

## Adam DJ Brett

Ph.D. Candidate in the Syracuse University Department of Religion.

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### EDUCATION

- 2011–present
  - **Ph.D. Candidate**, Religion. Syracuse University, Department of Religion.
    - Dissertation: *Fundamentalists and Superheroes: The Failure of the Messianic in American Culture (1900-45)*, directed by Dr. Zachary Braiterman
    - Comprehensive Exams: My exams focused on the ways that aesthetic spaces provide a compelling location for analyzing the power/knowledge relationships between religion and visual culture. These exams were organized around:
      - Person: Michel Foucault as a Religious Thinker.
      - Text: From *The Fundamentals* to Fundamentalisms.
      - Movement: The Byzantine Iconoclastic Controversy: Exploring the Religious Dimension of Images.
      - Problem: Imagining Messianism in American Religion & Visual Culture.
- 2014
  - **M.Phil**, Religion. Syracuse University.
- 2013
  - **Certificate of Advanced Studies**, Women's and Gender Studies. Syracuse University.
- 2011
  - **Th.M.**, History and Theology. Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Thesis: *Archaeological Theology: G-d Beyond God*, directed by Dr. Namsoon Kang.
  - **Graduate Certificate**, Women's and Gender Studies. Texas Christian University.
- 2009
  - **M.T.S.**, Theology and Culture. Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Thesis: *A Critical Study of Postmodern Theologizing: Examining Myth and Theology in The Little Prince*, directed by Dr. Namsoon Kang.
- 2006
  - **B.A.**, History and Biblical Studies, Warner University.

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- American Religion
- Critical Theories of Religion
- Christian Studies and Theology
- Women's and Gender Studies
- Religion, Media, Culture

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Syracuse University, University College, Course Designer**
  - Religion and Sports, online 8-week accelerated course in development
  - Religion and Science Fiction, online 8-week accelerated course in development

- **American Baptist Churches (USA)**
  - Spring 2019: Introduction to the New Testament an ABC Lay Studies Course (co-taught)
- **Syracuse University, Instructor**
  - 2020-Fall: Religion and Sports, Online
  - 2020-Fall: Religion and Science Fiction, Online
  - 2020-Summer: Religion and Sports, Online
  - 2019-Summer: Religion and Sports, Online
  - 2015-Fall: Introduction to the Study of Religion
  - 2015-Spring: Introduction to the Study of Religion
  - 2014-Fall: Religion in Science Fiction
- **American Baptist Churches of New York State (ABC-NYS), Instructor**
  - 2019-Spring New Testament Lay Studies Course
- **Syracuse University, Teaching Assistant**
  - 2020-Spring: Religion and Sports
  - 2019-Fall: Native American Religions
  - 2019-Spring: Religion and Sports
  - 2018-Fall: Indigenous Religions
  - 2016-Spring: Lincoln, Religion and the Civil War
  - 2015-Fall: Native American Religion
  - 2015-Spring: Faith and Reason in Islamic Thought and Civilization
  - 2014-Fall: Christianity
  - 2014-Spring: Introduction to the Bible
  - 2013-Fall: Judaism
  - 2013-Spring: Buddhism
  - 2012-Fall: Native American Religions
  - 2012-Spring: Introduction to the Bible
  - 2011-Fall: Introduction to the Study of Religion

