

# MATHEW N. SCHMALZ

[Professor of Religious Studies](#)  
[Founding and Executive Editor, Journal of Global Catholicism](#)

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## EDUCATION

### Degrees

- 1998 Ph. D. in History of Religions, [The Divinity School](#), The University of Chicago.  
Dissertation: *A Space for Redemption: Catholic Tactics in Hindu North India* (UMI #9910915).  
Committee: Wendy Doniger (director); Frank Reynolds; Francis X. Clooney, S. J. (readers).
- 1995 M. A. in Religious Studies, [The Divinity School](#), The University of Chicago.
- 1987 A. B. in Religion, *Summa cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, [Amherst College](#).

### Doctoral Examinations

- 1994 *History of Religions*: History and Methods; Practice and Community Life; Hinduism;  
*Theology*: Modern and Contemporary Christian Thought; Theological Anthropology.
- Oral Statement Paper*: “Between History and Ultra-History: [Georges Dumézil](#) and the Tripartite Ideology of the Indo-Europeans.”
- Passed with Distinction.

### Language Training

- 2013 Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education ([ISLE](#)) Intensive Sinhala course, [University of Peradeniya](#).
- 1991 American Institute of Indian Studies ([AIIS](#)) Bengali Language Program in Calcutta.
- 1990 [University of Washington Summer Intensive Language Program](#), Bengali.
- 1985- [University of Wisconsin College Year in India](#) Hindi course, Varanasi.  
1986 [Banaras Hindu University](#) Hindi Diploma course.
- 1985 University of Wisconsin Summer Intensive Language Institute ([WSILI](#)), Hindi and Urdu.
- 1982- Choctaw Language course, Carl Albert Community College, Idabel, OK.  
1983

### Language Proficiency

*Studied to Fluency Level*: Hindi.

*Studied to Advanced Level*: Bengali; [Bhojpuri](#); French; German; Urdu.

*Studied to Intermediate Level*:: [Choctaw](#); Koinē Greek; Latin; Russian.

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

### Monograph and Memoir

- 2023 [\*Understanding Our Catholic Neighbors: A Guide for Latter-day Saints\*](#) (Springville, Utah: CPI).  
Co-authored with Alonzo L. Gaskill.
- 2016 [\*Mercy Matters: Opening Yourself to the Life-Giving Gift\*](#) (Huntington IN: Our Sunday Visitor).  
Reviewed in *National Catholic Reporter* ([Part 1](#); [Part 2](#)); [America](#).

### Edited Volumes

- Forth- *The Catholic World* (Routledge Worlds Series), Routledge/Taylor & Francis. Co-Edited with Thomas Landy.  
coming
- 2011 [\*Engaging South Asian Religions: Boundaries, Appropriations and Resistances\*](#) (Albany: SUNY Press).  
Co-edited with Peter Gottschalk. ["Introduction" also co-authored with Peter Gottschalk].  
Reviewed in [Journal of Asian Studies](#), [Journal of Hindu Studies](#), [Numen](#).

### Journal Issues as Lead Editor

- 2025 Issue Editor, [Journal of Global Catholicism](#) (vol. 10, issue 1).
- 2024 Issue Editor, [Journal of Global Catholicism](#) (vol. 9, issue 1).
- 2023 Issue Editor, "[Graduate Symposium II](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol. 8, issue 1).
- 2022 Issue Editor, "[Healing, and Hope in Religious Traditions and Beliefs in a Time of Pandemic](#)," The PASCHR Journal [Philippine Association for the Study Culture, History and Religion], (vol. 4, issue 1).
- 2021 Issue Editor, "[Enculturation, Inculturation, and Agency: Burundi, Argentina, the Philippines](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol. 6, issue 1).
- 2020 Issue Editor, "[Catholics & Cultures: Scholarship for the Pedagogy of Global Catholicism](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol. 5, issue 1).
- 2018 Issue Editor, "[Religious Imageries at Polish Catholic Shrines](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol. 2, issue 2).
- 2017 Issue Editor, "[African Catholicism: Part Two, Retrospect and Prospect](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol.2, issue 1).
- Issue Editor, "[African Catholicism: Part One, Contemporary Issues](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol. 1, issue 2).
- 2016 Issue Editor, "[Indian Catholicism: Interventions and Imaginings](#)," *Journal of Global Catholicism* (vol. 1, issue 1).

### Journal Articles

- 2023 "Riting the Life Cycle: Academic Approaches and Conceptual Considerations," *Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion Journal*, Volume 3, no. 1, pp. 1-5.
- 2022 "[Health, Healing, and Hope in Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity](#)," *The PASCHR Journal* [Philippine

- Association for the Study of Culture, History and Religion], Volume 4: Iss. 1, pp. 1-9.
- 2020 ["Introducing Catholics & Cultures: Ethnography, Encyclopedia, Cyborg,"](#) *Journal of Global Catholicism*: Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 1. p.1-19.
- 2018 ["Do Religion and Culture Actually Exist? Reflections on Jasna Góra,"](#) *Ethnologia Polona* 38 (2018): 125-135.
- 2016 ["Dalit Catholic Home Shrines in a North Indian Village,"](#) *The Journal of Global Catholicism* Volume 1/Issue 1: 85-103.
- ["Mormon/Catholic Dialogue: Thinking about Ways Forward,"](#)  
*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 49: 1 (Spring): 139-48.
- 2013 "The Starting Point of Catholic Practical Theology," *Indian Journal of Christian Studies* [University of Madras] 3:1 (January-June): 78-90.
- 2012 ["Hypostatic Union and the Subtle Body: An Analysis of Christian Yogic Practice,"](#) *Asian Horizons* [Dharmaram Pontifical Athenaeum, Bangalore] 6 (June): 353-363.
- 2011 ["The Faith and Rationality of Dalit Christian Experience,"](#) *Asian Horizons* [Dharmaram Pontifical Athenaeum, Bangalore] 5 (March): 24-35.
- 2010 ["Better Left Unsaid: Discernment and Representation in 'A Virtual Village,'"](#)  
*Practical Matters: A Transdisciplinary Multimedia Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology* 3 (Spring). Co-authored with Peter Gottschalk.
- 2009 "Material Culture in an Indian 'Virtual Village: More Than Hindu and Muslim,"  
*Journal of Material Religion* (6): 381-383. Co-authored with Peter Gottschalk.
- 2006 ["Catholicism and Scientology Do Mix: A Note on Teaching New Religions in the Catholic Classroom,"](#)  
*Teaching Theology and Religion* (January/February): 86-90.
- 2005 "Dalit Catholic Tactics of Marginality at a North Indian Mission,"  
[History of Religions](#) 44 (February): 216-251.
- ["Teaching Justice and Teaching Justly: Reflections on Teaching World Religions at a Jesuit Liberal Arts College,"](#) *Christian Higher Education* 4 (January): 1-17.
- 2002 ["The Silent Body of Audrey Santo,"](#) *History of Religions* 42 (November): 116-142.
- 2001 "American Catholic, Indian Catholics: Reflections on Religious Identity, Ethnography and the History of Religions," [Method & Theory in the Study of Religion](#) 13 (January): 91-97.
- 1999 ["Images of the Body in the Life and Death of a North Indian Catholic Catechist,"](#) *History of Religions* 39 (November): 177-201.
- 1995 "Transcendental Reduction: Karl Rahner's Theory of Anonymous Christianity. I," [Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection](#) [Vidyajyoti Jesuit Seminary, New Delhi] 59 (October): 680-692.
- "Transcendental Reduction: Karl Rahner's Theory of Anonymous Christianity. II," [Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection](#) 59 (November): 741-752.
- 1994 ["When Festinger Fails: Prophecy and the Watch Tower,"](#) *Religion* 24 (October): 293-308.  
Reprinted in *Expecting Armageddon: Essential Readings in Failed Prophecy*,  
ed. Jon R. Stone (New York: Routledge Press, 2000): 233-250.

“Of Masters and Servants: Friedrich Nietzsche’s Interpretation of *The Laws of Manu*,”  
*The Journal of Religious Studies* [Patiala University, Punjab, India] 25 (Autumn): 123-139.

- 1993 “The Return from the Further Shore: The Theological Implications of Christian *Samnyasa*,”  
*Koinonia* 5 (Fall): 191-217.

## Chapters in Edited Volumes

Forth- “Studying Catholics/Catholic Studying: Reflections on Catholic Studies”; “India”  
coming *The Catholic World* (Routledge Worlds Series), Routledge/Taylor & Francis.  
Co-Edited with Thomas Landy.

“Prophecy,” *Bloomsbury Handbook of Jehovah’s Witnesses* (Bloomsbury Series).  
Edited by George Chryssides.

- 2019 “Dogma and Hypothesis: Purgatory, Limbo, and Catholic Views of the Afterlife,”  
[\*Life Beyond the Grave: Christian Interfaith Perspectives\*](#), eds. Alonzo L. Gaskill and Robert L. Millet  
(Provo: Center for Religious Studies/Deseret Books), 1-16.
- 2015 “Materialities of Jesus in North India,” [\*Sacred Matters: Material Religion in South Asian Traditions\*](#),  
eds. Tracy Pitchman and Corinne G. Dempsey (Albany: SUNY Press), 67-88.
- 2014 “[Thinking with Nostra Aetate: From the New Pluralism to Comparative Theology](#),”  
*Revisiting Vatican II: 50 Years of Renewal, Vol. I: Keynote and Plenary Papers of the DVK  
International Conference on Vatican II, 31 January - 3 February 2013*, ed. Shaji George Kochuthara  
(Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications) 450-465.
- 2012 “A Special Place: Imagining Goa from the *Estado da Índia* to Indian Independence,” [\*Religion and  
Politics in a Global Society: Comparative Perspectives from the Portuguese World\*](#), eds. Paul  
Christopher Manuel, Alynna Lyon, and Clyde Wilcox (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books), 163-  
184.
- 2011 “Boundaries and Appropriations in North Indian Charismatic Catholicism,” [\*Engaging South Asian  
Religions: Boundaries, Appropriations and Resistances\*](#), eds. Mathew N. Schmalz and Peter  
Gottschalk (Albany: SUNY Press), 85-112.
- “Christianity: Culture, Identity, and Agency,” [\*A Companion to the Anthropology of India\*](#),  
ed. Isabel Clark-Deces (London: Wiley Blackwell), 277-294.
- 2010 “The Broken Mirror: John Masih’s Journey from Isai to Dalit,”  
[\*Margins of Faith: Dalit and Tribal Christianity in India\*](#), eds. Rowena Robinson  
and Joseph Marianus Kujur (Delhi: Sage Publications), 185-210.
- “A Catholic Charismatic Healer at Play in North India,” [\*Sacred Play: Ritual Levity and Humor in  
South Asian Religions\*](#), eds. Selva J. Raj and Corinne G. Dempsey (Albany: SUNY Press), 185-204.
- “On Method and Narrative or How a Textualist Gave Birth to Two Ethnographers,”  
[\*Notes from a Mandala: Essays in the History of Indian Religions in Honor of Wendy Doniger\*](#),  
eds. Laurie Patton and David Haberman (Newark DE: University of Delaware Press), 276-294.  
Co-authored with Peter Gottschalk.
- 2008 “Bihar via ‘A Virtual Village,’” [\*Speaking of Peasants: Essays on Indian History and Politics in  
Honor of Walter Hauser\*](#), ed. William Pinch, (New Delhi: Manohar Publishers): 453-470. Co-  
authored with Peter Gottschalk.

