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Emily Stratton

Education

- 2013 – present **Ph.D. in Religious Studies**, candidacy awarded January 2017
Ph.D. Minor in African Studies, completed December 2015
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Dissertation Chair: Dr. Stephen Selka
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Candy Brown, Dr. Beth Bugenhagen, Dr. Sarah Imhoff
Dissertation Title: “*Making It*: Young Men, Social Media, and Religious Form in Urban Ghana”
- Dissertation Research Affiliation:**
Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
Affiliate Advisor: Rev. Prof. Michael Okyerefo
- 2013 **M.A. in Religious Studies** (with honors)
Graduate Certificate in African Studies
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
- 2008 **B.A. in Religion**, Minor in Chemistry
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
- Supplementary Programs*
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- 2014 **Directed Language Study** (intensive summer study)
Advanced Akan/Twi, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
- 2012 **African Language Initiative** (intensive summer study)
Elementary Akan/Twi, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2007 **Non-Degree Semester** (international student enrollment)
University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2020 AAR Annual Meetings Travel Grant (\$500 + Registration), American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- 2020 Summer Research Fellowship (\$750), Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
- 2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$25,000), College of Arts and Sciences (COAS), Indiana University
- 2018 Grant-In-Aid Award (\$1,000), University Graduate School, Indiana University
- 2018 Graduate Travel Award (\$600), College Arts & Humanities Institute (CAHI), Indiana University.
- 2018 Graduate Travel Award (\$500), College of Arts and Sciences (COAS), Indiana University

- 2018 Patrick O'Meara Travel Award (\$300), *Africa Today*, Indiana University
- 2017 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award (\$42,648), U.S. Department of Education
- 2017 Stein Fellowship (\$500), Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
- 2016 WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (\$3,500 + airfare), West African Research Association, Boston University
- 2016 OVPIA Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (\$1,500), Office for the Vice President of International Affairs (OVPIA), Indiana University
- 2016 Graduate Travel Award (\$500), College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University
- 2016 Stein Fellowship (\$500), Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
- 2014 Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (\$2,500 + tuition)
- 2013 Graduate Recruitment Fellowship (\$18,000 + tuition), University Graduate School, Indiana University
- 2013 Graduate Essay Award (\$100), Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas
- 2013 Travel Grant (\$700), Friends of the Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas
- 2012 Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (\$15,000 + tuition)
- 2012 Summer Study Grant (\$4,200), Friends of the Department of Religious Studies University of Kansas
- 2012 Zelma McIlvain Scholarship (\$500), Department of Religious Studies University of Kansas
- 2011 Summer Study Grant (\$3,600), Friends of the Department of Religious Studies University of Kansas
- 2011 Graduate Essay Award (\$100), Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas
- 2011 Lewis Ethics Essay Award (\$100), Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas

Publications

- 2015 "African, Christian, Fake? Explorations in Religious Authenticity"
The Religious Studies Project. January 22. <http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/>
- 2013 "Organic, Authentic, Relevant: A New Era for Evangelicalism in America's Heartland"
The Religion in Kansas Project. August 13. <http://www.ksreligion.wordpress.com/>

Invited Lectures

- 2018 "It's Hard Work to be a 'Gameboy,' and Other Lessons on Money, Magic, and Masculinity in Ghana." Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (November 7)

- 2018 "Making Means, Making Meaning: On Young Men's Livelihoods in Suburban Accra." Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana (October 19)
- 2016 "Signs & Wonders: On Ads, Aesthetics, and Uncertainties in 'Pentecostalite' Accra." African Studies Program, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (September 30)

Conference Presentations

- 2020 "Making It' in Life: A How-To Guide According to Young Men in Suburban Accra" accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association (November 19-21), held virtually in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Panel co-coordinated by myself, Arianna King, Emily Williamson, and Netty Carey: "Life at the Cusp: Imagining Futures from Rural to Urban Ghana."
- 2020 "Jesus in the Apple Icon: Vehicle Decals and Economies of Value in Urban Ghana" accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA (November 21-24)
- 2020 "Rurality, Class, and Invisible Marginality in the Academy" accepted for roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA (November 21-24)
- 2019 "Popular Pieties: The Religious Lives of Young Men in Suburban Accra" presented at the International Sociological Association's Annual Mid-Term Conference on the RC22 Subgroup on the Sociology of Religion, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana (November 15-17)
- 2019 "Young Men, Suburban Life, and the Making of Popular Pieties" presented at the 3rd Triennial Conference for the Ghana Studies Association, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana (July 10-13)
- 2018 "Dream Chasers and Moni Makers: Young Men, Social Media, and the Construction of Popular Religiosities in Accra, Ghana" presented at the Annual Meetings for the American Anthropological Association, San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA (November 14-18)
- 2018 "'Hard Work Pay\$': Ghana's Gameboys, God, and Theories of Cyberfraud" presented at the Fifth Meeting of the Association for African Studies in Italy, University of Bologna, Bologna Italy, (September 5-7) in a panel co-coordinated by myself, Mariam Goshadze, and Angelantonio Grossi: "Visions of Empowerment in Urban Ghana."
- 2018 "'America' in Accra: On Studying Religion by way of *Not* Studying Religion" presented at the "Religion and the 21st-Century City: Openings and Closures" international conference hosted by the Department for the Study of Religions at the University of Ghana, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana (June 22-25)
- 2018 "'In God We Trust': Economic Aspirations, Transnational Imaginaries, and Popular Religion in Accra, Ghana" presented at the "Africa in the World" conference hosted by the American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association, Crowne Plaza Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa (May 25-27)
- 2016 "Becoming a 'Man of God' in Urban Ghana, or How Theories of Value Creation and Conversion Make a Case for the 'Fakes'" presented at the University of Toronto Religious Studies Graduate Symposium, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada (April 21-22)