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Reavers ain't men [sic]—or they forgot *how* to be.” Teaching Religion in Science Fiction, *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 46, no. 4 (Winter 2019): 421-430.
- Joint Book Review: “*Religion and Culture: Contemporary Practices and Perspectives*” and “*The World’s Religions: A Contemporary Reader*.” *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 42, no. 1 (Spr. 2015): 92–94.
- Book Review: *Religious and Sexual Nationalisms in Central and Eastern Europe — Gods, Gays and Governments*, written by Sremac, Srdjan and R. Ruard Ganzevoort (eds.) (2015), *Journal of Empirical Theology*, 29(1), 133-134. doi:15709256-12341335.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2015-Fall: A Survivor’s Guide to teaching Religion 320, a roundtable with Seren Gates Amadour, Daniel Moseson, Courtney O’Dell-Chaib for the Syracuse University Department of Religion.
- 2014-Spring: “Theologians Without Passports: An Ethic of Ecumenical Difference,” invited lecture at United Church in Fayetteville, Fayetteville, NY.
- 2014-Fall, 2015-Spring: “The Art of Effective (Science) Presentations.” Women in Science and Engineering, response by Shobha K. Bhatia, Future Professionals Program (WiSE-FPP) at Syracuse University.
- 2013-Spring, 2015-Spring: “Aimee Semple McPherson and the Development of Radio,” in the course Pop Culture Studies: Radio, Musics & Audio Cultures taught by Dr. Jenny Doctor, Syracuse University.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- **2019**
  - “The Importance of Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery for Baptists,” Church History panel, 2019 NABPR Annual Meeting, Campbell University, Raleigh, NC.
- **2018**
  - “Reavers Ain’t Human, or They Forgot How to Be: Teaching Religion in Science Fiction.” Religion and Popular Culture Unit. Theme: Popular Pedagogy: Enhancing Student Learning through Popular Culture, American Academy of Religion, Denver Meeting.
  - “Dispensational Catastrophic-Utopianism in the Early 20th Century United States,” Transformations and Their Religious-Cultural Landscape panel, Flourish and Decay: Exploring Religion in Process, Syracuse University Graduate Student Conference.
- **2017**
  - “The Monstrosity of Messianism in Zack Snyder’s Man of Steel and Batman vs. Superman,” 2017 Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston. Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit and Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit Theme: Superheroes, Where Is Thy Sting? #deathbeyond panel.
  - “Teaching the Effective History of the Enlightenment,” Engaged Pedagogy and Social Justice Education panel, 2017 NABPR Annual Meeting, Belmont University.
- **2016**
  - “It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane, It’s Messianism, or Superman and the Limits of Weak Messianism,” Theology IV section, NABPR Annual Meeting, Baylor University.
  - “Messiahs in America: The return of Superheroes and the development of a modern American mythology,” Uninvited Guests & Atemporal Returns panel, Encountering the Unexpected: Glitches, (Dis)placements, & Marginalia, Syracuse University Religion Graduate Student Conference.
- **2015**
  - “The Failure of the Messianic in *Man of Steel*,” Desire and Devotion in Pop Culture panel, Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, McGill University, Friday May 1, 2015.

- “What is Queer about Queer Christian Theology?,” co-presented with Samuel Castleberry in the Queer Theology and “Deviance” panel, “*ReligionInterruptus: The Affects of Sex, Politics, and Bodies*,” Syracuse University Religion Graduate Student Conference.
- **2014**
  - “Remove Not The Ancient Landmark, Which Thy Fathers Have Set”: Masculinity in The Fundamentals, in Gender in 19th Century New York Religions panel, Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, Syracuse University.
  - “I Still Belong to Jesus? The Rise of Christian Agnosticism and Religious Nones,” Religious Belonging and Exclusion Panel, ““Should I Stay or Should I Go?’: Journeys of Belonging and Exclusion,” Syracuse University Department of History Graduate Student Conference.
- **2013**
  - “Monstrous Bodies: Theologizing the Posthuman,” NABPR Annual Meeting, Baylor University.
  - “River & Reavers ain’t human—or they forgot how to be. Monstrous Bodies, Animality, and Religion in *Firefly & Serenity*,” “The Monstrous, the Marginalized, and Transgressive Forms of ‘Humanity’” Syracuse University Religion Graduate Conference.
- **2012**
  - “Developing a Pedagogy of Transgression: Teaching Religion Today,” NABPR Annual Meeting Belmont University.
- **2011**
  - “Playing with Negative Theology: Reading Derrida’s ‘Structure, Sign, and Play,’” NABPR Annual Meeting Gardner–Webb University.
  - Advanced Program Student “Getting a Job Workshop,” co-presented with Loren D.J. Baxter, Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University.
  - Sticks And Stones Will Break Your Bones But iPhones Will Kill You: A Response to Dr. Kwok Pui Lan’s “*Fishing The Asia Pacific: Transnationalism And Feminist Theology*,” Student Colloquy with Kwok Pui Lan, Brite Divinity School Texas Christian University.
- **2010**
  - “*The Little Prince* as Theologian,” NABPR Annual Meeting, McAfee School of Theology.
  - “Making Mornings That They’ll Remember: God, Ethnicity, Race, Gender, and Sexuality in William P. Young’s *The Shack*,” Co-presented with Rodney A. Thomas, Jr., NABPR Annual Meeting.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Forthcoming: Quotidian: A curated blog about everyday religion (quotidian.pub).
- 2020-present: Then and Now Project: three case studies of dispossession. This is a joint project between Dr. Robert Spiegelman, Indigenous Values Initiative, and the American Indian Law Alliance.
  - Then and now Project (thenandnow.us)
  - Sullivan-Clinton Campaign (sullivanclinton.com)
  - Derry Veagh Evictions (derryveagh.com)

