

# ERIC MICHAEL MAZUR, PH.D.

## Gloria & David Furman Professor of Judaic Studies Professor, Religious Studies

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### EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy**, Religious Studies, with a concentration in American Religion. University of California, Santa Barbara, 1997.

**Master of Arts**, Religious Studies, with a concentration in American Religious History. University of Virginia, 1989.

**Bachelor of Arts**, Religious Studies. University of Virginia, 1987.

### TEACHING

#### *Areas of Teaching Competence*

Religion in American Culture, including African American Religious Experience, American Religious History, American Sectarian Movements, Religion & Popular Culture, and Religion in the American South.

Sociology of Religion, including Classical Statements in the Sociology of Religion, New Religious Movements, Religion & Law, Religion & Politics, Religion & Public Education, and Religion & Sport.

History of Religions, including Classical Theorists in the Study of Religion, Critical Methods in the Study of Religion, Introduction to the Study of Religion, Sacred Space, and World Religions.

Jewish Traditions, including Contemporary Jewish Movements, Judaism & Film, Judaism in America, Judaism in the American South, Modern Jewish History, and Zionism.

#### *Academic Appointments*

Virginia Wesleyan University [formerly Virginia Wesleyan College] (Gloria & David Furman Professor of Judaic Studies. Department of Religious Studies: Associate Professor, 2007-2011; Professor, 2011-present. Center for the Study of Religious Freedom: Religion, Law, & Politics Fellow, 2014-present.)

Courses Taught: "African American Religious Experience"; "American Sacred Space"; "First Year Experience"; "Introduction to Judaism"; "Introduction to Religious Studies"; "Judaism & Film"; "Judaism Through Food"; "Lobbying & Religious Advocacy"; "Local Religions in Practice"; "Practical Policy & Debate"; "Religion & American Politics"; "Religion & Constitutional Law"; "Religion & Education"; "Religion & Popular Culture"; "Religion & Race"; "Religion in American Culture"; "Religion in the News"; "Sacred Space"; "Sports & Religion"; "World Religions"; and independent reading courses on "American Martyrdom," "New Religious Movements & Psychology," "Nineteenth Century American Religion," "Persecution of Christians," "Religion & Comics," and "Religion & Violence."

Bucknell University (Department of Religion: Assistant Professor, 1997-2003; Associate Professor, 2003-2007. Social Justice Residential College: Senior Fellow, 2001-2002).

Courses Taught: “American Catholicism”; “American Judaism”; “Fundamentalisms Around the World”; “Graceland, Disneyland, Holy Land: Sacred Space in America” (First Year Seminar); “Introduction to American Studies”; “Introduction to Judaism & Christianity”; “Introduction to Religion in America”; “Introduction to Religious Studies”; “Religion: Current Questions & Crises” (Survey); “Religion: Current Questions & Crises” (Focus on September 11, 2001); “Religion & American Politics”; “Religion & Constitutional Law”; “Religion & Popular Culture”; “Religion & Public Education”; “Sacred Space” (Senior Seminar); “Social Justice” (First Year Seminar); “Zionism.”

California State University, Chico (Department of Religious Studies: Lecturer, 1996-1997).

Courses Taught: “American Judaism”; “Introduction to Judaism”

University of California, Santa Barbara (Department of Religious Studies: Lecturer, 1994, 1996).

Courses Taught: “Religion & Society”; “Religion & Law.”

### ***Academic Associate***

Centre for Law & Religion, Cardiff University Law School, Wales (2016-present).

### ***Graduate Thesis / Dissertation Committees***

#### External Examiner

2015 Denis J. Bekkering, Waterloo University, Waterloo, Ontario. Ph.D., Religious Studies: *Drag Queens and Farting Preachers: American Televangelism, Participatory Media, and Unfaithful Fandoms*.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

### ***Manuscripts & edited volumes***

2015 *Routledge Companion to Religion & Popular Culture*, co-editor, with John C. Lyden. New York, N.Y.: Routledge Press.

Authored entries: “Conversations & Confessions: Who’s Writing About This, and Why?”; “Judaism”

2011 *Encyclopedia of Religion & Film*, editor. Santa Barbara, Cal.: ABC-CLIO.

Authored entries: “Introduction”; “Brooks, Mel”; “*The Miracle* Controversy”; “Westerns.”

2010 *God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), co-editor, with Kate McCarthy. New York, N.Y.: Routledge Press.

Authored chapters: “Preface to the Second Edition,” with Kate McCarthy (xvi-xviii); “Introduction: Finding Religion in American Popular Culture,” with Kate McCarthy (1-14); “Homer the Heretic and Charlie Church: Parody, Piety, and Pluralism in *The Simpsons*,” with Lisle Dalton and Monica Siems (237-54); “The Happiest Place on Earth: Disney’s America and the Commodification of Religion,” with Tara Keiko Koda (307-21).

2004 *Religion on Trial: How Supreme Court Trends Threaten the Freedom of Conscience in America*, with Phillip E. Hammond and David W. Machacek. Walnut Creek, Cal.: Alta Mira Press.

