

April 7, 2022

**Michael J. Altman**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies**  
**University of Alabama**

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**Academic Work Experience**

Fall 2019- Associate Professor (tenured)  
Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama  
Fall 2014-Spring 2019 Assistant Professor  
Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama  
Fall 2013-Spring 2014 Instructor  
Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama

**Education**

2013 Ph.D. Emory University (Religion, American Religious Cultures)  
*Dissertation: "Imagining Hindus: India and Religion in  
Nineteenth Century America"*  
2008 M.A. Duke University (Religion)  
2006 B.A. College of Charleston (Religious Studies, English)

**Grants (PI)**

2019-2023 \$350,000 Luce Foundation: Advancing Public Scholarship  
American Examples Program

**Research and Publications**

Peer-reviewed Books

*Wrestling with Religion: Working Theories of Culture*  
In progress.

*Hinduism in America: an Introduction* (London: Routledge), 2022.

*Heathen, Hindoo, Hindu: Representations of India in America, 1721-1893*, (New York:  
Oxford University Press), 2017.

Peer-reviewed Edited Books

*American Examples: New Conversations about Religion, Volume 1*, ed. (Tuscaloosa, AL:  
University of Alabama Press) 2021.

*American Examples: New Conversations about Religion, Volume 2*, ed. with Samah  
Choudhury and Prea Persaud (University of Alabama Press).  
Forthcoming December 6, 2022

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*American Examples: New Conversations about Religion, Volume 2*, ed. with Cody Musselman, Erike Kline, and Dana Lloyd (University of Alabama Press).  
Under contract. Forthcoming fall 2023.

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

“What is the Main Difference Between Hinduism and the More Popular Religions in America?” in *Hinduism in 5 Minutes*. Steven Ramey, ed. (Equinox Publishing)  
Forthcoming Fall 2022.

“We Haven’t Located Us Yet”: Wes Anderson and the Orientalism of Darjeeling Limited” in *Representing Religion in Film*. Tenzan Eaghil and Rebekka King eds. (London: Bloomsbury). Forthcoming July 28, 2022.

“Drugs, Dog Chow, and Dharma” in *On the Subject of Religion: Charting the Fault Lines of a Field of Study*, Dennis LoRusso, ed. (Sheffield, U.K.: Equinox Publishing)  
Forthcoming Fall 2022.

“Introduction: Something Someone Calls Religion Somewhere Someone Calls America” in *American Examples: New Conversations about Religion, Volume 1*. Michael J. Altman, ed. (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2021)

“Orientalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.” *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*. Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lu eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018)

“How Many Religions Are There?” in *Religion in 5 Minutes*. Russell McCutcheon and Aaron W. Hughes eds. (Sheffield, U.K.: Equinox Publishing, 2017)

“It’s Hard Out There for a Theorist” in *Theory in a Time of Excess: Beyond Reflection and Explanation in Religious Studies Scholarship*. Aaron W. Hughes ed. (Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing), 2017.

“The Business of Asian Religions: Guru Entrepreneurs and Godmen CEOs” in *The Business Turn in American Religious History*. John Corrigan, Darren Grem, and Amanda Porterfield eds. (New York: Oxford University Press) 2017.

“Death in *True Grit*” in *The Coen Brothers' Religion: Mythology, Morality and the American Landscape*. Elijah Siegler ed. (Fort Worth, Tex.: Baylor University Press, 2016).

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

“Believing History: The Construction of Evangelical Historiography”  
In progress, archival research delayed by COVID.

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with Jessica Fontaine and Eero Laine, "Pillman–Don't Work Me!!: A Work-Shoot Approach to Kayfabe in Professional Wrestling." *Pro Wrestling Studies Journal* 3, no 1 (2022): 1-15.

"Religion, Religions, Religious in America: Toward a Smithian Account of 'Evangelicalism.'" *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 31, no 1 (February 2019): 71-82.

"Before Hinduism: Missionaries, Unitarians, and Hindoos in Nineteenth Century America." *Religion & American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 26, no 2 (Summer 2016): 260-295.

"Where Did this Box of Books Come From?: In Search of an Explanation for The Norton Anthology of World Religions." *Theory and Method in the Study of Religion* 28 (2016): 287-296.

"The Construction of Hinduism in America" *Religion Compass* 10, no. 8 (2016): 207-216.