- Staked Plains/Palo Duro Canyon (stakedplains.com)
- 2017-present: Doctrine of Discovery (doctrineofdiscovery.org).
- 2016: Research Assistant to Dr. Gareth Fisher on the Data Analysis of the Syracuse University Department of Religion Undergraduate Program. For this project I used R and SPSS.
- 2013: Research Assistant to Dr. Namsoon Kang and WOCATI for the open access book: *Challenges and Promises of Quality Assurance in Theological Education: Multicontextual and Ecumenical Inquires* (wocati.org/challenges).
- 2011-present: Religion Call for Papers (relcfp.com).

## ACADEMIC AND SELECTED PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- **2018-present**
  - Editor
    - Quotidian: A curated blog about everyday religion (quotidian.pub)
  - International Research Specialist
    - American Indian Law Alliance (aila.ngo)
      - Part of the organizing committee for the Global Indigenous Women’s Caucus and Global Indigenous People Caucus, pre-conference events for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).
        - Helped facilitate the Special Rapporteurs collaborative simultaneous multi-lingual note taking. Assisted in drafting the outcome documents for the UNPFII.
      - Part of the organizing committee for “Imposed Borders of Colonialism: Violence against Indigenous Women, Indigenous Girls and Mother Earth” official side event for the UN Council on the Status of Women.
      - Setup and ran the live stream for “The Haudenosaunee Influence on the Women’s Rights Movement, Then and Now” with special guest Gloria Steinem.
      - Web Developer and Event Support Staff for Honor Oren Lyons (honororenlyons.com).
  - Freelance Web Developer (selected)
    - American Indian Law Alliance (aila.ngo)
    - Broadly Textual Pub (broadlytextual.com)
    - Doctrine of Discovery (doctrineofdiscovery.org)
    - Eileen Campbell-Reed (eileencampbellreed.org)
      - State of Clergywomen in the U.S.: A Statistical Update (stateofclergywomen.org)
      - Three Minute Ministry Mentor (threeminuteministrymentor.org)
    - Jewish Humor and Satire (jewishhumorandsatire.com)
    - Indigenous Values Initiative (indigenousvalues.org)
    - NABPR: National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (nabpr.org)
    - RELCFP: Religion Call for Papers (relcfp.com)
    - RCDP: Realists for Rural Communities & Congo Development Projects (rcdp.co)
    - Spirit Twins Lacrosse (spirittwinslacrosse.com)

