

**PAUL CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON**  
Departments of History and Afroamerican & African Studies  
University of Michigan  
[paulcjoh@umich.edu](mailto:paulcjoh@umich.edu)

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2010-present                      Professor  
Departments of History and Afroamerican and African Studies  
*University of Michigan*

2020-21                              Visiting Professor  
*École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris*

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-present                              Editor, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*

2008-2014, 2022                              Director, Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History  
*University of Michigan*

2021-2024                              Director of Undergraduate Studies, Afroamerican and African Studies  
*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*

## 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

### *B o o k s*

- In process *My Mutilated Gods: Rodin, Rilke, Simmel.*
- 2023 *A religião automática: agentes quasi-humanos no Brasil e na França.*  
São Paulo: Editora Unicamp.
- 2022 *Handbook on Religion and Secrecy.* Co-edited with Hugh B. Urban.  
London: Routledge Press.
- 2021 *Automatic Religion: Nearhuman Agents of Brazil and France.*  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- \*\* Antonio Cândido Prize for Best Book on Brazil, Latin American Studies Association, 2021.
- \*\* Honorable Mention, Cheiron Prize: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2022.
- 2018 *Ekklesia: Three Inquiries on Church and State.* Paul Christopher Johnson, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, and Pamela E. Klassen.  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 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.
- \*\* Wesley-Logan Prize for Best Book on the African Diaspora, American Historical Association, 2008.
- 2002 *Secrets, Gossip and Gods: The Transformation of Brazilian Candomblé.* New York and London: Oxford University Press.
- \*\*Best Book Prize in Analytical-Descriptive Studies, American Academy of Religion, 2003.

*Articles and Chapters* [\*peer-reviewed]

- In process "White People Doing Black Religion."
- 2024 "Afro-Atlantic Traditions and the World-Religionification of Yoruba Gods." In *The Caribbean World*. Edited by Stephan Palmié, Olívia M. Gomes da Cunha, and Ryan Cecil Jobson. Routledge Press.
- \*2024 "The Language of Secrecy." *Oxford Handbook of Ritual Language*. Edited by David Tavarez. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2023 "Possession." *Oxford Handbook of Caribbean Religions*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2022 "From the Social Lives of Secrecy to the Secret Lives of the Social: Notes on Religion, Power, and the Public." With Hugh B. Urban. *Handbook on Religion and Secrecy*. London: Routledge, 1-15.
- 2022 "Architectures of Secrecy." *Handbook on Religion and Secrecy*. London: Routledge, 71-85.
- \*2022 "Automaton Religion and the National Body: Ajeeb in Brazil." *Grey Room* 34: 56-77. Special issue, "Pious Technologies."
- \*2022 "Formas e temperamentos da 'Escrava Anastácia', santa Afro-Brasileiro," *Debates do Núcleo de Estudos da Religião* 40: 261-323. Special issue, "Religious Racism, Politics, and Agency."
- \*2021 "Translating Spirits: Medical-Ritual Healing and Law in Brazil and the Broader Afro-Atlantic World." *Osiris: History of Science* 36: 27-45.
- \*2020 "Spirit Incorporation in Candomblé," in *Companion to Material Religion*. Edited by Vasudha Narayanan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 269-309.
- \*2019 "Photographe, esprit, esprit-photographe: Un cas d'enchêvetrement sémiotique au Brésil, 1871." *Archives de sciences sociales des religions* 187: 103-126.
- \*2018 "Fakecraft." *Journal for the Study of Religion* 31(2): 105-137.
- \*2018 "Material Modes and Moods of 'Slave Anastácia,' Afro-Brazilian Saint." *Journal de la société des américanistes* 104(1): 27-73.
- \*2018 "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, 31-53.

- \*2018 “Possession’s Native Land.” *Ethnos* 83 (1): 1-16.
- \*2018 “Afro-Latin American Religions.” 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 “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.” *Asdival: Revue genevoise d’anthropologie et d’histoire des religions* 11: 79-103.
- 2017 “Postface.” Postface to second edition of 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*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.
- 2014 “Les marronages Garifuna: L’ethnogenese d’un ‘tribu colonial.’ In *Les marronages: mémoires, patrimoines, identités, histoire*. Edited by Jean Moomou. Guyane, Guadeloupe, Martinique: Editions Ibis Rouge, 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, 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, 1-22.
- \*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, 23-46.

