

JUAN M. FLOYD-THOMAS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY
VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL AND GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

411 21ST AVENUE SOUTH OFFICE 217 • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37240 • USA
PHONE 615.828.8337 (M) 615.322.2619 (O) • FAX 615.712.8202
E-MAIL: J.FLOYD-THOMAS@VANDERBILT.EDU

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Doctorate of Philosophy in History, University of Pennsylvania, 2000.
M.A. Master of Arts in History, Temple University, 1996.
B.A. Bachelor of Arts, Rutgers College, 1993.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor of African American Religious History, Vanderbilt Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion, 2013-present.
Associate Professor of Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion, 2008-2013.
Associate Professor of History, Texas Christian University, 2006-2010. Promotion with Tenure. (On leave of absence, 2008-2010).
Assistant Professor of History, Texas Christian University, 2002-2006.
Assistant Professor of History, Virginia Tech, 1999-2002.

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Religion in the Age of Obama co-edited volume with Anthony B. Pinn, (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2018).

The Altars Where We Worship: The Religious Significance of Popular Culture with Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas and Mark G. Toulouse (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016).

Liberating Black Church History: Making It Plain (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014).

The Origins of Black Humanism in America: Reverend Ethelred Brown and the Unitarian Church (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

Black Church Studies: An Introduction with Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, Stephen G. Ray, Jr., Ray, Carol Duncan, and Lynne Westfield (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

Books Under Contract

"A City Called Heaven": A History of Black Religion in Harlem, Oxford University Press (work-in-progress).

Journal Articles

"Black Liberation Theology and the Black Manifesto: Reflections on Race, Racial Injustice, and Religion a Half-Century Later," *Black Theology Papers Project* (2021) [forthcoming].

"Making America Possible Again: Towards a New Social Gospel in the 21st Century," *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (Autumn 2021), 24-40.

"'That's Not How the Story Ends': Vincent Harding's Liberating Vision of African American Religious History." *Black Theology: An International Journal* Vol. 17, No. 3 (2019): 176–194.

"'A Relatively New Discovery in the Modern West': #BlackLivesMatter and the Evolution of Black Humanism," *KALFOU: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (2017), 30-39.

"Towards a Religious History of the Black Atlantic: Charles H. Long's Significations and New World Slavery," *Journal of Religious History* (December 2016), 1-22.

"Welfare Reform and the Ghost of the 'Welfare Queen,'" *New Politics* (Summer 2016), 6-12.

"Gaining One's Definition: The (De) Christianization of Malcolm X's Life and Legacy," *Journal of Africana Religions* Vol. 3, No. 1 (2015), 44-61.

"Between Jim Crow and the Swastika: African American Religio-Cultural Interpretations of the Holocaust," *Black Theology: An International Journal* Vol. 12, No. 1 (2014), 1-15.

"More Than Conquerors: Just War Theory and the Need for a Black Christian Antiwar Movement," *Black Theology: An International Journal* Vol. 9, No. 2 (2011), 136-160.

"Rastafari Theology, Reggae Music, and the Postcolonial Legacy of Bob Marley," *Sightings* (December 16, 2010)

<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/sightings/archive_2010/1216.shtml>.

"Seeing Red in the Black Church: Marxist Thought and African American Christianity," *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* Volume 1, Issue 12 (November 2010)

<[http://www.raceandreligion.com/JRER/Volume_1_\(2010\)_files/J%20Floyd%20Thomas%201%2012.pdf](http://www.raceandreligion.com/JRER/Volume_1_(2010)_files/J%20Floyd%20Thomas%201%2012.pdf)>

"Rethinking 'The Problem of the Color-Line': Black Ideological Diversity and the Foundations of Racial Uplift, 1895-1915" *NCBS International Journal of Africana Studies* vol. 8, no.1 (Fall 2002), 77-94.

"The Burning of Rebellious Thoughts: MOVE as an Expression of Black Radical Humanism, 1970-2001," *Black Scholar*, vol. 32, no. 1(Spring 2002), 11-21.

Book Chapters

"Wakanda and the Dilemma of Racial Utopianism," Eduardo Pérez and Timothy E. Brown, eds., *Black Panther and Philosophy*. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2022). [forthcoming]

"Deep in the Heart of Texas: Race, Religion, and Rights in the COVID-19 Era," Stacey Floyd-Thomas, ed. *Religion, Race and COVID-19: Confronting White Supremacy in the Pandemic* (New York: New York University Press, 2021), 185-214.

