 17.
- 2010 "Spirits and the Uses of Africa in the work of Michel Leiris and the Collège de Sociologie." *American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta, October 31.
- 2010 "The Look of Possession: Juca Rosa and Abolition in Brazil." *Anthrobistory Symposium: Crisis at Work*, University of Michigan, September 30.
- 2009 Invited Respondent, "Religion, Brazil and the Public Sphere." *Latin American Studies Association*. Rio de Janeiro, June 12.

- 2009 “Repo Men (and Women): Fakery and Performance in Afro-Atlantic Religions.” *American Society for the Study of Religion*, University of Chicago, April 25.
- 2009 “‘Religion’ and the Purification of Spirits.” Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, April 16.
- 2009 “Sources of ‘Spirit Possession.’” *Society for the Anthropology of Religion*, Asilomar, California, March 28.
- 2009 “Spirit Possession aujourd’hui”. Invited lecture, UCLA, February 12. Book seminar, “Diaspora Conversions,” *Mellon Center in Black Atlantic Studies*, UCLA, February 11.
- 2008 “Joining the African Diaspora: Caribbean Religion ‘At Home’ and in New York.” Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, October 14.
- 2008 “To Be Possessed: ‘Religion’ and the Purification of Spirits,” *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, November 1.
- 2007 “What’s Different About Diasporic Religion?” *Fifth International Colloquium on Socio-Religious Studies*. Havana, Cuba, July 7.
- 2007 “Mapping Spirit-Geographies in Black Atlantic Worlds: Syncretism, Encompassment and the “Problem” of Pentecostal Christianities.” *American Anthropological Association*, Washington, D.C., December 1.
- 2006 “On Leaving and Joining Africanness Through Religion: The “Black Caribs” Across Multiple Diasporic Horizons.” University of Michigan, *CAAS 25th Anniversary Conference*, March.
- 2005 Guest speaker, *American Society for the Study of Religion*. “Who Can Speak for “Tradition”? Diasporic Religion and Dual Authorities.” Atlanta, April 29-May 1.
- 2005 Keynote, Distinguished Speaker Series, *Program on Immigration, Politics, and Religion in a Hemispheric Perspective*. University of Florida-Gainesville, February 7-9.
- 2004 Invited response, “Selling the Law: Consultation on Religion and Law.” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings*, San Antonio, Texas, November 20.
- 2004 “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” *Women and Religions of the African Diaspora*, Princeton University, April 22-4.

- 2004 "The Apotheosis of Duvalier, Loa Os-22." Ohio State University, Columbus, April 16.
- 2004 "Vodou Purchase: The Louisiana Purchase in Caribbean Perspective." University of Missouri-Columbia, February 19.
- 2004 "Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion." DePaul University, February 13.
- 2004 "Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion." Northwestern University, January 16.
- 2003 "The Migrations of Garifuna Religion and the Problem of 'Authenticity.'" University of Pennsylvania, February 28.
- 2002 "Diaspora versus Homeland Versions of Authenticity and the Question of 'Ritual Failure.'" American Academy of Religion, Toronto, [November](#).
- 2002 "Pedagogy and Critical Theory in the Study of Religion." North American Association for the Study of Religion, Toronto, [November](#).
- 2002 "Teaching Globalization and Religion." Washington and Lee University, July 1.
- 2001 "The Indigenized Migrations of 'Time/Space Compression': The Garifuna of Honduras and the Bronx." American Academy of Religion, Denver, [November](#).
- 2001 "Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of 'Indigenous Religions'." University of Chicago, May.
- 2001 "Thinking Differently with Comparative Categories: 'Indigenous Religions,' Brazilian Candomblé, and the Garifuna of the Caribbean." University of California-Santa Barbara, March.
- 2000 "Ethnic Reconstructions, Migration and Indigenous Versions of 'Globalization'." Washington and Lee University, April.
- 1999 "Past the Gods Terminus: Necessary Risks of Theoretical Fixation," American Academy of Religion, Boston, [November](#).
- 1999 "The Garifuna of Honduras and Article 107: Belief and Practice, Utopia and Location." Law and Society Association, Chicago, May.
- 1999 "The Fetish and McGwire's Balls," Society for the Study of Religion, [Columbia, MO](#), [November](#).