Authored chapters: “The Nineteenth-Century Supreme Court and ‘Republican Protestantism’” (45-67); “E Unum Pluribus: Out of One, Many” (69-83).

- 2002 *Art & the Religious Impulse*, editor. Lewisburg, Pa.: Bucknell University Press.  
Authored chapters: “Introduction: A Religious Studies Approach to Religion and the Arts” (15-25); “‘I’d rather light a candle than curse your darkness’: Bringing Religion to Light in *Raising Arizona*” (104-24).
- 2001 *God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture*, co-editor, with Kate McCarthy. New York, N.Y.: Routledge Press.  
Authored chapters: “Introduction: Finding Religion in American Popular Culture,” with Kate McCarthy (1-15); “Homer the Heretic and Charlie Church: Parody, Piety, and Pluralism in *The Simpsons*,” with Lisle Dalton and Monica Siems (231-47); “The Happiest Place on Earth: Disney’s America and the Commodification of Religion,” with Tara Keiko Koda (299-315).
- 1999 *The Americanization of Religious Minorities: Confronting the Constitutional Order*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- In progress *Reader in Religion & Popular Culture* (co-editor, with Richard J. Callahan, Jr., and Lisle W. Dalton). London: Bloomsbury Press.
- In progress *Church & State in America*. New York, N.Y.: Columbia University Press.
- Under review *To the Stars ...* [ms. proposal] (co-edited, with Sarah McFarland Taylor). New York, N.Y.: Routledge Press.

**Series Co-Editor**: “Contemporary Religion & Popular Culture” (with A. David Lewis), Palgrave Press.

Series titles:

*An Information Technology Surrogate for Religion: The Veneration for Deceased Family in Online Games*, by William Sims Bainbridge (2014).

*Reconstructing the Man of Steel: Superman 1938-1941, Jewish American History, and the Invention of the Jewish-Comics Connection*, by Martin Lund (2016).

*American Televangelism & Participatory Cultures: Fans, Brands, and Play with Religious “Fakes,”* by Denis J. Bekkering (2018).

### **Chapters / Entries in other works**

- 2018 “Film & Religion in America.” In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, ed. John Corrigan (Oxford University Press, 2018). Available online: <<http://religion.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-413>> [subscription required].
- 2016 “Religion & the Earliest Supreme Court Justices, 1789-1811.” In *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Religion and Politics in America*, ed. Barbara McGraw, 98-108. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- 2016 “Religion & the Supreme Court, 1811-1878.” In *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Religion and Politics in America*, ed. Barbara McGraw, 126-138. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- 2016 “Morality in *Raising Arizona*.” In *Coen: Framing Religion in Amoral Order*, ed. Elijah Siegler, 21-34. Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press.

- 2015 “Minority (Religious).” In *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*, ed. Kocku von Stuckrad and Robert Segal, ii: 444-449. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Publishers.
- 2013 “The Gospel According to Comic Strips: On *Peanuts* and *The Far Side*.” In *Godly Heretics: Essays on Alternative Christianity in Literature and Popular Culture*, ed. Marc DiPaolo, 143-161. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co.
- 2012 “Religion, Race, and the American Constitutional Order.” In *Faith and Race in American Political Life*, ed. Robin Dale Jacobson and Nancy D. Wadsworth, 33-55. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press.
- 2010 “Freedom, Religious.” In *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, ed. Charles Lippy and Peter Williams. Thousand Oaks, Cal.: Sage Publications.
- 2008 “Americanization”; “Civil Religion”; “Pluralism”; and “Sacred v. Secular.” In *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*, ed. Richard Schaeffer. Thousand Oaks, Cal.: Sage Publications.
- 2007 “Going My Way? Crosby and Catholicism on the Road to America.” In “*Going My Way*”: *Bing Crosby and American Culture*, ed. Ruth Prigozy and Walter Raubicheck, 17-33. Rochester, N.Y.: University of Rochester Press.
- “The Happiest Place on Earth: Disney’s America and the Commodification of Religion,” with Tara Keiko Koda. Excerpted in *Discovering Popular Culture*, ed. Anna Tomasino, 225-231. New York, N.Y.: Pearson Longman.
- 2005 “Homer the Heretic and Charlie Church: Parody, Piety, and Pluralism in *The Simpsons*,” with Lisle Dalton and Monica Siems. Excerpted in *Magic, Witchcraft and Religion: An Anthropological Study of the Supernatural*, 6th ed., ed. Arthur Lehman, James Myers, and Pamela Moro, 477-485. Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill.
- 2003 “Freedom of Conscience.” In *Encyclopedia of Religious Freedom*, ed. Catharine Cookson. New York, N.Y.: Routledge.
- 2001 “Church, State, and the Dilemma of Conscience,” with Phillip E. Hammond. In *The Dynamics of Religious Organizations: The Extravasation of the Sacred and Other Essays*, ed. Phillip E. Hammond, 143-154. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.
- “The Market Paradigm and the Future of Religious Organizations,” with Phillip E. Hammond. In *The Dynamics of Religious Organizations: The Extravasation of the Sacred and Other Essays*, ed. Phillip E. Hammond, 32-47. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.
- 1998 “The Market Paradigm and the Future of Religious Organizations,” with Phillip E. Hammond. In *Religion, Mobilization and Social Action: Religion in the Age of Transformation*, ed. Anson Shupe and Bronislaw Misztal, 67-82. New York, N.Y.: Praeger Publishers.
- 1997 “‘The Supreme Law of the Land’: Sources of Conflict Between Native Americans and the Constitutional Order.” In *American Indian Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Contemporary Issues*, ed. Dane Morrison, 233-259. Baltimore, Md.: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.
- Submitted “Abraham, Martin, & Joachim: Neighbors Seen and Unseen.” In *Who Is My Neighbor? An Interfaith Anthology of Meditations on Social Justice*, ed. Antipas L. Harris.
- In progress “Representations of Judaism in Television and Film.” In *Contemporary Religion, Television, and Film*, ed. Venetia Robertson & Carole M. Cusack (Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, forthcoming).
- Invited “Religion as Popular Culture in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century America.” In *History of American Popular Culture*, ed. Christopher Bigsby (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