- 2007 “Ethnography,” *Studying Hinduism: Key Concepts and Methods*, ed. Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby (London and New York: Routledge), 112-124.
- 2006 “The Indian Church: Catholicism and Indian Nationhood,” [\*The Catholic Church and the Nation-State: Comparative Perspectives\*](#) eds. Paul Manuel, Lawrence Reardon, and Clyde Wilcox (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press), 209-225.
- “The Death of Comrade Moti: Practicing Catholic Untouchable Rage in a North Indian Village,” [\*Practicing Catholic: Body, Performance and Contestation in Catholic Faith\*](#) ed. Bruce Morrill, Jody Ziegler, and Susan Rodgers (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 139-155.
- “Performing the Miraculous in Central Massachusetts,” [\*Practicing Catholic: Body, Performance and Contestation in Catholic Faith\*](#), eds. Bruce Morrill, Jody Ziegler, and Susan Rodgers (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 227-241. [photographs by Julia I. Schmalz]
- 2005 “Charismatic Transgressions: The Life and Work of an Indian Catholic Healer,” [\*Popular Christianity in India: Riting Between the Lines\*](#) eds. Corinne G. Dempsey and Selva J. Raj (Albany: SUNY Press), 163-187.
- 2001 “[Ad Experimentum: Theology, Anthropology and the Paradoxes of Indian Catholic Inculturation](#),” *Theology and the Social Sciences*, ed. Michael Barnes (Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books), 161-180

## Long Form Essays

- 2022 “[Why Are Jehovah’s Witnesses Persecuted?](#)” *Canopy Forum on the Interactions of Law Religion*, Emory University Law School (Sept. 16).
- 2021 “[The Popularity and Paradox of Charismatic Catholicism in India and Sri Lanka](#),” [\*Catholics & Cultures\*](#).
- 2020 “[Betel Nut Days](#),” [\*Jenny: A Production of the YSU Student Literary Association\*](#) (Spring).
- 2018 “Affliction: Mental Illness and the Silence of God,” *The Table* (March 19).
- 2016 “[Offense and the Dilemmas of Cross-Cultural Representation: Reflections on Footwashing and Dalit Catholics](#),” [\*The Journal of Global Catholicism\*](#) Volume 1/Essay 117-129.
- “[In Memoriam: Stephen Webb](#),” *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 49: 3 (Fall): 199-210.
- 2015 “[A Pilgrimage to Madhu: A Personal Look at Sri Lanka’s Holiest Shrine](#),” *America* (Jan. 8).
- 2011 “Thinking Through and Staying With,” [\*Engaging South Asian Religions: Boundaries, Appropriations and Resistances\*](#), eds. Mathew N. Schmalz and Peter Gottschalk (Albany: SUNY Press), 233-234.
- “[Is a Rameumpton just a Rameumptom?](#)” [\*A Freudian Approach to the Sugar Beet\*](#),” *Sunstone: Mormon Experience, Scholarship, Issues, and Art* (December): 42-46.
- 2009 “Journey to Vindhyachal,” *Panchis Bachor Uddapan Sarbajin Durgatsab 2010* [Silver Jubilee Durga Puja Souvenir—Bengalee Association of Greater Hartford CT] (October 22).
- 2008 “[The Saint of Worcester](#),” [\*The Best American Spiritual Writing 2008\*](#), ed. Philip Zaleski, introduction by Jimmy Carter (New York: Houghton Mifflin), 177-184.  
Reprinted from *Commonweal: A Review of Religion, Politics, and Culture* (February 23, 2007): 11-14 [cover story].
- 2007 “[Meet the Mormons: From the Margin to the Mainstream](#),” *Commonweal: A Review of Religion*,

*Politics, and Culture* (November 9): 16-19 [cover story].

- 2004    "[Teaching Mormonism in the Catholic Classroom](#)," *Sunstone: Mormon Experience, Scholarship, Issues and Art* (October): 26-30.
- 2003    "Veronica's Candidacy," *Dalit International Newsletter* 9 (June): 6-9.
- 2001    "Dalit Christian Pentecostalism in a North Indian Village," *Dalit International Newsletter* 7 (October): 7-9.

### Short Form Essays

- 2023    "[Sinéad O'Connor: Catholic Activist and Spiritual Seeker](#)," *The Current* (July 29).
- 2016    "[Mount St. Mary's and the Future of Catholic Higher Education](#)," *Crux* (Feb. 25).  
       "[On the Celibacy of St. John Paul II](#)," *Crux* (Feb. 23).
- 2015    "[Why Medjugorje Matters](#)," *Crux* (Oct. 1).  
       "[John Boehner and Bob Brady: Catholic to the Core](#)," *Crux* (Sept. 30).  
       "[The Abyss of Mercy](#)," *Crux* (April 10).  
       "[Debating Mother Teresa](#)," *Crux* (March 5).  
       "[Communion in the Hand v. Communion on the Tongue](#)," *Crux* (March 19).  
       "Confessions of a Lenten Slacker," *Crux* (Feb. 17).  
       "[Should We Forgive the Boston Marathon Bomber?](#)" *Crux* (Jan. 5).  
       "[Touching and Being Touched at Sumanahalli](#)," *Crux* (Sept. 1).  
       "[Remembering Bishop John Joseph of Pakistan](#)," *Crux* (May 6).
- 2014    "[Catholic 'Cannibalism'](#)," *Crux* (November 25).  
       "[Saints' Bodies: Ritual Dismemberment Not Unusual](#)," *Crux* (September 8).  
       "[Mormons and Catholics Have A lot to Talk About](#)," *Crux* (September 30).  
       "[The Catholic Casino Conundrum](#)," *Crux* (September 4).
- 2008    "[Tender Mercies](#)," *U. S. Catholic* (October): 37-38.  
       "[A Hidden Life](#)," *Commonweal: A Review of Religion, Politics, and Culture* (October 26): 46.
- 2005    "[Is that a Moor's Head?](#)" *Commonweal: A Review of Religion, Politics, and Culture* (July 15): 39.
- 2004    "Her Silence Speaks to Them," *National Catholic Reporter* 41 (December 17).

### Review Essays

- 2008    "[A Peculiarly Orthodox Fantasy](#)," *Sunstone: Mormon Experience, Scholarship, Issues and Art* (October): 72-73.

- 2007 [“Just-So Therapy.”](#) *Commonweal: A Review of Religion, Politics, and Culture* (March 23): 20-21.  
“Moroni Meets Nietzsche,” *Sunstone: Mormon Experience, Scholarship, Issues and Art* (December): 48-49.

- 2004 [“A Bibliographic Essay on Hindu and Christian Dalit Religiosity,”](#)  
*Journal of the Society for Hindu/Christian Studies* 17: 55-65.

- 2003 “Tradition and Transgression in the Comparative Theology of Francis Xavier Clooney, S.J.,”  
[Religious Studies Review](#) 29 (April): 130-136.

## Encyclopedia Entries

- In “Opus Dei,” (500 words) *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (De Gruyter).  
Press
- 2018 "Bhutto, Benazir"; "Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali"; "Khan, Liaquat Ali"; "Zia ul-Haq." In: Kassam Z.R.,  
Greenberg Y.K., Bagli J. (eds) *Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism*.  
[Encyclopedia of Indian Religions](#). Springer, Dordrecht.
- 2007 “Androgynous Myths” (1500 words), “Asceticism” (1500 words), “Celibacy” (1500 words),  
“Devotion” (1500 words), “Ecstasy” (1500 words), “Healing” (1500 words), “Hindu Mysticism” (1500  
words), “Kundalini” (1500 words), “Lust” (1500 words), “Mary” (1000 words), “Motherhood in  
Christianity” (600 words) “Pornography” (1500 words), “Sex in Marriage” (1500 words), “Shiva”  
(1000 words), “Tantra” (1500 words) “Wedding Rituals” (3000 words) in [The Encyclopedia of Love in  
World Religions](#), ed. Yehudit Greenberg (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Press).
- “Homosexuality in Non-Christian Religions,” [Introductory Dictionary of Theology and Religious Studies](#),  
eds. Orlando Espin and James Nickoloff (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press): 582-584.
- “Abbé Pierre” (250 words), “Joan of Arc” (400 words) *World Book Encyclopedia*  
(Chicago: World Book Publications).
- 2006 “Bekkers, Wihelmus” (250 words), “Chavez, César (350 words), “Das, Yisu” (350 words) “Escrivà de  
Balaguer, Josemaria” (600 words), “Fu, Tieshan” (275 words), “Kim Sou-hwan, Stephen” (300 words),  
“Kung (Gong), Ignatius” (250 words), “Le Play, Pierre Guillaume Frédéric” (650 words), “Reinys,  
Mečislovas” (250 words), “Sands, Bobby” (350 words), “Upadhyay; Brahmabhandhav” (400 words),  
“Willebrands, Johannes Gerardus Maria” (250 words) in [The Encyclopedia of Modern Christian  
Politics](#), eds. Roy Domenico and Mark Y. Hanley (Westport CT: Greenwood Press).
- 2004 “Agnivesh” (400 words), “Vinoba Bhave” (400 words), and “Shivnayaran” (400 words)  
in [Holy People of the World: An Encyclopedia](#), ed. Phyllis Jester (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Press).

## Book Reviews

- 2018 [“Review of Constructing Indian Christianities: Culture, Conversion, and Caste,”](#) *Journal of Hindu-  
Christian Studies*: Vol. 30, Article 21.
- 2013 [Review of Clemens Six, \*Spectacular Politics: Performative Nation-building and Religion in Modern  
India\*,](#) *Anthropos* (1): 366-367.
- 2012 [Review of Tariq Rahman, \*From Hindu to Urdu: A Social and Political History\*,](#)  
*Journal of Asian Studies* 71 (4): 1180–1181.
- [Review of D. R. Nagaraj, \*The Flaming Feet and Other Essays\*,](#)

*Journal of Hindu Studies* 5 (3): 304-306.

[Review of Ramnarayan S. Rawat, \*Reconsidering Untouchability: Chamars and Dalit History in North India\*, \*Journal of Asian Studies\* 71 \(3\): 837-338.](#)

[Review of Christine Everaert, \*Tracing the Boundaries between Hindi and Urdu: Lost and Added in Translation in 20th Century Short Stories\*, \*Journal of Asian Studies\* 71\(1\): 289-290.](#)

[Review of Suraubh Dube, \*After Conversion: Cultural Histories of Modern India\*, \*Journal of Asian Studies\* 70 \(4\): 1183-1185.](#)

Review of Valentina Vitali, [\*Hindi Action Cinema: Industries, Narratives, Bodies\*](#), *Journal of Asian Studies* 70 (4): 1212-1213.

[Review of William B. Milam, \*Bangladesh and Pakistan: Flirting with Failure in South Asia\*, \*Journal of Asian Studies\* 70 \(1\): 285-285.](#)

2010 [Review of Badri Narayan, \*Fascinating Hindutva\*, \*Journal of Asian Studies\* 69 \(2\): 636-638.](#)

Review of Robert Frykenberg, *Christianity in India*, [\*Church History and Religious Culture\* 4 \(90\): 726-728.](#)

2006 [Review of Peggy Froerer, \*Religious Division and Social Conflict: The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism in Rural India\*, \*Journal of Asian Studies\* 68 \(3\): 1007-1009.](#)2003

*Review of Estela Mara Bensimon, Kelly Ward and Karla Sanders, he Department Chair's Role in Developing New Faculty into Teachers and Scholars, *Teaching Theology and Religion* 6 (July): 181-182.*

Review of John Wilcox and Irene King (ed.), *Enhancing Religious Identity: Best Practices from Catholic Institutions*, *Teaching Theology and Religion* 6 (April): 115-116.