- 2014 “Theorizing Africana Religions.” *Journal of Africana Religions* 2 (1): 135-39.
- 2013 “Whence ‘Spirit Possession’?” In *The Handbook of Contemporary Animism*, edited by Graham Harvey. London: Routledge, 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, 509-24.
- \*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.
- 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, 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: The Work of Possession(s).” *Culture and Religion* 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.
- \*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.
- \*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 and Special Issues*

- 2023 “Formas e temperamentos da ‘Escrava Anastácia’, santa Afro-Brasileiro,” *Debates do Núcleo de Estudos da Religião* 40: 261-323; reprinted in *Ciências Humanas e Sociais Tópicos Atuais em Pesquisa* (Guarujá, São Paulo: Editora Científica).
- 2022 “Material Modes and Moods of ‘Slave Anastácia,’ Afro-Brazilian Saint,” *Journal de la société des américanistes* 104(1): 27-73; reprinted in Portuguese translation as, “Formas e temperamentos da ‘Escrava Anastácia’, santa Afro-Brasileiro,” *Debates do Núcleo de Estudos da Religião*.
- 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: Routledge, 239-249.
- 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. Leiden: Brill, 39-78.
- 2008 "Savage Civil Religion," reprinted in *Religion, Terror and Violence: Religious Studies Perspectives*. Edited by Philip L. Tite and Bryan Rennie. London: Routledge, 41-65.
- 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.

#### *Encyclopedia Articles and Other Reference Works*

- 2023 "The Language of Secrecy." *Oxford Handbook of Ritual Language*. Edited by David Tavarez. New York: Oxford University Press, 2024.
- 2023 "Possession." *Oxford Handbook of Caribbean Religions*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2015 "Possession." *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*. Edited by Robert Segal and Kocku von Stuckrad. Leiden: Brill.

- 2015 “Diaspora.” *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*. Edited by Robert Segal and Kocku von Stuckrad. Leiden: Brill.
- 2011 “Candomblé.” *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. Edited by Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof. New York: Sage.
- 2011 “Diaspora.” *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. Edited by Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof. New York: Sage.
- 2011 “Karl Marx.” *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. Edited by Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof. New York: Sage.
- 2011 “Candomblé.” *World Book Encyclopedia*. New York: Berkshire Hathaway.
- 2004 “Religion and Transculturation: The Caribbean.” *Encyclopedia of Religion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Macmillan.
- 2004 “Garifuna Religion.” *Encyclopedia of Religion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Macmillan.

*Public Writing, Fiction, Responses*

- 2015-2024 Editorial Forewords, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, four issues per year.
- 2022 “Designing Risk, Accumulating Failure: Purgatory, the Planned, and Primitive Accumulation.” With Kati Curtis and Emily Floyd. *Material Economies of Religion*. <https://mavcor.yale.edu/>
- 2022 “Hilma af Klint’s Temple for the Paintings.” *Material Economies of Religion*. <https://mavcor.yale.edu/>
- 2019 “Spirit.” Social Science Research Council, *The Immanent Frame*, “A Universe of Terms.” (<http://tif.ssrc.org/2019/11/14/spirit-johnson/>)
- 2017 “Democracy, 2042.” Social Science Research Council, *The Immanent Frame*. (<https://tif.ssrc.org/category/is-this-all-there-is/>)
- 2013 Response essay to Stephan Palmié, “Mixed Blessings and Sorrowful Mysteries: Second Thoughts on Hybridity.” *Current Anthropology* 53 (4).
- 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/>



2011 “Technologies of Spirit.” In *Frequencies: A Collaborative Genealogy of Spirituality*. Social Science Research Council. (<http://frequencies.org/>)

\*1998 “The Knife,” *Anthropology and Humanism*, 23 (2): 1-5.  
(\*awarded honorable mention in 1997 fiction competition)

### *Book Reviews*

2022 Danielle N. Boaz, *Banning Black Gods: Law and Religions of the African Diaspora*. *Journal of Church and State*.

2020 Robert A. Yelle, *Sovereignty and the Sacred: Secularism and the Political Economy of Religion*. *Sociology of Religion*.