**Journal articles**

- Forth-coming "The SS *Quanza*, Jewish Refugees, and the Port of Hampton Roads, 1940." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (expected Fall 2021).
- 2012 "Dar al-Constitutional: Islam in the American Constitutional Order." *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal* 11, 2 (Spring/Summer): 183-220.
- 2002 "Minority Religions and Limitations on Religious Freedom." *Social Education* 66, 3 (April): 149-59.
- 1996 "Constitutional Authority and Prospects for Social Justice for High-Tension Religious Communities." *Social Justice Research* 9, 3 (September): 259-80.
- 1995 "Church, State, and the Dilemma of Conscience," with Phillip E. Hammond. *Journal of Church and State* 37, 3 (Summer): 555-571.
- 1994 "A Myth of Eternal Return: Eliadean Notions of Time in Contemporary Jurisprudence." *Epoché: University of California Journal for the Study of Religions* 19: 35-54.
- In progress "Breckinridge Long, the SS *Quanza*, and the Battle for Control of Jewish Refugees."
- In progress "A Very American Political History of the Yarmulke."

**Invited / non-peer reviewed publications in newsletters, magazines**

- 2020 "After Scheduling a School Year's Start on Rosh Hashanah, Virginia Beach Should Consider Its Growing Religious Diversity." [Princess Anne, Va.] *Independent News* (25 February). Available online: <<http://princessanneindy.com/2020/02/25/mazur-2/>>.
- 2019 "Law, the Sacred, & a Nosh." *Religio et Lex* 1 (Summer): 49-61. Available online: <[http://religioetlex.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Religio\\_et\\_Lex\\_vol1\\_Reflection.pdf](http://religioetlex.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Religio_et_Lex_vol1_Reflection.pdf)>.
- 2016 "Campaign 2016 & the Jewish Problem." *Religious Studies News* ([American Academy of Religion] 2 November). Available online: <<http://rsn.aarweb.org/columns/campaign-2016-jewish-problem>>.
- 2013 "American Civil Religion: The 'Covenant' of Religious Liberty." *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Ideas* (May): 18-19. Available online: <[shma.com/2013/05/american-civil-religion-the-covenant-of-religious-liberty/](http://shma.com/2013/05/american-civil-religion-the-covenant-of-religious-liberty/)>.
- 2003 "Changes in Court Membership Could Have a Significant Impact on Church-State Relations," with Joyce A. Baugh. *Religious Studies News* (American Academy of Religion) 18, 4: 19+.
- 2001 "Religious Minorities and the Pressures of Americanization." *Insights on Law and Society* 1, 2: 8-10. Expanded, on-line version (ABA members only): <[www.abanet.org/publiced/insights/vol1\\_2/articles](http://www.abanet.org/publiced/insights/vol1_2/articles)>.
- "In Memoriam: Robert S. Michaelsen (1919-2000)." *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 30, 2: 30-32.
- 2000 "Supreme Court Rules on University Student Fee Program: Free Speech, Religious Freedom Issues Clash," with Thomas Hughson. *Religious Studies News* (American Academy of Religion) 15, 3/4: 17.
- 1999 "Leading New Books," with Lief Carter, Stephen M. Feldman, et al. *Focus on Law Studies* (Division

for Public Education, American Bar Association) 15, 1: 14-15.

- 1990 “Definitions of Religion in Supreme Court Decisions.” *Report from the Capital* (Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs) 45, 8: 2.