"Podcasting Religious Studies." *Religion* 45, no. 4 (2015): 573-584.

"Constructed in Doubt: The Evangelical Invention of Religion in Early America." *Fides et Historia* 46, no. 2 (Summer Fall/2014): 60-63.

"Dispelling the Magic: Blogging in the Religious Studies Classroom." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy* 25, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2014): 119-123.

"'The Manners and Customs of Nations': India in American Schoolbooks, 1830-1860." *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa* 35, no. 1 (Spring 2011): 1-21.

#### Edited Peer-reviewed Journal Issues

with Jessica Fontaine and Eero Laine, Kayfabe: Working Theories, *Professional Wrestling Studies Journal* 3, no. 1 (2022).

#### Other Essays, Articles, and Chapters

"Interviews" in *Remembering J. Z. Smith: A Career and its Consequence*. Emily D. Crews and Russell T. McCutcheon eds. (Sheffield, UK: Equinox, 2020).

"Some More Delightful Iconoclasm: A Response to Andrew Kunze." *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 47, no. 2 (June 2018):16-17.

"Hinduism" in *Dictionary of American History, Supplement: America in the World 1776 to the Present*. Edward J. Blum et al. eds. (Farmington Hills, Mich.: Charles Scribner's Son, 2016)

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“India” in *Dictionary of American History, Supplement: America in the World 1776 to the Present*. Edward J. Blum et al. eds. (Farmington Hills, Mich.: Charles Scribner’s Son, 2016)

“Religion and Education” in Gary Laderman and Luis León, eds. *Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions*. 4 vols. 2nd ed. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2014): 936-954.

“Swami Vivekananda and Hinduism in America” *Faith in the City: Chicago’s Religious Diversity*, A digital project of the Newberry Library.  
<http://faith.galecia.com/essays/swami-vivekananda-and-hinduism-america>

### Book Reviews

*Evangelicals: Who They Have Been, Are Now, and Could Be* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2019), Mark A. Noll, David W. Bebbington, and George M. Marsden eds., *Journal of American History*  
In Press. Forthcoming 2021.

*Church in the Wild: Evangelicals in Antebellum America* (Harvard University Press, 2019), Brett Malcolm Grainger, *Journal of the Civil War Era* 3, no. 10 (2020): 409-412.

*History and Presence* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2016), Robert A. Orsi, *Religion* 48, no. 3 (2018): 506-508.

*American Apostles: When Evangelicals Entered the World of Islam* (Hill and Wang, 2015), Christine Leigh Heyrman, *New England Quarterly*, 90, no. 4 (December 2017): 617-619.

*Scripturalizing the Human: The Written as the Political*, (Routledge, 2016), Vincent L. Wimbush, ed. *Critical Research on Religion* 5, no. 2 (August 2017): 221-224.

*The Production of American Religious Freedom* (NYU Press, 2016), Finbarr Curtis. *Religious Studies Review* 43, no. 2 (June 2017): 145-146.

*American Gurus: From Transcendentalism to New Age Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2014), Arthur Versulius. *The Journal of Religion* 96, no. 1 (January 2016): 159-161.

“Pig Pickin’ in North Carolina: Southern Secularism and Religion,” *The Secular Spectacle: Performing Religion in a Southern Town* (Oxford University Press, 2013). *Marginalia Review of Books* October 28, 2014  
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/pig-pickin-north-carolina-southern-secularism-religion/>

*Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012), Jeff Wilson. *Sociology of Religion* 73, no. 4 (Winter 2012): 456-457.

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### Digital and Public Humanities Projects

Co-Director, *Uncivil Religion: January 6, 2021* <http://uncivilreligion.org>

A digital resource created through a collaboration of the [University of Alabama's Department of Religious Studies](#) and the [Smithsonian's National Museum of American History](#).

*Uncivil Religion* curates pieces of digital media – tweets, videos, photos, FBI files – that represent the various and complex religious dimensions of the “Stop the Steal” protest in Washington, D.C. and riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The project also presents accompanying analysis of these digital media from experts in the study of religion and politics.

