

# K. Merinda Simmons

Department of Religious Studies  
University of Alabama  
Manly Hall 870264  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0264  
(205) 348-9911

1713 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
Phone: (205) 413-1130  
Email: [merinda.simmons@ua.edu](mailto:merinda.simmons@ua.edu)  
Website: <http://www.as.ua.edu/rel/simmons.html>

## **Appointments**

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Fall 2020-Present: Professor, Department of Religious Studies. The University of Alabama

Fall 2015-Spring 2020: Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies. The University of Alabama  
\*Affiliated Faculty Member in African American Studies, Women's Studies, and The  
Summersell Center for the Study of the South.

Fall 2016-Spring 2020: Graduate Director, Department of Religious Studies. The University of Alabama

Fall 2010-Spring 2015: Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies. The University of  
Alabama

\*Affiliated Faculty Member in African American Studies and Women's Studies.

June 1-July 31, 2013: Visiting Researcher, The Centre for Studies in Religion and Society. The  
University of Victoria, British Columbia

Fall 2008-Spring 2010: Full-Time Teaching Instructor, Department of Religious Studies.  
The University of Alabama

Fall 2002-Spring 2008: Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English. The University of  
Alabama

## **Education**

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Ph.D. University of Alabama, 2009, English

M.A. University of Alabama, 2004, English

B.A. Lee University, *Magna Cum Laude*, 2002, English with Minors in Art and Religious  
Studies

## **Areas of Specialization**

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Gender Studies, Queer Theory, Critical Race Theory, Southern Studies, Method and Theory in the  
Study of Religion, Postcolonial Studies, African American Literature and Theory, Migration and  
Diaspora Studies

## **Areas of Scholarly Research and Interest**

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Archive Theory, African American and Caribbean Religious Traditions, Posthumanism, Media Studies, Early and 20th Transnational Feminist Theory

## **Publications**

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### **Books**

*Race and New Modernisms*. Co-authored with James A. Crank. Sept. 2019. London: Bloomsbury.

\*This book is included in Bloomsbury's series *New Modernisms* (series editors: Sean Latham and Gayle Rogers).

- PROSE award finalist

*Changing the Subject: Writing Women across the African Diaspora*. July 2014. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press.

### **Responses to/Reviews of Monograph**

*Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*. 9.1 (Sept. 2018), edited by Philip L. Tite.

\*small roundtable of scholarly responses to *Changing the Subject* and my reply:

- Matt K. Sheedy, "Who Is a Subject, and What Is Her Position?: A Response to Merinda Simmons"
- Leslie Dorough Smith, "Are Sex Scandals about Sex?: How We Tell the Stories of Our Subjects"
- K. Merinda Simmons, "Full Disclosure: Revisiting Authorship and *Changing the Subject*" (85-92).

### **Edited Multi-Author Collections**

*Slave Religions: Histories and Horizons*. 2020. Special issue, *Religions* (peer-review journal).

\*Three essays have gone through the peer review process and have been published (they are published online on a rolling basis). Two are still in preparation/forthcoming. The three already published are:

1. Richard Newton, "Hallowed Haunts: The National African American Museum as Sacred Space"
2. Brad Stoddard, "Slaves of the State: Christianity and Convict Labor in the Postbellum South"
3. Joseph Winters, "Recovering the Irrecoverable: Blackness, Melancholy, and Duplicities that Bind"

*The Trouble with Post-Blackness*. Feb. 2015. Co-edited with Houston A. Baker, Jr. New York: Columbia University Press.

*Race and Displacement*. 2013. Co-edited with Maha Marouan. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press.

### **Books in Progress**

*Sourcing Slave Religion: Theorizing Experience in the Archive* (monograph)

\*This single-authored book manuscript is based on grant-funded research related to the category "slave religion" as used to describe slave communities in the region now known as the American South.

*Gender: A Critical Primer* (contracted, Equinox Publishing).

### **Articles in Peer-Review Journals**

"Giving Post-Blackness the Silent Treatment." Forthcoming, June 2021 (online publication, Feb. 26, 2021). *American Literature*, Duke UP. 93 (2)

“Religious Studies for Cyborgs: Cognitive Science and Social Theory after Humanism.” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. 32 (3): 276-287.

“Revisiting Slave Religion.” Forthcoming. *Religions*.

\*This essay is the Introduction for the special issue, *Slave Religion: Histories and Horizons*. Three of the essays in the issue have been published (they are published online on a rolling basis), and two are forthcoming. A final draft of the Introduction will be submitted/published once all essays are in.

“Religion, Institutionalized: A Response to Aaron Hughes’s *From Seminary to University*.” *Studies in Religion*. Invited and in progress (delivery date: April 22, 2021).

“Power Play: Race Performance at the Margins.” 2018. *Religion & Theology*. 25 (3-4): 208-222.

“Canon Fodder: A Response to the *Norton Anthology of World Religions*.” 2016. *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*. 28 (3): 297-306.

Symposium: “Keeping ‘Critical’ Critical: A Conversation from Culture on the Edge.” 2014. *Critical Research on Religion*. 2 (3): 299-312.