2019 N. Fadeke Castor, *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad*. *Anthropos*.

2018 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 Gois 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*.
- 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*.

*Guest Editor*

- 2006 “The Work of Possession(s).” *Culture and Religion* 7(2). With Mary Keller.

**HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS**

- 2008 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.
- 2003 National Endowment for the Humanities (full-year fellowship).
- 2001 National Endowment for the Humanities (full-year fellowship).
- 2022 Honorable Mention, Cheiron Prize: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, for *Automatic Religion: Nearhuman Agents of Brazil and France* (University of Chicago Press, 2021).
- 2021 Antonio Cândido Prize for *Automatic Religion: Nearhuman Agents of Brazil and France* (University of Chicago Press, 2021). Latin American Studies Association award for the best book on Brazil.
- 2020 Institute for the Humanities Fellowship (Summer), University of Michigan.
- 2019 Michigan Humanities Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2018 “Honored Instructor.” University Housing, University of Michigan.
- 2014-17 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 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). Best “analytical-theoretical” book of the year.
- 2003 Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, Princeton University.
- 1998 Susan Colver Rosenberger Dissertation Prize, University of Chicago. Awarded to best dissertation on religion over a three-year period.
- 1999 Honorable Mention, for “The Knife.” Fiction and Anthropology. *Anthropology and Humanism*
- 1997 Ph.D. Awarded with Distinction. *University of Chicago*
- 1995 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship.

## RESEARCH WORKING GROUPS

- 2020-2025 “The Governmateriality of Indigenous Religions.” International project funded by Norway, through the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø.
- 2019-2024 “Horror & Enchantment.” Six-year interdisciplinary collaborative project organized by faculty of the University of Michigan, New York University, and Tulane University. Yearly conferences and publishing project.
- 2018-2020 Teaching Law and Religion Case Study Archive, Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad. Northwestern University.
- 2017-2023 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 multi-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 LECTURES

- 2024 “Religion in the Asylum.” *Florida State University*, April 25.
- 2024 “Thinking with Ngangas: Agency and the Edges of the Human.” *Northwestern University*, January 19.
- 2023 “Automatic Religion: Nearhuman Agents of Brazil and France.” *University of Texas-Austin*, October 27.
- 2023 “Charcot’s Brazilian Monkey: Psychiatry, Religion and Nearhuman Attraction.” *Friedrich-Alexander-Universitaet Erlangen-Nuernberg (FAU)*, Germany, November 16.
- 2023 “White People Doing Black Religion.” *Yale University*, April 29.
- 2022 “Asleep on a Bench in Bahia, Brazil.” *Tulane University*, October 15.
- 2022 “Fetish and Fetishization in Religion.” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Denver, November 19.
- 2022 “Ekklesia and Theopolitics: The State of the Field.” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Denver, November 19.
- 2021 “Juca Rosa and the Photographic Nearhuman.” *École des hautes études en sciences sociales*. Paris, April 14.
- 2020 “Possession, Performance, Automation.” *Queen’s University*, London, July 24.
- 2020 “Psychiatry in France and Brazil: Religion in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Asylum.” *American Association for the History of Medicine*. Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 10.
- 2020 “Religion in the Asylum.” Paine Lecture, *University of Missouri*, Columbia. February 10.
- 2019 “Creature-Feeling: Religion, Apparatus, and the Laboratory of the Human.” *Horror and Enchantment Conference*. October 11.

