

Stephen Selka
Curriculum Vitae

Indiana University

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
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Bloomington, IN 47405

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EDUCATION

2003 **University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY**
Ph.D. degree in Anthropology
Dissertation: "Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Bahia, Brazil"

RESEARCH INTERESTS

African diaspora religions	Race and racial formation
Travel, tourism & cultural heritage	Brazil, Latin America & the Caribbean

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013 - Present **Indiana University, Bloomington, IN**
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

2011-2013 **Indiana University, Bloomington, IN**
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies

2007-2011 **Indiana University, Bloomington, IN**
Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies and American Studies

2004-2007 **Tulane University, New Orleans, LA**
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2007 *Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Bahia, Brazil.* University Press of Florida.

Journal articles and book chapters

Forthcoming "Our Lady of the Underpass," chapter in the volume *American Patroness: Marian Shrines and the Making of US Catholicism* edited by Karen Park and Katherine Dugan, under contract with Fordham University Press.

- 2019 "Afro-Catholicism in Latin America." *Religion Compass* 13(5).
- 2016 "African Diaspora Religions in Latin America Today," in *The Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America*, Virginia Garrard-Burnett and Paul C. Freston, eds., pp. 603-632. Cambridge University Press.
- 2015 "Our Lady of the Good Death: Afro-Catholic Festivals as Cultural Heritage in Brazil," part of a special issue, "Afro-Patrimoines: Culture Afro-brésilienne et Dynamiques Patrimoniales," edited Stefania Capone and Mariana Ramos de Morais. *Les Carnets du Lahic 11* (Paris, France: Ministère de la Culture, Direction Générale des Patrimoines, Département Pilotage de la Recherche et de la Politique Scientifique).
- 2014 "Demons and Money: Possessions in Brazilian Pentecostalism," in *Spirited Things: The Work of "Possession" in Black Atlantic Religions*, Paul C. Johnson, ed., pp. 155-176. University of Chicago Press.
- 2014 "Black Catholicism in Brazil" (contribution to a roundtable discussion). *Journal of Africana Religions* 2(2): 287 – 295.
- 2013 "Religion and the Transnational Imagination" (introduction to a guest edited special issue). *Nova Religio: The Journal of New and Emergent Religions* 16(4): 5-10.
- * 2013 "Cityscapes and Contact Zones: Christianity, Candomblé and African Heritage Tourism in Brazil." *Religion* 43(3): 403 – 420.
- 2012 "New Religious Movements in Brazil" (Introduction to a guest edited special issue). *Nova Religio: The Journal of New and Emergent Religions* 15(4): 3-12.
- 2010 "Morality in the Religious Marketplace: Evangelical Christianity, Candomblé and the Struggle for Moral Distinction in Brazil." *American Ethnologist* 37(2): 291-307.
- 2009 "Rural Women and the Varieties of Black Politics in Bahia, Brazil." *Journal of Black Women, Gender and Families* 3(1): 16-38.
- 2008 "The Sisterhood of Boa Morte in Brazil: Harmonious Mixture, Black Resistance and the Politics of Religious Practice." *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 13(1): 79-114.
- 2007 "Mediated Authenticity: Tradition, Modernity and Postmodernity in the Practice of Candomblé." *Nova Religio: The Journal and New and Emergent Religions* 11(1): 5-30.
- 2005 "Ethnoreligious Identity Politics in Bahia, Brazil." *Latin American Perspectives* 32(1): 72-94.

Under review

“Candomblé and the Public Sphere”

Encyclopedia entries

2011 “Candomblé” in Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception, Volume 4. De Gruyter

Book reviews

- 2014 Review of Stephan Palmié’s The Cooking of History: How Not to Study Afro-Cuban Religion. *American Anthropologist* 116(3).
- 2012 Review of Stefania Capone’s Searching for Africa in Brazil: Power and Tradition in Candomblé. *Luso-Brazilian Review* 49(2).
- 2011 Review of Ordep Serra’s Rumores da Festa: o Sagrado e o Profano na Bahia. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 16(2).
- 2010 Review of Andrew Dawson’s New Era – New Religions: Religious Transformation in Contemporary Brazil. *Nova Religio* 14(2): 134-135.
- 2008 Review of John Karam’s Another Arabesque: Syrian-Lebanese Ethnicity in Neoliberal Brazil. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 13(2).
- 2008 Review of Elisa Larkin Nascimento’s The Sorcery of Color: Identity, Race and Gender in Brazil. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 13(1): 232-234.
- 2007 Review of Andrew Chesnut’s Competitive Spirits: Latin America’s New Religious Economy. *Hispanic American Historical Review* 87(1): 170-171.
- 2004 Review of Laura de Mello e Souza’s The Devil in the Land of the Holy Cross: Witchcraft, Slavery and Popular Religion in Colonial Brazil, translated by Diane Grosklaus Whitty. *Tipiti: The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America* 2(2): 179-181.