\*This essay is a co-authored conversation among the members of Culture on the Edge (Craig Martin, Monica R. Miller, Russell T. McCutcheon, Steven Ramey, Leslie Dorrough Smith, K. Merinda Simmons, and Vaia Touna)

“Regulating Identities: The Limits of Critical Caretaking.” Nov. 2013. *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. 25 (4-5): 362-381.

“Protective Parroting: A Rejoinder to Atalia Omer.” Nov. 2013. *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. 25 (4-5): 403-407.

“Placing Theory: Thinking and Teaching ‘Women and Religion.’” June 2010. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 78 (2): 542-563.

“Beyond ‘Authenticity’: Migration and the Epistemology of ‘Voice’ in Mary Prince’s *History of Mary Prince* and Maryse Condé’s *I, Tituba*,” Fall 2009. *College Literature*. 36 (4): 75-99.

### **Book Chapters**

“Religious Telematics and the Archive of Memory.” *Understanding Flusser, Understanding Modernism*. Edited by Aaron Jaffe, Rodrigo Martini, and Michael F. Miller. Forthcoming, Nov. 2021. Bloomsbury.

“Privatized Publics and Scholarly Silos: Gender, Religion, and Their Theoretical Fault Lines.” In *Hijacked!: A Critical Treatment of the Public Rhetoric of “Good” and “Bad” Religion*. Edited by Leslie Dorrough Smith, Steffen Führding, and Adrian Hermann. 2020. Equinox Publishing.

“Strategizing Subjectivity: Creolization and Intentionality in Studies of Caribbean Religions.” *Strategic Acts in the Study of Identity: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*, edited by Vaia Touna. 2019. Equinox Publishing. 73-95.

“‘The Other Is Not’: Mediating Specialness and Specificity.” *Strategic Acts in the Study of Identity: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*. Edited by Vaia Touna. 2019. Equinox Publishing. 106-114.

“The High Stakes of Identifying (with) One’s Object of Study.” *Theory in a Time of Excess*. Edited by Aaron Hughes. 2017, Equinox Publishing. 59-68.

“Identifying Race and Religion.” *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*, edited by Kathryn Gin Lum and Paul Harvey. 2017. Oxford University Press. 31-54.

“Politics of Privacy: Distinguishing Religion in Postcolonial Discourse.” *Islam and Postcolonial Culture*, edited by Esra Santesso and James McClung. 2017. Routledge. 197-212.

“Well, Isn’t That Special?”: What We Talk about When We Talk about Identity.” *Claiming Identity in the Study of Religion: Social and Rhetorical Techniques Examined*, edited by Monica R. Miller. Sept. 2015, Equinox Publishing. 19-27.

“The Dubious Stage of Post-Blackness: Performing Otherness, Conserving Dominance.” Feb. 2015 *The Trouble with Post-Blackness*, edited by Houston A. Baker, Jr., and K. Merinda Simmons. 1-20. Columbia University Press.

“Slain in the Spirit: Sexuality and Afro-Caribbean Religious Expression in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*.” Dec. 2007. *The African Diaspora and the Study of Religion*, edited by Theodore Trost, 93-110. Palgrave Macmillan Press.

### **Short Chapters in Refereed Volumes**

“The Moves We Make.” *Fabricating Authenticity*. Edited by Jason W.M. Ellsworth and Andie Alexander. Forthcoming, Equinox Publishing.

“Staking a Claim.” *Strategic Acts in the Study of Identity: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*. Edited by Vaia Touna. 2019. Equinox Publishing. 223-226.

“In Other Words...” *Strategic Acts in the Study of Identity: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*. Edited by Vaia Touna. 2019. Equinox Publishing. 208-212.

“Just Really Old...Or Historical?” *Strategic Acts in the Study of Identity: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*. Edited by Vaia Touna. 2019. Equinox Publishing. 190-191.

“Trainwreck Spotting: How We Insist on Not Working on the Railroad and Instead Tie Ourselves to the Tracks.” *Strategic Acts in the Study of Identity: Towards a Dynamic Theory of People and Place*. Edited by Vaia Touna. 2019. Equinox Publishing. 243-247.

“A Reply” *Theory in a Time of Excess*. Edited by Aaron Hughes. 2017, Equinox Publishing. 87-91.

“Who Are You?: I’m a Religious Studies Scholar.” *Fabricating Identities*, edited by Russell T. McCutcheon. 2017. Equinox Publishing. 10-12.

“Who Are You?: I’m a New Mom.” *Fabricating Identities*, edited by Russell T. McCutcheon. 2017. Equinox Publishing. 105-109.

“Why is it important that we study religion?” *Religion in 5 Minutes*, edited by Aaron W. Hughes and Russell T. McCutcheon. Aug. 2017, Equinox Publishing. 238-240.

“Remember the Ala-what-now?” *Fabricating Origins*, edited by Russell T. McCutcheon. May 2015, Equinox Publishing. 35-37.

“The Way We Were...” *Fabricating Origins*, edited by Russell T. McCutcheon. May 2015, Equinox Publishing. 53-55.

### **Non Peer-Reviewed Publications**

“From Essence to Queery: Puzzling Over the Persistence of Identity.” Co-authored with Jeremy Posadas. Forthcoming. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. (5,246 words)

“Religious Studies and Race: The Wherefores of a Working Group.” Mar.-June 2020. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 49 (1-2): 26-29.