- 2016 “Feet & Eyes: Zora Neale Hurston’s Implicit Anthropology in *Jonah’s Gourd Vine*” presented at the Midwest Region Annual Meeting for the American Academy of Religion, Ball State University, Muncie, IN (April 1-2)
- 2015 “Fake Pastors, False Prophets, and Religious (in)Authenticity in Ghana” presented at the Annual Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Symposium, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (April 18)
- 2015 “Fake Pastors, False Prophets, and Religious (in)Authenticity in Ghana” presented at the Annual Graduate Students in African Studies Graduate Symposium, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (March 27-28)
- 2013 “‘Covenant Prosperity Made Real’: African Pentecostalism and Emerging Cityscapes” presented at the Mid-America Humanities Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS (March 1)
- 2012 “Resurgence or Reshaping? Ghana’s Contributions Toward Understanding and Theorizing Religion in the Globalization Era” presented at the Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional Meeting for the American Academy of Religion, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT (March 23-24)
- 2012 “The Pentecostalization of Accra, Ghana: Opportunism in a Globalizing Economy” presented at the Mid-America Humanities Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS (March 9-10)

Teaching Experience

- 2020 – 2021 **AFRI-L 232: Contemporary Africa (Fall & Spring)**, African Studies Program, Indiana University, *Instructor* (course taught online due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- 2018 **SOCI 313/343: Sociology of Religion (Fall)**, Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, *Co-Instructor* (course cancelled due to low enrollment numbers)
- 2016 **REL-R 133: Introduction to Religion (Fall)**, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, *Associate Instructor*
- Featured Lectures:
Ronald Grimes: “Nothing Human is Foreign to Me”
David Chidester: “Human Beings in Human Places”
- 2016 **REL-R 152: Jews, Christians, Muslims (Spring)**, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, *Associate Instructor, Sectional Instructor*
- Featured Lecture:
Rethinking the “Evangelical Vote” in the 2016 Presidential Primaries
- 2015 **REL-R 160: Introduction to Religion in America (Fall)**, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, *Associate Instructor, Sectional Instructor*
- 2014 – 2015 **REL-R 160: Introduction to Religion in America (Fall & Spring)**, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, *Associate Instructor, Sectional Instructor*
- Featured Lectures:
Economic Theologies: Russell Conwell, Andrew Carnegie, and the Gospel of Wealth
American Evangelicalism & Global Engagement

- 2013 **HWC 205: Western Civilizations II (Spring)**, Department of Humanities & Western Civilization, University of Kansas, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, Sectional Instructor*
- 2011 – 2012 **REL 107: Living Religions of the West (Fall & Spring)**, Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*
- Featured Lectures:
Prosperity Gospels in Global Contexts
Clashing Christianities: The Protestant Reformation
Economic Modernists: Russell Conwell and Walter Rauschenbusch
- 2010 – 2011 **REL 171: Religion in American Society (Fall & Spring)**, Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*
- Featured Lectures:
Global Christianity: An Introduction
What is “Church”? Institutional Change in the 21st Century
Intro to Eastern Orthodoxy Part I: History & the Historical Narrative
Intro to Eastern Orthodoxy Part II: Theology & Ritual
- 2006 **CHEM 205: Organic Chemistry I (Spring)**, Department of Chemistry, Pacific Lutheran University, *Undergraduate Teaching Assistant - Labs*
- 2005 **CHEM 121: General Chemistry (Fall)**, Department of Chemistry, Pacific Lutheran University, *Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Sectional Instructor*

Photo Projects and Photo Credits

- 2020 **Photo Exhibit**, *Center for Religion and the Human*, Indiana University. July 1, 2020. Available at: crh.indiana.edu/projects/religion-and-human-book-series/theologies-exhibit.html
- 2020 **Contributor**, “Visual Ethnography of COVID-19” Digital Mapping Project, University of Aberdeen, Scotland.
- 2020 **Cover Photo** to *Africa Today – Special Issue: Religious Entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Forthcoming. *Indiana University Press*.
- 2020 **Cover Photo** to *Theologies of American Exceptionalism*, ed. by Winnifred Fallers Sullivan and Elizabeth Shakman Hurd. *Indiana University Press*.