Manuscripts in preparation

Sisters in Spirit: Religion, Race, Race and Tourism in Brazil, book manuscript.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND INVITED LECTURES

- 2020 Speaker, Mesa-redonda: Escravidão e Luta Antirracista (Brasil e Estados Unidos). [Roundtable: Slavery and Anti-racist Struggle (Brazil and the United States)] II Simpósio

- de Humanidades: (Des)TERRITÓRIOS DE IDENTIDADES, PATRIMÔNIO E MEMÓRIA. Virtual conference hosted by Colégio Adventista da Bahia in Cachoeira, Bahia, Brazil (November 23).
- 2019 "Public Candomblé Revised." Indigeneity, Religion, and Remaking the Public Sphere. Conference held at Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (December 5).
- 2019 "Teaching Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* in the fall of 2016." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, CA (November 21).
- 2019 "Constructing the Category of Black Evangelicalism Across the Americas." Religion and Public Life in Africa and the Americas: A Symposium. Conference held at Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (April 18).
- 2018 "Roots Tourism as a Genre of Encounter in Bahia, Brazil." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, United States (November 15).
- 2017 "Spiritual Pilgrimage as Time Travel: Chronotopes in African Diaspora Tourism." Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans, LA, United States (May 17).
- 2017 "Spiritual Pilgrimage as Time Travel: African Diaspora Tourism in Brazil", Invited Lecture, Hendrix College, Conway, AR, United States (April 6).
- 2016 Co-organizer (with Andrew Monteith) and panelist (see next entry), "Beyond Pop Culture as Text: Rethinking Religion and Popular Culture." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX (November 19-22).
- 2016 "Eat, Pray, Love, Rinse and Repeat: Spiritual Memoir and the Practice of Spirituality." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX (November 19-22).
- 2015 "Mapping the Moral in African Diaspora Tourism in Brazil." Invited lecture for the Religion and Ethics Roundtables series of the IU Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics and Society. Indianapolis, IN (April 30)
- 2015 "Mapping the Moral in African Diaspora Tourism in Brazil." Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, San Diego, CA (May 16-19).
- 2014 "The Promises and Pitfalls of African Diaspora Tourism in Brazil." Invited Lecture, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL (December 9).
- 2014 "Whose Heritage? The Sisterhood of Boa Morte and the Patrimonialization of

- Afro-Brazilian Culture.” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, IL (May 21 – 24).
- 2013 Co-organizer (with Rebecca Seligman), chair and panelist (see next entry), double session titled “The Religious Dynamics of Body, Place and Subjectivity.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, (November 20-24).
- 2013 “Our Lady of the Diaspora: Religious Festivals and Contact Zones in Afro-Brazil.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL (November 20-24).
- 2012 “Destino Diáspora: Religião e ‘Turismo Etnico’ no Recôncavo Baiano.” Invited lecture for the Department of Anthropology, University of São Paulo, Brazil (April 27); Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Sociais, Federal University of the Bahian Recôncavo (May 16); Laboratório de Investigações em Desigualdades Sociais / Programa Multidisciplinar em Estudos Étnicos e Africanos, Federal University of Bahia (May 22).
- 2011 “Catching Spirits on Film.” Invited lecture given as part of the lecture series “Aesthetic and Cultural Expressions of Vodou, Santería, and Candomblé” at the City College of New York (November 7).
- 2011 “African American Cultural Tourism and the Afro-Catholic Festival of Our Lady of Good Death in Brazil” (with Brian Brazeal). Reflections and New Directions: A Conference on the Anthropology of Tourism In Honor of Valene L. Smith, California State University, Chico, CA (March 4 – 5)
- 2010 Organizer, chair and panelist (see next entry), “Tracking Circulation through Ritual Space and Religious Fields.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA (November 17 – 21).
- 2010 “Religious Circulation and the Maintenance of Boundaries between Evangelical Christianity and Candomblé in Brazil.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA (November 17 – 21).
- 2010 Chair, “Claiming Citizenship in Southern Louisiana.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA (November 17 – 21).
- 2010 “Diasporic Dialogues: Encounters between African American and Afro-Brazilian ‘Minorities’ in Bahia, Brazil.” Citizenship in the United States: Integrating Domestic and International Horizons Conference, Bloomington, IN (September 9 – 10).
- 2009 “Diasporic Encounters and the Politics of Brazil's Cultural Heritage in the Bahian Recôncavo.” Invited lecture at the Bildner Center for Hemispheric Studies, CUNY (December 8).