"The Donald Went Down to Georgia: The GOP from God's Own Party to the Party of Trump," Miguel De La Torre, ed., *Faith and Reckoning After Trump* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2021), 13-24.

"The God That Never Failed: Black Christian Marxism as Prophetic Call to Action and Hope," Jin Young Choi & Joerg Rieger, Eds., *Faith, Class, and Labor: Intersectional Approaches in a Global Context* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2020), 44-68.

"The Good, the M.A.A.D., and the Holy: Kendrick Lamar's Meditations on Sin and Moral Agency in the Post-Gangsta Era" in Christopher M. Driscoll, Monica R Miller, Anthony B. Pinn, eds., *Kendrick Lamar and the Making of Black Meaning*. (London: Routledge, 2019), 69-98.

"Black Prophetic Discourse and Just War Theory in the Age of Obama" in Juan M. Floyd-Thomas and Anthony B. Pinn, eds. *Religion in the Age of Obama* (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2018), 108-127.

"Signifying Religion: Charles Long" in Sarah J. Bloesch and Meredith Minister, eds. *Introduction to Contemporary Theories of Religion* (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2018), 93-109.

"Economic Justice, and Globalization in Black Church Studies: Confronting the 'Malignant Kinship' in the Post-Civil Rights Era" in Alton B. Pollard III and Carol B. Duncan, eds., *The Black Church Studies Reader* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 303-318.

"Liberation in African American Theology" in Anthony B. Pinn and Katie G. Cannon, eds. *Oxford Handbook of African American Theology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 200-212.

"Merging Head, Heart, and Hand: Reverend Leon H. Sullivan and the Black Church's Quest for Economic Justice" in R. Drew Smith, ed. *From Every Mountainside: Black Churches and Civil Rights Beyond the Southern Movement*, (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2013), 111-126.

"Origen" in Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, and Miguel De La Torre, eds. *Beyond the Pale: Reading Christian Theology from the Margins* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2011), 9-17.

"Emancipatory Historiography as Pedagogical Praxis: The Blessing and Curse of Theological Education for the Black Self and Subject," [co-authored with Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas] in Lynne Westfield, ed., *Being Black, Teaching Black* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008), 95-104.

"'Lest We Be Scattered Abroad': Nimrod, Marcus Garvey, and Black Religious Humanism in Harlem" in Anthony B. Pinn and Allen D. Callahan, editors, *African American Religious Life and the Story of Nimrod*. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2007), 53-68.

"A Jihad of Words: The Evolution of African American Islam and Contemporary Hip Hop" in Anthony B. Pinn, editor, *Noise and Spirit: The Religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music*. (New York: University Press, 2003), 75-109. [reprinted in Anthony B. Pinn and Monica R. Miller, eds. *The Hip Hop and Religion Reader* (London: Routledge, 2014)]

Reference Works

1 entry in *The Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, CQ Press, 2010.

3 entries in *The Encyclopedia of Unbelief*, Prometheus, 2007.

5 entries in *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*, Routledge, 2004.

1 entry in *Encyclopedia of American Studies*, Grolier Press, 2001.

Book Reviews

Review of Dennis C. Dickerson, *The African Methodist Episcopal Church: A History* in *The Journal of African American History* [forthcoming].

Review of Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, *Racial Migrations: New York City and the Revolutionary Politics of the Spanish Caribbean* in *Journal of American History* Vol. 108, No. 1 June 2021.

