

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2019- Associate Professor of Religion; University of Rochester, Rochester NY  
2012-2019 Assistant Professor of Religion; University of Rochester, Rochester NY  
2017-2018 Research Associate; Bard College Berlin, Berlin, Germany  
2015 Adjunct Instructor; Cornell Prison Education Program, Auburn, NY  
2008-2011 Society of Fellows in the Humanities; Columbia University, New York, NY  
2007-2011 Adjunct Instructor; Villanova University at Graterford Prison, Perkiomen, PA  
2006-2008 Visiting Instructor of Religion; Haverford College, Haverford, PA

## **EDUCATION**

- 2004-2008 Princeton University, PhD in Religion; Subfield: Religion in America.  
Dissertation: *Seven Days of Penitentiary Life: An Ethnographic Study of the Chapel at Pennsylvania's Graterford Prison*  
2001-2004 Princeton University, MA in Religion  
1993-1997 Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. BA double major in Religion and College of Letters Honor's Thesis: *Killing . . . Softly: Murder and Misrecognition in and Beyond a Southern Town.*

## **ADMINISTRATION**

- 2019-Present Rochester Education Justice Initiative (Faculty Director)  
2022-2023 Interim Chair, Department of Religion and Classics  
2016-2019 Rochester Education Justice Initiative (Founder and Director)

## **HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS**

- 2022 UR SA Professor of the Year in the Humanities  
2021-- National Science Foundation, with Kristin Doughty  
2020, 2023 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (to REJI)

2020-2025	Mother Cabrini Health Foundation (to REJI)
2020	Farash Foundation (to REJI)
2019	UR BSU W.E.B DuBois Award for Educational Excellence
2018	UR Teaching Innovation Grant
2018	UR University Research Award, with Rochester Decarceration Research Initiative
2016	Andrew Carnegie Fellowship
2016	Louisville Institute Fellowship (with V. Lloyd, M. Webb, and C. Atkins)
2016	Artist in Residence, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
2015-2016	ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship
2015, 2017	UR Humanities Project Grant
2015	Wabash Center Small Projects Grant
2014	AAR Regional Development Grant
2012-2022	Central New York Humanities Corridor Mellon Annual Grant
2008-2010	Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship
2007	Center for the Study of Religion Teaching Fellowship
2005-2006	Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2004-2006	The Center for the Study of Religion Fellowship

## **BOOKS**

*The Abyss or Life is Simple*, with Courtney Bender, Jeremy Biles, Liane Carlson, Hannah C. Garvey, M. Cooper Harriss, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, and Erik Thorstensen (University of Chicago Press, 2022).

*Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the End of Mass Incarceration*. With Vincent Lloyd (Oxford University Press, 2019).

*Religion, Law, USA*. Co-edited with Isaac Weiner. (NYU Press, 2019).

*Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013).

*Bang! Thud: World Spirit from a Texas School Book Depository*. With Andrea Sun-Mee Jones (Autraumaton Press, 2007).

## **CURRENT BOOK PROJECTS**

*Guilt: A Cultural History*

*Going Upstate*. With Kristin Doughty.

## ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“On Prison Towns and Ethnographic Entanglements,” with Kristin Doughty. *Anthropology Now*, Volume 14 (2022), 39-50.

“The Knausgaard Swarm,” in Bender et al, *The Abyss or Life is Simple: Reading Knausgaard Writing Religion* (Chicago University Press, 2022), 77-104.

“The Serious Work of Political Theology: An Introduction,” with Rachelle Green. *Political Theology* Vol. 23, Issue 4 (2022).

“Using the Language of Christian Love and Charity: What Liberal Religion Offers Higher Education in Prison,” with Charles Adkins, Vincent Lloyd, and Mel Web. *Religions* 2019, 10(3), 169;

“Overlooking Race and Secularism in Muslim Philadelphia,” with Joel Blecher. In Jonathan Kahn and Vincent Lloyd, eds. *Race and Secularism in America* (Columbia University Press, 2016), 122-152.