- 2009 “Diasporic Dialogues: African American Cultural Tourism and the Afro-Catholic Festival of Our Lady of Good Death in Brazil.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, QC (November 7 – 10).
- 2009 Discussant, “Matters of Method: How Do We Study Indigenous Traditions Today?” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, QC (November 7 – 10).
- 2009 Co-organizer (with Anna Pagano), chair and panelist (see next entry), “Religion, Inequality and the Public Sphere.” Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 11 – 14).
- 2009 “Afro-Catholic Irmandades and the Black Movement in Bahia.” Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 11 – 14).
- 2009 Chair and discussant, “Prostitution and the Sex Trade.” Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, New Orleans, LA (April 16 – 18).
- 2009 Co-organizer (with James Mackenzie) and panelist (see next entry) Critical Transformations: Religion and Narratives of Crisis and Redemption in the Americas. Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, Asilomar, CA (March 27 – 29).
- 2009 “Transforming Catholicism: The Afro-Catholic Festival of Our Lady of Good Death in Brazil.” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, Asilomar, CA (March 27 – 29).
- 2008 “Diasporic Dialogues: African American Cultural Tourism and the Afro-Catholic Festival of Our Lady of Good Death in Brazil,” 107th Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA (November 19 – 23).
- 2008 “Evangelicals, Candomblecistas and Social Differentiation in Afro-Brazilian Communities,” ZORA! Festival ’08, Eatonville, FL (January 26 – February 3).
- 2007 “The Politics of Religious Practice: Afro-Brazilian Festivals as Symbols of Harmonious Mixture and Black Resistance,” 106th Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC (November 28 – December 2).
- 2007 “Social Memory and the Political Economy of the Afro-Brazilian Cultural Heritage,” 32nd Annual Meetings of the Caribbean Studies Association, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil (May 28 – June 1).
- 2007 Organizer and panelist (see next entry), “African Diasporic Religions: Tradition, Modernity and Post-Modernity,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, Phoenix, AZ (April 13 – 16)

- 2007 "Mediated Authenticity: Tradition, Modernity and Postmodernity in Brazilian Candomblé," Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2006 "A Holy War In Brazil? Encounters Between Evangelical Christians and Candomblecistas in Bahia," 105th Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA (November 15 – 19).
- 2005 "Ethnicity and the Historical Imagination: Visions of the Past and the Construction of Afro-Brazilian Ethnoreligious Identities," 104th Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC (November 30 – December 4)
- 2005 Organizer and panelist (see next entry), "Religion and Politics: Ethnicity, Nationalism and the Sacred," Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, Vancouver, BC (April 8-10).
- 2005 "The Sisterhood of Boa Morte: Afro-Brazilian Identity Politics in Bahia," Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meetings, Vancouver, BC.
- 2005 Discussant, Workshop on the Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago (November 10).
- 2005 "Religion, Afro-Brazilian Identity and Social Mobilization in Bahia," invited Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago (November 3).
- 2005 "Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity: Evangelicals and Black Identity in Bahia, Brazil," invited Lecture, Program for African Studies, Northwestern University (October 17).
- 2005 Panelist, roundtable on "Don't Be a Fool in the Field / Focus on Fieldwork: Ethnographies and Interviews in Latin America," Latin American Graduate Organization, Tulane University (April 3).
- 2004 "Religion and Race: Diversity in Buddhist Communities," invited lecture, Tenth Annual Buddha's Birthday Public Forum at the Zen Buddhist Temple, Chicago, IL (May 29).
- 2003 "Religious Paths to Social Transformation: Ethnoreligious Identity Politics in Bahia, Brazil," paper presented as part of an invited session, "Global Ideologies, Local Transformations: Religion(s) as Vehicles and Catalysts of Change" at the 103rd Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL (November 19-23).
- 2003 "The Politics of Religion and Race in Bahia, Brazil," Latin American Studies Association, Abstracts of the XXIV International Congress (pp. 61), Dallas, TX (March 27-29).

