

JACOB BOSS

Doctoral Candidate

Indiana University Bloomington - Department of Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Religious Studies Indiana University, Bloomington Dissertation: "Practical Transhumanism: Life at the Grassroots of Human Augmentation" (In Progress)	May 2023
M.A. Religious Studies Indiana University, Bloomington Thesis: "Gurus and CEOs, Disciples and Consumers"	2015
B.A. Asian Languages and Literature University of Iowa Concentration: Japanese	2008

PUBLICATIONS

Gods of Wires, Gods of Smoke: The Study of Religion and Artificial Intelligence American Religion	Forthcoming 2023
"Reaching Through the Cloud: Collective Effervescence and AI Obscurantism" Debates Do NER , edited by Manoela Carpenedo Rodrigues.	Forthcoming 2023
"Punks and Profiteers in the War on Death" Body and Religion , Kathryn Zubko, editor. 5(2), 135-159. Equinox. https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.18251	2022
" Human Augmentation Research Network and Transhumanism " with Sharday Mosurinjohn and Jeremy Cohen. <i>Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network</i> .	2022
Review of Black Transhuman Liberation Theology. Philip Butler. Reading Religion.	2021
Encyclopedia of Artificial Intelligence: The Part, Present, and Future of AI , edited by Philip Frana and Michael Klein. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. Entries written for: "Campaign to Stop Killer Robots," "Anne Foerst," and "Kevin Warwick."	2021
"For the Rest of Time They Heard the Drum." In Theology and Westworld , edited by Juli Gittinger and Shayna Sheinfeld, 37-53. Lanham: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic.	2020
"The Harmony of Metal and Flesh: Cybernetic Futures." In Spiritualities, Ethics, and Implications of Human Enhancement and Artificial Intelligence , edited by Christopher Hrynkow, 139-157. Wilmington: Vernon Press.	2020
Review of Unsettling Science and Religion: Contributions from Queer Studies. Eds. Lisa Stenmark and Whitney Bauman. <i>Reading Religion</i> .	2018
" Matters of Life and Death: Scientific Ethics in Frankenstein " with Lisa Sideris. <i>A Companion to Frankenstein</i> . Indiana University Themerster.	2017
" At Least Do No Harm " Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society.	2015
Yuri Said/ゆりは言った with Shiori Yamazaki. Bilingual mixed-media bound book with original illustrations.	2007

AWARDS

Teaching Excellence Award, School of Education, Student Academic Center, Indiana University Bloomington	2022
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Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Informatics, Indiana University Bloomington	2021
Devonia and Stephen Stein Fellowship in the Study of Religion	2021
Carl Ziegler Teaching Award, Collins Living-Learning Center, Indiana University Bloomington	2020
Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University Bloomington	2020
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University	2020
Religious Studies Research Fellowship, Indiana University Bloomington,	2019
Greenburg Albee Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University	2019
Devonia and Stephen Stein Fellowship in the Study of Religion	2019
Society for the Anthropology of Religion Travel Award	2019
Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University Bloomington	2018
The Politics of Religious Freedom at Home and Abroad, Luce Foundation Research Fellowship	2017
Devonia and Stephen Stein Fellowship in the Study of Religion	2017
Dhar India Studies Travel Award, Indiana University	2014
United States Department of Education, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship	2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indiana University Bloomington

Instructor of Record

Instructor – “Unlocking Your Creativity” (EDUC X151)	2023
Instructor – “You@IU” (EDUC X 159 Connecting Campus Resources)	2022
Instructor – “Happiness” (REL-R 102 Religion and Popular Culture)	2022
Instructor – “The Transhuman Condition” (CLLC-L 120)	2021
Instructor – “Hacking the World” (CLLC L-210)	2020
Instructor – “Come Hell or High Water” (REL-R 170 Religion, Ethics, and Public Life)	2019
Instructor – “Religions of Asia” (REL-R 153)	2018

Associate Instructor with Discussion Sections

Associate Instructor – Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell “Advanced Information Ethics”	2023
Associate Instructor – Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell “Advanced Information Ethics”	2021
Associate Instructor – Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell “Introduction to Social Informatics”	2021
Associate Instructor – Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell “Introduction to Social Informatics”	2020
Associate Instructor – Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell “Introduction to Social Informatics”	2019
Associate Instructor – Professor Candy Gunther Brown “Religion in America”	2019
Associate Instructor – Professor Constance Furey “Original Sin”	2018
Associate Instructor – Professor Lisa Sideris “Religion, Ethics, and Public Life”	2017
Associate Instructor – Professor Lisa Sideris “Religion, Ethics, and Public Life”	2016
Associate Instructor – Professor James Swan-Tuite “Concepts of Self: East and West”	2016
Associate Instructor – Professor Michael Ing “Religions of Asia”	2014