- Stephanie M. Wyatt ([stephaniewyatt.net](http://stephaniewyatt.net))
    - WiSE: Syracuse University Women in Science and Engineering ([suwise.syr.edu](http://suwise.syr.edu))
    - WOCATI: World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions ([wocati.org](http://wocati.org))
    - West Baptist Church, Oswego, NY ([westbaptistchurch.org](http://westbaptistchurch.org))
  - Webmaster
    - Syracuse University, Department of Religion ([religion.syr.edu](http://religion.syr.edu))
    - Syracuse University, Jewish Studies ([jsp.syr.edu](http://jsp.syr.edu))
- **2019**
  - Summer Student Assistant
    - Syracuse University College of Arts & Sciences Marketing and Communications
  - Research Assistant, Syracuse University Department of Religion (Dr. Philip P. Arnold)
    - Accessibility audit and remediation of course materials for Religion and Sports
  - Website Advisor
    - Bleak Theology ([bleaktheology.com](http://bleaktheology.com))
    - The Mid-Geek Crisis ([themidgeekcrisis.com](http://themidgeekcrisis.com))
- **2018**
  - Editor
    - Jugaad: A Material Religions Project ([jugaad.pub](http://jugaad.pub)). This project has been completed.
  - Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator
    - Flourish and Decay: Exploring Religion in Process: Syracuse University, Religion Graduate Student Conference ([religionconference.syr.edu](http://religionconference.syr.edu))
  - Research Assistant, Syracuse University Department of Religion (Dr. Philip P. Arnold, chair)
- **2017**
  - Teaching Mentor, Syracuse University Teaching Assistant Orientation Program
- **2016-17**
  - Research Assistant, Syracuse University Department of Religion.
    - Dr. Virginia Burrus, Director of Graduate Studies
    - Dr. Marcia C. Robinson, Director of Undergraduate Studies
  - Webmaster for *The Place of Religion in Film* conference organized by Dr. M. Gail Hamner.
  - Freelance Copyeditor, Syracuse University School of Architecture, Thesis 2016.
- **2015-present**
  - Assistant Executive Secretary, Social Media Coordinator and Web Administrator, National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR), ([nabpr.org](http://nabpr.org))
- **2012-16**
  - Graduate Assistant, Belfer Audio Archive, Syracuse University Libraries, Summers.
- **2011-present**
  - Teaching Assistant, Department of Religion, Syracuse University.
- **2008-2011**

- Webmaster and Social Media Manager, *Unfinished Lives: Remembering LGBT Hate Crime Victims* a book and blog by Dr Steve Sprinkle (unfinishedlivesblog.com).
- **2008–present**
  - Webmaster and Social Media Manager, World Conference of Association of Theological Institutions (WOCATI), (wocati.org).
- **2008-11**
  - Graduate Assistant, Prof. Dr. Namsoon Kang, Brite Divinity School.
  - Student Assistant, Technology Resources, Brite Divinity School.
- **2004-06**
  - Web Administrator, Warner University

## SELECTED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **2020**
  - Mother Earth's Pandemic: The Doctrine of Discovery, conference organizing committee, and discussion group moderator
  - Ways of Knowing, A Fundraising Gala for the Skā·noñh - Great Law of Peace Center, fundraising organizing committee
- **2019**
  - Co-Organizer, Web Developer/Social Media Coordinator. Deyhontsigwa'ehs- The Creator's Game, Wooden Stick Lacrosse Festival and The First Annual Randy Hall Masters Wooden Stick Lacrosse Tournament [#laxweekend19](#)
- **2018**
  - Web Developer/Social Media Coordinator, Flourish and Decay: Exploring Religion in Process, Syracuse University Graduate Student Conference, April 13th, 2018 (religionconference.syr.edu)
  - Co-Organizer, Web Developer/Social Media Coordinator. Taking on the Doctrine of Discovery, What are our Next Steps?, August 18-19, 2018, Skā·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center, Liverpool NY in Onondaga Nation Territory.
  - Co-Organizer, Web Developer/Social Media Coordinator. Deyhontsigwa'ehs- The Creator's Game, Wooden Stick Lacrosse Festival and The First Annual Randy Hall Masters Wooden Stick Lacrosse Tournament [#laxweekend18](#)
- **2017**
  - Co-Organizer, Web Developer/Social Media Coordinator. Deyhontsigwa'ehs- The Creator's Game, Lacrosse Weekend and Wooden Stick Festival featuring an International Lacrosse Scrimmage between the Iroquois Nationals, Team Israel, and University of Albany Great Danes [#laxweekend17](#).
- **2016**
  - Co-Organizer, Web Developer/Social Media Coordinator, and Panel Chair. Encountering the Unexpected: Glitches, (Dis)placements, & Marginalia, Syracuse University Religion Graduate Student Conference, March 25-26, 2016.