2003 "The Politics of Religious Practice: Narratives of Religious Identity among Afro-Brazilians in Bahia," Northeastern Anthropological Association, Abstracts of the 43rd Annual Meetings, Burlington, VT (March 21-23).

2000 "The Politics of Religious Pluralism in Brazil," American Anthropological Association, Abstracts of the 99th Annual Meetings (pp. 435-436), San Francisco, CA (Nov. 15-19).

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2014 College Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) Research Grant, Indiana University (\$20,000).

2011 Office of the Vice Provost for Research Grant-In-Aid of Research and Creative Activity, Indiana University (\$500).

2011 Office of the Vice Provost for Research Leave Supplement (\$17284)

2011 Fulbright CIES Grant for Research in Brazil (\$15400).

2011 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, Indiana University (\$1500).

2010 College Arts & Humanities Institute (CAHI) Travel Grant, Indiana University (\$1000).

2009 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, Indiana University (\$1200).

2008 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, Indiana University (\$600).

2007 Most Influential Professor Award from the Latin American Studies Graduate Students at Tulane University.

2005 Stone Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Award, Tulane University (\$1000).

2004 Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award, University at Albany.

2003 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Department of Anthropology at the University at Albany (\$5000).

2001 Dissertation Improvement Grant #0109146, National Science Foundation (\$8800).

2001 Research Grant, Graduate Student Organization at the University at Albany. For dissertation fieldwork in Brazil (\$500).

- 2000 Benevolent Award, University at Albany Benevolent Association. For dissertation fieldwork in Brazil (\$500).
- 1999 Research Fellowship, Department of Anthropology at the University at Albany. For initial dissertation fieldwork in Brazil (\$4600).
- 1999 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, Cornell University. Funding for the Summer Intensive Portuguese Institute at University of Wisconsin, Madison (\$2600 + tuition).
- 1998 Research Grant, Graduate Student Organization at the University at Albany. For preliminary research and language training in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil (\$500).

Classes Taught at Indiana University (2007 – Present), most recent first

Religion, Spirituality and Science (Religion Studies, undergraduate) / Religion, Secularism and Spirituality (graduate): This course explores the complex and shifting relationship between the religious, the secular and the spiritual. It focuses in particular on the emergence of spirituality as a category of belief and practice and on the growing visibility of atheism in American public life. In recent decades, the number of Americans who identify either as non-religious or “spiritual, not religious” has grown considerably. This course explores how these developments affect our understanding of the American religious landscape and our understanding of what “religion” is more generally. It also examines how these changes reflect wider trends and patterns in American religious history, and in what ways they represent something new and novel.

Religion and Popular Culture: This course explores the complex relationship between religion and popular culture. It begins with a discussion of ideas about what religion is and is not, what popular culture is and is not, and the often blurry line between the two. The rest of the course examines the relationship between popular culture and religious practice (e.g., how religious communities engage with new media, whether popular culture itself can be religion) and the roles that different representations of religion play in popular culture (e.g., the analysis of religion and religious images in the genres of horror, science fiction, and comedy). Questions explored in the course include: What are the tensions we find between religion and popular culture? Can anything form the basis of a religion? How have new media been integrated (or not) into religious communities and practices? What roles does religion play in the genres of horror, science fiction and comedy?

Post-Apocalyptic Fiction (Religious Studies, undergraduate): Focusing on literature and film, this course explores post-apocalyptic narratives as a form of speculative fiction that provides an imaginative way of reflecting on questions about human nature, good versus evil, predestination, mortality, and spirituality, and so on. The course also considers how post-apocalyptic narratives work as prophecy, or as a way of critiquing society and of telling cautionary tales to contemporary audiences. Although scripture and doctrine are not the main

focus, the course addresses how post-apocalyptic fiction intersects with and diverges from explicitly religious teachings about the end of the world as we know it.