Associate Instructor, Grader

Associate Instructor – Professor Nathan Ensmenger “The Information Society”	2022
Associate Instructor – Professor Nur Amali Ibrahim “Introduction to Islam”	2018
Associate Instructor – Professor Jason Mokhtarian “Introduction to the Hebrew Bible”	2017
Associate Instructor – Professor Candy Gunther Brown “Introduction to Christianity”	2015
Associate Instructor – Professor Heather Blair “Kung-Fu Heroes and Anime Goddesses”	2015
Associate Instructor – Professor Rebecca Manring “Introduction to Hinduism”	2014
Associate Instructor – Professor Heather Blair “Kung-Fu Heroes and Anime Goddesses”	2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ProHealth REU Evaluator – Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering, Indiana University	2022
Lead evaluator for National Science Foundation funded Proactive health Informatics Research Experience for Undergraduates site. Evaluators coordinate with the IRB, the NSF, conduct interviews with undergraduate participants, analyze data and generate reports for program faculty and graduate student mentors to improve the program.	

Associate Director – Global Living-Learning Community, Indiana University 2022
 The Associate Director of the GLLC oversees an International Studies themed dormitory and approximately one hundred participating student residents. The AD reports to the Director and is supported by a student services administrator, a graduate assistant, and an undergraduate assistant. The AD manages day to day operations, oversees budget allocations for student programming, presides over the student executive council, and facilitates living-learning community events. The AD manages recruitment, retention, and communication strategies for resident undergraduates. The AD holds office hours for students, resolves resident issues, interfaces with residence life staff, and leads student resident field trips.

Educational Consultant 2019-current
 I have consulted on pedagogical approaches and course development for faculty in the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Comparative Literature, and the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering at Indiana University, Bloomington. I have also consulted for the School of Religion, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, helping redevelop their introductory graduate seminar and their teacher training program.

Research Assistant – [Center for Religion and the Human](#) 2019-2022
 Indiana University, Bloomington
 Funded by the Henry R. Luce Foundation. Assisting Professor Lisa Sideris.

Editorial Assistant – [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#) 2018-current
 Assisting Editor Andrea Jain and Book Review Editor Kevin Schilbrack.

Research Assistant – [Being Human in the Age of Humans](#) 2017-2019
 Indiana University, Bloomington and University of Notre Dame
 Funded by Humanities Without Walls. Assisted Professor Lisa Sideris.

Research Assistant – [The Politics of Religious Freedom](#) 2014-2015
 University of California, Berkley and Indiana University, Bloomington
 Funded by the Henry R. Luce Foundation. Assisted Professor Winnifred Sullivan.

USAIntern Undergraduate Research Assistantship 2007
 University of Iowa
 Federal program. Assisted Professor Adrienne Carey Hurley.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Gods of Blood and Salt: Dante’s Transhumanism Revisited” 2023
 The Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture
 University of Arizona, Tempe

“Transhumanism is for Punks” 2023
 The Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture
 University of Arizona, Tempe

“The Religion of Transhumanism at the Grassroots” 2022
 Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
 Cholula, Mexico

“Kill the Law, Save the World” (Revised and Expanded) 2022
 American Academy of Religion Annual National Conference
 Denver, Colorado

“The Keybase and the Glory” 2022
 American Academy of Religion Annual National Conference
 Denver, Colorado

<p>"Kill the Law, Save the World" Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society Royal Anthropological Institute, London</p>	2022
<p>"Dying in the Meat: Grassroots Transhumanism on the Engines of Immortality" American Academy of Religion Annual National Conference San Antonio, Texas</p>	2021
<p>"Grassroots Transhumanism: Weeds in the Garden of Neoliberalism" University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago Joint Graduate Student Conference Notre Dame, Indiana</p>	2020*
<p>"Punks and Profiteers in the War on Death" American Academy of Religion Annual National Conference San Diego, California</p>	2019
<p>"Virtual Asuras and Ascetic AI: Digital Media Arts and Pedagogy for the South Asian Religions classroom" The Annual Conference on South Asia Madison, Wisconsin</p>	2019
<p>"The Steel Cocoon" Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Conference Victoria University, Toronto, Canada</p>	2019
<p>"Transhumanist Ethics in the Anthropocene" Religious Perspectives and Alternative Futures in an Age of Humans Conference Indiana University, Bloomington</p>	2018
<p>"Artificial Beings, Natural Feelings: Rudolph Otto's Phenomenology of Religion and Robots" Religious Studies Graduate Student Conference Indiana University, Bloomington</p>	2017
<p>"The Harmony of Metal and Flesh: Ecotheology and Cybernetics" Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana</p>	2017
<p>"Public Performances of Dissatisfaction: Looking Beyond Nation-States in Maharishi Vedic City" Diverse Perspectives on State. The Annual Conference on South Asia University of Wisconsin-Madison</p>	2014
INVITED TALKS	
<p>"Biohacking and Transhumanism" The Chinese University of Hong Kong</p>	2023
<p>"Religion & Machines" The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis</p>	2023
<p>"Pay it No Mind: Beyond Consumerism and Mind-Body Dualism in Transhumanism" Teaching Religion in Public: Afrofuturism and the Post-Human Center for Religion and the Human Indiana University</p>	2022
<p>"Transhuman Visions in Contemporary Media" Post-Apocalyptic and Dystopian Fiction, Professor Stephen Selka Indiana University Bloomington, Department of Religious Studies</p>	2021