- 2019 “Charcot’s Monkey: Psychiatry, Religion and Nearhuman Attraction.” Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies, Eisenberg Historical Institute, *University of Michigan*. January 31.
- 2018 “Legal Nearhumans: How the Dead Speak in Court.” *American Academy of Religion*. November 17.
- 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*. April 20.
- 2018 “An Automaton’s Interiority: Ajeeb in Brazil, 1896.” *Pennsylvania State University*. March 12.
- 2018 “Moods, Materials, and Modes of an Afro-Brazilian Saint, ‘Slave Anastácia’.” *Rice University*. February 19.
- 2018 “An Automaton’s Interiority: Ajeeb in Brazil, 1896.” *Columbia University*. February 8.
- 2017 “Legal Nearhumans: How the Dead Speak in Court.” *American Anthropological Association*. 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*. 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. *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* (EHESS), Paris. May 27.
- 2015 Invited response, “Ghosts of Modernity: Spiritism and History in Catalonia, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.” *American Historical Association*. 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*. December 4.
- 2014 “Rethinking Church, State, and Sovereignty: Comparative Historical Contexts in the Americas.” *American Academy of Religion*. November 23.
- 2014 “Comparison and Reconceptualizing ‘Black Atlantic Religions.’” *American Academy of Religion*. November 22.
- 2014 Invited response, “Bahia and the Afro-Atlantic World.” *Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*. May 24.
- 2013 “Les marronages Garifuna: L’ethnogenese d’un ‘tribu colonial.’” Colloque pluridisciplinaire sur les marronages. Saint-Laurent du Maroni, French Guyana. November 19.
- 2013 “Spirit-Children, Climbing: ‘Children’ in Afro-Brazilian Religions.” *American Society for the Study of Religion*. 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. *University of California, Los Angeles*. February 11.
- 2008 “Joining the African Diaspora: Caribbean Religion ‘At Home’ and in New York.” *Miami University*. 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*. December 1.
- 2006 "On Leaving and Joining Africanness Through Religion: The "Black Caribs" Across Multiple Diasporic Horizons." University of Michigan, *CAAS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference*, March.
- 2005 "Who Can Speak for "Tradition"? Diasporic Religion and Dual Authorities." *American Society for the Study of Religion*. April 29..
- 2005 Keynote, Distinguished Speaker Series, Program on Immigration, Politics, and Religion in a Hemispheric Perspective. *University of Florida-Gainesville*, February 8.
- 2004 "Selling the Law: Consultation on Religion and Law." *American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings*. November 20.
- 2004 "Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion." *Princeton University*, April 23.
- 2004 "The Apotheosis of Duvalier, Loa Os-22." *Ohio State University*. 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*. November 21.
- 2003 "Pedagogy and Critical Theory in the Study of Religion." *North American Association for the Study of Religion*. Toronto, November 18.
- 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*. November 24.

- 2001 “Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of ‘Indigenous Religions.’” *University of Chicago*. May 17.
- 2001 “Thinking Differently with Comparative Categories: ‘Indigenous Religions,’ Brazilian Candomblé, and the Garifuna of the Caribbean.” *University of California-Santa Barbara*. March 10.
- 2000 “Ethnic Reconstructions, Migration and Indigenous Versions of ‘Globalization.’” *Washington and Lee University*. April 2.
- 1999 “Past the Gods Terminus: Necessary Risks of Theoretical Fixation,” *American Academy of Religion*. November 22.
- 1999 “The Garifuna of Honduras and Article 107: Belief and Practice, Utopia and Location.” *Law and Society Association*. May 19.
- 1999 “The Fetish and McGwire’s Balls.” *Society for the Study of Religion*, November 13.
- 1998 “Law, Religion and ‘Public Health’ in the Republic of Brazil.” *Law and Society Association*. May 6.
- 1998 “Garifuna Religion and the ‘Feel’ of the Field.” *American Academy of Religion*. November 21.
- 1997 “Shamanism from Ecuador to Chicago: The Routes of ‘New Age’ Ritual Appropriation.” *Society for the Study of Religion*. November 11.
- 1996 “The Secret and the Scholar’s Whisper: Making ‘Tradition’ in Brazilian Candomblé.” *American Academy of Religion*. November 20.
- 1994 “The Names of Umbanda: Naming and Social Location in an Urban Brazilian Religion.” *American Academy of Religion*, November 19