2000 Review of David Lawrence, *Rediscovering God with Transcendental Argument*, *Religious Studies Review* 26 (July): 301.

1999 Review of Ramakrishna Puliganla, *Jnana Yoga*, *Religious Studies Review* 25 (November): 447.

Review of Mary W. Helms, *Access to Origins*, *Religious Studies Review* 26 (January): 50-51.

1995 Review of Raimon Pannikar, *A Dwelling Place for Wisdom*, *Journal of Religion* 75 (April): 312-314.

1994 Review of Diana Eck, *Encountering God*, *The Journal of Religion* 74 (Oct. 1994): 594-596.

1993 Review of Timothy Miller (ed.), *When Prophets Die*, *Journal of Religion* 73 (January): 155.

2000 Review of Smriti Srinivas, *The Mouths of People, The Voice of God*, *Religious Studies Review* 26 (January): 116-117.

1993 [Review of Catherine Cornille, \*The Guru in Indian Catholicism\*, \*Journal of Religion\* 73 \(April\): 300-301.](#)

## Translations and Photo Essays with Articles

2020 "[Dhori Mata: India's Miraculous Mother of the Coalmines](#)"; "[Devotion at Dhori Mata Reflects North Indian Cultural Sensibilities](#)"; "[History of the Dhori Mata Shrine](#)"; "[The Roman Rite in Tribal North India](#)." (www.catholicsandcultures.org)

2015 "[Sri Lanka: Introduction](#);" "[Our Lady of Madhu Shrine](#);" "[Kudagama Shrine and Retreat Center](#);"

([www.catholicsandcultures.org](http://www.catholicsandcultures.org)).

- 2004 (interviews conducted in Hindi) “Ajay Upadhyay,” “Arjun Srivastav,” “Indra Jaswar,” “Jagannath Pandit,” “Lacchan Das,” “P. R. Yadav,” “Premnath Dubey,” “Sharda Chaurasiya,” “Srilal Chaurasiya,” “Virendra Kumar,” and the RSS Anthem for *The Virtual Village* (<http://virtualvillage.wesleyan.edu/>--presently off-line for updating).

(interviews conducted in Urdu) “Faisal Yacqub,” “Laila Khan,” Muhammad Khan,” “Mukhtar Alam,” “Rukhsan Khan,” “Rahim Ansari,” “Syed Farhad,” “Syed Firdaus,” “Syed Tariq Sohail,” and a Na’t song in praise of The Prophet, for *A Virtual Village* (<http://virtualvillage.wesleyan.edu/>--presently off-line for updating).

- 1999 (from Bengali) “Kabikumara,” [as recounted in Ksemendra’s *Bodhiattavabadanakaipalata*] for Wendy Doniger, [\*The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000): 337-338.

### Endowed Lectures, Keynote, and Plenary Presentations

- 2026 “Echoes of Sustainability in Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity: The Symbol of the Garden,” Eleventh International Conference of the Philippine Association for the Study of Culture, History, and Religion (PASCHR), Divine Word College of Calapan, Calapan, Philippines (March 19).
- 2025 “May We Live Our Lives’...Accompanying NXT GEN Students as Pilgrims of Hope,” Empowering the Future with Faith and Character: Bridging Values and Religious Education to the NXT Gen and to the Church’s Pilgrims of Hope, De La Salle University, Dasmarias, Philippines (Nov. 7).
- 2021 “Catholics and Latter-day Saints: A Dialogue,” Seton Hall University (Nov. 12).
- “Health and Healing in Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity,” Healing and Hope in Religious Traditions and Beliefs in the Time of Pandemic, Seventh International Conference of the Philippine Association for the Study of Culture, History, and Religion (PASCHR), University of St. Louis, Baguio City, Philippines (Oct. 20).
- 2018 “An Indian Catholic Ghost Story,” address to graduating theology majors and Ph.D. students, Fordham University (May 2).
- “Catholic and Protestant Resistance to Nazism,” Holocaust Symposium: In the Eye of the Storm, Boston College (April 18).
- “Locating ‘the Catholic’ in Global Catholicism,” Lived Catholicism from the Balkans to the Baltics, Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem, Budapest, Hungary (March 9).
- 2017 “Catholics and Cultures: Lessons Learned on Global Catholicism,” International Palaver on The Handbook of African Catholicism, Hekima University College, Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations, Nairobi, Kenya (July 29).
- “Do Religion and Culture Actually Exist?” Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Bohol, Philippines, (Jan. 5).
- 2016 “Dogma and Hypothesis: Purgatory, Limbo, and Catholic Views of the Afterlife,” *Beyond the Grave: Christian Interfaith Perspectives*, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (March 18).
- “Riting the Life Cycle: Academic Approaches and Conceptual Considerations,” *From the Cradle to the Grave: Catholicism and Stages of Life in the Philippines*, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines (January 18).

- 2015 “Mormon/Catholic Dialogue: Thinking about Ways Forward,” *Mormons and Catholics: From the Margins to the Mainstream*, Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah (April 13).
- 2014 “Spiritual Bridges and Intellectual Byways: Reflecting on Mormon/Catholic Connections,” *Smith-Pettit Lecture*, Sunstone Symposium, University of Utah, Salt Lake City UT, (July 30).
- 2013 “The Legacy of Vatican II: From Theology of Religions to Comparative Theology,” *Revisiting Vatican II: 50 Years of Renewal*, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, India (Feb. 2.)
- 2010 “[Understanding Mormonism](#),” *Faith Seeking Understanding Lecture Series*, Gordon College, Wenham, MA, (Jan. 25).
- 2009 “The Case of Audrey Santo: Stigmata and Sanctity in American Catholicism,” *The Henry and Grace McNulty Lecture Series on Religion in the Modern World*, Niagara University, Niagara NY (April 29).
- 2001 “Catholicism, Untouchability and Inculturation in Contemporary North India,” Smith College, Northampton MA (April 19). Sponsored by the *Ada Howe Kent Fund*.

### **Invited Lectures and Symposia**

- 2025 “[Trump Policies and their Implications for Christians in Asia](#),” Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (ISAC), Singapore (Feb. 28).
- 2022 “[From the Dark Night of the Soul to Liberation Theology: Catholic Understandings of Suffering](#),” David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University (Oct. 11).
- 2019 "New Religions, Pluralism, and the Nation-State," Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Nov. 21)  
 "The Future of Catholic Higher Education," Bronson Symposium, Assumption College (Oct. 3).
- 2018 "Mercy: Surprised by Love," Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver CO (Sept. 16).
- 2017 “Sensuality, Sanctity, and Stigmata: The Case of Audrey Santo,” Politicization, Heritigization, and Sensualization in Contemporary Catholicism, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland (Nov. 13).
- 2015 “A Special Place: Imagining Goa from the Estado da India to Indian Independence,” Berkely Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University (Oct. 15).
- 2014 “The Invisible Weight,” Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and the Intellectual Life (June 21).
- 2010 Commentator and discussion leader for screening of *The Golden Compass*, *Religion and Science Fiction Lecture Series*, Wesleyan University, Middletown CT, (April 5).
- 2009 “Lessons from my Indian Father: Hindu Wisdom for Everyday Life,” Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester MA (Dec. 7).  
 “A Bleeding Heart: Personal and Theological Reflections on Service and Social Justice,” The New Hampshire Institute of Politics, St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH (Oct. 21).  
 “Ethnography and Catholic Identity,” Wesleyan University, Middletown CT (May 5).

- 2006 “The Aesthetics of Blood and Body in Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*,” Wesleyan University (Feb. 3).  
“Catholicism in a North Indian Village,” New Hampshire Institute of Politics, St. Anselm’s College, Manchester, NH, (Feb. 1).
- 2005 “The Silent Body of Audrey Santo,” Boisi Center for Religion and American Culture,” Boston College (Oct. 11).  
“The Culture of Betel Nut in Contemporary India,” Seattle, WA. Sponsored by The University of Washington South Asia Outreach Center (May 21).
- 2004 “The Stigmata of Audrey Santo,” Wesleyan University, Middletown CT (March 25).
- 2002 “The Charisms of Ethnography,” Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge MA (April 3).
- 2001 “Catholicism in a North Indian Village: What It’s Like and What Can We Learn from It?” Boston College, Boston MA, October 11. Sponsored by the Catholic Studies Program and *Religion and the Arts*.

### Conference Papers

- 2024 “Sri Lankan Catholic Identity after the 2019 Easter Bombings,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego (Nov. 24).  
“Christian or Not? Classificatory Reflections on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” European Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Palermo, Sicily (May 20).
- 2022 “Catholic Body Horror: Asceticism and Eroticism in Fred Schepisi’s *The Devil’s Playground* (1976),” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver (Nov. 19).
- 2017 “‘My Ways are not Your Ways:’ The Discourse of Sin and Success in a North Indian Catholic Charismatic Television Show,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston (Nov. 19).  
“Shame, Body, and Political Mobilization,” Religion, Protest, and Social Upheaval, The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester (Nov. 15).  
Respondent, “When Gods Read What We Write,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meeting, New Orleans (May 16).
- 2016 “‘My Ways are not Your Ways:’ The Fraught Discourse of Sin and Success in a North Indian Catholic Charismatic Television Show,” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis MN (Nov. 19).
- 2015 “Dalit Practices: Home Altars,” Catholic Cultures, Indian Cultures, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore (Jan. 15)  
“Catholicism and the Problem of Culture,” Catholic Cultures, Indian Cultures, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore (Jan. 12)
- 2013 “Dalit Theology and the Problem of Culture,” Revisiting Vatican II: 50 Years of Renewal, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, India (Feb. 2)
- 2008 Presider, “Dalits, Caste, and Christianity,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago (Nov. 3).

- “Distinguishing Between Hindu and Catholic Exorcism in a North Indian Village,”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago (Nov. 2).
- “Teaching Mormonism at a Jesuit Institution,” Sunstone Symposium, Salt Lake City, UT (Aug. 8).
- “Is a Rameumpton Just a Rameumpton? A Freudian Approach to the *Sugar Beet*,”  
Sunstone Symposium, Salt Lake City, UT (Aug. 7).
- 2007 “Female Authority and the Miraculous in the Cult of Audrey Santo,”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego (Nov. 20).
- “Texts, Taboos, and Tussles: Teaching Mormonism at a Jesuit Liberal Arts College,”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego (Nov. 17).
- 2004 “Teaching Mormonism in the Catholic Classroom,” Sunstone Symposium, Salt Lake City, UT, (Aug. 12).
- “Catholicism and Nationhood in South Asia,” New Hampshire Institute of Politics,  
St. Anselm’s College, Manchester, NH (April 23).
- 2003 “Hinduism in New Age Catholicism,” Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Oct. 25).
- Presenter for a panel on Corrine Dempsey’s *Kerala Christian Sainthood*,  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, (Nov. 21).
- “Constructing Hinduism in Post-Colonial Catholicism,” Association for Asian Studies  
Annual Conference, New York (March 29).
- 2002 “Dalit Christian Conversion, Resistance and Salvation in Northern India,”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario (Nov. 23).
- “The Death of Comrade Moti: An Untouchable Catholic Memory from Northern India,”  
Practicing Catholic: Body, Performance and Contestation in Catholic Faith,  
The College of the Holy Cross, October 19. [expanded version of a paper presented October 1998]
- “The Silent Charisma of Audrey Santo: Reflections on a New Religious Movement  
in Contemporary Catholicism,” Center for the Study of New Religions International  
Conference, University of Utah/Brigham Young University, June 23.
- “A Virtual Indian Village on the World Wide Web,” College Theology Society Annual  
Meeting, St. John’s University, May 30.
- “Representation, Reciprocity and Concealment in the Virtual Village,”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington D. C., April 6.  
(Co-presented with Peter Gottschalk)
- 2001 “Hinduism and Islam in the Virtual Village,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting,  
Denver, November 19.
- Discussant following the screening of the film *Fishers of Men*, American Academy  
of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 17.
- “Inculturation and Irony in the Rise and Fall of a North Indian Catholic Mission,”  
Canadian Catholic Historical Association/American Catholic Historical Association Joint  
Conference, The University of Toronto, April 7.