“Worlds Apart: The Essentials of Critical Thinking.” (Response to Caroline Schaffalitzky de Muckadell’s JAAR essay “On Essentialism and Real Definitions of Religion”). Dec. 2015. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 44 (4): 26-33.

“Scary Scholarship: A Response to Bruce Lincoln’s *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars*.” Apr. 2013. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 42 (2): 20-24.

“The Experiential Elephant and the Pursuit of Interdisciplinarity.” Sept. 2012. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 41 (3): 2-6.

“Conversations in Black: K. Merinda Simmons.” May 12, 2015. *Marginalia: A Los Angeles Review of Books Channel*. <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/conversations-in-black-k-merinda-simmons/>

### **Book Reviews**

Apr. 2015. *Religion in the Thought of Mikhail Bakhtin*, by Hilary B.P. Bagshaw. (Ashgate Publishing). *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

Mar. 2014. Review of *Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions* (2 vols.), Patrick Taylor and Frederick Case, eds., with Sean Meighoo and Joyce Leung (University of Illinois Press, 2013). *CHOICE Magazine*.

Nov. 2012. Review of *Yoruba Traditions and African American Religious Nationalism*, Tracey E. Hucks (U of New Mexico Press, 2012). *CHOICE Magazine*.

July 2012, Review of *Masking Hegemony: A Genealogy of Liberalism, Religion and the Private Sphere*, by Craig Martin (Equinox, 2010). *Religion*. 42.3 (466-470).

### **Scholarly Blog Posts**

Single-authored posts on the blog for Culture on the Edge Research Group (<http://edge.ua.edu>):

- <http://edge.ua.edu/category/k-merinda-simmons/>

Contributions to *Studying Religion in Culture: Ongoing Discussions at the University of Alabama*:

<http://rel.as.ua.edu/blog/>

- <http://religion.ua.edu/blog/2014/02/ar-ti-facts-a-surprising-source/>
- <http://religion.ua.edu/blog/2013/10/a-few-moments-with-monica-miller-2/>
- <http://religion.ua.edu/blog/2014/01/backstory-prof-merinda-simmons/>
- <http://religion.ua.edu/blog/2014/08/meet-the-press/>

“Laying It All Out: On Moving from Dissertation-to-Book Series.” March 16, 2016. *Religion Bulletin: The Blogging Portal of the Bulletin for the Study of Religion*:

- <http://bulletin.equinoxpub.com/2016/03/laying-it-all-out-on-moving-from-dissertation-to-book-series-k-merinda-simmons/>

“Interview with Houston Baker and K. Merinda Simmons, editors of *The Trouble with Post-Blackness*.” February 17, 2015. *Columbia University Press Blog*:

- <http://www.cupblog.org/?p=15829>

“Honesty is the Best Pedagogy.” May 27, 2014. *Practicum: Critical Theory, Religion, and Pedagogy*.

- <http://practicumreligionblog.blogspot.com/2014/05/honesty-is-best-pedagogy.html>

\*reposted by *Religion Bulletin*, May 28, 2014:

<http://www.equinoxpub.com/blog/2014/05/honesty-is-the-best-pedagogy/>

“Critical Questions Series 2: K. Merinda Simmons.” March 4, 2013. *Religion Bulletin: The Blogging Portal of the Bulletin for the Study of Religion*: <http://www.equinoxpub.com/blog/>

- <http://www.equinoxpub.com/blog/2013/03/critical-questions-series-2-k-merinda-simmons/>

## Encyclopedia Entries

“Creole Revolt,” “Derek Walcott,” “Obeah,” and “Transatlantic Feminist/Women’s Equality Movements” in *The Encyclopedia of Africa and the Americas*, edited by Richard M. Juang and Noelle Morrisette. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2008.

## Scholarly and Professional Presentations

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### Invited Conference Presentations

Response to Naomi Goldenberg’s “Toward a Critique of Postsecular Rhetoric re: Religion.” Symposium: *Hijacked!: A Critical Treatment of the Public Rhetoric of ‘Good’ and ‘Bad’ Religion*. Bonn, Germany. University of Bonn, June 8-10, 2017.

Discussion and Workshop Leader, “...But What Do You Study?”: A NAASR Workshop on Theory & Method in the Job Market. North American Association for the Study of Religion (at the annual meeting for the American Academy of Religion). San Antonio, TX. Nov. 19-22, 2016.

Discussion and Workshop Leader, “...But What Do You Study?”: A NAASR Workshop on Theory & Method in the Job Market. North American Association for the Study of Religion (at the annual meeting for the American Academy of Religion). Atlanta, GA. Nov. 21-24, 2015.

“The High Stakes of Identifying (with) One’s Object of Study.” North American Association for the Study of Religion (at the annual meeting for the American Academy of Religion). Atlanta, GA. Nov. 21-24, 2015. *\*The NAASR proceedings will be collected in a volume to be published by Equinox.*

“Race Noted: A Workshop on Race and Poststructuralism.” Lehigh University. Nov. 7, 2015.