“Can this Machine Kill Mass Incarceration,” in Johanna Burton et al, eds. *Public Servants: Art and the Crisis of the Common Good* (New Museum/MIT Press, 2016), 141-158.

“Guilt.” *Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon* (2011).

“Religion and the Practices of Popular Constitutionalism: Sarah Gordon’s *The Spirit of the Law*.” *Law and Social Inquiry* 36.4 (2011): 1062-1088.

“Secular Bad Faith.” In Vincent Lloyd and Eliot Ratzman, eds., *Secular Faith*. Cascade Books (2010), 44-75.

“The Secular Bad Faith of Harry Theriault, The Bishop of Tellus.” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (September 2009); 44-75.

“Snow Day as Holiday.” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 18.1 (2004): 62-76.

## SYMPOSIA AND OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

“Special Issue on Incarceration and Decarceration,” with Rachelle Green. *Political Theology* (2022)

“Restructuring a World Without Prisons,” with Vincent Lloyd. *Sojourners* (2020)

“I know I am, but what are you?” *Whites, Jews, and Us*. The Immanent Frame (2018)

“Think Prison Abolition in America is Impossible? It Once Felt Inevitable,” with Vincent Lloyd. *The Guardian*. May 19, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/19/prison-abolition-america-impossible-inevitable>

Here’s Your Miracle,” *Is this all there is?* The Immanent Frame (2017)

<https://tif.ssrc.org/2017/12/08/heres-your-miracle/>

“Religion and Religions in Prison: Observations from the United States and Europe,” with Irene Becci. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Vol 6, Issue 2 (2017), 241-247.

“Mass Incarceration Is Religious (And So Is Abolition): A Provocation,” with Vincent Lloyd. *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics* (2016), <https://abolitionjournal.org/mass-incarceration-is-religious-and-so-is-abolition/>

“Quotes, Notes, Questions” in Frederick Glennon, ed. *Incarcerated Religion: Teaching Behind Walls* (2016). <http://rsn.aarweb.org/spotlight-on/teaching/incarcerated-religion/quotes-notes-questions>

“Evelyne LeBlanc-Roberge’s Wall+Paper” with Evelyne LeBlanc and Peter Christensen. *Afterimage* 43.1-2 (2015): 12-19.

“Both Liberator and Jailor. The Religious Roots of Mass Incarceration.” *Syndicate: A New Forum for Theology* 2.1 (2015): 45-51.

Review of God’s Gangs: Barrio Ministry, Masculinity, and Gang Recovery, by Edward Orozco Flores. *Sociology of Religion* 75.4 (Winter 2014).

“The Brutality of American Punishment.” Review of *Inferno: An Anatomy of American Punishment*, by Robert A. Ferguson. *Chronicle Review*, July 2014

“Shit White People Say About Beyoncé” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 97.3 (2014): 385-392.

“Things Hidden Since the Creation of the Capital Gains Tax” [Symposium on Giorgio Agamben’s *The Power and the Glory*] *Political Theology* 14.1 (2013): 100-106.

“On Charisma.” In Amber Frid-Jimenez, ed. *La Lucha Sin Fin: On charisma and its persuasive technologies* (Jan van Eyck Academie Maastricht, 2012): 13-15.

“Neutral Milk Hotel: In the Aeroplane Over the Sea.” *Frequencies* (2011).

“Gallery of Shooters: The assassin, the non-assassin, and the shape of history,” with Andrea Sun Mee Jones. *Cabinet Magazine*, 34 (Summer, 2009).

“The devil always excuses the truth.” Continuous Project #12 (2007).

“Left Behind: A Symposium by Continuous Project with Joshua Dubler.” Continuous Project #8, Consultants and CNEAI (2006).

“Globalization and its Discontents: Some Thoughts on Thomas Friedman’s *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*.” *Civil Society* Vol. 9, Cairo, Egypt (2000).

## INVITED LECTURES

*Going Upstate.* Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference, Plenary. Rochester NY, October 24, 2024. With Kristin Doughty

*Black Guilt & Black Dignity.* University of Rochester Humanities Center. November 11, 2024. With Vincent Lloyd.

