

RACHEL McBRIDE LINDSEY, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT

Academic Appointments:

Assistant Professor, Department of Theological Studies, American Religion and Culture, Saint Louis University, 2019-
Assistant Professor (NTT), Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016-2019
Postdoctoral Research Associate, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, 2015-2016
Associate Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, 2013-2015
Visiting Assistant in Religion, Department of Religion, Florida State University, 2012-2013

EDUCATION

2012 **Ph.D.** Princeton University, Department of Religion
2009 **M.A.** Princeton University, Department of Religion
2006 **B.A.** Missouri State University, Department of Religious Studies

PUBLICATIONS and PROJECTS

Books:

“Record and Revelation: Religion and Visual Grammars of American Citizenship in the American Century,” in progress.
Religion and Digital Humanities: Material Religion, co-edited with Emily Clark, DeGruyter Press (under review; manuscript submitted December 2020).
A Communion of Shadows: Photography and Religion in Nineteenth-Century America (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

Reviews:

Journal of American Studies (January 2020)
Early Popular Visual Culture (vol. 17, iss. 3-4, 2019)
Anglican & Episcopal History (September 2019)
Material Religion (July 2019)
Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions (February 2019)
American Historical Review (January 2019)
Journal of American History (December 2018)
Studies in American Culture (October 2018)
Reading Religion (December 2017)

Other Refereed Publications:

Journal Articles

- “‘The Mirror of All Perfection’: Jesus and the Strongman in America, 1893-1920,” *American Quarterly* 68.1 (March 2016), 23-47.
- “‘This Barbarous Practice’: Southern Churchwomen in the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, 1930-1942,” *Journal of Southern Religion* 16 (2014).
- “‘Seen and Read of Men’: Biblical Text and the Living Epistles of Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement,” *Journal of Africana Religions* 2.3 (2014), 347-378.
- “‘Bodies on Display’ and ‘Haunting the Streets of Cairo: Visual Habits in Nineteenth-century Holy Land Photography,’” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 43.2 (2014), 2-4, 4-11.

Book Chapters

- “Documentary Photography and the Visual Politics of Race and Religion,” *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*, eds. Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lum (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).
- “Photography and Religion,” *MacMillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, Volume 6: Material Religion*, vol. ed. Diane Apostolos-Cappadona, series eds. Jeffrey Kripal, April DeConick, and Anthony Pinn (MacMillan, 2016).

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews:

- Swenson, James R. *In a Rugged Land: Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and the Three Mormon Towns Collaboration, 1953-1954*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2018. *Mormon Studies Review* vol. 7 (2020), 101-106.
- James Romaine and Phoebe Wolfskill, eds., *Beholding Christ and Christianity in African American Art*. University Park, Penn.: Pennsylvania University Press, 2017. *Reading Religion* (in progress).
- Lauren Pond, *Test of Faith: Signs, Serpents, Salvation*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2017. *Material Religion* (in progress).
- Brett J. Esaki, *Enfolding Silence: The Transformation of Japanese Religion and Art Under Oppression*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. *The Journal of Religion* (in progress).
- Emily Suzanne Clark, *A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2016. *The Journal of Religion* (submitted).
- R. John Williams, *The Buddha in the Machine: Art, Technology, and the Meeting of East and West*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014. *American Studies* 54.4 (Winter 2015).
- “Spirit Photography” in *Ghosts, Spirits, and Psychics: The Paranormal from Alchemy to Zombies*, edited by Matt Cardin (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2015), 296-299.
- “The Christian Amendment,” “Henry Winters Luce,” “The Luce Foundation,” “Religious Affiliation of Supreme Court Justices,” and “Photography” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, eds. George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).
- “National Origins Act of 1924 (Johnson-Reed Act)” and “Men” in *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, 2 vols., ed. Edward E. Curtis IV (New York: Facts on File, 2010).