- Review of Donald Heinz, *After Trump: Achieving a New Social Gospel in Black Theology: An International Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (2021).
- Review for Jennifer Reid and David Carrasco, eds. *With This Root about My Person: Charles H. Long and New Directions in the Study of Religion* in *AAR Reading Religion* <<https://readingreligion.org/books/root-about-my-person>>
- Review of Henry Louis Gates, Jr. *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song* in *Washington Post Book World* on Feb. 28, 2021.
- Review of Walter Earl Fluker, ed., *The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman. Volume 5: The Wider Ministry, January 1963–April 1981* in *Journal of Southern History* Vol. 86, No. 2 (May 2020).
- Review of Judith Weisenfeld, *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration* in *Journal of American History*, Vol. 105, No. 1 (June 2018).
- Review of Walter Earl Fluker, et al. eds., *The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman: The Bold Adventure, September 1945–May 1949* in *Journal of Southern History* Vol. 83, No. 3 (August 2017).
- Review of Sylvester A. Johnson, *African American Religions, 1500-2000: Colonialism, Democracy, and Freedom* in *Black Theology: An International Journal* Vol. 14 No. 2 (August, 2016).
- Review of Graeme Abernethy, *The Iconography of Malcolm X* in *Journal of American History* Vol. 101, no. 3 (Dec. 2014).
- Review of Jason Osder, *Let the Fire Burn* (documentary film) in *The American Historian* (August 2014).
- Review of Gerald Horne, *Mau Mau in Harlem? The U.S. and the Liberation of Kenya* in *Journal of American History*. Vol. 99, no. 2 (Sept. 2012).
- Review of George Shulman, *American Prophecy: Race and Redemption in American Political Culture* in *Journal of American Ethnic History* Vol. 32, no. 1 (Fall 2012).
- Review of Hamid Reza Kusha, *Islam in American Prisons: Black Muslims' Challenge to American Penology* in *Black Theology: An International Journal* Vol. 10, no. 2 (Fall 2012).
- Review of Mark D. Morrison-Reed, ed., *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism* in *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* Vol. XXXV(2011-2012).
- Review of Walter Earl Fluker, et al. eds., *The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman: Vol. 1: My People Need Me, June 1918-March 1956* in *The Journal of Southern History* Vol. 78, No. 2 (May 2011).
- Review of Suzanne E. Smith, *To Serve the Living: Funeral Directors and the African American Way of Death* in *The Journal of American History* Vol. 97, No. 3 (December 2010).
- Review of Shirley Elizabeth Thompson, *Exiles at Home: The Struggle to Become American in Creole New Orleans* in *Black Theology: An International Journal* Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring 2010).
- Review of Edward J. Blum, *W.E.B. Du Bois: American Prophet* in *Journal of American History* Vol. 95, No. 1 (June 2008).
- Review of Clarence E. Hardy III, *James Baldwin's God: Sex, Hope, and Crisis in Black Holiness Culture* in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (December 2006).
- Review of Mary Pat Fisher, *Religions Today: An Introduction* in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 7:1 (January 2004).

Review of Edward E. Curtis IV, *Islam in Black America: Identity, Liberation, and Difference in African-American Islamic Thought* in *Journal of American History* Vol. 90, No. 2 (September 2003).

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“If you are silent about your pain...’: Racial Reckoning, Religious Reflection, and Redemptive Remembrance on the Tulsa Race Massacre 100 Years Later” and “Up from the Ashes’: The Ongoing Lessons and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre,” the 2021 Williams Institute Lectures delivered at Methodist Theological School in Ohio on Nov. 2 and 3, 2021

"Neoliberalism, Nihilism, Necropolitics, and the Numinous in the Age of The Novel Coronavirus," *2020 Hindsight: The Racial Realization, Religious Significance, and the Reality of COVID-19* Panel, 10th Annual Hawaii University International Conferences on Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, STEAM and Education, Honolulu, HI on June 9, 2021.

“Making America Possible Again: Towards a New Social Gospel in the 21st Century,” Plenary Address, Annual Conference of the Academy of Religious Leadership on April 23, 2021.

“From Black Liberation Theology to Black Lives Matter: A Global Perspective” in “Liberation Theology and Peacebuilding” Panel of Initiative on Religion, Law and Diplomacy, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University on March 4, 2021.

"Deep in the Heart of Texas: Reflections on Racism, Religion, and Rights in the COVID19 Era" Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership, Oblate School of Theology on February 13, 2021.

"Did We Miss the Third Great Awakening?: Martin, Malcolm, and Missed Opportunities," A "March Towards Freedom" Webinar Conversation with West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN on February 10, 2021.

"Black Liberation Theology and the Black Manifesto: Reflections on Race, Racial Injustice, and Religion a Half-Century Later," Black Theology Unit, AAR 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting, December 3, 2020.

“It was God’s Own Mighty Plan” American Religion and the Hidden History of Global Pandemics, Financial Panics, and Racial Pandemonium," "What’s Behind the Mask? American Religious Responses to Pandemics" Webinar Series, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN on August 20, 2020.

"Ready to Die?: Trumpism’s Unholy Trinity and the Toxic, Twisted Path to 'Reopening America' in the COVID19 Era," in "Community Engagement and Prophetic Response" Scholars Roundtable, Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative’s Virtual Leadership Academy, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN on August 7, 2020.