***Presentations to professional associations***

- 2018 “An American Political History of the Yarmulke.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2016 “*Ben-Levi v. Brown* and the Redefinition of Judaism in American Courts.” Religion & American Law Discussion Group 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- “Contemporary Issues” [Organizer, moderator]. Religion & American Law Discussion Group meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2015 “Contemporary Issues” [Organizer, moderator]. Religion & American Law Discussion Group Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Judaism in Popular Culture.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Fandom, Religion, & Popular Culture (Studies).” Conference on Fandom & Religion, University of Leicester (UK).
- 2014 “Celebrating Quanza: The Strange Voyage of the Not-So-Damned Ship of Jewish Refugees, and Its Stranger Story Since.” Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore, Maryland.
- “Contemporary Issues” [Organizer, moderator]. Religion & American Law Discussion Group Annual Meeting, San Diego, California.
- “Post-DOMA Adoption: Public Policy Issues Involving Religion and Same-Sex Marriage,” with Phil Pedlikin. Advancements in Public Policy Conference, George Mason University, Alexandria, Virginia.
- “An Examination of Public Policy in Matters of Religion Related to Adoption by Married Same-Sex Couples,” with Phil Pedlikin. Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2013 “‘Turn to the Right’: *Raising Arizona* and the Lessons of the 1980s.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.
- “Legal Issues in New Religions” [Panel respondent]. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.
- “Wearing Your Religion on Your Sleeve, or Your Lapel, or Your Shirt Pocket: American Judaism on Presidential Campaign Buttons.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2012 “Cultural History of Church-State Jurisprudence in the United States” [Panel respondent]. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2010 “History and Historiography in Church-State Relations.” Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 “Religion, Race, and the American Constitutional Order.” Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 2007 “‘God bless the child...’: Religion, Race, and the American Constitutional Order.” American

- Political Science Association National Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2006 “Moving Texts and Moving Pictures: The Bible and Religion on the Big Screen” [Panel respondent]. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- “Washington, D.C.: Sacred Capital on the Banks of the Potomac.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2005 “Definitions of Religion in the Courts” [Panel respondent]. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2004 “‘God bless the child...’: Race, Religion, and *Brown* at 50.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2002 “Examining the Canon in Church-State Studies.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario.
- “Going My Way? Bing Crosby and the Image of American Catholicism.” Bing Crosby Conference, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.
- 2000 “Religion and the State” [Panel respondent]. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1999 “‘You ain’t like them New York Jews’: The Construction of a Southern Jewish Ethnic Identity.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion National Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1998 “The Ramifications of a Conflict between Free Exercise and Affirmative Action.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
- “The Happiest Place on Earth: Disney’s America and the Commodification of Religion,” with Tara Koda. Popular Culture Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida.
- “Zion in America: Mormons Confront the Constitutional Order.” American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 1997 “Thoughts on Digging Around in the ‘Stuff’ of American Religion.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion National Meeting, San Diego, California.
- “A Reappraisal of the Market Paradigm in the Sociology of American Religious History.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting, Berkeley, California.
- 1996 “Homer the Heretic and Charlie Church: Blasphemy, Piety and Pluralism in *The Simpsons*,” with Lisle Dalton and Monica Siems. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “The Shifting Meaning of Ethnicity in a Sephardic Synagogue.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “Producing and Maintaining the Sacred at the Heart of the Constitutional Order.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion National Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee.
- “The California Three Rs Project: A Case Study in Religion and Public Education.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting, San Diego, California.
- 1995 “Native American Religious Freedom and the Nature of Constitutional Authority.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- “Constitutional Authority and Prospects for Social Justice for High-Tension Religious

Communities.” International Social Justice Conference, Reno, Nevada.

“Justice Joseph Story and the Foundations of Early Church-State Theory.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting, Redlands, California.

1994 “Corpus Christi: The Holy War Over the Body in Public Space,” with Julie Ingersoll. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

“Social Justice and Conscience: A Church-State Dilemma,” with Phillip E. Hammond. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion National Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“‘Respecting an establishment of religion’: Government Authority and the Imposition of Religious Relationships.” Association for the Sociology of Religion National Meeting, Los Angeles, California.

“‘The Jerusalemite community of Sepharad’: The Meaning of Ethnicity in a Sephardic Community.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting, Santa Clara, California.

1993 “A ‘Parade of Horribles’: Unresolved Issues from the *Smith* Decision.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

“Santeria: Awaiting Judgment Day.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting, Fullerton, California.

### ***Invited lectures & presentations***

#### Scholarly & academic community:

2019 “‘Whosoever saves one life...’: The SS *Quanza* and the Battle Over Jewish Refugees, 1940.” Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan University, Norfolk, Virginia.

2017 “The Gospel According to Luke, or How I Came to Understand Scripture from *a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away*.” Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, California State University, Chico.

“Religion & American Politics” [Panel moderator]. Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, California State University, Chico.

2016 “When Rights Conflict: Personal Freedoms Versus Religious Obligations Since the *Hobby Lobby* Decision.” Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Norfolk, Virginia.

2014 “‘A wandering Aramean was my father’ (Deut. 26:5): Nomadic Experience as Jewish Memory.” Center for Sacred Music, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.