*Walls are Not Real,* Hobart and William Smith Colleges, September 25, 2024

*Break Every Yoke* Book Panel, Columbia University, September 23, 2020

“Prison Abolition and Faith Communities.” The Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition, May 14, 2020.

Why Prison Abolition, NYU Steinhardt, April 28, 2019

“Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the Abolition of Prisons.” Vassar College, February 7, 2019.

“Religion and the Shaping of Black Identity.” Baobab Cultural Center, April 5, 2019.

“Why Not Prison Abolition?” Measures for Justice, December 6, 2018.

Some Thoughts on Reading and Fighting: On the Occasion of Jeff Stout’s Retirement, Princeton, September 8, 2018.

“Why Not Prison Abolition?” University of Oslo, June 2, 2018

“Prison Abolition.” Jewish Activism Summer School, Berlin, Germany, August 16, 2017.

“Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the End of Mass Incarceration.” University of California, Santa Barbara, May 25, 2017.

“Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the Abolition of Prisons.” Lafayette College, February 27, 2017.

“Why Not Prison Abolition?” Bates College, February 9, 2016.

“Teaching Contemporary Civilization in Prison.” Columbia University, December 3, 2015.

“Why Not Prison Abolition?” Brown University, November 11, 2015.

“God at Graterford: Reflections on Prison Pedagogy.” Villanova University, March 9, 2015.

“God and Man at Graterford.” LaSalle University, November 6, 2014 .

“Religion and the Cultural Logic of Mass Incarceration.” McMaster University, October 15, 2014.

"Prisoners, Religion, and the Cultural Logic of Mass Incarceration." Ohio State University, October 2, 2014.

"Bad Men, Poor Men, and the Ethnography of Religion and Prison." University of Toronto,

March 11, 2014.

“Down in the Chapel: Religion Life in American Prison.” Nazareth College, March 6, 2014.

"The Rise, Fall and Rise of Radical American Prison Religion, 1960-1980, 2013—." Princeton University, February 10, 2014.

"Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison." University of Pennsylvania, February 10, 2014.

“The Rise, Fall and Rise of Radical American Prison Religion." University of New Mexico, January 31, 2014.

“From Black Muslim to Salafi: The Evolution of Islam in an American Prison.” Vassar College, September 23, 2013.

“The Prophet’s Toothbrush is on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street: Tradition, Modernity and the Miswak,” with Joel Blecher. Department of Religion. University of Pennsylvania, April 19, 2012.

“Doing Time and Doing Religion in the Chapel.” Villanova Alumnae Association at Graterford Prison, August 8, 2011.

“‘Jailhouse Islam’: Bad Religion and the Ethnography of Religion in Prison.” University of Texas, November 15, 2010.

“Theorizing Religion in Prison.” Dartmouth College, January 14, 2010.

“What These Great Men Have Done: The Unfinished History of a Muslim Community in a Pennsylvania Prison.” Yale University, April 25, 2008.

## **SELECTION OF CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

*A Father and Son Go Walking at Night*, American Catholic Historical Association, San Francisco CA, January 5, 2024

“Religion, Law, USA,” AAR, Denver, November 16, 2019.

“Decarceration,” Engaging College Communities In and Beyond Prison Education,” Bryn Mawr College, June 4, 2017.

“White guilt, White Debt” Race, Property, and Debt. University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 10, 2016.

“Absolute Nonsense, or the Things We Do with Moses and Monotheism” *The Psychology of Religion/ The Religion of Psychology*. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 6, 2015

“The Rise, Fall, and Rise of Radical Prison Religion.” *Religion, Abolition, Mass Incarceration*. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, October 4, 2013.

“Shit White People Say about Beyoncé.” *The Beauty of Charisma*. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, April 25, 2013.

“Saying ‘No’ to Black Religion: Black Muslim Postsecularism.” *Race and Secularism in America*. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, October 27, 2012

“Guilt.” Reworking Political Concepts. New School, New York City, NY, December 5, 2010.

Symposium on Winnifred Sullivan’s Prison Religion. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA. November 1, 2010.