- “No Other Gods before Me: Religio-Historical Reflections on Indian Catholic Inculturation,” College Theological Association Annual Meeting, Villanova University, June 1.
- 1999 “Teaching World Religions, Teaching Justice and Teaching Justly,” The Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education, Boston College, October 24.
- “Going Native for Jesus: Recruitment, Conversion and Ethnographic Transgressions in Catholic North India,” Going Native: Recruitment, Conversion and Identification in Cultural Research, The Ohio State University, May 22.
- 1998 “American Catholic, Indian Catholics: Reflections on Religious Identity, Ethnography and the History of Religions,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Orlando, November 23.
- “A Space for Redemption: Dalit Christian Identity and the Rituals of Charismatic Healing,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Orlando, November 21.
- “The Death of Comrade Moti: A Dalit Christian Memory,” Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin--Madison, October 17.
- “A Crab in the Basket: The Reluctant Political Candidacy of a Cāmar Woman in Eastern Uttar Pradesh,” Association for Asian Studies Conference, Washington, D.C., March 27.
- 1997 “Sins and Somatologies: Sexual Transgression and the Body in Indian Charismatic Healing,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 24.
- “Tales Untouchables Tell: Counter-Myths Among Landless Laborers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh,” Conference on South Asia, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 18.
- 1996 “A Slave for Jesus: Portrait of an Indian Charismatic Healer,” Conference on South Asia, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 19.
- 1993 “Vedanta and Christianity in the Thought of Swami Vivekananda and Brahmabhandhab Upadhyay,” Bengal Studies Conference, The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, September 24.
- 1988 “*Pān kā Saqāfatī Matalab*,” [The Cultural Significance of Betel Nut] The Karakoram Writers Conference, Gilgit, Pakistan. March 25.

## **Expert Declarations and Consulting**

- 2026 Expert Witness, Rene Perez and Chiara Espinal vs. City of Coral Gables. Retained for the Plaintiffs by Yaffe Law [defamation and New Religious Movements].
- 2025 Expert Witness, Patricia Knox v. Ashutosh Kaul. Retained for the Defendant by Bartlett LLP. [medical malpractice and New Religious Movements].
- Expert Witness, Satsunderta Khalsa v. Sikh Dharma International et al.  
Retained for the Defendants by Husch Blackwell LLP. [sexual abuse and New Religious Movements].
- 2024 Expert Witness, Brianna Bolden-Hardge v. California State Office of the Controller et al. Retained for the Plaintiff by Stanford Law School Religious Liberty Law Clinic. [religious liberty/discrimination and New Religious Movements]
- Consultant (Pro Bono), Case 21-2230, Oakley Police Department, Oakley, CA. [sexual abuse and New Religious Movements].
- 2006 World Religions Certification Program, Excelsior University.

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

### Opinion and Explanatory Journalism

- 2026 ["Themes of Peace and Human Dignity Have Been Central as Pope Leo Marks His First Year in Office,"](#) *The Conversation* (May 5).
- ["Pope Leo's Africa Journey: How Each Step Reflects His Mission of Peace,"](#) *The Conversation* (April 10).
- ["War in Iran Fails Just War Test,"](#) *National Catholic Reporter* (March 5).
- ["Speaker Johnson's Response to Pope Leo Reveals Christian Nationalism,"](#) *National Catholic Reporter* (Feb. 11).
- ["Inside the Election of Pope Leo XIV,"](#) *Holy Cross Magazine* (Feb. 1).
- 2025 ["How the Next Pope Will Be Elected—What Goes on at the Conclave,"](#) *The Conversation* (April 21). Reprinted as ["Como o próximo papa será eleito, e o que acontecerá no conclave,"](#) *The Conversation* (April 21).
- ["As "Right to Die" Gains More Acceptance, A Scholar of Catholicism Explains the Catholic Church's Position,"](#) *The Conversation* (March 31).
- ["Francis—A Pope Who Has Cared Deeply for the Poor and Opened Up the Catholic Church,"](#) *The Conversation* (Feb. 24). Revised and reprinted as "Francis—A Pope Who Cared Deeply for the Poor and Opened Up the Catholic Church," *The Conversation* (April 21); ["Francisco: un papa que se preocupó profundamente por los pobres,"](#) *The Conversation* (April 21).
- 2024 ["What Is Catholic Integralism?"](#) *The Conversation* (July 19). Translated into Spanish as [¿Qué es el Integralismo Católico?](#) *Dialetika* (July 25).
- ["Why Having Human Remains on the Moon Poses Difficult Questions for Members of Several Religions?"](#) *The Conversation* (Feb. 13). Co-authored with Joanne Pierce.
- 2023 ["What's Going on When. The Virgin Mary Appears and Statues Weep? The Answers Aren't Just about Science or the Supernatural,"](#) *The Conversation* (April 21). Reprinted as "¿Qué ocurre cuando se aparece la Virgen María y las estatuas lloran? Las respuestas no sólo tienen que ver con la ciencia o lo sobrenatural," *The Conversation* (Spain).
- ["Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses? A Religion Scholar Explains the Often Misunderstood Group,"](#) *The Conversation* (Mar. 10). Reprinted as 宗教学者が解説「エホバの証人」とはどんな組織なのか, *Courrier* (April 8); "Quiénes son los Testigos de Jehová, el grupo religioso a menudo perseguido cuyos miembros fueron atacados a tiros en Alemania," *Univision* (March 12). "Ap aitu Saksi-saksi Yehuwa: anhli agama menjawab," *The Conversation* (Indonesia).
- 2022 ["Pope Benedict XVI: A Man at Odds with the Modern World Leaves a Legacy of Intellectual Brilliance and Controversy,"](#) *The Conversation* (Dec. 31). Translated into Spanish as "Benedicto XVI: un hombre en desacuerdo con el mundo moderno," *The Conversation* (Dec. 31).
- ["The Catholic Church is Increasingly Diverse—And So Are Its Controversies,"](#) *The Conversation* (Sept. 13).
- 2021 ["What is a Cult?,"](#) *The Conversation* (Aug. 5).

- ["Controversy over Communion in the Catholic Church Goes Back 2000 Years,"](#)  
*The Conversation* (June 28).
- 2020 ["What Is Charismatic Catholicism?"](#) *The Conversation* (Sept. 25).
- 2019 ["Why Ending the Secrecy of Confession is so Controversial for the Catholic Church,"](#)  
*The Conversation* (Oct. 10).
- ["Bible Says To Welcome Refugees,"](#) *The Conversation* (July 17).
- ["Who Are Sri Lanka's Christians?"](#) *The Conversation* (April 21). Republished in [Newsweek](#), [Salon](#).
- ["After Cardinal Pell's Conviction: Can a Tradition-Bound Church Become More Accountable?"](#)  
*The Conversation* (March 1).
- ["Theodore McCarrick Will Continue to Be a Catholic Priest,"](#) *The Conversation* (Feb. 20).
- ["What Is the Great Commission and Why Is It So Controversial?"](#) *The Conversation* (Feb. 8).
- 2018 ["Can you Be Christian and Support the Death Penalty?"](#) *The Conversation* (Aug. 3).  
Translated into Spanish as [¿Puede un cristiano apoyar la pena de muerte?](#) for  
*The Conversation* [Spain].
- ["What is Behind Belief in Weeping Virgin Mary Statues?"](#) *The Conversation* (July 23).  
Republished in [LiveScience](#), [Phys.org](#).
- ["Why Religions of the World Condemn Suicide,"](#) *The Conversation* (June 12).  
Translated into Japanese as 世界の宗教が自殺をタブーとする理由 for [NewSphere](#).
- ["Pope Francis' Apologies for Abuse in Chile Would Have Once Been Unthinkable,"](#)  
*The Conversation* (April 17). Republished in [Sojourners](#).
- ["Why the Label 'Cult' Gets in the Way of Understanding New Religions,"](#) *The Conversation*  
(April 7). Republished in [Newsweek](#).
- 2017 ["Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses?"](#) *The Conversation* (May 4).  
Republished in *Associated Press*, *RNS*, *RealClear Religion*, [Newsweek](#).
- ["How the Catholic Church's Hierarchy Makes It Difficult to Punish Sexual Abusers,"](#) *The Conversation* (July 12). Republished in [Newsweek](#), [Salon](#).
- ["The Johnson Amendment: Incoherent and Ineffectual,"](#) *USNews and World Report* (Feb. 10).
- ["Who Becomes a Saint in the Catholic Church and Is That Changing,"](#) *The Conversation* (July 30).  
Republished in [Newsweek](#), *RNS*, *RealClear Religion*.
- ["Is Temptation such a Bad Thing?"](#) *The Conversation* (April 12).  
Republished through the *Associated Press*.
- ["What Is the True Meaning of Mercy?"](#) *The Conversation* (Feb. 8).  
Republished in *RNS*, *RealClear Religion*.
- ["Explaining Rakshabandan—A Hindu Festival that Celebrates the Brother/Sister Bond,"](#) *The Conversation* (Aug. 4). Republished in [RNS](#), *Quartz*.