“The *Hobby Lobby* Decision & Religion” (Constitution Day panel), Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.

“‘Blind indeed is he who sees not the hand of God in events so vast’: America Takes God Abroad, 1898-1960.” Center for Sacred Music, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.

2013 “Kashrut in Prison.” The American Academy of Religion and the Center for Engaged Pluralism (cosponsors), Baltimore, Maryland.

2012 “Polygamy, Polyandry, Monogamy, Oh My!” Center for Sacred Music, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.

“The Role of Religion in the 2012 Presidential Campaign.” Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.



- “From ‘God is Dead’ to ‘God is One of Us’ in Less than 35 Years.” Center for Sacred Music, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “Dar al-Constitution: Islam in the American Constitutional Order.” *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal* Symposium: “One Nation Under Law: Exploring the Muslim American Experience.” University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, Conn.
- 2011 “Ritual and Performance, Ritual as Performance: Religious Programs and Prayers in the Public School.” Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2010 “Sacred Music in the Twentieth Century.” Center for Sacred Music, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2009 “The Reformation and the Myth of Religious Freedom.” James Becker Memorial Symposia, Tidewater Community College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “Cultural Conflicts and Sensitive Subjects: Navigating the Different Worldviews of Students, Parents, Teachers, and Administrators” (keynote). 2009 Educators Conference, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2008 “Bubbe Got Run Over by a Reindeer: The Use of Hanukkah to Justify Christmas in Public Space.” University of North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina.
- Also presented at the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia, 2008.
- 2007 “Food for Thought: Judaism’s Encounters with the American Appetite, or You Are What Other People See You Eat.” Inaugural Lecture, Gloria & David Furman Chair in Judaic Studies, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “Religion, Religious Freedom, and the Constitution.” Symposium on *Religious Freedom and the Constitution* (by Christopher Eisgruber and Lawrence Sager). Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. [Available online: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PECGXiEzQJ4>> (18:23 - 41:47)]
- 2006 “How the Grinch Stole Hanukkah: Or, The Second Greatest Story Ever Told.” Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “Washington, D.C.: Sacred Capital on the Banks of the Potomac.” Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2005 “‘God bless the child...’: Religion, Race, and the American Constitutional Order,” Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania.
- 2004 “Reading Homer; or, All I Really Need to Know About American Religion I Learned from *The Simpsons*,” Killeen Chair Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin.
- “Turning the Tables: Taking Another Look at Church-State Studies,” DePaul University Center for Church-State Studies, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Catholics, Jews, and the Pressures of Americanization,” DePaul University Center for Church-State Studies, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Watching Film, Reading History: Father Crosby, Religion, and American Catholicism, Mid-Century.” Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2003 “Representations of Good and Evil in American Popular Culture.” Department of English, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.
- “Going My Way? Crosby and Catholicism on the Road to America.” Department of Performance

Studies and Program in Religious Studies, New York University.

- 2002 “The Protestant Presence in Church-State Studies.” University of California, Santa Barbara (Symposium: “Religion, Law, and the Sacred: Reflections on the Work of Phillip E. Hammond”).
- 2001 “The Image of Judaism in Popular Culture.” Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) East Tennessee Conference for Jewish Youth Educators, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- “Religion and Public Schools: Rights, Responsibilities, and Respect” (keynote). Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) East Tennessee Conference for Jewish Youth Educators, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- “Jews as a Test Case for Religious Minorities and the Constitution.” Department of Religious Studies and Program in Jewish Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 1999 “Free Exercise or Toleration? Religious Minorities and the Pressures to be Normal.” American Academy of Religion Workshop on Religion and the Media, Toronto, Ontario.
- “Using the Web to Teach about Religion and the Constitution.” American Bar Association Conference on Higher Education (Topic: “Law, Religion, & the Moral Order”), San Antonio, Texas.
- “‘And God called the firmament Heaven’: Religion, Myth, and Outer Space in Contemporary Popular Culture.” Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 1998 “Strategies of Church/State Confrontation: Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, and Native American Religious Traditions Encounter the Constitutional Order.” Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, California.
- 1997 “Space, Ritual, and the Maintenance of a Sacred Capital.” Public Lecture Series on Religion and American Society, California State University, Chico.
- 1995 “Conceptualizations of Religion in Supreme Court History.” Ventura College of Law, Ventura, California.
- 1991 “Public Interest Lobbying Techniques of the Organized Religious Communities.” Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- “Religious Themes in the 1960s Counterculture Movement.” West Virginia University, Morgantown.
- 1990 “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act and First Amendment Decisions.” American University, Washington, DC.
- 1989 “Judaism and Politics in the United States and Israel.” Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

General community:

- 2019 “The War on Jewish Christmas: A Battlefield Assessment.” University of Virginia Hillel, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 2018 “From Shul to School: Thoughts on Sending Our Young Men and Women to College.” Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “*You prepare a table before me*’: Approaching Judaism Through Food” (lecture series). Westminster Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “‘And these things which I command you this day’: Judaism and God’s Commandments”
  - “‘My cup runneth over’: God’s Commandments and Eating, ‘Jewishly’”
  - “‘There was evening and there was morning’: Eating Through the Jewish Year”