"Historic Moments That Leave Us Breathless: Reflections on George Floyd's Death and #BlackLivesMatter Protests" "What Dreams May Come Next: Harnessing the Prophetic and Pastoral Nature of Black Faith to Cultivate a Transformed Future" Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, June 18, 2020.

“The God That Never Failed: Black Christian Marxism as Prophetic Call to Action and Hope,” 2019 Council for World Mission / Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE) Global Forum in Taipei, Taiwan, June 22, 2019.

"Watch the Throne from Harlem to Paris: The African-Americanization of the Global Culture Industry, 1919-2019," Black Paris: The Economic, Embodied and Ethical Implications of Black Culture as Global Capital: An Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Study Tour and Symposium, Columbia University Global Center — Paris, France, June 3, 2019.

"I Am a Sinner Who's Probably Gonna Sin Again:' Kendrick Lamar's Meditations on Sin, Salvation, and Moral Agency in the Post-Gangsta Era", Black Theology Unit and Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop and Religion Unit panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, CO, November 18, 2018.

"A Destiny Spoken of In Prophecy: Harlem's Black Jews and Competing Discourses on Ethiopian Hebrew Identities in an Anxious Era, 1929-1939," Study of Judaism Unit, panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, CO, November 18, 2018.

"A Holy War in Harlem: Father Divine, Daddy Grace, and the Battle for the Soul of Black New York" Religion and Cities Unit panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR), Boston, MA, November 19, 2017.

"The Pain of Being Your Own Worst Enemy: Race, Religion, and the Spiritual Crisis of White Supremacy in Contemporary America" The Table Conference— "Resilience: Growing Stronger Through Suffering," Biola University Center for Christian Thought, La Mirada, CA Friday, September 22, 2017.

"Making as Much Noise as I Can: James Baldwin, #Black Lives Matter, and the Struggle for Human Rights" Tenth Global Studies Conference and Global Studies Research Network, National University of Singapore, Singapore, June 9, 2017.

"A Sublime Madness of the Soul:' #Black Lives Matter, Protest Movements, and the Struggle for Social Justice in America," (Invited Lecture co-sponsored by the Department of Religion and Classics and American Studies program), the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, February 9, 2017.

"The Poor You Will Always Have With You:' The National Welfare Rights Organization, Poverty, and the Hidden Politics of U.S. Welfare Reform," at Hong Kong International Conference on Social Science (HKICSS), June 10, 2016.

"That's Not How the Story Ends:" Vincent Harding's Liberating Vision of African American Religious History" Afro-American Religious History Group panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR), Atlanta, GA, November 22, 2015.

"A Relatively New Discovery in the Modern West:" The Origins and Varieties of Black Humanism," Religion and Humanism Group panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR), Atlanta, GA, November 21, 2015.

"Perspectives on Race in Teaching for Ministry" [Guest Lecture], Theology And Practice Program Core Seminar, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, October 1, 2015

"Towards a Black History of Liberation: Du Bois, Hegel, and the Development of a Racialized Philosophy of History" *Symposium on Philosophy of Race and/or Alterity* at the Hannover Institute for Philosophical Research in Hannover, Germany, April 26, 2014.

"Lost in the World:' Charles Long's *Significations*, New World Slavery, and a Religious History of the Black Atlantic" Afro-American Religious History Group panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR), Chicago, IL, November 19, 2012.

"Reflections on Race, Religion, and the Malleability of White Supremacy," *Symposium on Racism, Xenophobia, and the Philosophy of Otherness* at the Hannover Institute for Philosophical Research in Hannover, Germany, October 16, 2012.

"Becoming Children of light and Darkness: The Black Body as Theo-Historical Problem," *Where We Dwell in Common* Conference—Pathways for Dialogue in the 21st Century,

Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network in Assisi in Italy, April 19, 2012.

“Deep Dark Truthful Mirror: Racial Representations, Multidirectional Memory, and the Shifting Nature of White Supremacy,” Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR) in San Francisco, CA, November 20, 2011.

“Standing in the Valley of Dry Bones: African American Religio-Cultural Interpretations of the Holocaust,” Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group and Black Theology Group joint panel session, Annual Meeting of American Academy of Religion (AAR) in Atlanta, GA, October 31, 2010.