- 1998 “Law, Religion and ‘Public Health’ in the Republic of Brazil.” Law and Society Association, Aspen, CO, May.
- 1998 “Garifuna Religion and the ‘Feel’ of the Field.” American Academy of Religion, Orlando, November.
- 1997 “Shamanism from Ecuador to Chicago: The Routes of ‘New Age’ Ritual Appropriation.” Society for the Study of Religion, Columbia, MO, November.
- 1996 “The Secret and the Scholar’s Whisper: Making ‘Tradition’ in Brazilian Candomblé.” American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, November.
- 1994 “The Names of Umbanda: Naming and Social Location in an Urban Brazilian Religion.” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2015-present Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*
- 2013, 2012, 2010 Jury Member, Clifford Geertz Book Prize for Best Book in the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association.
- 2011 Program Director, Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biannual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2009-2014 Executive Board, American Society for the Study of Religion
- 2009-2013 Executive Board, Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- 2009-2013 Executive Board, North American Association for the Study of Religion
- 2008-2012 Steering Committee, Critical Theory Group, American Academy of Religion
- 2012-15 Editorial Board Member, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*
- 2011-present Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Africana Religions*
- 2002-present Editorial Board Member, *Culture and Religion*
- 2000-2005 Steering Committee for the Comparative Studies Section
American Academy of Religion

1999-present

Referee

University of Chicago Press, University of California Press, Duke University Press, Oxford University Press, Bergahn Press, New York University Press; Comparative Studies in Society and History; History of Religions; American Ethnologist; American Journal of Sociology; Journal of American Folklore; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Association; Journal for the American Academy of Religion; Numen; Religion; New West Indies Review, and many others.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Courses Taught at Michigan

- Introduction to Religion: From Rastafari to the Sun Dance (Hist 105)
- Introduction to Africa and its Diaspora (DAAS 111)
- Religions of the African Diaspora (DAAS/Hist/LACS 421)
- Writing Religious Experience (DAAS 495)
- Brazil: History and Culture (History 473/LACS 455/LACS 655)
- Religions of Latin America (Hist/LACS 208)
- Theorizing Religion (Hist 675)
- Anthropology and History Core Seminar I (Anthro/Hist 648)
- Anthropology and History Core Seminar II (Anthro/Hist 748)
- Raça e cultura em brasil (DAAS 478/LACS 400, in Portuguese)
- Key Terms in the Study of Religion (Hist 698/796)
- Graduate Reading Courses: “Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Race and Borderlands”; “Afro-Atlantic Religions”; “Spirit Possession in Comparison”; “Theories of Religion”; “Diaspora,” and many more.

Dissertation Committees, University of Michigan

**[chair or co-chair]*

- *Jamie Andreson, Anthropology and History (current)
- *Richard Reinhardt, Anthropology and History (current)
- *Roxana Maria Aras, Anthropology and History (current)
- Hillina Seifa, History (current)
- Amanda Reid, History (current)
- Jessica Lowen, Anthropology (current)
- Smadar Brack, Anthropology (current)
- Cyrus O’Brien, Anthropology and History (current)
- Emma Nolan-Thomas, Anthropology and History (current)
- Bruno Renero-Hannan, Anthropology and History (current)
- Jamey Saul Rufin, Asian Languages and Cultures (current)
- Oana Mateescu, Anthropology and History (defended 2017)
- *Stuart Strange, Anthropology (defended 2016)
- Shana Melnysyn, Anthropology and History (defended 2016)
- Amir Syed, Anthropology and History (defended 2015)
- Scott Alves Barton, NYU, Food Studies (defended 2015)
- Luciana Aenasoaie, Anthropology and History (defended 2015)

Christopher Estrada, Anthropology and History (defended 2015)
 Saul Allen, Asian Languages and Cultures (defended 2015)
 Ali Sipahi, Anthropology and History (defended 2015)
 Ali Hussain, Near Eastern Studies (defended 2015)
 Jonathan DeVore, Anthropology (defended 2014)
 Bradley Kramer, Anthropology (defended 2014)
 *Ian Stewart, Anthropology and History (defended 2013)
 Esteban Rozo, Anthropology and History (defended 2013)
 Daniel Birchok, Anthropology and History (defended 2013)
 Patrick Tonks, Comparative Literature (defended 2013)
 Guillermo Salas Carreno, Anthropology and History (defended 2012)
 Derek Mancini-Lander, Near Eastern Studies (defended 2012)
 James Dator, History (defended 2011)
 Alexander Angelov, History (defended 2011)
 Daniel Hershenzon, History (defended 2011)
 Aaron Sealy, History (defended 2011)
 Rebecca Carter, Anthropology (defended 2011)
 Azfar Moin, History (defended 2010)
 Britt Halverson, Anthropology (defended 2008)
 Will Runyan, Comparative Literature
 Monica Patterson (defended 2009)
 Caroline Jeannerat, Anthropology and History (defended 2007)

LANGUAGES

Portuguese, French, Spanish, German (reading)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion
- American Historical Association
- American Anthropological Association
- North American Association for the Study of Religion
- American Society for the Study of Religion
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- Latin American Studies Association