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

### *Teaching*

#### Undergraduate courses

- Religion and Revolution (DAAS 211)
- 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)
- Raça e cultura em brasil (DAAS 478/LACS 400, in Portuguese)

#### Graduate courses

- Theorizing Religion (Hist 675)
- Anthropology and History Core Seminar I (Anthro/Hist 648)
- Anthropology and History Core Seminar II (Anthro/Hist 748)
- Key Terms in the Study of Religion (Hist 698/796)

#### Graduate reading courses taught

- Magical Realism and Historical Realities in the Caribbean
- Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Race and Borderlands
- Afro-Atlantic Religions
- Spirit Possession in Comparison
- Theories of Religion
- Diaspora
- Law and Religion
- Phenomenology of Time
- Comparing Theologies of Liberation

#### *Doctoral Mentoring \*[chair or co-chair]*

##### **Ongoing**

\*Felipe Coimbra Moretti, Anthropology and History  
 Jennifer Playstead, History  
 Mary Pena, Anthropology  
 \*Richard Reinhardt, Anthropology and History  
 \*Roxana Maria Aras, Anthropology and History  
 Jamey Saul Rufin, Asian Languages and Cultures  
 Wissam Nuwayhid, Middle Eastern Studies  
 Craig Breckenridge, History  
 Janaki Philips, Anthropology  
 Nathaniel Hill, English

##### **Defended**

Hillina Seifa, History (defended 2023)  
 Emma Nolan-Thomas, Anthropology and History (defended 2023)  
 Benjamin Hollenbach, Anthropology (2022)  
 Aaron Michka, Anthropology (2021)  
 Victoria Koski-Karell, Anthropology (2021)  
 \*Jamie Andreson, Anthropology and History (2020)  
 Amanda Reid, History (2020)  
 Jessica Lowen, Anthropology (2019)

Lamin Manneh, History (2019)  
 Gurveen Khurana, Anthropology and History (2019)  
 Ali Hussain, Near Eastern Studies (2019)  
 Bruno Renero-Hannan, Anthropology and History (2018)  
 Cyrus O'Brien, Anthropology and History (defended 2018)  
 Ali Hussain, Near Eastern Studies (will defend in December 2018)  
 Oana Mateescu, Anthropology and History (defended 2017)  
 Smadar Brack, Anthropology (defended 2017)  
 \*Stuart Strange, Anthropology (defended 2016)  
 Shana Melnysyn, Anthropology and History (defended 2016)  
 Amir Syed, Anthropology and History (defended 2015)  
 Luciana Aenasoaic, 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)  
 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)  
 Sergio Huarcaya, Anthropology and History (defended 2010)  
 Monica Patterson, Anthropology and History (defended 2009)  
 Caroline Jeannerat, Anthropology and History (defended 2007)  
 Britt Halverson, Anthropology (defended 2008)  
 Will Runyan, Comparative Literature (did not defend)

*Dissertation Committees at Other Institutions*

-Kimberly Oliver, Anthropology, *Wayne State University* (ongoing)  
 -Pauline Monteiro, Anthropology, *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* (EHESS), Paris (defended November 2020)  
 -\*Marcela Perdomo, Anthropology, *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* (EHESS), Paris (defended January 2019)  
 -Scott Alves Barton, Food Studies, *New York University* (defended 2015)

### *Undergraduate Mentoring*

- Emma Holloway, directed Individual Major Program (IMP): Religion, Women, and Society
- Alissar Langworthy, directed IMP: Religion and the African Diaspora
- Mariam Khan, directed Honors Individual Concentration Program (HICP) in Religion and Society (jointly with Hussein Fancy)
- Xavier Alexandra Segura, Honor's Thesis evaluation.