- [“Taxing the Rich to Help the Poor? Here’s What the Bible Says,”](#) *The Conversation* (Dec. 10).  
Republished in *L.A. Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, [Salon](#), RNS.
- [“Christian Faith Doesn’t Just Say Disasters Are God’s Retribution,”](#) *The Conversation* (Sept. 6).  
Republished in [Salon](#).
- [“Is the Death Penalty Un-Christian?”](#) *The Conversation* (April 27).  
Republished in [Newsweek](#), RNS, *RealClear Religion*.
- [“What the Bible Says about Welcoming Refugees,”](#) *The Conversation* (Jan. 29).  
Republished in [Newsweek](#), *Time*, RNS, *RealClear Religion*.
- 2016 [“What Changes When Pope Francis Grants All Priests the Authority to Forgive Abortions,”](#)  
*The Conversation* (Dec. 4). Republished in [Salon](#), RNS, *RealClear Religion*.
- [“How Catholic Support Helped Donald Trump’s Victory,”](#) *Fortune* (Nov. 9).
- [“The Sins of Donald Trump,”](#) *Huffington Post* (Oct. 18).
- [“Why Some Catholics Love Donald Trump,”](#) *Fortune* (Aug. 7).
- [“A New Catholic Political Orthodoxy?”](#) *Huffington Post* (Feb. 22).
- [“The Orlando Massacre and the Power of Prayer,”](#) *Huffington Post* (June 14).
- 2015 [“Pope Francis Won’t Tolerate Income Inequality in America,”](#) *Fortune* (Sept. 20).
- [“Beyond the Conservative/Liberal Catholic Divide,”](#) *The Huffington Post* (Jan. 25).
- [“Holy Cross Project Tries to Answer: What is Catholicism?”](#) *Crux* (April 23).
- 2014 [“Sextremism at the Vatican,”](#) *The Huffington Post* (Dec. 9).
- [“Catholic Demon-Making,”](#) *The Huffington Post* (May 13).
- [“Who Does God Root For?,”](#) *The Huffington Post* (Sept. 30).
- [“Pakistan School Attack: The Symbolism is Unmistakable,”](#) *Cognoscenti* (Dec. 17).
- [“In India, Modi is Everywhere,”](#) *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (May 20).
- [“For Catholics, There’s Something About Torture,”](#) *The Huffington Post* (Dec. 16).
- 2013 [“A Franciscan Jesuit for Pope,”](#) *Washington Post* (March 13).
- [“What a Conclave Considers When Electing a New Pope,”](#) *Washington Post* (March 12)
- [“Cardinal Dolan: Pope or Pope Maker?”](#) *Washington Post* (March 11)
- [“Can America Fix Catholicism?”](#) *Washington Post* (March 7).
- [“Pope Benedict XVI, the great,”](#) *On Faith* (Feb. 25).
- [“Pope Benedict Resigns: The Power of Letting Go,”](#) *On Faith* (Feb. 11).

- [“The ‘Naked Pope’ and Catholic Outrage,” \*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#) (May 8); excerpted and commented upon in Jason King, “What Should We Do About the Naked Pope?” *Catholic Moral Theology* ([www.catholicmoraltheology.com](http://www.catholicmoraltheology.com)).
- [“Where Do We Put Tamerlan Tsarnaev?” \*On Faith\*](#) (May 6).  
Excerpted in Harold Mass, “Does Tamerlan Tsarnaev Deserve a Proper Burial?” *The Week* (May 6);  
Max Ehrenfreund, “Tsarnaev, Widow, Offer More Questions than Answers,” *The Washington Post* (May 6).
- 2012 [“A New Catholic Conversation on Sex?” \*On Faith\*](#) (April 11).  
Reprinted in edited form as “Teaching and Listening,” *Washington Post* (April 14);  
linked on the *RealClear Religion* website as “Cardinal Dolan’s New Conversation on Sex.”
- 2011 “What Is It About a Kiss?” *Catholic News Service* (November 22).  
[“Goodbye to Amy Winehouse, Living Celebrity Dead,” \*Religion Dispatches\*](#) (July 26).  
[“The Catholic Church: A Dysfunctional Family?” \*On Faith\*](#) (November 16).  
Linked on the *RealClear Religion* website; linked and commented on in the personal blog of Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York; also briefly excerpted in *First Things*; cited on “Daily Links” for *US Catholic*.  
[“Sex Abuse Scandal Brings Requiem for Dutch Catholicism,”](#)  
*National Catholic Reporter* (December 22).  
[“Holi: How Hindus Welcome Spring, and Love,” \*On Faith\*](#) (March 18).  
Reposted on the website of the *Ministry for External Affairs*, Government of India (March 18).  
[“Anders Behring Breivik: Christian Terrorist? Right Wing Extremist? Madman?” \*On Faith\*](#) (July 25).  
Excerpted on the *Atlantic Wire*, *Religion News Service*, and *BeliefNet*; linked on the *RealClear Religion* website; commented on in the blog for *Commonweal Magazine*.  
[“Bachmann’s Lack of Faith,” \*Worcester Telegram & Gazette\*](#) (September 7).
- 2010 [“Ireland’s Blasphemy Law: A Dangerous Anachronism,” \*Washington Post\*](#) (Jan. 9).
- 2009 [“A Papal Cry of Pain,” \*The Washington Post\*](#) (April 11).  
“Vote May Determine the Future of Democracy in Pakistan,”  
*Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (Sept. 5).  
[“Nuclear Disarmament is an Issue of Morality,” \*Washington Post\*](#) (Oct. 3).  
[“Obama’s Stem Cell Temptations,” \*The Washington Post\*](#) (March 14).  
[“Should Faith-Based Programs Getting Federal Money Discriminate?”](#)  
*The Washington Post* (February 14).  
[“Studying Sacred Texts: A Solitary Pursuit?” \*The Washington Post\*](#) (February 21).
- 2008 [“Why The Next Mormon President Matters,” \*On Faith\*](#) (February 1).
- 2007 “Saints Hiding in Pain,” *The Providence Journal* (September 14).  
Reprinted as “Mother Teresa’s Gift,” *MetroWest Daily News* (September 16).

“Attention Would-Be Saints: Get Your Papers Ready,” *Catholic Free Press* (April 11).

“[Benazir Understood the Line between Politics and Perception](#),”  
*Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (December 31).

“When Thinking about Pakistan, Don’t Forget about India,”  
*Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (November 12).

“[Benazir Will Find a Changed Pakistan upon Return](#),” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (October 3).

### **Analysis for Documentary Specials**

2023 “[In The Truth](#),” Dir. Mercedes Bankston (In Production).

2019 “[Hidden Beyond The Veil: A Documentary on What Comes Next](#),” Dir. Eric Bunch (In Production).

“[Jehovah's Witnesses: Special Report](#),” *Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath* (A&E), Nov. 13.

2018 “[Guns for God: The Church of the AR-15](#),” *ViceTV*, Nov. 12.

### **Commentary for Television and On-Line News Video**

2026 Interviewed for “[From Holy Cross's 'exorcism room' to a Boston crypt, these hidden spaces have haunted imaginations for decades](#),” Chronicle Boston Channel 5 (July 28).

Interviewed by John Moroney “[Trump’s Feud with Pope Leo](#),” NBC Channel 10, Boston (April 13).

Interviewed by Samantha Chaney, “[President Trump Clashes with Pope Leo, Calls Him ‘Terrible for Foreign Policy’](#),” WBZ News, Boston (April 13).

Interviewed by Mary Saladna on the Dispute between Pope Leo and President Trump, WCVB News, Boston (April 13).

2025 Interviewed by Jennifer Tran, “How advocates for survivors of clergy sex abuse are reacting to Pope Leo XIV,” Channel 7 News Boston (May 10).

Interviewed by Jay Dillon, “Pope Leo XIV,” KFYZ (May 9).

Interviewed by Marwan Zaatar on the Election of Pope Leo XIV, Alghad-TV (May 9).

Interviewed by Rebekah Castor for continuing coverage of the Election of Pope Leo XIV, Fox News (May 9).

Interviewed by Steve Gruber on the election of Robert Prevost as Leo XIV, The Steve Gruber Show (May 9).

Interviewed by Julie Zenderoudi about the election of Leo XIV for “About That,” CBC (May 8).

Interviewed for the on-going coverage of the Election of Leo XIV, Channel 7 News Boston (May 8).

Interviewed for the on-going coverage of the Election of Leo XIV, Channel 10 News, Boston (May 8).

Interviewed by Jay Dillon, “Who Could Be the Next Pope? These Are the Names to Know?,” KFYZ+

(May 7).

Interviewed by Martine Croxall for on-going conclave coverage, BBC World Service (May 7).

Interviewed for special report on the conclave by Channel 9 Australia (May 7).

Interviewed by Michelle Craig, “The Conclave Begins,” Newzroom Afrika (May 7).

Interviewed by Mary Saladna, “[Boston Archbishop Holds Mass Ahead of Conclave to Elect New Pope.](#)” Channel 5 News (May 6).

Interviewed by Rosemary Church, “Papal Conclave Set to Begin on Wednesday,” CNN International (May 4).

Interviewed for “[Possible Picks for the Next Pope.](#)” Channel 7 News Boston (April 26).

Interviewed for “[Pope’s Burial Place Reflects his “Humble, Essential,” Life, Rome’s Poor Will Pay Him a Final Tribute.](#)” WHDH 7 Channel 7 News Boston (April 26).

Interviewed by Eli Rosenberg, “[Boston-area Catholics Mourn Pope Francis, Await Naming of Successor.](#)” NBC 10 News, Boston (April 22).

Interviewed by WHDH News, “[A Time to Celebrate His Legacy: Catholic Scholar on the Death of Pope Francis.](#)” WHDH Channel 7 News, Boston (April 22)

Interviewed by Rob Way, “[Mourning Period for Pope Francis Begins Process of Naming New Pontiff.](#)” WHDH Channel 7 News, Boston (April 21)

Interviewed by WHDH News, “The Death of Pope Francis,” WHDH News Channel 7 Boston (April 21) [interviewed at the top of every hour from 5am to 11am]

Interviewed by Matt Fortin, Lauren Melendez, “[Pope’s Legacy Will Be One of Mercy, Mass. Professor Says.](#)” NBC 10 Boston (April 21)

Interviewed by Mary Saladna, “[Catholics Across Massachusetts Mourn Pope, Praise Groundbreaking Legacy.](#)” WCVB Channel 5, Boston (April 21).

Interviewed by Steve Lance, “[Pope Francis’ Legacy and Controversies.](#)” NTD News (April 21).

Interviewed by Genie Godula, “[Was Pope Francis Progressive Enough?](#)” France 24 (April 21).

Interviewed by Gemma Veness, “[Pope of the People: Professor Mathew Schmalz Discusses Legacy of Pope Francis.](#)” ABC News Australia (April 22).

Interviewed by Tom Zizka, “Death of Pope Francis,” Fox News 26, Houston (April 21).

Interviewed by Gene Levanchy, “[Holy Cross Professor Looks Back on the Life of Pope Francis.](#)” Fox News 25 Boston (April 21).

Interviewed by Dylan Arzoni, “The Death of Pope Francis: What Comes Next?” BBC World Service (April 21)

Interviewed by Dimitry Popov, “[The Death of Pope Francis.](#)” RTVI New York (April 21).

2024 Interviewed by Lisa Gresci, “[Sources: Cardinal O’Malley Retiring as Archbishop of Boston.](#)” Channel 7 News, Boston (Aug. 4).