“When did guilt become a joke?” Society of Fellows. Columbia University, New York City, NY, September 23, 2010.

“The Secular Bad Faith of Harry Theriault, The Bishop of Tellus.” Political Philosophy Workshop. University of Maryland, College Park, MD, May 7, 2009.

”Religion, Prisons and the Limits of Secular Faith.” Religion, Ethics, Politics Colloquium. Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 18th, 2009.

“After the Raid: Reshaping Religion in the Era of Carceral Control.” Legal History Consortium Conference. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, September 26, 2008.

“Religious Practice in a Maximum Security Prison.” Program in American Studies. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 4, 2008.

“Grouping—Religious and Otherwise—at a Maximum Security Prison.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 18, 2007.

“What do we mean by ‘Religion’ and why does the way that we answer that question matter?” American Correctional Chaplains Association-North East Annual Conference. Long Branch, New Jersey, May 21, 2007.

“Bang! Thud: World Spirit from a Texas School Book Depository,” with Andrea Sun-Mee Jones. Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C. December 1, 2005.

“Sincerity and Self-Evidence in the Regulation of Religion in Prisons.” Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, San Diego, CA, April 9, 2005.

“Arise the Demon Within: The Pursuit of the Nightmare Amidst the Dawning of Psychoanalysis.” Fifth Annual Graduate Humanities Forum. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, March 3, 2005.

“The New World of Islam: The Partial History of a Renegade Sect.” Religion Department Lounge Seminar. Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. March 3, 2003.

“Snow Day as Holiday.” Sixth Annual Conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display, Bowling Green, OH, May 31, 2002.

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS**

- 2024 WXXI “Connections,” Monday, 5/22, noon.
- 2019 WXXI “Connections,” Tuesday, 4/19, noon.
- 2016 WXXI “Connections,” Wednesday, 6/29, noon.
- 2014 WXXI “Connections,” Wednesday, 10/29, noon.
- 2013 WNY2 “The Leonard Lopate Show,” Tuesday 8/13, 12:40 pm
- C-Span/Book-TV “After Words with Josh Dubler,” Tuesday 8/13, 1:30 pm
- Marginalia: A Review of Books in History, Theology and Religion “Joshua Dubler Talks to MRB Joseph Williams,” Tuesday, 8/13. See link for full interview:  
<http://themarginaliareview.com/archives/3480>
- KVON CA, “Conversation with Jeff Schechtman,” Wednesday 8/12, 11:30 am
- Newstalk Ireland, “The Moncrieff Show,” Wednesday 8/28, 1:30 pm GMT
- Wisconsin Public Radio, “Central Time,” Monday 9/16, 6:00 pm
- KERA Dallas, “Think!” with Kris Boyd, Tuesday, 9/19, 2:00 pm
- CJAD Montreal, “The Tommy Schurmacher Show,” Tuesday 10/22, 10:30 pm
- WYPR Baltimore, “Midday with Dan Rodericks,” Tuesday 11/26, 1:00 pm

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND CLASSICS**

*Incarceration Nation.* Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2017

*Cultural Politics of Prison Towns.* Fall 2020, Fall 2019, fall 2018

*Love and Justice,* Spring 2020, Spring 2019

*Religion and Law.* Spring 2017, Spring 2015. Fall 2013.

*Religion in America.* Fall 2015, Spring 2014.

*Theories of Religion.* Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013.

*Islam in America.* Fall 2018, Spring 2015, Spring 2013.

*Guilt*. Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2014, Fall 2012.

*On Genealogy*. Spring 2014.

*The Origins of Religion*. Spring 2013.

#### **CORNELL PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM at AUBURN PRISON**

*Theories of Religion*. Fall 2015.

#### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

*Event, Ethnography, History*. Fall 2010.

*Alterities of Religion in America Culture*. Fall 2009.

*Contemporary Civilization, Part II*. Spring 2009.

*Contemporary Civilization, Part I*. Fall 2008.

#### **HAVERFORD COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION**

*Religion and Incarceration in the United States*. Spring 2008.

*Introduction to the Study of Religion: Media of Religion*. Spring 2008.