Race, Religion and Empire in the Americas (American Studies, graduate): This course explores the intersection of race, religion and empire in the Americas from a transnational perspective. It engages key texts that define the “transnational turn,” particularly in relation to ideas about neoliberalism and American empire. More specifically, the course focuses on how representations and practices that we understand as race and religion emerge at the nexus of flows between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean. Particular topics include US interventions in the Americas, neoliberalism and the Washington consensus, tourism development, and the representation and practice of African diaspora religions.

Spirit Possession and Exorcism (Religious Studies, undergraduate): This course is concerned with spirits and their interactions with human beings, or more specifically, with human bodies. Although it is focused on the Americas, the course deals with spirit possession and exorcism across a wide geographical and historical range. In addition, it explores possession and exorcism not simply as oddities on the margins of what is properly religious, but – to the extent that religion and modernity are often defined in contrast to the worship of or belief in spirits and demons – as central to how religion and modernity are defined. Accordingly, the course continually tacks back and forth between looking at particular practices of possession and exorcism and the wider of these phenomena for understanding religion in our contemporary world.

Religion and the Body (Religious Studies, undergraduate): This course explores the nature of the body, its relationship to the mind and the self, and how the body figures into religious belief and practice. It examines general theories of the body and embodiment as well as a number of themes in the study of religion and the body, including healing, spirit possession, and religion in relation to gender, sexuality and race. Three interrelated questions guide the class: How do different religions view and relate to the body? How are bodies constituted through cultural, social and religious practices? What does it mean to say that religious experience is embodied? Along the way, students gain an understanding of and experience applying critical theoretical, analytical and methodological in the interdisciplinary field of religious studies.

American Studies Senior Seminar (American Studies, undergraduate): This course is the capstone class in the major. Students complete at least two drafts (including a final draft) of a well-researched essay, between 17 and 25 pages in length. Like a classic seminar, the students and faculty collectively read and respond to the first and second drafts of each essay. The class is an IW class, with an emphasis on drafting and rewriting the final product. In addition to this original research component, the class exposes students to multiple perspectives that comprise the field of American Studies. It explores, through foundational texts and more recent studies, some of the interdisciplinary perspectives that scholars of American Studies use to address the wide-ranging nature of inquiry in the discipline.

African Diaspora Religions (Religious Studies, undergraduate): This course examines current issues in the study of African-derived religions in the Americas. It explores, through text and film, religions such as Candomblé in Brazil, Vodou in Haiti, Santería in Cuba and the United States, and Rastafarianism in Jamaica. Issues examined include the relationship of these religions to Christianity, their connections to Africa, their engagements with racial politics, as well as their connections to ethnic, national and transnational projects and processes. In addition to a wide range of approaches to the study of religion, students become familiar with a variety of perspectives on the relationship between religion, identity and politics.

What Is America? (American Studies, undergraduate): This course explores ideas about citizenship, culture, national identity and the social contract in the broader Americas. What makes us "Americans"? How do we define "America"? How does national identity compete with and relate to other forms of identity, such as social status or class, religious association, gender and sexuality, and racial or ethnic identification?

Religion and Race in Brazil (African American and African Diaspora Studies, undergraduate): This course examines the intersection of religion, racial identity, and racial politics in Brazil. It includes an overview of race and color in Brazilian society and culture and centers on a number of studies of African-derived religion and Christianity in Afro-Brazilian communities.

Global Tourism (American Studies, undergraduate): Drawing on case studies from the Americas, this course focuses on transnational tourism, a major aspect of globalization that involves the consumption of cross-cultural experience. It focuses on the complex relationships among different kinds of tourists, tourism organizations, cultural representations, and host communities.

History of Race in America (African American and African American Studies, undergraduate): This introductory course explores the development of racism and racial ideologies in the North America, Latin America and the Caribbean from colonial times to the present.

African American and African Diaspora Protest Strategies (African American and African American Studies, undergraduate): This course examines the historical roles, structures, and impacts of black protest strategies and the origins of black movements to assess their impact on communities in Africa and in the diaspora. The topics range from slave rebellions to contemporary cultural politics in the African diaspora.