### Public/Digital Writing

2013-Present Studying Religion in Culture Blog  
Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama  
<http://religion.ua.edu/blog/author/maltman/>

2014-2018 *Marginalia Review of Books*  
Asian Section Editor  
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org>

2013-2016 *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture*  
<http://scholarblogs.emory.edu/sacredmatters>  
Managing Editor

2009-2015 Religion in American History Blog  
Posts at:  
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/search/label/michael%20altman%27s%20posts>

2009-2011 Religion Dispatches  
Began as guest blogger but became a regular contributor and also assisted editors/reporters with research for stories on religion and politics.  
Posts/articles at:  
<http://www.religiondispatches.org/contributors/michaeljaltman/>

### **Conference Presentations**

#### Paper Presentations

“Drugs, Dog Chow, and Dharma”

North American Association for the Study of Religion, November 2019

“Theory in a Time of Excess: On the Restraint of Theory”

North American Association for the Study of Religion/American Academy of Religion, November 2015

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“Hinduism and American Protestantism: Playing Out Domestic Debates Abroad”  
American Academy of Religion, November 2014

“Sightings and Blind Spots: The "Protestant Lens" and the Construction of Hinduism,”  
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2011

“American Hinduism: A Global Religion in the 19th Century,”  
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 2011

“Methodists and India: Mapping, Contact, and Travel in the Christian Advocate, 1860-1890,”  
American Society of Church History, January 2011

“The Manners and Customs of Nations:” India in American Schoolbooks, 1830-1860,”  
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, October 2010

“Enchantment, Knowledge, and Literature: Indian Religion in Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, 1850-1890,”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 2009

“Contact, Travel, and Mapping: Popular Representations of Hindus in Nineteenth Century American Magazines,”  
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2008

“Reason, Conflict and Christian Science: the Laurie Walker Case,”  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, March 2008

“Towards an Interdisciplinary Theory of Diaspora,”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 2008

“Imagined Contact: Representations of Hindus in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Print,”  
Cultures in Contact: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate History Symposium, University of Toronto, February 2008

“The Newest Branch on the Tree: Tracing the Genealogy of the American Religions Timeline,”  
American Society of Church History, January 2008

“Christian Exodus: Christianity, Constitution, and Marketing,”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 2006

#### Roundtables

“Hail, Caesar!”  
American Academy of Religion, November 2016

“Teaching the "Asian Religions" Survey: Challenges and Opportunities”

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American Academy of Religion, November 2015

“Doubting the Democratization Thesis: A Roundtable Discussion of Amanda Porterfield’s *Conceived in Doubt: Religion and Politics in the New American Nation*”

American Society of Church History, January 2014

“Exceeding Boundaries: Approaches to Transnationalism in North American Religions,”  
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2012

“Religion: A President’s Perspective with President Jimmy Carter,”  
Emory University, February 2010

“Multi-Faith Religious Liberalism,” Roundtable of the Unitarian Universalist Friends and  
Scholars,

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2009

### **Teaching Training**

Fall 2014      Active Learning Initiative  
                    University of Alabama College of Arts & Sciences

Fall 2011      Technology, Pedagogy, Curriculum  
                    Emory Center for Interactive Teaching

Summer 2009 Piedmont Program in Sustainability, Teaching, and Curriculum  
                    Emory University

### **Courses Taught**

University of Alabama

REL 100 (105)	Honors Introduction to Religious Studies (Honors)
REL 130	Religion, Politics, and Law
REL 241 (245)	American Religious History (Honors)
REL 350	Religion in Colonial Empire
REL 351	Asian Religions in American Culture
REL 483	Religion in Colonial India
REL 490	Senior Capstone Seminar
REL 502	Religious Studies and Public Humanities (Graduate)
REL 511	History of Religious Studies (Graduate)

Emory University

REL 209	History of Religions in America
REL 100	Introduction to Religion: Christian and Hindu Traditions
TTE3	Theological Reasoning

### **Academic Service**

2019-present Series Editor, *American Examples: New Conversations about Religion*,  
University of Alabama Press

Michael J. Altman

Organizing and editing a multi-volume series of publications resulting from the American Examples workshops.

- 2018-present Director, American Examples  
Planning and organizing a program of three annual grant funded workshops for early-career scholars of religion focused on research, teaching, and public humanities.
- 2018-present ASSSURE, UA College of Arts& Sciences  
Member of the undergraduate research funding committee in A&S.
- 2018-2020 Faculty Senate, University of Alabama
- 2018-2020 University Recreation Committee
- 2012- 2018 Co-chair of the North American Hinduism Group, American Academy of Religion
- 2012-2014 Organizing Committee, THATCamp AAR