- “‘A Time to Live and a Time to Die’: Eating Through the Jewish Life Cycle”
- 2017 “Pop Culture, Make-Believe, & the Nature of Religion.” Institute for Learning in Retirement (Old Dominion University), Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “In Search of Jewish Portugal.” Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “‘Baseball is like church...’: Religion & Baseball, Our National Pastimes.” Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “‘As seen on TV’: Performing Judaism in Modern American Popular Culture.” Jewish Community Center, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 2016 “‘Listen to their voice and set a king over them’ (I Samuel 8:22): Politics & American Religion” (lecture series). St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Norfolk.
- “‘But what about that wall?’: A History of Religion in American Politics”
  - “God and the Elect(orate): Religion in Campaign 2016”
  - “Just When We Had It All Figured Out: The Changing Religious Landscape and Its Impact on American Politics”
- “Uncivil Fights Over Religious and Individual Rights: How to Interpret Current Court Trends.” Institute for Learning in Retirement (Old Dominion University), Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “Judaism in the 2016 Campaign.” Temple Emanuel, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “The SS *Quanza*, Jewish Refugees, and the Port of Norfolk, 1940.” Jewish Museum & Cultural Center, Portsmouth, Virginia.
- 2014 “‘Hosti gezeyn in dayne lebn?’: What to Make of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jewish Pop. Culture.” Hadassah (Norfolk chapter), Temple Israel, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2013 “Now Starring Melvin Kaminsky and Allen Konigsberg: Revealing the Jew in Film.” Service for Erev Shavuot, Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2012 “Election 2012 & Religion: Nothing Sacred, Nothing Gained.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia.
- “Sacred Outside Space” [panel moderator]. Jewish Museum & Cultural Center, Portsmouth, Virginia.
- “Judaism @ College.” Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2011 “In Search of God Online.” St. George’s Episcopal Parish Rector’s Forum, Pungoteague, Virginia.
- “Oh Little Town of Hollywood: How a Jewish Kid Beat the Odds and Got His Own Christmas Special.” Tidewater Jewish Community Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- 2009 “‘Hello, it’s God. Is anybody there?’: Revelation in Relation to Contemporary American Society.” Service for Erev Shavuot, Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2008 “Religion in Film Today: Reading Between the Frames.” Lecture Series, Westminster Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “Public Prayer in America: God Help Us!” Virginia Beach Kiwanis, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- “The Immunities of Citizenship: George Washington and the Well-Meaning Gift of Liberty of Conscience.” Annual Men’s Club Shabbat, Ohel Sholom Temple, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2007 “Oh Little Town of Hollywood: How a Jewish Kid Beat the Odds and Got His Own Christmas

- Special.” United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula, Newport News, Virginia.
- 2001 “‘Good Tidings to You?’: Religious Traditions Encounter Christmas.” Public Library for Union County, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Also presented at Herr Library, Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, 2001.
- “Election 2000: Politics and Religion, From a Jewish Perspective.” Scholar-in-Residence, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- “Finding Judaism in American Law.” Scholar-in-Residence, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- “‘You ain’t like them New York Jews’: The Construction of a Southern Jewish Ethnic Identity.” Scholar-in-Residence, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 2000 “Disney and Religion.” Joseph Priestley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.
- “The Holocaust as Subject and Object of Memory.” Ohev Sholom Temple, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.
- 1999 “Pluralism and the Dilemma of Religious Free Exercise.” Unitarian-Universalist Congregation at Somerset Hills, New Jersey.
- “The Bagel is Basic: The Image of the Jew in Contemporary Popular Culture.” Scholar-in-Residence, Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- “The ‘December Dilemma’ and So Much More: Limits and Possibilities for Religion in the Public Schools.” Scholar-in-Residence, Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- “The Paradox of Religious Freedom at the End of the Twentieth Century.” Scholar-in-Residence, Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 1998 “‘On Earth as it is in Heaven’: Outer Space as the Mirror of (Human) Religious Yearnings.” Ottawa Art Gallery Symposium, Ottawa, Canada.
- Also presented at Bucknell University, 1999.
- “A Dixie Jew Comes to Union County.” Torah Fund Luncheon, Rodef Sholom Temple, Hampton, Virginia.
- 1997 “‘My Country ‘tis of Thee’: Interfaith Relations and Competing Visions of America.” The J. Stanley and Helene Cohen Interfaith Service, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 1996 “God and the Elect(orate).” Chico Area Interfaith Council Community Forum, Chico, California.
- 1990 “Contemporary Issues in American Jewish Politics.” American Jewish Committee (Louisville Chapter) Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky.

Film commentary:

- 2019 *Nobody Wants Us* (dir. Laura Seltzer-Duny, 2019), with Elena Baum et al. Ohev Sholom Temple, Norfolk, Virginia.
- The Frisco Kid* (dir. Robert Aldrich, 1979), with Michael Panitz. Congregation Beth El, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2016 *Saul Fia* (‘Son of Saul’; dir. László Nemes, 2015). NARO Expanded Cinema, Norfolk, Virginia.