- Interviewed for "[Satanic Temple Fighting for Representation in Public Schools](#)," NBC News (May 16).
- Interviewed for "[CBS6 Rewind: The Berkshires' Own Amityville Horror](#)," WGBR Channel 6 (May 15).
- 2023 Interviewed by Sharman Sacchetti, "[How Mass. Is Reacting to Pope Allowing Blessings of Same Sex Couples](#)," WCVB Channel 5 (Dec.18).
- Interviewed by Mike Sullivan, "[Pope Francis Allows Blessings of Same Sex Couples](#)," CBSNews Boston (Dec. 18).
- Interviewed by Simon Rios, "[Local Catholics React to Pope Permitting Same Sex Blessings](#)," WBUR (Dec. 18).
- 2020 Interviewed by Chris Flanagan, "[Joe Biden Joins JFK as Only Catholic President](#)," Fox News 25 (Nov. 9).
- 2019 Interviewed about the Easter Bombings in Sri Lanka, [BBC1 Breakfast](#), April 21.
- 2018 "[The Catholic Church is Broken: Can It Be Saved?](#)" *Think* (NBC News), Aug. 24.
- 2016 [Interviewed by Bishop Robert Reed and Jay Fadden on Mercy Matters: Opening Yourself to the Life-Changing Gift](#), *This is the Day*, CatholicTV (Dec. 20).
- [Interviewed by Carolee McGrath on Mercy Matters: Opening Yourself to the Life-Changing Gift](#), *The Gist*, CatholicTV (Oct. 4).
- 2015 Interviewed by Chris Matthews for Special Coverage of Pope Francis in Philadelphia, MSNBC (Sept. 26).
- Live in-studio commentator for coverage of the Papal address to Congress, New England Cable News (Sept. 24).
- Live in-studio commentator for coverage of the Papal visit to the White House, New England Cable News (Sept. 23).
- Interviewed by Mary Saladna, "Holy Cross Students To See Pope Address Congress," WCVB Channel 5 (Sept. 22).
- 2014 Interviewed by Erica Ayisi, "Local Reaction to Pope's Upcoming US Visit," *Worcester News Tonight*, Channel 3 (Nov. 17).
- 2013 Interviewed by Larry Kudlow, "[Capitalism and Christianity](#)," *The Kudlow Report*, CNBC (August 7). Reposted in the Huffington Post, RawFeed.
- Interviewed by Steve Aveson, "[Mathew Schmalz on New Pope, Cardinal O'Malley's Return](#)," *Morning Edition*, New England Cable News Network, (March 25).
- Interviewed by Steve Aveson, "[Religious Studies Professor Excited by Papal Election](#)," *Morning Edition*, New England Cable News Network, (March 14).
- Interviewed by Maria Stephanos, "Holy Cross Professor Discusses New Pope," *Fox 25 Evening News*, Channel 25 (March 13).

Interviewed by Steve Aveson, “[Religious Studies Professor Discusses Papal Election](#),” *Morning Edition*, New England Cable News Network, (March 13) [two segments].

Interviewed by Steve Aveson, “Conclave Begins Today,” *Morning Edition*, New England Cable News Network, (March 12).

Interviewed by Kristen Carosa, “[The Papal Conclave: Expect the Unexpected](#),” *Worcester News Tonight*, Channel 3 (March 11).

Interviewed by Mike Beaudet, “Women in the Church,” *Fox 25 News*, Channel 25 (March 10).

Interviewed by Gene Levanchy, “Religious Studies Expert Discusses Pope Retiring,” *Fox Morning News*, Channel 25 (February 26).

Interviewed by Steve Aveson, “[Cardinal O’Malley Becoming First American Pope?](#)” *Morning Edition*, New England Cable News Network, (Feb. 20).

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- 2025 Interviewed by John Mercure, “The Election of Leo XIV,” 620WTMJ Milwaukee (May 12).
- Interviewed on the Election of Pope Leo XIV, BBC World Service (May 8).
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- Interviewed for on-going coverage of the Papal Conclave, 710KURV (May 7).
- Interviewed by Ed Fingers, “The Papal Conclave,” 700WLW Cincinnati (May 5).
- Interviewed by Scott Sands on the Papacy of Pope Francis, The Scott Sands Show 1370 WSPD Toledo (April 22).
- Interviewed on the DFW Morning News about Pope Francis, 570KLIF Dallas (April 21)
- Interviewed by Ed Fingers, “After Pope Francis,” 700WLW Cincinnati (April 21).
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- Interviewed for "[Can the Pope's Climate Message Make a Difference](#)," *Newshour*, BBC News World Service (Oct. 29).
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- Interviewed about Catholic reactions to LGBTQ+ Pride Month, Sunday Breakfast: News and Faith, BBC Coventry and Warwickshire (June 9).
- Interviewed Imam Arif Rawahuddin Khan and Qayyum Rashid on [Drive Time UK](#), [Voice of Islam](#) on face-veiling bans in Sri Lanka (May 20).
- Interviewed by Hank Stolz on the Sri Lanka Bombings, [Talk of the Commonwealth](#) (April 24).
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- 2017 Interviewed by Rhod Sharp on Pope Francis' visit to Myanmar, BBC Radio 5 (Nov. 28)
- Interviewed by Stephen Crilley on Pope Francis and Capital Punishment, FM4 Austrian Radio, Vienna, (Oct. 25).
- 2016 "Mercy and Atonement," *Mormon Matters* 399-340 August 8 (mormonmatters.org)
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- Interviewed by Teresa Tomeo about "Mercy Matters: Opening Yourself to the Life Changing Gift," *The Catholic Connection*, Ave Maria Radio (July 22).

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- Comment in Meredith Somers, "[In the Company of a Saint, Catholics Gear Up for a Rare Double Canonization](#)," *Washington Times* (April 24).
- Comment in Bronislaw Kush, "[Sunrise Services Welcome Easter](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (April 21).
- Comment in Stephanie Turaj, "[Prout Principal Will Not Resign After Controversial Assembly](#)," *IndependentRI.com* (April 17).
- 2013 Comment in Alex Hopkins, "[Attendance draw still flat: 'Francis Effect' Has Negligible Impact for U.S. Catholics](#)," *Washington Times* (Nov. 26).
- Comment in Rachel Zoll, "[Pope's Rep: US Bishops Shouldn't Preach Ideology](#)," *Associated Press* (Nov. 11).
- Comment in Nele Mailin Obermueller, "[Ouster of 'Bishop of Bling' Puts Heat on Wealthy German Catholic Church](#)," *Christian Science Monitor* (Nov. 3).
- Comment in Craig Semon, "[New Pastor on Mission to Raise Congregation Size and Ministry at Church](#)," *Worcester Telegram and Gazette* (Oct. 25).
- Comment in Carol J. Williams, "[Suspended Bishop of Bling Was Bound to Irk Austere Pope Francis](#)," *Los Angeles Times* (Oct. 23).
- Comment in Nele Mailin Obermueller and Jabeen Bhatti, "[Bishop's Suspension a Symptom of](#)

[German Catholic Church's Wealth](#),” *Religion News Service* (Oct 23). [Reprinted in edited form in *USA Today*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*]

Comment in Mark Koba, “[A Blunt Pope Francis Takes On Free Market Economics](#),” *CNBC* (August 6) [reposted on nbcnews.com on April 7].

Comment in Mark Arsenault, “[Pope Francis Says He Accepts Gay Priests](#),” *Boston Globe* (July 30).

Comment in Andrej Matisak, Miloslav Surgoš, “[Zlom pre cirkev alebo všetko po starom?](#)”[Turning Point in the Church, or Business as Usual], *Pravda* [Czech Republic] (March 16).

Comment in Kevin Koczwara, “Holy Cross Professor Hopeful that Pope Francis Will Bring Fresh Air into the Papacy,” *Mass.Live* (March 15).

Comment in Andrej Matisak, *Matisak's Blog: A Stamp on the World*, “A 100 Days for Pope Francis?” (March 14) <http://matisak.wordpress.com/>

Comment in Bronislaw Kush, “[Bishop McManus: I Was Surprised by the Decision](#),” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (March 14).

Comment in Andrej Matisak, *Matisak's Blog: A Stamp on the World*, “What to Expect in the Conclave,” (Feb. 28) <http://matisak.wordpress.com/>

Comment in Carol J. Williams, “[Politics, Personalities Drive the Decision on who Will be Pope](#),” *Los Angeles Times* (Feb. 22).

Comment in Rob Vreenken, “[De verlossing moet uit het Zuiden komen](#),”[Redemption Must Come from the South] *Volkskrant.nl* [Netherlands] (Feb. 16).

Comment in Carol Williams, “[Pope's Resignation, a Generous Act, Could Transform Vatican](#),” *Los Angeles Times* (Feb. 13).

Comment in Andrej Matisak, “[Benedikt bol bezmocný proti intrigám](#),” [Benedict Was Powerless Against the Intrigue] *Pravda* [Czech Republic] (Feb. 13).

Comment in Rachel Zoll, “[Papacy Buffeted by Changes in the Modern World](#),” *Associated Press* (Feb. 12).

Comment in Ruby Russell, Janelle Dumalaon, Sumi Somaskanda and Eric J. Lyman, “[From Humble Beginnings, Benedict Made his Mark on Faith](#),” *USA Today* (Feb. 11).

Bronislaw Kush, “[Local Reaction One of Stunned Surprise](#),” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (Feb. 12).

Michael Naughton, “Could Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley Be the Next Pope?” *Metro.US* (Feb. 11).

Comment in John Baldoni, “[Pope Benedict: Leadership Lesson for People in Power](#),” *Forbes* (Feb. 11).

2012 Comment in Vikki Ortiz Healy, “[Church is on a mission with indoor playground in Lisle](#),” *Chicago Tribune* (Jan. 20).

Comment in John Southwick, “[Faith and our Forefathers](#),” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (March

22).

Comment in Susan Spencer, Shaun Sutner, and Thomas Caywood, "[History of Church of the End Times outside the Norm](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (Oct. 14).[front page article]

Comment in Maryclaire Dale, "[Pa. Abuse Case Points Up Obedience versus Conscience](#)," *Associated Press* (June 23). Published in 240 media outlets.

"[HC Professor Explains Religion and Politics Furor](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (March 10).

Comment in Rachel Zoll, "[Santorum not only Conservative Nauseated by JFK 1960 Speech; View Shared by many on Right](#)," *Associated Press* (Feb. 28).

Comment in Huma Khan, "[Catholic Church versus Obama in Election Year Show Down](#)," *ABC News Online* (January 30).

Comment in Bronislaw Kush, "[Tebow's Faith just another Side of Sports](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (Jan. 14).

2011 Comment in Huma Khan, "[Is the Tea Party a Religious Movement?](#)" *ABCNews Online* (Oct. 18).

Comment in John Blake, "[Four Ways 9/11 Changed America's Attitude Toward Religion](#)," *CNN* (September 4).

Excerpted in Rob Kirby, "Washington Post: Norway Killer Not A Religious Christian," *BeliefNet* (July 26).

Excerpted in John Hudson, "[The Roots of Breivik's Rage](#)," *The Atlantic Wire* (July 25).

Comment in David O'Reilly and Michael Matz, "[Cardinal Rigali Introduces Successor, Offers an Apology](#)," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (July 19) [front page article].

Comment in David O'Reilly and Michael Matza, "[Denver Archbishop Expected to Replace Cardinal Rigali](#)," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (July 18).

Comment in "Politics: A Religious Vocation?" [a brief excerpt from my *On Faith* blog on Michele Bachmann and Mike Huckabee] *Washington Post* (June 4).

Comment in Bronislaw Kush, "[John Paul II Sainthood](#)," *Worcester Telegram and Gazette* (April 30).

Comment in "A Secular Society, A Religious Wedding?" [a brief excerpt from my *On Faith* blog—on the royal wedding] *Washington Post* (April 24).

Comment in "Resisting Blasphemies," [a brief excerpt from my *On Faith* blog—on desecrating the Qur'an] *Washington Post* (April 9).

Comment in Sumi Somaskanda, "[Catholics Rethink Celibacy Rule](#)," *The Washington Times* (February 16).

Comment in Christina Koningisor, "[The Return of Catholic Exorcism](#)," *The Atlantic* (January 27).

2010 Comment in Jessica Ravitz, "[On Trial: Faith, Delusion, or Excuse for Crime](#)," *CNN Belief Blog* (November 15). Comment in "The Executioner's Tweet," [a brief excerpt from my *On Faith* blog—on the execution of Ronnie Lee Gardner] *Washington Post* (June 26).

Comment in “Do Animals Have Rights?” [a brief excerpt from my *On Faith* blog—on the integrity of animals in Catholic thought] *Washington Post* (June 19).