\*co-organized with Monica R. Miller (participants: Houston Baker, Vanderbilt; Christopher Driscoll, Lehigh; Leigh Anne Duck, U of Mississippi; John L. Jackson, Jr., UPenn; Monica R. Miller, Lehigh; K. Merinda Simmons, U of Alabama; C. Riley Snorton, Cornell; Alex Weheliye, Northwestern)

Roundtable on the topic of gender, race, and religion in the American South. The Idlewild Conference: The U.S. South and New Black Scholarship. Wake Forest University. Feb. 27, 2015.

“The Politics of Biography: Complicating the ‘Real’ Zora Neale Hurston.” Modern Studies Association. Nov. 6-9, 2014. Pittsburgh, PA.

“Power Play: Race Performance at the Margins.” Code-Switching Workshop. Lehigh University. Apr. 14-15, 2014.

“The Dubious Stage of Post-Blackness: Performing Otherness, Conserving Dominance.” *The Trouble with Post-Blackness* Symposium. University of Rochester. Apr. 11, 2014.

“‘These Are the Wrong Questions’: Placing the Subject, Problematizing Nostalgia.” The Kristeva Circle. Vanderbilt University. Mar. 27-30, 2014.

Response to Ron Neal’s *Democracy in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America: Race, Class, Religion and Region*. The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Atlanta, GA. Mar. 7-9, 2014.

“Offering Origins, Abdicating Analysis: A Response to the Scholarly Discourse on ‘Slave Religion.’” The Centre for Studies of Religion and Society Lecture Series. University of Victoria, British Columbia. July 24, 2013.

“On the Limits of Feminist Exegesis.” The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Mar. 15-17, 2013.

“‘Objectivity,’ Falsifiability, Method, Theory and Norms.” American Academy of Religion, *The Study of Religion as an Analytic Discipline* group (SORAAAD). Nov. 17-20, 2012.

Response to Ann Taves’ *Religious Experience Reconsidered*. The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Atlanta, GA, Mar. 1-4, 2012.

### **Refereed Conference Presentations (selected)**

“Context > Truth Claims in Identity Studies” (*Religion & Society* panel). Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Mar. 12-14, 2021.

“Race to the Head of the Class” (*Class, Identity, and Religion* roundtable). North American Association for the Study of Religion. Nov. 20-22, 2020.

“Critical Considerations of ‘Race’ in Religious Studies” (NAASR working group). American Academy of Religion. San Diego, Nov. 23-26, 2019.

\*working group co-organizer, with Emily Crews and Richard Newton.

“Upheaval and Reconstruction and the Ethnofuturist Archives” (roundtable). Modernist Studies Association. Toronto, Oct. 17-20, 2019.

“Demythologizing Robert Johnson or, The Artist Is Not Present.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture after 1900. University of Louisville, Feb. 21-23, 2019.

“The Aesthetics of Ideology: Paleofuturism in Contemporary Book Arts.” The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present. New Orleans, Oct. 17-20, 2018.

“On Discourse and Diaspora: Historicizing the Academic Origins of ‘Slave Religion.’” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture after 1900. University of Louisville, Feb. 22-24, 2018.

“Projecting Plantation Modernism through Slave Religion.” Modernist Studies Association. University of Amsterdam, Aug. 10-13, 2017.

“Queer Souths, New Media: Identifying Sexual and Regional Difference through Zines.” (copresented with James A. Crank). Southern American Studies Association. The College of William and Mary. Williamsburg, VA. Mar. 2-4, 2017.

“The Untimely Horrors of Faulkner’s Swamp; or, Is the Only Good Indian an Undead Indian?” (with Daniel Cross Turner, in absentia). Southern American Studies Association. The College of William and Mary. Williamsburg, VA. Mar. 2-4, 2017.

“Pragmatizing the Peripheral: Rethinking Primitivism in Faulkner’s ‘Red Leaves.’” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900. The University of Louisville. Feb. 23-25, 2017.

“Coming to Terms: Identifying Slave Religion in the Atlantic World.” Denmark and African American Culture Symposium. University of Copenhagen, Sept. 21-22, 2016

“Manufactured Authenticities: Race, Region, Realism.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Boston University, Mar. 10-12, 2016.

\*part of roundtable: “Currencies / Exchanges / Conversions: Contemporary Southern Media”

“The Commerce of Categories: Scholarship and ‘Slave Religion’ in the American South.” The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Atlanta, GA, March 1-4, 2012.

“Trading Faith: Religion as Market Force in the Colonial South.” Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. Jan. 5-8, 2012.

“Colonizing Religion: Faith as a Market Force in the American South.” American Academy of Religion. San Francisco, CA. Nov. 19-22, 2011.

\*part of the North American Religion Section

“Placing Gender: Ethics, Responsibility, and Refugee Subjectivity.” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. Mar. 24-26, 2011.

“Existentialism and Refugee Subjectivity.” The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Louisville, KY, Mar. 4-6, 2011.

“Religion in the Two Souths: Reading Safety and Danger through Race, Religion, and Representation.” Southern American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA (Georgia State U), Feb. 17- 19, 2011.

“Approaching ‘Women and Religion’ from the Outside-In.” National Women’s Studies Association. Denver, CO, Nov. 11-14, 2010.

“Living Like a Refugee: Religious Existence in Levinas, Derrida, and the Music of Wyclef Jean.” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association. Alexandria, VA, Oct. 28-30 2010.