Service

Institutional Service

- 2020 **Spring Award Committee**, Indiana University Graduate & Professional Student Government: Graduate Research Awards
- 2020 **Spring Award Committee**, Indiana University Graduate & Professional Student Government: Graduate Travel Awards
- 2019 **Fall Award Committee**, Indiana University Graduate & Professional Student Government: Graduate Travel Awards

- 2018 **Guest Facilitator**, REL 665: Seminar on Interpretations of Religion, Indiana University
- 2018 **Guest Lecturer**, SOCI 122: Diversity of Peoples & Cultures, Department of Sociology, University of Ghana
- 2015 – 2016 **President**, Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS), Indiana University
- 2015 – 2016 **Symposium Coordination Chair**, GSAS, Indiana University
Theme: “Re-Presenting Africa: Legacies in Global Scholarship & Education”
Awards Earned: Indiana University Student Association Funding Award
- 2015 **Panel Chair**, Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society, Indiana University
Panel: “Literary and Visual Invocations of Wondrous Nature”
- 2014 – 2015 **Symposium Coordination Co-Chair**, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
Theme: “Religion, Conflict, and Boundary Maintenance”
Awards Earned: IU Graduate & Professional Student Organization Conference Grant, Horizons of Knowledge Lecture Fund Award
- 2014 – 2015 **Treasurer**, Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS), Indiana University
- 2014 – 2015 **Symposium Funding & Finance Chair**, GSAS, Indiana University
Theme: “African Imaginaries: Expressive Spaces, Constructed Identities”
Awards Earned: Indiana University Student Association Funding Award
- 2013 – 2014 **Religious Studies Department Representative**, Graduate & Professional Students Organization (GPSO), Indiana University
- 2013 – 2014 **Graduate Representative**, Student Transportation Board, Indiana University
- 2013 – 2014 **Graduate Representative**, Campus Bus Service, Indiana University
- 2013 – 2014 **Symposium Coordination Chair**, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
Theme: “Mediating Religion: Modes of Communication in Religious Contexts”
Awards Earned: IU Graduate & Professional Student Organization Conference Grant, Horizons of Knowledge Lecture Fund Award
- 2012 – 2013 **Graduate Representative**, Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas
- 2011 **Guest Lecturer**, ANTH 564: The Peoples of Africa, Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas
- 2011 – 2012 **Graduate Representative**, Department of Religious Studies, University of Kansas
- 2006 – 2007 **Religious Relations Director**, Associated Students of Pacific Lutheran University
- 2006 – 2007 **Student Representative**, Admissions & Retentions, Pacific Lutheran University

Professional Service

- 2020 **Workshop Leader**, Academy of Religion, Boston, MA (November 21-24)
Workshop Title: “Mellon, Fulbright, NSF, Oh My! Preparing Successful Proposals in the Intimidating World of Multi-Disciplinary Research Grants”
- 2019 **Panel Chair**, International Sociological Association Mid-Term Sociology of Religion Conference, Accra, Ghana (November 15-17)

- Panel: "Religion, Migration, and the Public Sphere"
- 2018 **Reviewer**, Fulbright Foreign Student Program Award (Ghana), US Embassy, Ghana
- 2018 **Moderator**, "Religion and the 21st-Century City" international conference, Accra, Ghana
Panel: "Urbanization and New Religious Identities" (June 22-25)
- 2018 **Peer Reviewer**, *Student Anthropologist*, National Association of Student Anthropologists
- 2017 **Respondent**, Annual Meeting for the American Society of Church History, Denver, CO
(January 4-7)
Panel 1: "Beyond Denominationalism: (Re)forming Christianity in the Twentieth- and
Twenty-First-Century America"
Panel 2: "Christianizing Africa, Africanizing Christianity"
- 2016 **Program Committee**, Annual Meeting for the American Society of Church History
Theme: "Reformations"

Relevant Work Experience

- 2013 **Research Intern**, Religion in Kansas Project, Department of Religious Studies,
University of Kansas

Professionalization

- 2018 "Ebony Reigns": What's at Stake in a Non-Conformist Public Lifestyle? Attendee, Ashesi
University
- 2017 – 2018 Weekly Sociology Graduate Seminars, Attendee, University of Ghana
- 2017 College of Humanities Conference, Attendee, University of Ghana
- 2016 Ghana Studies Association Triennial Meeting, Attendee, University of Cape Coast
- 2015, 2016 Preparing Future Faculty Conference, Attendee, Indiana University
- 2013 – 2014 Graduate Professionalization Colloquia Series, Participant, Department of Religious
Studies, Indiana University
- 2013 *Schempp* Conference, Attendee, Indiana University
- 2013 Graduate Research Workshop, Participant, Kansas African Studies Center, University of
Kansas

Language Proficiency

- Akan / Twi (advanced reading/writing proficiency; intermediate speaking)
French (reading/writing research proficiency)
Spanish (reading/writing research proficiency)

Professional Affiliations

- African Studies Association
American Academy of Religion
American Anthropological Association (Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Society for the
Anthropology of Work, Society for Africanist Anthropology)
Ghana Studies Association
West African Research Association