Digital Projects

- Lived Religion in the Digital Age. Co-director, with Pauline Lee, Ph.D. (Saint Louis University). Interdisciplinary digital humanities initiative to gather and map local, lived religious sounds, spaces, objects, and stories, and to scrutinize the translation of these experiences into digital products. Supported by the Henry Luce Foundation. 2018-

“Collections: A Communion of Shadows,” Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, Yale University, mavcor.yale.edu. This project was coordinated through UNC and Yale in connection with my book, *A Communion of Shadows*, in order to publish material associated with the study on an open-source digital platform.

Arch City Religion, www.archcityreligion.org. Teaching project mapping religious spaces, objects, and communities in the St. Louis metro with students at Saint Louis University and Webster University. This project, and the courses that contribute to it, has been profiled in *Universitas*, the alumni magazine of SLU, and *Newslink*, SLU’s biweekly campus [newsletter](#).

American Religious Sounds Project, <http://religioussounds.osu.edu>. Pilot-site collaborator. PIs Isaac Weiner (Ohio State University) and Amy DeRogatis (Michigan State University). Spring 2018.

Other Professional Writing:

“The Dangerous Power of the Photo-Op,” *Religion and Politics*, June 9, 2020,

<https://religionandpolitics.org/2020/06/09/the-dangerous-power-of-the-photo-op/>

“French King, Catholic Saint, American Icon: Provoking Religion, Race, and Public Memory in an American City,” *American Religion* (June 2020) <https://american-religion.org/apotheosis>.

“That Old New Story: Reflections on Teaching Local Religion with Digital Tools in America’s Heartland,” *Jesuit Higher Education* (solicited, in progress)

“American Milagros: Michael Tracy’s Borderlands of Sacred Art and State Violence,” *Political Theology Network* (April 1, 2019).

“Borderlands of the Sacred: Religion, Objects, and the American State on the Southern U.S. Border,” *The Immanent Frame* (October 30, 2018)

“A Missouri Native Crosses the Show Me State,” *Religion & Politics* (September 18, 2018)

“Cannot Tell Aught But the Truth?: Photography and *Birth of a Nation* (1915),” *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture* (May 2016). <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/sacredmatters/2016/05/11/photo-and-birth-of-a-nation-1915/2/>

“Agents of a Fuller Revelation,” Web blog post. *Material Religions* (2015),

<http://materialreligions.blogspot.com/2015/04/agents-of-fuller-revelation-photographs.html>

“Carte de visite Photograph Album,” Object Narrative, in *Conversations: An Online Journal of the Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion* (2014), <http://mavcor.yale.edu/conversations/object-narratives/carte-de-visite-photograph-album>.

“Passages: A Glimpse into the Hobby Lobby’s Family Museum,” *Religion & Politics* (September 2014)

“Pulled into the Maze”: *12 Years a Slave* (2013), *Religion & Politics* (February 2014)

“A Response to ‘Evidentiary Boundaries and Improper Interventions: Evidence, Implications, and Illegitimacy in American Religious Studies,’” *Religion Bulletin: The Blogging Portal of the Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, July 22, 2013.

Public Humanities

“*Belief, Unbound: Photographs and text by Lauren Pond*,” Curated (with Pauline Lee) public photography exhibit, Fall 2019.

“#ArchCityReligion: Photographs from *Religion in the Midwest*, by Lauren Pond, with additional photographs by Saint Louis University Students.” Curated (with Pauline Lee) campus gallery photography exhibit, Spring 2019.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Profession:

Vice President, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2020--
Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Working Group, American Academy of Religion, 2017-2020
Arts, Literature, and Religion Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2018-2022
Material and Sensory Culture Section Chair, Midwest American Academy of Religion, 2013-2019

University:

Walter J. Ong, S.J., Center for Digital Humanities Advisory Board, 2020--
Mentoring for Mission in Teaching, Saint Louis University. 2018-2019
Director search committee, Walter J. Ong, S.J., Center for Digital Humanities, Spring 2019
Academic Affairs Committee, Saint Louis University College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2017
Cultures of American Religion Workshop, American Studies, Saint Louis University, 2016-present
(*internal Mellon grants awarded for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 speakers' series)
Performance and Popular Culture Initiative, American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014-2015
Material and Visual Culture Initiative, American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis 2014-2015

Department:

Faculty Mentor, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, 2020-
Undergraduate Committee, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University 2019-
Religion and Complex Social Issues, Ad hoc committee, Department of Theological Studies, SLU, 2018-present
Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium, Planning Committee, Department of Theological Studies, SLU 2017-2018
Religion and Politics Film Series, organizer, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014-2015
Undergraduate Curriculum Advisor, Center on Religion and Politics, 2013-2015
Seminar Coordinator, Danforth Distinguished Lectures, Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, November 19, 2013
Graduate Student Committee, Department of Religion, Princeton University, 2009-2010
Religion in America Search Committee, Department of Religion, Princeton University, 2009-2010

COURSES, MENTORING, and ADVISING

Undergraduate Courses:

Theological Foundations (THEO 1000): Fall 2016 (4), Spring 2017 (2), Fall 2017 (3), Spring 2018, Fall 2018 (2 at 40 students each)
Race and Religion in America (THEO 2333): Fall 2020
American Christianity (THEO 2350): Spring 2018; Spring 2020
Introduction to World Religions (THEO 2710): Spring 2019; Fall 2019;
Arch City Religion (THEO 2930/**THEO 2700**): Spring 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2019
Religion, Art, and Politics in America (THEO 3930): Spring 2017
Religious Freedom in the U.S. (THEO 3930) Summer: 2017; Fall 2020
Religion, Law, and Citizenship in the U.S. (THEO 4930): Spring 2021

Graduate Courses:

Writing Religion (THEO 6930): Spring 2020
Theories and Methods (THEO 6000): Spring 2021

Undergraduate Theses Advised:

Olivia Lindstrom, 2019-2020
Caroline Anderson, 2017-2018

Dissertation Committees:

Elizabeth Eikmann, American Studies, Fall 2019—

Religion and Public Life Graduate Fellows (LRDA):

David Justice, 2018-2019
Deepan Rajaratnam, 2019-2020
Elizabeth Eikmann, 2020-2021

Faculty Mentor, Certificate in University Teaching Skills, Reinert Center for Teaching and Learning, SLU

Laura Estes, 2020-2021

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Young Scholars of American Religion Fellowship, Center on Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, 2019-2020

Advancing Public Scholarship on Religion and Theology Grant, Theology Program, Henry Luce Foundation, for “Lived Religion in the Digital Age,” August 2018— (\$400,000)

Fund for Intellectual Renewal and Enrichment (FIRE) Grant, Saint Louis University College of Arts & Sciences, August 2018 (\$550)—to host speaker on Religious Freedom in the United States

Spark Microgrant, for “Selma to St. Louis: The Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Pursuit of Justice Fifty Years Later,” Office of the Vice President for Research, Saint Louis University, Spring 2018 (\$1,000)

Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Research Travel Grant, Summer 2018 (\$1,000)

Co-Curricular Grant, Saint Louis University College of Arts and Sciences

Spring 2020 (\$450) THEO 6930

Fall 2020 (\$400) THEO 3930

Spring 2018 (\$500) THEO 2930
Grace May Tilton subvention award, Princeton University Program in American Studies, 2015 (\$6,500)
Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies, 2011-2012
(\$28,000)
Teaching Transcript, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, awarded June 2011
Religion and Culture Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2010-2011
Program in American Studies Research Prize, Princeton University, 2008-2009 (\$4,000)
Graduate Student Paper Prize, Midwest American Academy of Religion 2007
President's Fellowship, Princeton University, 2006-2011
Princeton Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow, Princeton University, Summer 2004
James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship, Missouri State University, 2005-2006
Rose Marie and Martin H. Boone, Jr. Religious Studies Scholarship, Southwest Missouri State U., 2004-2005
James P. Robinson Ecumenical Center Scholarship, Southwest Missouri State University, 2003-2004
Rose Marie and Martin H. Boone, Jr. Religious Studies Scholarship, Southwest Missouri State U., 2002-2003
Dean's List, College of Humanities and Public Affairs, Southwest Missouri State University, Fall 2002—
Spring 2006