- 2015 *The Quarrel* (dir. Eli Cohen, 1991). Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- Beneath the Helmet* (dir. Wayne Kopping, 2014). Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2011 *Waiting for Armageddon* (dir. David Heilbroner, Franco Sacchi, Kate Davis, 2010), with Paul Rasor. NARO Expanded Cinema, Norfolk, Virginia.
- Defamation* (dir. Yoav Shamir, 2009), with Maura Hametz-Webb. NARO Expanded Cinema, Norfolk, Virginia.

## DEPARTMENTAL & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

### Administrative Positions Held:

- Virginia Wesleyan University: Virginia Wesleyan University Team Advisor, Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges Ethics Bowl (2008-2012); Director, American Studies Program (2010-2014); Acting Director, Center for the Study of Religious Freedom (January-June, 2012); Shammes, Jewish studies minor (2013-present); Faculty Advisor, *Religio et Lex* (2017-present).
- Bucknell University: Co-coordinator, American Studies Program (2005-2007); Co-coordinator, Legal Studies Program (2006-2007); Chair, Religion Department (2006-2007).

### Governance Committee Membership:

- Virginia Wesleyan University: Student Welfare Committee of the Community Council (2008-2011); Commission on Faculty Standards & Welfare (2009-2011); Ad Hoc Committee on Standards (2012).
- Bucknell University: Humanities Committee on Academic Computing (1997-2007); Community Judicial Board and Hearing Board on Sexual Assault (1998-2002); Faculty Council (2000-2003); Graduate Council (2000-2007); Curriculum Committee, College of Arts & Sciences (2001-2004); Committee on Instruction (Spring semester, 2005); Pre-Law Advisory Committee (2005-2007); Religious Life Advisory Committee (2005-2007); Academic Planning Group (2006-2007).

### Academic /Administrative Search Committee Membership:

- Bucknell University: American Government (tenure-track position, 2001); American Religions (one-year position, 1999); Christianity (one-year position, 2004; tenure-track position, 1999; 2005); East Asian Religions (one-year position, 2004, 2005, and 2006; tenure-track position, 2006); Ethics (one-year position, 2002); Jewish Studies (tenure-track position, 2001); Pre-Law Advisor (2006); South Asian Religions (one-year position, 2002; tenure-track position, 1999, 2004); Student Affairs Vice President (2000).

### Departmental / Faculty Review Committee Membership:

- Virginia Wesleyan College: Faculty Committee on Advancement & Tenure (2016-2019; co-chair 2018-2019).
- Bucknell University: Religion Department Faculty (Promotion and Tenure) Review Committee (2003, 2005; Chair, 2006); Political Science Department Faculty (Promotion and Tenure) Review Committee (2003); Race/Gender Resource Center (Unit) Review Committee (Co-chair, 2003-2004).
- External Reviewer (Promotion & Tenure): Creighton University (Department of Political Science & International Studies, 2004); University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (Department of Philosophy, 2015).

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to scholarly associations: Law, Religion, & Culture Consultation, American Academy of Religion (steering committee member, 1997-2001); Religious Freedom, Public Life, & the State Group (formerly the Church-State Studies Group), American Academy of Religion (steering committee member, 1998-2005; co-chair, 1999-2005); North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion (unit reviewer, 2014).

Service to scholarly journals: *Epoché: University of California Journal for the Study of Religions* (managing editor, 1995-1996); *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* (editorial advisory board, 2001-2009; book review editor, 2002-2009); *Southern Jewish History* (editorial advisory board, 1999-2002); *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (guest member, editorial advisory board: 29, 3 [2000]); *Journal of Religion and Theatre* (editorial advisory board, 2008-2010); *Journal of American Culture* (book review co-editor, 2011-2012).

### Conference organizer:

- 2017 *Religion in the Public Sphere: Conflict or Dialogue?* Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, California State University, Chico.
- 2012 *Corresponding Motions: Religions & Religion in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America.* Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Reviewer, manuscripts & proposals (1998-present): Alta Mira Press; Baylor University Press, Bucknell University Press; Columbia University Press; *Journal of American Culture*; *Journal of Communication Inquiry*; *Journal of Religion & Film*; *Journal of Religion & Theatre*; *Journal of Religious History*; *Journal of Southern Religion*; Laurence King Publishers (UK); New York University Press; Oxford University Press; Palgrave; *Review of General Psychology*; *Review of Religious Research*; Routledge; Rutgers University Press; *Southern Jewish History*; State University of New York Press; *University of British Columbia Law Review*; University of California Press; University of North Carolina Press; University of Virginia Press; Westview Press.