Qualitative and Ethnographic Methods (African American and African Diaspora Studies, graduate): This course provides a survey of qualitative research methods with a particular focus on ethnographic approaches. It takes an interdisciplinary perspective that explores how different research techniques are applied in a variety of fields. The course readings explore not only the practical issues involved in conducting qualitative research but also the ethical and political issues that are at the center of our research projects. In addition, students read several exemplary ethnographies during the semester.

Qualitative and Interdisciplinary Methods (African American and African Diaspora Studies, graduate): This graduate course focuses on the concept of practice of interdisciplinarity in relation to the field of African American and African Diaspora Studies. It explores the range of research methods engaged in interdisciplinary research as well as the elements of research design and proposal writing. It also examines questions of method in the broader sense of a “mode of inquiry” that includes the theoretical perspectives and assumptions that shape our research questions and determine legitimate ways of approaching them.

Brazilian Studies Seminar (Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, undergraduate and graduate): This course aims to familiarize students with emerging trends in Brazilianist scholarship, as well as with the ongoing research of faculty members at IU. Each meeting showcases the work of a different faculty member, with selected readings circulated in advance.

Classes Taught for the department of Anthropology at Tulane University (2004 – 2007)

Cultural Anthropology: Introduction to cultural anthropology focusing on ethnographic case studies.

Religion and Culture (combined undergraduate and graduate section) / Anthropology of Religion (graduate only section): Survey of ethnographic studies and theoretical approaches in the anthropology of religion.

Religion and Identity / Theories of Identity: Survey of ethnographic studies of how religious discourse and practice shapes and is shaped ideas about the self, the body, and social identities such as those of gender, ethnicity, race and class.

Religions and Modernities / Theories of Modernity: Survey of ethnohistorical and ethnographic studies of the complex relationship between religion and “modernity,” including topics such as: colonial religious encounters, religious pluralism, fundamentalist movements, religion and globalization, new religious movements, and religion and popular culture.

Race in Brazil (combined section) / Afro-Brazilian Identity (graduate only): Survey of ethnographic studies of Afro-Brazilian politics and cultural identity along with an examination of theories of race and ethnicity.

Ethnography of Social Movements in Latin America / Political Anthropology: Survey of ethnographic studies of social movements based on gender, race, and class in Latin America along with an exploration of current concerns in political anthropology.

Anthropological Theory / Contemporary Social Theory: Overview of the history of anthropological theory presented in the context of general developments in social theory.

SERVICE

Thesis and Dissertation Committees

2020	Doctoral Exam Committee for Maggie Slaughter, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2020	Doctoral Exam Committee for Jessica Merritt, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2020	Doctoral Exam Committee for Steven Kaplin, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2019	Doctoral Exam and Doctoral Dissertation Committees for Sarah Neace, Religious Studies, UC Davis.
2019	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Jacob Boss, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2019	Doctoral Exam and Doctoral Dissertation Committees for Allison Darmody, Religious Studies, Indiana University
2019	Doctoral Exam Committee for Mihee Kim-Kort, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2013 – Present	Chair, Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Emily Stratton, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2016- Present	Doctoral Exam Committee for Krista Weirich, Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University.
2015 – 2018	Doctoral Exam and Dissertation Committee for Alexandra Cotofana, Anthropology with minor in Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2012 – 2018	Doctoral Exam and Dissertation Committee for Travis Cooper, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2012 – 2018	Doctoral Exam and Dissertation Committee for Andrew Monteith, Religious Studies, Indiana University.
2012 – 2017	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Caralee Jones, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University.

2012 – 2015	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Sara Dees, Religious Studies, Indiana University
2011	Senior Thesis Committee for Lynette Anigbo, Religious Studies, Indiana University
2010 – 2017	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Jessica Rivers, Communication and Culture, Indiana University
2010 – 2013	MA Thesis Committee for Wideline Seraphim, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University.
2010	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Lauren Miller, Anthropology, Indiana University.
2009 – 2010	MA Thesis Committee for Caralee Jones, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University.
2015 – 2020	Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Jorge Valenzuela, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University.
2009 – 2014	MA Thesis Chair for Jorge Valenzuela, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Indiana University.
2009 – 2012	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Christina Heisser, History, Indiana University.
2009	Senior Thesis Committee for Paula Dias, Anthropology, Indiana University.
2008 – Present	Doctoral Dissertation Committee for Meredith Glueck, History, University of Texas at Austin.
2008	MA Thesis Committee for Allana Radecki, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University.
2008 - 2009	MA Thesis Chair for Delphine Criscenzo, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University.
2008	MA Thesis Committee for David Amponsah, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University.
2007 – 2008	MA Thesis Chair for Sarah Mariner, Latin American Studies, Tulane University.