Referenced in “Guest Voices” [relating to my defense of Lady Gaga’s eroticism in my *On Faith* blog] *Washington Post* (June 19).

Comment in Miloslav Surgoš, “[Ján Pavol Superstar otvoril Vatikán svetu](#),” [John Paul Superstar Opened Vatican to the World] *Pravda* (April 3). Separate analysis on the sexual abuse scandal in “[Cirkevné škandály obraz poľského pápeža nepoškriabu](#),” [Scandals Tarnish the Picture of the Pope] *Pravda* [Czech Republic] (April 3).

Comment in Peggy Stack, “[Should Politicians Heed Their Prophet or Pope?](#)” *Salt Lake City Tribune* (February 6).

2009 Comment in “From the Panel,” *Washington Post* (December 5) [a brief excerpt from my *On Faith* blog—on the Swiss banning of minarets].

Comment in Rick Westhead, “[India’s New Bible Wears a Bindi](#),” *Toronto Star* (November 7).

Comment in Dan Gilgoff, “How Meeting the Pope Can Change Obama’s Rocky Catholic Narrative,” *US News & World Report* (July 9).

Comment in Patrick Condon, “[As Abuse Scandals Dim, St. Paul Lawyer Keeps Suing](#),” *Associated Press* (May 18).

Comment in Alicia Lincoln, “Education and Social Justice,” *America* (May 11).

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, “Mormonism Rooted in Central Mass,” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (March 15).

Comment in Ed Stoddard, “[Obama Must Work for Compromise in U.S. Culture War](#),” *Reuters* (January 17).

2008 Comment in Anna Griffin, “[Piety and Politics](#),” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (October 31).

Comment in Laurie Smitherman, “[Catholic Group Opposes Slots](#),” *Baltimore Sun* (October 23).

Comment in Kirsten Danis and Corky Siemaszko, “[Experts are Speculating on Possible Successor for Cardinal Egan](#),” *New York Daily News* (April 22).

Comment in Matthew Hay Brown, “[Facing Priest Abuses, Pope Initiates Healing](#),” *Baltimore Sun* (April 21).

Comment in Michael Paulson, “[Flock Praises Pope as Visit Ends](#),” *Boston Globe* (April 21).

Comment in Corky Siemaszko, “[Bookish Benedict is No John Paul II](#),” *New York Daily News* (April 19).

Comment in Peter Schworm, “[Pontiff Tells Catholic Educators not to Stray from the Church](#),” *Boston Globe* (April 18).

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, “[Pope to Focus on Catholic Higher Ed](#),” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (April 17). [front page article]

Ian Fisher and Laurie Goodstein, "[Pope, in U. S., Is 'Ashamed' of Pedophile Priests](#)," *New York Times* (April 16). [front page article]

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, "[Disaffected Catholics Plan Protests for Pope's Visit](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (April 15).

Comment in Jay Tokasz, "America Set to Take Benedict's Measure," *Buffalo News* (April 14). [front page article]

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, "[Pope Is Bringing a Message of Hope](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (April 13). [front page article]

Comment in Liz Kay, "The Ticket for Catholics," *Baltimore Sun* (April 13).

Comment in Michael Paulson, "[A Critical Visit for Benedict, U. S. Flock](#)," *Boston Globe* (April 13). [front page article]

Comment in Michael Conlon, "Pope May Find Willing Ear among U. S. Catholics," *Reuters* (April 10).

Comment in Nicole Neroulis, "Pope's Fans an Added Security Challenge," *Religion News Service* (March 31).

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, "[Split in Churches Rises with Easter](#)," *The Worcester Telegram and Gazette* (March 23).

Comment in Jacqueline L. Salmon and Michelle Boorstein, "Catholic College Leaders Expect Pope to Deliver Stern Message," *The Washington Post* (March 14). [front page article]

Comment in Matt Bigelow, "Hillary Retiring? Obama Rising? Ask the Nation's Catholics," *US Catholic Magazine* (March 4).

Comment in Jennifer Forker, "Lenten Foods to Love," *Associated Press* (January 19). [later published under "Savory Sacrifice," "The Flavors of Lent," etc]

Comment in Manya Brachear, "[De-Sci-Phering the Tom Cruise Video](#)" ["The Seeker" Religion Blog] *Chicago Tribune* (January 16).

2007 Comment in Aaron Gouveia, "[Bhutto Killing Shakes Cape](#)," *Cape Cod Times* (December 28).

Comment in Elaine Thompson, "[Do You Believe Miracles Happen?](#)" *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (December 25). [front page article]

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, "[Evangelicals May Prefer Huckabee](#)," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (December 7). [front page article]

Comment in Carla Marianucci, "[Romney's Goal to Calm Fears in Speech on his Mormon Faith](#)," *San Francisco Chronicle* (December 5).

Comment in Glen Johnson, "Analysis: Romney's 'Mormon Speech' Risk," *Associated Press* (December 3).

Comment in Carla Marianucci, "Clinton, Democrats Find Religion, Court Evangelical Voters," *San Francisco Chronicle* (December 3).

Comment in Paul Wiseman, "Official: U.S. Forced Pakistan to Allow Bhutto Back," *USA Today* (Oct.

29).

Comment in Rich Rogers, “Catholics and Zarahemla Books” *The Independent* (Oct. 28).

Comment in Bronislaus Kush, “Mormons Can Face Resistance,” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (Oct. 7). [front page article]

Comment in Paul Rolly, “Catholic Kids Study LDS Fiction,” *Salt Lake Tribune* (Sept. 21).

Comment in Liz Kay, “Enthusiastic Catholics Clamor for Mass of Past,” *Baltimore Sun*, (February 25).

2005 Comment in Alex Beam, “The Pope and a Puzzling African King,” *Boston Globe*, (August 4).

Comment in “HC Faculty Urge Pope to Shed Rigid Persona,” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, (April 25).

Comment in Michael Hill, “A New Church for a New Pope,” *Baltimore Sun*, (April 10)

Comment in Joshua Kurlanzik, “John Paul II: The Living Church,” *U. S. News and World Report*, (April 2).

Comment in Michael Paulson, “U.S. View of Scandal not Shared by Rest of World,” *Boston Globe* (April 8).

## Webinars

2025 “The Election of Pope Leo XIV,” Webinar for Holy Cross Alumni (Sept. 26).

2017 “Mercy Matters,” Presentation for the Holy Cross Spirituality Book Club, Feb. 1/ 2.

2016 “Mercy Matters: Opening Yourself to the Life-Changing Gift,”  
Webinar for Our Sunday Visitor (June 27).

2015 “Pope Francis in America: Looking Back and Looking Forward,”  
Webinar for Holy Cross Alumni (October 22).

## TEACHING

### Teaching Positions

- 2019- Professor, Department of Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- 2005- Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross,  
2018 Worcester, MA.
- 1998- Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross,  
2005 Worcester, MA.

### Graduate Teaching, Mentoring, and Teaching Assistantships

- 2014 Faculty Mentor, Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and the Intellectual Life,  
The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- 2012 Dissertation Committee, "Beyond Hindu and Christian: The Khrist Bhaktas,"  
Kerry San Chirico, Catholic Studies Program, University of California Santa Barbara.
- 2011 Faculty Mentor, Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and the Intellectual Life, The College of the  
Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- 2008 Doctoral Examination Committee for Kerry San Chirico, Catholic Studies Program,  
University of California Santa-Barbara.
- 2005 Doctoral Examination Committee for Kerry San Chirico, Department of Theology, Boston  
College, Boston MA.
- Faculty Mentor, Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and the Intellectual Life, The College of the  
Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- 1994 Instructor, "Introduction to the Humanities," Summer Program for Entering Students, The  
University of Chicago.
- Research Assistant to Professor Wendy Doniger, The Divinity School, The University of Chicago.
- 1991- Writing Tutor, The College, Little Red Schoolhouse Program, The University of Chicago.  
1994

### Study Abroad Programs Developed

#### The College of the Holy Cross

Bangalore: Social Justice in Context (ABRD 304)

A month long "Maymester" in residence with the Jesuit Community in Bangalore, India. The first two weeks of the program were dedicated to a study of social justice issues in India, including: Hindu religiosity, religious diversity, gender, caste, economic development, and education. During last two weeks of the program, students participated in internships at the Sumanahalli Society [a hospital for leprosy and HIV/AIDS with an attached school] and Janaastu [an NGO focusing on developing culturally appropriate technology]. The academic programming was complemented by extensive fieldtrips in Bangalore and to the Raichur District in Karnataka and Wayanad in Kerala.

### Courses Developed

### The College of the Holy Cross

Comparative Religions: Worldview (RELS-120-01/02); Hinduism (RELS-204-01); Comparative Catholicisms (RELS-276-01); Modern Religions Movements (RELS-277-01); Ancient and Medieval Hinduism (RELS-165-01); Modern and Contemporary Hinduism (RELS-265); Themes in Catholic Mysticism (HNRS-210); Mormonism (RELS-199-01); Religion and Violence (HNRS-299); Religion and the Erotic (HNRS-299); Global Catholicism (RELS-299).

### St. Joseph's College

Introduction to World Religions (HU 302).

## **Tutorials Taught**

### The College of the Holy Cross

Globalization in India (Spring 2002); Christian Myths and Legends (Fall 2002); Gender and Sexuality in Indian Religions (Fall 2002); Modern Indian Literature (Spring 2003); Indian Cinema (Fall 2003); Theory and Method in the Academic Study of Religion (Fall 2004); Psychology and Religion (Spring 2005); Catholicism in Modern Literature (Fall 2005); Advanced Readings in the Study of Modern Religious Movements (Spring 2007); Health and Healing in South Asia (Spring 2011); Mircea Eliade (Fall 2017); Joseph Smith: Prophet (Fall 2018).

## **Research Projects and Honors Theses Advised**

### The College of the Holy Cross

Q-Anon and Christian Nationalism," Paul Pardo Cota, Weiss Summer Research Program, 2021.

"Pain and Passion: Saint Catherine of Siena's Mystic Path," Katherine Goza, The College Honors Program, Class of 2020.

"Shaivite Revivalism and Facebook: Negotiating Tamil Hindu Identity from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present," Maire White, The College Honors Program, Class 2020.

"The Prophetic Matrix of the Davidian Movement, " Galen Comerford, The College Honors Program, Class of 2019.

"Is Terrorism Justified?" Blake Basmajian, The College Honors Program, Class of 2018.

"Making Black Catholics: The Language and Politics of Evangelization," Alden Coffin, The College Honors Program, Class of 2015. (reader)

"The Tata Group and Indian Nationalism," Haley O'Brien, The College Honors Program, Class of 2013. (reader)

"Battle Lines: The Rhetoric of War in the HHS Debate," Sara Bovat, Washington Semester Thesis, Class of 2014.

"Inconspicuous Consumption," Meredith Winter, Fenwick Scholar, Class of 2011. (reader)

"Authority and Mormon Polygamy," Brian Regan, The College Honors Program, Class of 2010.

"The Dark Night at Manresa," Rebecca Krier, Fenwick Scholar, Class of 2009.

“What Would Jesus Do?” Matthew Mohorovich, The College Honors Program, Class of 2008.

“Portrayals of Islam in the Popular Media,” Amanda Eleuteri, The Washington Semester Program, Class of 2008.

“India and America’s Nuclear Policy,” Megan Miller, The Washington Semester Program, Class 2008.

“Female Bonds,” Sarina Borase, The College Honors Program, Class of 2007.