Book notes, reviews, & review essays (45+, 1995-present): *American Studies*; *CHOICE*; *Church History*; *Church History & Religious Culture*; *Epoché: University of California Journal for the Study of Religions*; H-NET (H-Amstdy); *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Journal of American Culture*; *Journal of Church & State*; *Journal of Law & Religion*; *Journal of Media & Religion*; *Journal of Religion*; *Journal of Religious History*; *Journal of Religion & Popular Culture*; *Journal of Southern Religion*; *Nova Religio*; *Religious Studies Review*; *Review of Religious Research*; *Shofar*; *Society*; *Sociology of Religion*.

Consultant: Jewish Museum & Cultural Center, Portsmouth, Virginia (2011-present); Religion Study Committee, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (2013-present); Seltzer Film & Video (2014-2017); *Virginia: The U.Va. Magazine* (2015).

## PUBLIC SERVICE

Static media resource: *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Baltimore Jewish Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, CNN.com, *Deseret News*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *Kansas City Star*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly*, Religious News Service, *TV Guide*, *Washington Post*, and local newspapers in Alabama, California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Broadcast media resource: *Culture Shocks*, with Barry Lynn (nationally syndicated radio program), episode #249 (live, July 29, 2004); *WDEL Delaware Afternoon News*, with Allan Loudell (live, January 17, 2006); *The World Today*, BBC World Service (background only, April 4, 2006); *P.O.T.U.S. '08*, with Adrienne Mitchell (XM satellite radio, channel 130; taped, aired November 22+, 2007); *Focus on Faith*, with Jim Bergdoll, (Local cable affiliate, channel 11; taped, aired Dec. 10+, 2007); *HearSay*, with Cathy Lewis (PBS / WHRV-FM, Norfolk, Va.; live, February 28, 2008); *South Florida's First News* (WIOD-AM, Miami, Florida; live, June 17, 2013); "Religion and American Law," with Brad Stoddard (*The Religious Studies Project*, podcast posted 8 February 2016); *Another View*, with Barbara Hamm Lee (PBS/ WHRV-FM, Norfolk, Va.; live, 1 April 2016).

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team: Volunteer (2012-present).

Annual All-Tidewater Invitational Latke-Hamantashn Debate: Organizer (2012-2015).

Congregation Beth El (Norfolk, Virginia): Board of Directors (Member, 2014-2018; Vice President, 2018-present); Ritual Committee (Chair, 2016-present); Goldback Scholarship Application Review Committee (Chair, 2017-present); *Shomer* (2011-present);

National Christian Forensics & Communications Association: Judge, regional debates (2015-2016).

### AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

Virginia Wesleyan University:

Summer Faculty Development Grant (2008; 2010; 2015; 2016; 2018)

Frank & Jane P. Batten Distinguished Scholar Award (2014)

Sabbatical Leave (Spring 2014)

Bucknell University:

Scholarly Development Grant (1999; 2001; 2005)

Sabbatical Leave (Fall 2004)

Curricular & Instructional Grant (2000; 2003; 2004)

Faculty Course Release (2002)

Untenured Faculty Leave (1999-2000)

University of California, Santa Barbara:

Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Predoctoral Fellowship (1996)

Thomas F. O'Dea Memorial Award for Religion & Society (Department of Religious Studies, 1996)

Doctoral Candidacy Fellowship (1995)

External Sources:

Mednick Fellowship Award, Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (2017)

Research Fellowship, United Jewish Federation of the Virginia Peninsula (1999)

### OTHER RELATED WORK & EXPERIENCE

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2020      | Participant, "Religious Liberty at the Crossroads," Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University. Chicago, Ill. (Invited).  |
| 2016      | Co-signer, "California State Board of Education, RE: Social Sciences and Religion Faculty Group Comments on History-Social Science Framework Narrative Revision," Barbara McGraw, lead author.                           |
| 2004      | Co-signer, "Brief Amicus Curiae of Barbara McGraw in Support of Affirmance," <i>Elk Grove Unified School District v. Michael A. Newdow</i> . United States Supreme Court No. 02-1624, Barbara McGraw, Counsel of Record. |
| 1995      | Participant, The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center Summer Institute, Oakland, California.   |
| 1994-1996 | Administrative Assistant / Grant Researcher, California Three Rs Project, Santa Barbara, California.   |
| 1990-1991 | Legislative Director, Americans for Democratic Action, Washington, DC.   |
| 1989-1990 | Alfred Moses Public Policy Fellow, American Jewish Committee, Washington, DC.  |

**SUPPLEMENTAL COURSEWORK**

- 2013 “Christian Foundations of Law,” Regent University School of Law, Virginia Beach, Virginia (audit).  
2010 Grant Writing Workshop, Norfolk, Virginia.  
1993 “Legal Research,” Extension Office, University of California, Santa Barbara, California.  
1988 “Constitutional Law: Religion,” University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, Virginia.  
1985 “Intensive Hebrew,” Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel.

**AFFILIATIONS**

**Professional**

American Academy of Religion  
Association for Jewish Studies  
Southern Jewish Historical Society

**Academic**

Omicron Delta Kappa  
The Raven Society (University of Virginia)