“Race and Gender in the Welfare Rights Movement: Confronting Poverty and Injustice in the American Welfare State,” Third Annual Global Studies Conference, Pusan National University in Busan, South Korea, June 21, 2010.

“Stand Up Jamrock Generation: Reflections on Rastafari Theology, Reggae Music, and the Politics of Postcolonial Jamaican Culture,” *Art of Protest: A Series by the Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture Program*, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN on March 16, 2010.

“Answering the Real Question: Shaping a Vision for Economic Justice and Globalization in Contemporary Black Church Leadership,” *Ethical Leadership, The Church and the Global Economy Conference*, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL on February 26, 2010.

“The Gospel and Black Preaching: Re-Imaging Social Justice Preaching for 21st Century Reality” Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in St. Petersburg Beach, FL on February 23, 2010.

“My Soul Looks Back and Wonders: New Developments in the Study of African American Religious History” African American Religious Studies Forum, Rice University in Houston, TX on February 18, 2010.

“Merging Head, Heart, and Hand: Reverend Leon H. Sullivan and the Black Church's Quest for Economic Justice,” Community Breakfast at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, TN on February 11, 2010.

“Making a Way out of No Way: Rev. Leon Sullivan's Opportunities Industrialization Center Movement and the Quest for Economic Justice,” American Historians Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on January 10, 2010.

“Seeing Red in the Black Church: Marxist Thought and African American Christianity,” Theology and Religious Reflection Section, /American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

“We Have Spoken: The History of Prophetic Preaching,” Invited Speaker, *Then and Now—Preaching God, Justice and Hope* Kelly Miller Smith Institute Saturday Intensive on Preaching, Worship, & Culture, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on October 31, 2009.

“The Impact of the Prison Industrial Complex on Black Children,” Workshop leader for Garnett Nabrit Lecture Series, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN on March 17-18, 2009.

“Seeking a New Religious Ideal: W.E.B. Du Bois on Religion and the Challenge of History,” Invited speaker, the 2009 Symposium for Black History Month, the Kelly Miller Smith Institute for Black Church Studies and the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on February 5, 2009.

“Confronting the Ten-Day Nation: The Transformative Power of Civil Rights Protest in Mass Media and Popular Memory” in “Born in Struggle: Purposeful Activism or Photo Op” Panel discussion for the *"Where Do We Go From Here?" Black Church Traditions, Textures and Transformations*, Black Church Studies Forum at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA on January 24, 2009.

“Historical Perspective of Social Crisis Preaching” Plenary speaker, *Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Homiletics in Black Preaching*, Symposium at Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on October 16, 2008.

"It's Like God is Testing Me: Approaches for Researching Religion and Hip-Hop," *Like a Prayer: A Series of Public Events on Popular Music and Religious Identity*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on October 7, 2008.

“Transformations: Prisons, Inmates and Communities” Workshop leader for Garnett Nabrit Lecture Series, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN, March 25-26, 2008.

“There Are No Children Here: How Young People Contributed to the Civil Rights Movement” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation speaker, Berea College, Berea, KY, January 21, 2008.

“Race and Gender in the Welfare Rights Movement: Confronting Poverty and Injustice in the American Welfare State” at JALT GALE-SIG *Gender and Beyond* Conference in Osaka, Japan, October 7, 2007.

“Studying ‘the Evidence of Things Not Seen:’ W.E.B. Du Bois and the Modernist Vision of the Black Religious Experience” in “There Must Be a God Somewhere: Exploring the Varieties of Modern Black Religious Experience” workshop panel of 2007 Collegium of African American Religion (CAAR) Annual Conference in Madrid, Spain, April 19, 2007.

"To Set the Captives Free: The Black Church Confronting the Prison-Industrial Complex" presentation given at the Brite Divinity School's Black Church Studies Program's The State of the Black Church Summit, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX on March 23, 2007.

"The Black Church Confronting the Prison-Industrial Complex" at National Black Church Studies Consultation: *Preparing Prophets and Priests for the Black Church Tradition*, Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, February 1, 2007.

"Confronting the 'Malignant Kinship': Black Church Studies, Economic Justice, and Globalization in the Post-Civil Rights Era," Black Theology Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 18, 2006.

“Black Church Studies, Economic Justice, and Globalization,” BCS Forum: Prospects and Implications for Academia, Church, and Society, The Program of Black Church Studies, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, February 1-2, 2006.