<p>“Engaging Narratology: Evaluation as Teacher-Student Storytelling” Religion in Public Life/Teaching Religion: “How Do Scholars Change Institutions That Normalize Inequality?” Midwest American Academy of Religion Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana</p>	2020*
<p>“Transhumanism at the Grassroots” New Religious Movements, Professor Sharday Mosurinjohn Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario</p>	2019
<p>“Cybernetics for the People” Informatics and Society, Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell Indiana University Bloomington, Department of Informatics</p>	2019
<p>“The Mythology of Transhumanism and Pain” Literature and Ideas, Senior Lecturer Jeffrey Johnson Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Comparative Literature</p>	2019
<p>“To Love a Robot” Love, Professor Hall Bjornstaadt Indiana University Bloomington, Department of French and German</p>	2018
<p>“Alternatives to Corporate Technocracy” Introduction to Ethics, Senior Lecturer Jennifer Terrell Indiana University Bloomington, Department of Informatics</p>	2017
<p>“Hinduism Inspired Meditation Movements” New Religious Movements, Professor Seth Perry Indiana University Bloomington, Department of Religious Studies</p>	2014

MEDIA APPEARANCES

<p>AI and Faith, “DIY Transhumanism Communities for Human Flourishing: Meet the Grinders” https://aiandfaith.org/featured-interview-jacob-boss/</p>	2023
<p>DIGETHIX – Ethics Inside the Frame of Technology https://digethix.org/digethix-17-biohacking-implants-and-diy-science-with-jacob-boss/</p>	2021
<p>The Disability Visibility Project “A Very Kind Conversation Between a Cyborg and Some Biohackers” https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2020/10/06/a-very-kind-conversation-between-a-cyborg-and-some-biohackers/</p>	2020
<p>Experience Magazine, Alex Pearlman, “Health-tracking implants can create bionic cows. Are humans next?” https://expmag.com/2020/06/health-tracking-implants-can-create-bionic-cows-are-humans-next/</p>	2020
<p>WFIU-NPR, Microchipping: The Future Of Implant Technology https://indianapublicmedia.org/noonedition/microchipping-future-implant-technology.php</p>	2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

<p>Chair, “A Transhuman Panelfesto” After Earth? Religion and Technology on a Changing Planet The Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona</p>	2023
<p>Steering Committee Member Emerging Technologies The American Academy of Religion</p>	2022-
<p>Anonymous Peer Reviewer Journal of Religion and Popular Culture</p>	2022

Chair, “Identity and Infinity in Technofuturism” 2021
 Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Unit, American Academy of Religion
 San Antonio, Texas
Steering Committee Member [Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Unit](#) 2019-current
 The American Academy of Religion

Anonymous Peer Reviewer [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#) 2018

Chair “Wonder in Restoration, Relationality, and Reenchantment” 2016
 Wonder and the Natural World International Conference
 Indiana University, Bloomington

Chair “Public Performances of Dissatisfaction: Looking Beyond Nation-States in Maharishi Vedic City” Diverse 2014
 Perspectives on State. The Annual Conference on South Asia
 University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chair “Images and Visual Culture” 2014
 Mediating Religion: Modes of Communication in Religious Context. Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference
 Indiana University, Bloomington

OTHER SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

Panelist “Course Design: The Basics of Creating a Course for Graduate Student and Postdoc Instructors.” Hosted by 2022
 The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Indiana University, Bloomington

Organizer Interdepartmental reading group on pedagogical theory, with special attention to contemporary 2019
 challenges and digital pedagogy

Convener Workshop series on alternative approaches to grading and evaluation for students and faculty, 2018
 Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University Bloomington

Vice-President GradQueers at Indiana University Bloomington 2017
 Campus-wide registered student organization supporting LGBTQ+ graduate students

Coordinator GradQueers at Indiana University Bloomington 2016-2017
 Campus-wide student organization supporting LGBTQ+ graduate students

Founder Graduate Religious Studies Association Indiana University Bloomington 2014
 Providing support and programming for Religious Studies graduate students

Department Representative Graduate and Professional Student Government at Indiana University Bloomington 2013

Panelist GLBT Speakers Bureau at Indiana University Bloomington 2013-current
 Diversity Education programming through the School of Public Health

LANGUAGES

English
 Japanese
 Hindi
 German

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
 Society for Social Studies of Science
 American Anthropological Association
 Association for Computing Machinery

International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture

*Accepted and prepared but unable to present due to COVID-19