- 2007 – Present Doctoral Exam and Dissertation Committees for Xelaju Xorda, Latin American Studies, Tulane University.
- 2007 MA Thesis Committee for Annie Gibson, Latin American Studies, Tulane University.
- 2006 MA Thesis Chair for Rose Caraway, Latin American Studies, Tulane University.
- 2006 Senior Honors Thesis Committee for Devon Robbie, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University.
- 2006 Senior Honors Thesis Committee for Adam Adkin, Latin American Studies, Tulane University.
- 2005 - Present Doctoral Exam and Dissertation Committees for Cynthia Garza, Latin American Studies, Tulane University.

Departmental and other University Service

- 2019 – Present Director of Graduate Studies, Religious Studies.
- 2018 – 2019 Chair, Community and Engagement Committee, Religious Studies.
- 2017 – 2018 Outside Executive Committee Member, India Studies.
- 2017 – 2018 Organizer, Religious Studies Faculty Colloquium Series.
- 2017 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Religious Studies (spring semester only).
- 2016 Coordinator, Self-Study for External Review, Religious Studies.
- 2015 – 2016 Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, Religious Studies.
- 2015 Reviewer, College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation fellowship competition.
- 2015 Reviewer, Fulbright IIE Campus Review, Indiana University.
- 2015 Reviewer, Stein Fellowship Award Committee, Religious Studies.
- 2015 Reviewer, Gallagher and Honors prizes, Religious Studies.
- 2013 – 2014 Chair, Chair's Advisory Committee, American Studies.

- 2014 (Spring) Convener, Undergraduate Education Assessment Team, Religious Studies.
- 2013 – 2014 Chair, Committee for the Proposal of a Minor in Religions in Global Perspective, Religious Studies.
- 2013 Faculty Secretary, American Studies.
- 2013 – 2014 Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Religious Studies.
- 2012 – 2013 Representative from Religious Studies, Mapping the Study of Religion Survey Project, Office of the Vice President for Research, Indiana University.
- 2012 – 2013 Search Committee for Contemporary Islam Search, Religious Studies.
- 2011 – 2012 Community and Engagement Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University.
- 2010 -2011 Coordinator, Brazilian Studies Working Group, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Indiana University
- 2011 Organizer, Brown Bag Talk Series, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University
- 2010 Merit Committee, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University
- 2009-2012 Graduate Affairs Committee, American Studies, Indiana University.
- 2008- 2012 Steering Committee, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Indiana University.
- 2007-2010 Graduate Studies Committee, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University
- 2008-2009 Co-Director of Graduate Studies, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University
- 2007-2009 Diaspora Studies Collaborative Conversation Group Leader, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University
- 2006-2007 Faculty Representative for the Tulane Chapter of Amnesty International, Tulane University.

2004 Evaluator, Portuguese and French Language Proficiency Exams, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University.

National Service

2017 – 2019 Board Member at Large, Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Editorial Work

Member of the editorial board of *Nova Religio: The Journal of New and Emergent Religions* (2012 – present).

Guest edited two special issues of *Nova Religio*: The first on New Religious Movements in Brazil (v. 15 n. 4, 2012) and the second on Transnational Religions in the Americas (forthcoming, 2013).

Book Manuscript Reviews

Reviewed manuscripts for Routledge, NYU Press, University of Toronto Press and University of Georgia Press.

Journal Manuscript Reviews

Reviewed manuscripts for *Nova Religio*, *Global Catholicism*, *Journal of Africana Religions*, *City and Society*, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Ethnos*, *Gender and Society*, *American Ethnologist*, *Studies in Religion*, *The Journal of Religious History*, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, *Humanities*, *the Journal of Africana Religion*, and *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Portuguese: Fluent. French: Intermediate. Spanish: Basic.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1996-present American Anthropological Association, member.

2004 – present Society for the Anthropology of Religion, member.

2003-present American Academy of Religion, member.