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

2015-present	Editor, <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>
2021-	Jury Member, Antônio Candido Prize for the best humanities book on Brazil, <i>Latin American Studies Association (LASA)</i> .
2017-present	Jury Member, <i>Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study</i>
2010, 2012, 2013	Jury Member, Clifford Geertz Book Prize for Best Book in the Anthropology of Religion, <i>American Anthropological Association</i> .
2011	Program Director, <i>Society for the Anthropology of Religion</i> Biannual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM.
2009-2014, 2020-present	Executive Board, <i>American Society for the Study of Religion</i>
2009-2013	Executive Board, <i>Society for the Anthropology of Religion</i>
2009-2013	Executive Board, <i>North American Association for the Study of Religion</i>
2008-2012	Steering Committee, Critical Theory Group, <i>American Academy of Religion</i>
2012-present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>
2011-present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of Africana Religions</i>
2002-present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Culture and Religion</i>
2012-present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Revista Lusotopie</i>
2000-2005	Steering Committee for the Comparative Studies Section <i>American Academy of Religion</i>

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; Hau; New West Indies Review, and many others.*

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SERVICE

### *Administrative Positions*

2008-2014, 2022 Director, Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History  
 2021-2024 Director of Undergraduate Studies, DAAS  
 2015-2024 Editor, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*

### *Department Executive Committee Service*

2023-2024 Augmented History ExCo for tenure and promotion  
 2021-2024 DAAS  
 2015-2017 History  
 2014-15 Augmented History ExCo for tenure and promotion  
 2017-2019 DAAS  
 2006-2008 DAAS  
 2005-2008 Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History

### *Internal Fellowship Reviews*

2021-2023 Institute for the Humanities Executive Committee  
 2017, 2018 LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowship nomination committee, History  
 2017, 2018 LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowship nomination committee, DAAS  
 2018-19 Society of Fellows review for History Department  
 2014-2017 Society of Fellows general review, as Senior Fellow  
 2012, 2019 Fulbright Campus Interview Committee  
 2007-10, 2021 FLAS Fellowships, Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
 2007-8, 2020 Gutierrez Fellowship in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

### *Promotion and Tenure Committees (\*chair)*

\*2023 Megan Sweeney, English and DAAS  
 2020 Paulina Alberto, History and Romance Languages  
 2019 Aliyah Khan, DAAS and English  
 2014 Martha Jones, History and DAAS

*2010	Nancy Hunt, History
2010	Marlyse Baptista, DAAS and Linguistics
2009	David Doris, DAAS and Art History
2009	Karyn Lacy, DAAS and Sociology

*Third-Year Review Committees \*(chair)*

2023	Jessica Walker, DAAS
*2020	Hakem Al-Rustom, History
*2013	Deirdre de la Cruz, History and American Culture
2012	Daniel Ramirez, History and American Culture

*Lecturer Review*

2016	Scott Ellsworth, DAAS
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*Junior Faculty Mentoring*

- Faculty Mentor for Henry Cowles (History)
- Faculty Mentor for Deirdre de la Cruz (History)
- Faculty Mentor for Scott Ellsworth (DAAS)
- Faculty Mentor for Maya Berry, University of North Carolina (African, African American, and Diaspora Studies; Anthropology)
- Faculty Mentor for Visiting Lecturer, Marko Mwipopo (DAAS)

*Manuscript Review Workshops, Primary Commentator*

- Damani Patridge, DAAS and Anthropology
- David Doris, DAAS and Art History

*Other Committee Service*

2023	Launch Committee for Luciana Chamorro, Anthropology
2021-2023	Institute for the Humanities, Executive Committee
2020	Fulbright campus interviews
2019-2020, 2023-24	Latin America Caucus Leader, History
2019	DAAS Graduate Studies Committee
2015-present	Religion Minor Steering Committee
2021-24	DAAS Curriculum Committee, Chair
2014-15	DAAS Curriculum Committee
2012-13	Director, Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar on Religion and the Secular (with Tomoko Masuzawa)
2012	DAAS internal review of senior job candidate, Malik Ghachem

2012 DAAS Search Committee, English African Diaspora Literature,  
Caribbean emphasis  
2009 History internal review of senior job candidate, Peter Marks  
2007-8 Undergraduate advisor, History  
2005-7 CAAS Brownbag Workshop coordinator

## **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