“Roman Sacred Space,” Kristin Heimsath, The College Honors Program, Class of 2005 (reader)

“‘I Wanted to Live:’ Female Agency and Power within the Family in Indian Cinema,” Brian Barish, The College Honors Program, class of 2004.

Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education Program (Fall 2013)

“Globalization, Liminality, and Right-Wing Religious Mobilization: The Female Body and the Body Politic in Buddhist Nationalism,” Robin Jones, Bates College.

“Jammin’ in Jaffna: An Exploration of Carnatic Music and the Nadaswaram in Jaffna, Sri Lanka,” Maja Black, Carleton College

“Happiness and Individualism. An Examination of the Buddhist Pursuit of Happiness,” Elias Peirce, Bowdoin College.

“State of the Arts in Batticaloa: Community in the Face of Modernity,” Hanna Durham, Bard College.

“The Development of the Tourism Industry in Galle Fort and Its Effects on the Local Community,” Andrew Lau, Colby College.

“Don’t Cry Over Spilled Milk Tea: How Sri Lanka is Responding to Changes in the Global Tea Market,” Sam Powell, Carleton College.

“Universal Rights: A Report on US-Sri Lankan Relations Regarding Human Rights,” Derek Grabhorn, The College of the Holy Cross.

## SERVICE

### Administrative Positions

2016- [Faculty Ombudsperson](#), The College of the Holy Cross.  
2019

Appointed by the Provost and trained by the International Ombudsman Association as a confidential resource for faculty concerning professional issues.

2013 Resident Faculty Director, Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education Program [[ISLE](#)], Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Directed a semester-long study abroad program, maintained by a consortium of liberal arts colleges [Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Carleton, Holy Cross, Swarthmore], for American students in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Developed curriculum and taught a seminar in Sri Lankan studies; advised, mentored and evaluated student fieldwork projects on Sri Lankan culture and society. Led academic tours throughout Sri Lanka, including previously closed northern areas [Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Northern Vavuniya], the eastern coast [Batticaloa], central highlands [Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains], archeological sites [Anuradhapura, Polannaruwa], and the south [Kataragama, Galle]. Served as liaison with Peradeniya University, supervised student elective courses, and oversaw program staff on site in Kandy.

2007- Director, The College Honors Program, The Center for Interdisciplinary and Special  
2013 Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.

Selected by the Academic Vice-President after an application process open to all senior faculty. The Honors Director is responsible for interviewing and selecting members (32 accepted from 100 applications) for the College Honors Program, an academic community composed of 100 of the College's most accomplished students. The Director is also responsible for organizing and leading colloquia for Honors students, advising student honors theses, managing a budget of \$6,000.

2004- President, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi of Massachusetts, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2006

Elected by members of Pi of Massachusetts. Responsible for chairing all Phi Beta Kappa meetings and overseeing the final selection of Phi Beta Kappa members.

2002- Director, Asian Studies Concentration, The Center for Interdisciplinary and Special  
2004 Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.

Elected by Asian Studies faculty members. Responsible for recruiting visiting faculty, advising Asian Studies majors and concentrators (minors), planning co-curricular events and executing an annual budget of \$9,000. Also responsible for revising the requirements for the major. Developed an Administrative Handbook for all concentration directors. The Asian Studies Concentration is part of the Center for Interdisciplinary and Special Studies and has 12 faculty members from departments throughout the College, 32 students as majors and concentrators (minors), and offers 50 courses.

Vice-President and Historian, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi of Massachusetts, The College of the Holy Cross.

Responsible for the initial selection of candidates for membership and for arranging the annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture.

### Elected Professional Positions

2009- National Board Member, Lilly Network of Church Related Institutions.  
2013

2003- Board of Directors, Society for Hindu/Christian Studies, The American Academy of Religion.  
2004

### **Symposia Organized**

2025 “[Graduate Scholars Symposium for The Journal of Global Catholicism](#),” The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA, January 17-19.

2022 “International Graduate Scholars Symposium for The Journal of Global Catholicism,” The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA, April 23-24.

2016 “Catholics and Cultures Workshop,” Hilton O’Hare, Chicago IL, Nov. 8-9.

### **Editorial Board Positions**

2015- [Journal of Global Catholicism](#) (Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief).  
Present

[Asian Horizons: Dharmaram Journal of Theology](#).

2004- [Christian Higher Education](#).  
Present

2019- Scientific Committee, [Ethnologia Polona](#).  
Present

2015- [Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought](#).  
2020

2020- Editorial Board, [Studies on Global Catholicism](#), Brill Publishers.  
2023

### **Refereeing and Manuscript Evaluation**

SUNY Press (5 manuscripts).

*Asian Horizons* (5 articles).

*Christian Higher Education* (8 articles).

Routledge Press (2 manuscripts; 2 proposals).

Bloomsbury Press (2 proposals)

*History of Religions* (3 articles)

Syracuse University Press (2 manuscripts).

University of Helsinki Press (1 manuscript)

*Journal of Asian Studies* (2 articles).

*Teaching Theology and Religion* (2 articles).

*South Asia* (2 articles).

*Journal for the Social Scientific Study of Religion* (1 article).

*The Indian Anthropologist* (1 article).

*Religions* (1 article).

*University of Pittsburgh Press* (1 proposal)

Standard Research Grants program of the Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (1 Proposal).

### **Committees, Panels, and Other Service**

2008 Book Prize Committee, The Lilly Network of Church Related Institutions.

### **Elected College Positions**

2024 Recorder of the Faculty, The College of the Holy Cross.

2008- Curriculum Committee, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2010

2002- Committee on Faculty Affairs, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2004

Committee on Academic Standing, The College of the Holy Cross.

1999- At Large Faculty Representative, Committee on Interdisciplinary and Special Studies,  
2001 The College of the Holy Cross.

### **Appointed College Positions**

2014- Advisory Board, Center for Teaching, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2016

2006- Representative to the Lilly Network of Church Related Institutions.  
2013

2011- Strategic Planning Advisory Group, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2012

Committee on the Liberal Arts, The College of the Holy Cross.

2007- Committee for Nominating Watson Fellow Finalists, Office of Distinguished Grants and  
2009 Fellowships, The College of the Holy Cross.

### **Presentations to Holy Cross Alumni, Donors, and Board of Trustees**

2025 “Looking Toward the Pontificate of Leo XIV,” Lunchtime Learning Webinar, College of the Holy

Cross (Sept. 26)

2014 “Understanding Pope Francis,” Class of 1964 Reunion (June 7).

2013 “The Election of Pope Francis: What Does It Mean for Holy Cross,” Board of Trustees Development Committee Dinner (May 2).

“[The Election of Pope Francis: What Does It Mean for Global Catholicism?](#)” Holy Cross Alumni Webcast, (March 20).

2009 “Issues in Contemporary Catholicism,” Class of 1959 Reunion (June 4).

“Mardi Gras and Carnival in Historical Perspective,” Holy Cross Club of Providence, RI (Feb. 24).

## College Service

2026- Faculty Advisor to INDIA/DESI (the Indian Students Association), The College of the Holy Cross.  
Present

2002- Faculty Advisor to INDIA/DESI (the Indian Students Association), The College of the Holy Cross.  
2018

2009- Faculty Advisor to Cures for Kids, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2011

2004- Co-Facilitator, Junior Faculty Teaching Colloquium, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2006

2000- Faculty Advisor to ASIA (the Asian Students Association), The College of the Holy Cross.  
2002

## Departmental Service

2025 Search Committee for One Year Replacement in Buddhist Studies, Department of Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.

2022- Chair, Search Committee for Tenure Track Position in Global Catholicism, Department of  
2023 Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.

2021 Chair, Search Committee for One Year Replacement Position in Buddhist Studies, Department of  
Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.

2012- Chair, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Position in Religion in the Americas, Department of  
2013 Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.

2010- Assessment Committee, Department of Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2012

2007- Graduate Studies Advisor, Department of Religious Studies, The College of the Holy Cross.  
2010

2007- Chair, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Position in Islam, Department of Religious Studies,  
2008 The College of the Holy Cross.

## HONORS

### Professional Grants

- 2020 Recipient, Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Fellowship, "Catholicism in Lumimba, Zambia," Whiting Foundation (\$5,626) (declined due to Covid).
- 2002 "Prophecy and Politics in the Watchtower," The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Crawfordsville IN (\$7,000).
- 2000 "Arampur: A Virtual Indian Village on the World Wide Web," The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion (\$13,005).

Supplemental Travel Grant for "Arampur: A Virtual Indian Village on the World Wide Web," The Center for Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (\$750).

Supplemental Grant for "Arampur: A Virtual Indian Village on the World Wide Web," The South Asia Outreach Center, The University of Washington (\$200).

### Professional Honors and Awards

- 2026 ARRAY Faculty Writing Fellow, The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning.
- 2018 Finalist, Pen 2 Paper Non-Fiction Awards, "Affliction: Mental Illness and the Silence of God."
- 2011 Elected to Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honors Society.
- 2008 "The Saint of Worcester" selected for inclusion in *Best American Spiritual Writing 2008*.
- 2001-2002 Wabash Teaching Scholar, The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Crawfordsville IN (\$2,500).
- 2000 Faculty Fellow, The Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, St. John's University Collegeville MN (declined).
- 1999 Faculty Fellow, "Post-Modernism and the Humanities," A Seminar Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI (\$2,500).
- 1998-2005 Edward Bennett Williams Fellow, The College of the Holy Cross.

### Internal College Honors

- 2026 Faculty Writing Fellow, The College of the Holy Cross.
- 2012 The Arthur J. O'Leary Award for Faculty Achievement, The College of the Holy Cross.
- 2008 Headliner Award, The College of the Holy Cross, "presented to individuals who have significantly advanced the image and reputation of the College through their contributions to national print, radio, and television media outlets."

### Internal College Grants

- 2026 "Cross-Disciplinary Collaborative Teaching Initiative," for "Religion and Science" with Matthew Koss, Physics.

- 2009 “Religion and Violence,” Hewlett-Mellon Summer Grant in Ethics, The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- 2007 “The Conversion of Susan Atkins,” Research and Publication Award, The College of the Holy Cross.

### **Graduate Honors and Grants**

- 1996 American Institute of Indian Studies Fellow, 1/96-4/96 (\$4000, full year award declined).
- 1994- United States Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellow (\$22,000).  
1996
- 1994 Distinction for Qualifying Examinations, The University of Chicago.
- 1992- George A. Plimpton Fellow, Amherst College Alumni Award, 9/92-6/93 (honorary).  
1993
- 1991 National Resource Fellow (FLAS) for Bengali language study, The University of Chicago (\$3500).  
Committee on South Asian Studies Fellow, The University of Chicago, 6/91-8/91 (\$2000).
- 1990- George Stebbins Moses Fellow, Amherst College Alumni Award (\$1000).  
1991
- 1990 National Resource Fellow (FLAS) for Bengali language study, The University of Washington (\$3500).
- 1989- John Woodruff Simpson Fellow, Amherst College Alumni Award (\$500).  
1990
- 1989- Century Fellow, The University of Chicago (full tuition, yearly \$9000 stipend).  
1993

### **Undergraduate Honors and Grants**

- 1987- Thomas J. Watson Fellow, The Thomas J. Watson Foundation, (\$13,000).  
1988
- 1987 Phi Beta Kappa, Amherst College.
- Mosley Prize for Best Honors Thesis in Religious Studies, Amherst College, 5/87 (\$750).

Updated July 2026