*Religion, Ideology, Power*. Fall 2007.

*Religion in Philadelphia*. Fall 2007.

*Religion and Consumer Culture in America*. Spring 2007.

*Sacrifice*. Spring 2007.

*Islam in America*. Fall 2006.

*The Problem of Evil*. Fall 2006.

#### **VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY, PROGRAM AT GRATERFORD PRISON**

*Event, History, Ethnography*. Spring 2011.

*Freud, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky*. Fall 2009.

*Religion in the Tradition of Social Theory*. Spring 2007.

#### **ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

*Prison Ministry*. Summer 2007.

#### **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION**

*Junior Colloquium for Religion Majors*. Co-Instructor with Prof. Elaine Pagels.  
Fall 2004

*Approaches to the Study of Religion*. Preceptor under direction of Prof. Jeff Stout. Spring 2004.

*Black Theology and Black Power*. Preceptor under direction of Prof. Eddie Glaude.  
Spring 2003

## **EVENT ORGANIZATION | PRODUCTION | CURATION**

Going Upstate (Co-curator), Brockport First Baptist, Brockport NY, April 2024

Going Upstate (Co-curator), Seward House Museum/Auburn Public Theater, Auburn NY, March 2023

Going Upstate (Co-curator), Hartnett Gallery, Rochester NY, March 2023

How is Rochester a Prison Town? (co-organizer), lecture series, symposium, 2018-2019.

Conference (co-organizer): The Social Life of Guns. University of Rochester, March 29-30, 2018.

Meeting: Confronting Issues of Access to Higher Education in NYS Women's Prisons.  
University of Rochester June 26, 2017.

Symposium: *Religion, Law, USA*. University of Rochester, May 5-6, 2017.

Film Screening: Brett Story, director, *The Prison in Twelve Landscapes*. Dryden Theatre, April 28, 2017.

Lecture (co-organizer): Mariame Kaba, Interfaith Banquet Keynote Address, University of Rochester, April 1, 2017.

Lecture: Caleb Smith, "The Life and Adventures of a Haunted Convict." University of Rochester, February 7, 2017.

Conference (co-organizer): Transparent: A Multidisciplinary Symposium. University of Rochester, November 30-December 2, 2016

Workshop (co-organizer): The Religion of Karl Ove Knausgaard. Columbia University, January 14-16, 2016, and January 13-14, 2017.

Lunchtime Speaker Series: *Religion in Rochester; History, Community and the Struggle for Justice*. University of Rochester, December 1-10, 2015.

Conference (co-organizer): *Theological and Religions Studies Behind Prison Walls*. University of Montreal, May 3, 2015.

University Edition of Tino Sehgal's *This situation*. University of Rochester, February 2015.

Workshop: *Religion and Incarceration*, Syracuse University, October 31, 2014.

Symposium: "Digital Means, Political Ends, and Academic Freedom in the New Gilded Age: A Conversation with Steven Salaita." University of Rochester, October 30, 2014.

Workshop: *Reconceiving the Secular Liberal Arts*. University of Rochester, April 25, 2014.

Lecture: Isaac Weiner, "Religion Out Loud: Religious Noise and the Politics of American Pluralism." University of Rochester, April 22, 2014.

Conference: *Religion, Abolition, Mass Incarceration*. Cornell University, September 24, 2013.

Screening: Ben Harbert (dir) "Follow Me Down: Portraits of Louisiana Prison Musicians" (2012). University of Rochester, February 25, 2013.

Lecture: Edward Blum, "Laughing out Loud: What Jesus Jokes Reveal About Contemporary American Culture." University of Rochester, October 25, 2012.

## **SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS**

2014- University of Rochester, Advisor for Legal Studies Minor Program

2014- University of Rochester, Humanities Project Executive Committee

2015-2016 University of Rochester, Freshman Advisor, 2015-2016

2015 University of Rochester, Department of Religion and Classics, Religion Curriculum Committee

2008- American Academy of Religion

## **LANGUAGES**

Hebrew (reading and speaking)

Arabic (reading / some speaking)

Spanish (reading / some speaking)