CONFERENCES and INVITED LECTURES

Symposium Organizer:

“Religion in Place: Spaces | Borders | Bodies,” academic and public symposium organizer and convener
(with Pauline Lee), Saint Louis University, October 10-12, 2019. (16 panelists and 2 public lectures)

Panel Organizer:

“Students as Producers Across SLU Theology Curricula,” 2018 Winter Institute, Reinert Center for
Transformative Teaching & Learning, Saint Louis University

“Religion, America, and the Aftermath: An Open Dialogue on Teaching, Campus Engagement, and
Community Action After Obama,” *American Academy of Religion*, November 2016

Religious Freedom and Civil Rights in America, Washington University in St. Louis, October 21, 2015
(symposium cancelled due to speakers' illness)

“Unsettled: Critiquing Categories of Professional Identity in American Higher Education,” Annual Meeting
of the American Academy of Religion, November 2014

“Image as Artifact: Discovering the Thingness of Photographs in American Religious History,” Annual
Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, North American Religions Section, November 2013

“Beautiful Babies, Hidden Mothers, and Plasticized Prisoners: The Display of Bodies and Theories of
American Religion,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, North American
Religions Section, November 2012

“Innovating the Religious Imagination: Religion and Technology since 1800,” Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, October 2011

Conference Presentations, Roundtables, and Responses:

Papers:

“Billfolds and Wallets,” Catholicism in 10 Objects, Roman Catholic Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, December 10, 2020.

“The Spirit Postmistress of the Midwest: The Scandalous Career of Rev. Mrs. Josie K. Fulsom,” Romance, Reverends, and Renegades: Scandal as Gilded Age History, Organization of American Historians, April 12-14, 2018

“All on the Table: Banality as Spiritual Inventory in Simon Dinnerstein’s *Fulbright Triptych*, 1971-1974,” The Living World Symposium, Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri-Columbia, September 22-23, 2017

“Material Religions in a Digital World,” Digital Religion-Digital Theology Panel, Digital Humanities 2017 Conference, Montreal, Canada, August 8-11, 2017 *in absentia*

“So Tangled Up in Living: Roy DeCarava’s Visual Politics of Race and Religion in *The Sweet Flypaper of Life* (1955),” Protestantism and the Materiality of Texts Symposium, Princeton University, April 20-22, 2017

“A New Testament,” Visual and Material Culture Studies Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, March 1, 2017

“Religion and the Birth of American Photopolitics,” Making News: Religion, Politics and the Journalistic Construction of American Civil Society, Panel, International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture, Seoul, South Korea, August 1-4, 2016 *in absentia*

“Born Free and Equal: ‘Americanism’ in Ansel Adams’s Manzanar Photographs,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, North American Religions Section, November 2015

“A Communion of Shadows,” Material Religion: Embodiment, Materiality, and Technology, Duke University, September 10-12, 2015

“What Her Absence Reveals: Paradigms of Presence and Absence in Nineteenth-Century Religion and Photography,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Third Biennial Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 13-16, 2014

“‘To Perpetuate the Memory of Our Glorious Ancestry’: Coding Race in an American Bible,” Race and Religion in American History, Princeton University, March 7-8, 2014

“‘Weeping at the Truthful Likeness’: Sensing Spirits in Ghost Pictures, 1860-1900,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, November 23-26, 2013