- **2015**
  - Organizing Committee. Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, McGill University, May 1-2, 2015.
- **2014**
  - Co-Organizer and Presider. Graduate Training and Scholarly Formation, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. November 22, 2014 (Panelists: Thomas A. Tweed, University of Notre Dame; David Harrington Watt, Temple University; Kathryn Lofton, Yale University; Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida; Deborah Creamer, Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, PA; Jeff Wilson, University of Waterloo)
  - Organizer and Roundtable Chair. “Roundtable, Teaching Religion in America across Institutional Contexts,” Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, Syracuse University, Saturday May 3, 2014.
  - Panel Chair. “Gender and Sexuality in the Oneida Community,” Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, Syracuse University, Saturday May 3, 2014.
- **2011**
  - Co-Organizer. World Conference of Associated Theological Institutions (WOCATI) Executive Committee Meeting, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, March 17-20 2009.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- **American Academy of Religion**
  - 2019-20
    - Interim Graduate Student Director, Eastern International Region
  - 2013-15
    - Graduate Student Committee, American Academy of Religion
    - Graduate Student Director, Eastern International Region
      - Created, managed and maintained the EIR website and social media (eiraar.net)
- **Syracuse University**
  - 2015-16: Graduate Student Admissions Committee Representative.
  - 2013–present: Syracuse University, Department of Religion Listserv Manager.
  - 2012-13: University Senate, Senator-at-Large.
  - 2012-13: Graduate Student Organization, Senator-at-Large.
  - 2012-13: Religion Graduate Student Organization, Co-president.
- **Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University**
  - 2008-11: Member, Theory Group
  - 2008-11: Treasurer, Advanced Program Student Association
  - 2010-11: Vice Moderator, Brite Student Association
  - 2008-10: General Secretary, Brite Student Association
- **Warner University**
  - 2003-06: Member, Student Congress, Student Government Association



- 2003-06: President Pro Tempore, Student Government Association

## FUNDING

- 2010–2019: Teaching Assistantship (tuition and stipend). Syracuse University Department of Religion.
- 2013: Travel funding for the *Global Ecumenical Theological Institute* and Tenth Assembly of the *World Council of Churches*, Busan, Korea.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2013: Theta Chi Beta Chapter, Theta Alpha Kappa, Religious Studies Honor Society.
- 2010: Book Award for Asian (Korean) Church Studies Program, Brite Divinity School
- 2009: Book Award for Theology, Brite Divinity School
- 2006: Alpha Chi, National College Honor Society and Pi Gamma Mu. Social Science Honor Society.
- 2002: Alpha Lambda Delta, Honor Society

## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- 2019: Participant, THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) at Syracuse University
- 2018: Participant, THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) at AAR/SBL #tcSBLAAR18
- 2017: Participant, THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) at AAR/SBL #tcAARSBL17
- 2016: Participant, THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) at AAR/SBL #thatcampaarsbl
- 2013: Participant, *Global Ecumenical Theological Institute of the World Council of Churches*, in conjunction with the Tenth General Assembly of the *World Council of Churches*, Seoul and Busan, Korea.
- 2011-present: Syracuse University, Future Professoriate Program
- 2011: Workshop participant. Overcoming Barriers to Underrepresented Scholarship: A Strategy and Action Workshop, Sponsored by the Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, and the Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA., November 18, 2011.
- 2010: Workshop participant. Learning Goals for Teaching the Bible in the Liberal Arts Curriculum, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, GA., November 20, 2010.

## LANGUAGES

- French (Reading Knowledge)
- German (Reading Knowledge)
- Koine Greek (Reading Knowledge)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- AAR (American Academy of Religion)
- SBL (Society of Biblical Literature)
- NABPR (National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Responsive Web Design (HTML5/CSS/JS)
- Metadata: (Schema.org/JSON-LD, XML)
- Static Site Generators (Jekyll)
- WordPress
- Linux (Ubuntu)
- Serverless platforms
- Search Engine Optimization
- Digital Analytics
- Social Media and Web Strategy
- Accessibility
- R
- Python (Beginner)

## REFERENCES

*Dr. Philip P. Arnold*

Chair and Associate Professor of Religion

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*Dr. Zachary J. Braiterman*

Professor of Religion and Director of Jewish Studies Program

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*Dr. Joanne Punzo Waghorne*

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