“The Poetics of Grief: Violence, Memory, and Textual Migration in Edwidge Danticat’s *The Dew Breaker*.” Contemporary Women’s Writing: New Texts, Approaches, and Technologies. In Collaboration with San Diego State University; San Diego, CA, July 7-9, 2010.

“Familiar Ground: Gender and the Transnational South in Naylor’s *Mama Day*,” as part of the panel “Navigating Gender: Women’s Experiences within the African Diaspora.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, GA, Nov. 12-15, 2009.

\*panel organizer

### **Invited Public Lectures (selected)**

“What Just Happened?: Religion and Politics in the U.S.” Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture. Nov. 5, 2020.

“Talking Slave Religion.” Millsaps College. Jackson, MS. Apr. 6, 2018.

“Slaves, Souths, and Scholarship: On Religion and Regional Exceptionalism in the Academy.” University of Alberta. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Feb. 2012.

“Commemoration as Invention: Self Representation and Imagining ‘Race’ in the Deep South.” University of Alberta. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Feb. 2012.

Response to Jennifer Shoaff’s Religion *in Culture* Lecture. University of Alabama. Jan. 26, 2012.

“The Faux Pas of Feminist Phenomenology: Or, How I Learned to Think of the Personal and Political in a Whole New Way.” *Brown Bag Lecture Series*, Co-Sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center and Women’s Studies Program. University of Alabama. Oct. 5, 2011.

“Between Politics and Practice: Academic Projections and African American Religious Rituals.” Hendrix College. Conway, AR, Oct. 22, 2009.

“From Sapphira to *The Skeleton Key*: Myth and Identity Formation in the South.” Department of Religious Studies. Religion *in Culture* Lunchtime Discussion Series. University of Alabama. Tuscaloosa, AL, Feb. 18, 2009.



## Podcasts

“Reinventing Graduate Education in the Study of Religion.” The Religious Studies Project. Apr. 3, 2017.

<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/reinventing-graduate-education-in-the-study-ofreligion/>

“The New MA in Religion in Culture.” Study Religion. Mar. 2, 2017.

<https://religion.ua.edu/blog/2017/03/we-have-a-podcast/>

## Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

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PROSE Award finalist for *Race and New Modernisms* (Simmons and Crank, 2019, Bloomsbury).

### University of Alabama

National Humanities Center Summer Residency Fellowship, June 2018. \$7,000.

*Based on our individual proposals, the College of Arts and Sciences awarded James A. Crank (EN) and me each a summer residency for the month of June at the NHC in Durham, NC. While there, we completed the full draft of our manuscript Race and New Modernisms, now in production at Bloomsbury.*

SEC Faculty Travel Grant, February 2017. \$900

*Awarded on a competitive basis for travel to a partnering SEC institution. Grant covered my travel to the University of South Carolina (Feb. 6-10, 2017), where I presented a public lecture, led a graduate workshop, and taught two classes.*

President’s Faculty Research Award, March 2016.

*Awarded to one faculty in each division “in recognition and celebration of scholarly excellence”*

Research Grants Committee: *Trading Faith: Colonizing Religion in the American South*, 2011- 2013. \$4,863.50

Outstanding Dissertation Award, October 2009

Composition Teaching Award, Spring 2008

Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Award, Spring 2008

English Department Research and Travel Support Award, Spring 2008

Buford Boone Fellowship, 2007-2008

*Awarded by the Department of English for distinction in teaching and writing*

Stephen Karatheodoris Memorial Paper Award for essay entitled “‘This New Tiding:’ ‘Spirit’ as Physical Space in Black and Transnational Feminist Theory,” 2006

*Awarded by the Department of Women's Studies for excellence in feminist writing and research*

Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, September 2003

*Awarded at the graduate school level to students chosen by an extensive application and interview process for current scholarly projects that require travel*

Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Award, October 2003

*Awarded at the graduate school level to approved students who are traveling for or participating in scholarly research*

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, 2002-2008

## Courses Taught

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### Religious Studies

“Introduction to the Study of Religion” (REL 100)

“Advanced Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion” (REL 105)

“Religion, Media, and the South” (REL 124)

“Women and Religion” (REL 234) “African Diaspora Religions” (REL 226)

“Self, Society, and Religion” (REL 237)

“Religion, Religious Studies, and Colonialism” (REL 370, cross-listed with Blount)  
“Religion in the American South” (REL 415, “W” designation with writing concentration)  
“Slave Religion in the United States” (REL 419, “W” designation with writing concentration)  
“Religion and Literature” (REL 430, “W” designation with writing concentration)  
“Gender Theory and Religion” (REL 480)  
“Race and Religion” (REL 483)  
“What’s in an Archive?” (REL 490, Capstone Senior Seminar)  
“Capstone Graduate Seminar” (REL 590)

### **Blount Undergraduate Initiative**

“The Art of Otherness” (BUI 301)  
\*survey of avant-garde art forms from 1950s to the present, particularly by black and queer artists and thinkers who staged critiques of dominant ideas about human subjectivity and linear time

### **English**

“English Composition 102” (Writing-centered course with a literature focus intended to enhance students’ abilities regarding literary analysis and criticism)  
“English Composition 101” (Writing-centered course intended to develop students’ writing and research skills)  
“English Composition 101 and 102” (in the Harris/Parker Adams Living/Learning Community)  
“Community and the Other” (advanced writing course)  
“Music and Culture” (advanced writing course)  
“Place, Passage, and Identity” (advanced writing course)  
“Writing and Globalization”  
“Early American Literature: Beginnings-1865” (EN 209)  
“American Literature, 1865-Present” (EN 210)  
“Twentieth Century Literature in English” (EN 227)

### **Guest Lectures**

On Experience Discourses in Religious Studies. Millsaps College. Apr. 5, 2018.