“Haunting the Streets of Cairo: Visual Habits of Erasure and Disclosure in Nineteenth-century Holy Land Photography,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 17-20, 2012

“Photography Begotten: Technologies of Religious Perception in the Early American Republic,” Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, October 20-23, 2011

“The Light of the World: Vernacular Photography and American Religion, 1839-1910,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, October 30-November 1, 2010

“Framing the Humdrum on Hallowed Ground: Interrogating the Quotidian in Studies of American Religion and Vernacular Photography,” Stanford University Graduate Student Conference on the “Banality of Religion,” Stanford, California, May 21-22, 2010

“When the Twain Become One: Stereography and American Religion, 1860-1910,” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, March 26-27, 2010

“‘Yours in His Service’: Race and Religion in the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, 1930-1940.” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, April 2008

“Wiley J. Phillips and the Rhetorical Construction of Anti-‘Romish’ Textual Communities in the ‘Queen City of the Ozarks,’ 1890-1912.” Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, April 2007

“‘Sainly Souls and Strong Bodies’: Muscular Christianity and Sexual Discipline in Nineteenth-Century America.” Midwest Region American Academy of Religion Conference, De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois, April 2005

Panelist:

“Religion and Its Many American Publics,” Lehigh University, April 7-9, 2019

“Public Scholarship and the Study of Religion,” Yale University, January 9-11, 2019

“Teaching Local Religion with Digital Humanities,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 2018

“Digital Futures of Religious Studies,” American Academy of Religion, November 2016

“Evidence of Truth Unseen: Beholding Religion in 19th-C. American Commonplace Photographs,” (Not)Seeing the 19th Century: Photographs, Archives, Absences, Seminar, 2016 C19 Conference, College Station, PA, March 2016

“The Birth of a Nation—A Century Later,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2015

“Seeing is Believing/Believing is Seeing: Visual Religion in the Legacy News Media,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Religion, Media, and Culture Group, November 2014

“The Power of Objects: Studying Material Life and Culture,” Program in American Culture Studies Dinner Forum, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2014

“Strategies for the Academic Study of Religion: A Faculty Roundtable Discussion,” Politics of Religion, 12th Annual Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium, February 22-24, 2013

“New Scholarship Roundtable,” Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice, November 1-3, 2011, Initiative for the Study of Visual and Material Cultures of Religion, Yale University

Respondent:

“Religion, Gender, and Heteronormativity,” Politics of Religion, 12th Annual Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium, February 22-24, 2013

“The Aftermath of the War in America,” World War II and Religion Conference, Florida State University, November 29-December 2, 2012

Invited Lectures and Talks:

“#ArchCityReligion: Rethinking Lived Religion from America’s Heartland,” First Friday’s Mass and Speaker Series, Office of Mission and Identity, Saint Louis University, February 7, 2020

“The Shadow of the Arch: Religion and Race in St. Louis,” University of Missouri, Religion in Missouri Lecture Series, March 2019

“#ArchCityReligion: Local Religion and Digital Humanities in Classrooms and Beyond,” University of Pittsburgh, November 11-12, 2018

“A Communion of Shadows: Religion and Photography in Nineteenth-Century America,” North Carolina State University, November 18, 2015

“In a Communion of Shadows: Religion, Race, and Nation in Nineteenth-Century American Photography,” Washington University in St. Louis, February 17, 2015

“A Communion of Shadows: Relics, History, and Beholding in Nineteenth-Century American Photographs,” University of Pennsylvania, January 21, 2015

“Shadows of the South: Photography and Religion from the Confederacy to the New Deal,” Vanderbilt University, November 3, 2014

“Buddhists and Beats in America,” Meadville-Lombard Theological School, July 24, 2013

“Hidden Mothers, Fallen Soldiers, and Photography Albums: Why Vernacular Photographs Matter to American Religious History,” Missouri State University, April 24, 2012