On Queer Theory. Course: “Graduate Seminar: Cultural Studies” (Professor of record: Eric Weisbard). UA, Dept of American Studies. Oct. 11, 2017.

On Religion in the 20th-century U.S. South. Course: “The American South in the 20th Century” (Professor of record: Courtney Lewis). University of South Carolina, Feb. 9, 2017.

On Gloria Naylor’s *Mama Day*. Course: “Contemporary South” (Professor of record: Jennifer Taylor). University of South Carolina, Feb. 9, 2017.

On Discourses of Creolization and Intentionality in Religious Studies. Course: “Critical Approaches to Religious Identity” (Professor of record: Pat McCullough). UCLA. May 27, 2015.

On Judith Butler and Performativity in Literary Criticism. Course: “Introduction to English Studies: Theory and Multivocality” (Professor of record: James A. Crank). University of Alabama. Nov. 17, 2015.

On Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Course: “The Great Divide: Black Men and Black Women Writers Representing Themselves and One Another” (Professor of record: Houston A. Baker, Jr.). Vanderbilt University. Mar. 10, 2015.

On Toni Morrison’s *Sula*. “African American Literature: (Professor of record: Houston A. Baker, Jr.). Vanderbilt University. Nov. 18, 2014.

“Authorship and Authority in the Slave Narrative Genre.” Course: “Afro-American Literature” (Professor of record: Houston A. Baker, Jr.). Vanderbilt University. Sept. 5-7, 2012.

## **Faculty Supervision**

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### **Graduate Supervision, University of Alabama**

Frances Ray. “TITLE” (MFA Thesis, Fiction, Dept of English), Spring 2021.

Abigail Perschall. “TITLE” (MA Thesis, Dept of English), Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Ariana Kim. “Abject Aesthetics in Contemporary Christian Art: The De-Euphemizing Impulse in Flannery O’Connor, Andres Serrano, and Bruce Beasley.” (MA Thesis, Dept of English), Spring 2020. (defense: Apr 8)

Erik Kline. “The Drunken Pilgrim: Trauma, Masculinity, and the Formation of American Autonomy.” (Ph.D. Dissertation, Dept of English), Summer 2017-Spring 2021.

Emma Gibson. “Reorienting Phenomenological Method for the Critical Study of Religion.” (MA Thesis, Dept of Religious Studies), Spring 2019.

Sierra Lawson. “Theorizing Origins: An Analysis of Descriptions of Hybridity in Marian Devotional Cultures.” (MA Thesis, Dept of Religious Studies), Spring 2019.

Grant Gerald Miller. “Come Down Singing into This Pack of Wolves.” (MFA Thesis, Poetry, Dept of English), Spring 2019.

Haden Bell. “God Save the Queens: Interrogating “Englishness” through Allegory in Edmund Spenser’s *The Faerie Queene* and George MacDonald’s *Phantastes*. (MA Thesis, Dept of English), Spring 2017.

Anne Franklin Lamar. ““I Don’t Know What I Would Do but for Writing’: Authorship and the Diary of Susan Warner (1850-3)”. (Ph.D. Dissertation, Dept of English), Spring 2016-Spring 2017.

Sarah Kelly. *Sad Girl Montage* (M.F.A. Thesis, Poetry, Dept of English), Spring 2016.

Samantha Caddis. “Broken English, Broken Morality: European Language as a Symbol of Virtue in *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*” (M.A. Thesis, Dept of English), Fall 2014-Spring 2015.

Michael Forst. “Understanding Marginalized Queer Voices: An Ethnography of Place” (M.A. Thesis, Dept of Communication Studies), Fall 2014-Spring 2015.

David Kumler. *Floating to Nowhere: A Novel* (M.F.A. Thesis, Fiction, Dept of English), Spring 2014.

Clay Nelson. “Mortuary Practices, Social Status, and Wealth at the Rhodes Site in Moundville, Alabama” (M.A. Thesis, Dept of Anthropology), Spring 2013-Spring 2014.

Allison Schuver. “Hemingway and the Textual Struggle of Paternity” (M.A. Thesis, Dept of English), Fall 2012.

### **Non-Thesis Graduate Supervision**

Marco Pflanzen (MA in Religion in Culture), 2020-2022.

John “Jack” Bernardi (MA in Religion in Culture), 2019-2021.  
\*winner of Ulysses V. Goodwyn Endowed Excellence Award

### **Undergraduate Supervision, University of Alabama**

#### Honors Theses, Department of Religious Studies

Rebekah Pearson, “Gender Roles Discourse in Contemporary American Christianity” (in progress).

M. G. Proaps. “Liberal Society: ‘Religion’ and ‘Terrorism’ in Context,” Spring 2013.

Christopher Scott. “Palestinian Film and Performativity: Cultural Resistance in the West Bank,” Spring 2012.

### **Professional Service**

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Consultant for *Religion in 50 Words: A Critical Vocabulary*. By Aaron W. Hughes and Russell T. McCutcheon, Routledge. Jan. 2021.

Organizing Committee, Graduate Literary Forum (GuLF), with Aaron Jaffe (Frances Cushing Ervin Professor of English, FSU) and Erich Nunn (Associate Prof, Auburn U)

\*GuLF seeks to organize annual interdisciplinary graduate symposia in the southeast to showcase graduate student work in contemporary social theory (across various discourses). The program is comprised of grad students’ work (along with responses from advising professors). Inaugural symposium: Florida State University, Apr. 11-13, 2019

Series Editor, *Concepts in the Study of Religion: Critical Primers* book series, Equinox Publishing. Dec. 2015-present. <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/concepts-in-the-study-of-religion/>

Outside Reader for *A Critical Introduction to Religion and Film* (by Tenzan Eaghll and Rebekka King). Bloomsbury Publishing, March 2019.

Outside Reader for Abigail Manzella’s manuscript *Migrating Fictions: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Displacements and Race in U.S. Women’s Literature*, Ohio State UP. Sept. 2015.

Outside Reader for edited volume *Irreverence and the Sacred: Critical Studies in the History of Religion*. (Hugh Urban and Greg Johnson, eds.). Oxford UP. Sept. 2015.

Member of Executive Council, North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR). Dec. 2015-Dec. 2017 (previous term: Dec. 2011-Dec. 2013).

\*ex officio

Associate Editor, *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. Nov. 2015-present.

Editorial Board Member. *Culture on the Edge: Studies in Identity Formation* book series. Equinox Publishing. Mar. 2013-present.

Editorial Board Member. *Practicum: Critical Theory, Religion, and Pedagogy Blog*. Apr. 2014-Present.

\*blog site: <http://practicumreligionblog.blogspot.ca/>

Reviewer for *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*. Publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. Apr. 2012- Present.

Outside Reader for the *Journal of Africana Religions*. June 2014.

\*essay title: “Always Already Alien: Black Women Writers, Spiritual Realism, and Speculative Fiction”

Referee and book reviewer for the academic peer-review journal *College Literature*. March 2012-May 2013.

Outside Reader for the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. June 2012.  
\*essay title: "Syncretism and Sacred Sexuality"

Referee for Prof. Michael D. Jackson's manuscript *The Stone and the Living Stream*, Columbia UP. Feb. 2011.

## **University Service (University of Alabama)**

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### **Service to Department of Religious Studies**

Graduate Committee, Spring 2017- Present. (\*Chair, Spring 2017-2020)

*\*Responsibilities have thus far included proposing necessary graduate courses for implementation of the program in Fall 2017, being in touch with relevant administrators in the Graduate School about program details, writing and revising graduate handbook, working on course scheduling matters, planning graduate colloquium, organizing details/requirements for graduate certificates (digital humanities, online pedagogy, museum studies), overseeing applications to the program, etc.*

Graduate Director. Fall 2016-Spring 2020

*\*Responsibilities include:*

- 1. Developing and implementing advertising materials and annual recruiting procedures.*
- 2. Administering the annual graduate application and acceptance process.*
- 3. Supervising all GTAs and administering the process to determine GTA appointments and regularly assess all GTAs.*
- 4. Being the instructor of record for online super-sections that involve MA graders and developing/implementing a mentoring process for these graders.*
- 5. Organizing and implementing each semester's graduate colloquium.*
- 6. Being the main contact for inquiries about our graduate program.*
- 7. Ensuring that all new 500- level courses (and any 400/500 "slash courses") are successfully proposed by the faculty to the Graduate School.*

MA Program Proposal Committee Chair. Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

*Responsibilities included writing sections and overseeing the writing of multiple drafts of the MA program proposal, as well as being involved with the process of seeing the proposal through the various steps in the approval process.*

50th Anniversary Planning Committee, Spring 2016-Spring 2017.

Scholarships Committee, Spring 2016-Present.

Assessment Committee, Spring 2016-Present.

Day Lecture Series Speaker Committee, 2013-Present.

Aronov Lecture Series Speaker Committee, 2010-Present.

Textbook Committee Chair. Fall 2013-Spring 2018.

Search Committee Chair, Tenure-track faculty line in Social Theory and Religion in Modernity. Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

Search Committee Chair, Tenure-track faculty line in Social Theory and the Ancient World. Fall 2014-Spring 2015.

Events Coordinator. Fall 2013-Spring 2015.

*Responsibilities included the coordination/hosting of visiting lecturers and planning of various departmental events.*

Search Committee Member, Tenure-track faculty line in Religion, Global Conflict, and Law. Fall 2013-Spring 2014.

Search Committee Chair, Tenure-track faculty line in Modern Middle East/Islam. Fall 2012-Spring 2013.

Co-Chair (with Fred Whiting, Dept. of English) of interdisciplinary panel on the role of the Humanities as part of the 2012-2013 lecture series in the Department of Religious Studies (panel will coincide with the Aronov Lecture by Cary Nelson, April 8-9, 2013).

Faculty Advisor for the Religious Studies Student Association, Fall 2009-Spring 2013. *Responsibilities include not only working with students to plan events but also organizing the departmental participation in the biannual university-wide "Get on Board Day," which makes university students familiar with the departments and organizations on campus.*

Long-Range Planning Committee, August 2010-2014.

Co-Director (with Russell McCutcheon) for the Religious Studies Study Abroad in Thessaloniki, Greece. May 2012.

Coordinator of the Religious Studies Greece Initiative. August 2011-May 2012.

*Responsibilities included facilitating a working and institutional relationship with faculty at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, and bringing a PhD student in the study of religion to serve as a Full-Time Teaching Instructor in the Department of Religious Studies at The University of Alabama during the Spring semester.*

Faculty Advisor for Theta Alpha Kappa (Religious Studies Student Honors Society), Fall 2011-Fall 2012.

Course Designer for Online Version of REL 100: Introduction to Religious Studies.

Greece Initiative Event Planning Committee (with Steven Ramey, Andrew Dewar, Russell McCutcheon, and Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers), Fall 2010-Spring 2011.

Co-Chair (with Professor Steven Jacobs) of Student Initiatives Committee, University of Alabama, August-December 2009.

### **Service to College of Arts and Sciences**

A&S Graduate Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2020.

*This committee has 2 roles: 1) selects College-level awardees from nominations for various university graduate awards (teaching, research, service, thesis, & dissertation) 2) reviews proposals for new graduate degree programs.*

The Undergraduate Creativity and Research Academy (UCRA), Fall 2014-Spring 2019.

*The UCRA aims to encourage and facilitate undergraduate research and creative activity by soliciting and funding project proposals from UA students.*

Tenure and Promotion Committee, Fall 2015-Spring 2017.

*The T&P committee reviews applications for tenure from faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and makes recommendations to the Dean.*

College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CARSCA), Fall 2015-Spring 2018.

*CARSCA offers financial support to faculty involved in innovative research, creative, and professional projects. Details can be found at <http://carsca.as.ua.edu/>.*

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, August 2011-2016.

*Responsibilities include promoting intradepartmental review of all courses, implementing a review process for courses which have not been offered for successive years, optimizing the capacities of the online CourseLeaf Software System, supporting submission of online syllabi for all active Arts and Sciences courses.*

Diversity Committee, August 2010-August 2013.

Participant in the College of Arts & Sciences Learner-Centered Initiative workshops, led by Beverly Roskos. Fall 2011-Spring 2012.

Organizing Committee, *Recovering Black Women's Voices and Lives* Symposium. Department of Gender and Race Studies, Fall 2011.

Faculty Liason for Ladyfest, January-April, 2011.

Academic symposium "Race and Displacement" (co-organizer with Prof. Phil Beidler and Prof. Maha Marouan), October 1-3 2009, with keynote addresses by Houston Baker (Vanderbilt University) and Queen Quet (spokesperson and chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation).

First-Year Writing Committee, August 2008-May 2009.

### **Service to University**

Graduate Council, Fall 2018-Present.

*The Graduate Council reviews, evaluates, and provides recommendations to the Provost/Academic Vice President on proposals for new graduate programs, and on existing programs on a continuing basis; promotes quality in graduate programs; develops University-wide policies on graduate students; develops policies on financial aid for graduate students and develops agenda for graduate faculty meetings.*

Scholarships and Fellowships Subcommittee (Graduate Council), Fall 2018-Present.

*Responsibilities include reviewing, ranking, and making determinations re: nominations for the following campus-wide competitive awards: Graduate Council Fellowship, National Alumni Association award, McNair award.*

Faculty Senate Alternate, Fall 2016-Spring 2018.

Faculty Senate, 2014-2016.

*The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to aid The University of Alabama in making judgments on questions of policy, development, and operations and thereby to assist the University in its continuing quest for excellence. It seeks to accomplish this goal by: 1) Facilitating and encouraging meaningful input on matters of general faculty concern. 2) Providing a readily accessible channel of communication through which continual dialogue and exchange of information and ideas may be carried on between the Faculty and University Officials. (from UA website)*

Member of Capstone Alliance and Safe Zone Ally, August 2008-Present.

*Having completed Safe Zone Ally training, I am one of the many resource people on campus who provide an open door for individuals seeking information or assistance regarding issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, harassment, and/or discrimination.*

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### **Reading Languages**

French  
Spanish

## **Professional Organizations**

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American Academy of Religion  
North American Association for the Study of Religion  
Modern Language Association  
Modernist Studies Association  
Society for the Study of Southern Literature  
Southern American Studies Association



## References

Houston A. Baker, Jr.  
Distinguished University Professor and Professor of English Vanderbilt  
University  
(615) 343-7355  
houston.a.baker@vanderbilt.edu

Philip D. Beidler  
Professor of English  
University of Alabama  
(205) 348-8508  
pbeidler@english.as.ua.edu

Yolanda M. Manora  
Associate Professor of English  
University of Alabama  
(205) 348-8501  
ymanora@bama.ua.edu

Russell T. McCutcheon  
Professor and Department Chair of Religious Studies  
University of Alabama  
(205) 348-8512  
rmccutch@bama.ua.edu

Theodore L. Trost  
Professor of Religious Studies  
University of Alabama  
(205) 348-7534  
ttrost@bama.ua.edu