“‘Lest We Be Scattered Abroad’: The Black Radical Humanist Tradition in Early 20th Century Harlem” Biennial Meeting of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) at University of Tours, France, April 24, 2005.

"The Tales We Tell and the Blues We Live: Mannish and Womanish Insights in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," Invited lecture given with Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas at 2005 Humanities Symposium, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD, March 2, 2005.

“Emancipatory Historiography as Pedagogical Praxis: The Blessing and Curse of Theological Education for the Black Self and Subject,” *Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion*

Section, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in San Antonio, TX, November 2004.

“Standing in the Valley of the Dry Bones: Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Semitism, and the Crisis of Bad Faith in W.E.B. DuBois’s Visit to Nazi Germany” Texas Christian University, Holocaust Memorial Week Symposium, April 14, 2004.

“‘The fate of St. Domingo awaits you:’ Thoughts on U.S.-Haiti Relations and the Unfinished Revolution,” talk given at Phi Alpha Theta and the TCU Department of History and Geography dinner, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX on March 24, 2004.

“‘Just Looking to Be Left Alone:’ MOVE and the Dilemma of New Religious Movements in Contemporary America,” Chi Delta Mu (ΧΔΜ), TCU Department of Religion luncheon, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX, March 2003.

“The Hidden Meaning of Fighting Words: Reflections on the Political Rhetoric and Actions of President George W. Bush,” *Politics and Ethics of War National Teach-In Against the War on Iraq*, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX, March 4, 2003.

“Rev. Leon Sullivan, the Great Society, and the Creation of the Opportunities Industrialization Center Movement, 1964-1974,” Afro-American Religious History Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 2002.

“‘The Substance of Things Hoped For:’ Rev. Leon Sullivan and the Creation of the Opportunities Industrialization Center Movement, 1964-1967,” North American Labor History Conference (NALHC) Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, October 2001.

“How America Underdeveloped the Third World: Race, Postwar International Relations, and the Troubled Discourse of Development,” *Crossroutes: The Meanings of Race for the 21st Century*, the Collegium of African American Research (CAAR) Annual Conference, Caligari, Sardinia, Italy, March 2001.

“Gaining One’s Definition: Approaches Towards Understanding Liberation in African-American Islam,” Black Theology Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 1999.

“‘What America Is’: The History of Racial State Formation in the United States,” Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) 84th Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, October 1999.

“Creating a Temple and a Forum: The Harlem Unitarian Church as a Sacred Black Public Sphere,” Afro-American Religious History Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 1998.

“Using the Master’s Tools: Rethinking Historical Discourses on Race, Class, and Culture in Robin D.G. Kelley’s *Hammer and Hoe*,” Center for Afro-American & African Studies (CAAAS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, March 1998.

“‘Heaven Ain’t Hard to Find’: Prophets of Rage in the Last Days of Gangsta Rap,” Religion and Popular Culture Program /American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 1997.

“The Burning of Rebellious Thoughts: MOVE as an Expression of African-American Theology, 1970-1996,” Afro-American Religious History Group /American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 1997.

“You Are Not Your Own’: Rebuilding a Politics of Responsibility Amongst Black Scholars,” Verbal Assaults Panel - *The Black Image in the Black Mind* Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 1997.

"To Live and Die for Hip-Hop: Gangsta Rap, Death Row Records, and the Strange Legacy of Tupac Shakur," Masculinity and Popular Culture Panel- *Body and Soul* Conference, Institute of Liberal Arts / Emory University, Atlanta, GA, March 1997.

"Sadie Mossell Alexander and the Mythos of the Black Middle Class," *Lifting as We Climb* Conference, Center for African-American Culture and History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, March 1996.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religious pluralism within modern American society; race, ethnicity, and religion in US history; new religious movements; theories and methods for analyzing religious experience; history of religions; religion and popular culture; the varieties of African American religious experience; religion and economics; religion and international relations; and history of African American churches and sociopolitical reform.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES TAUGHT

Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN

Courses (Masters and Doctoral levels)

Foundations in Theological Education: Text, Context, Difference, and Self
 Seminar on the Study of Religion
 Introduction to Black Church Studies
 Critical Readings in African American Religion: W.E.B. Du Bois
 Moral Philosophy of Black Popular Culture
 Race, Religion, and Protest Music
 Black Churches and the Quest for Economic Justice
 Black Prophetic Discourses: Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin
 Cultural Significations and Black Religion
 Reel Black Faith: Race, Religion, and Film
 The Religious Thought of Howard Thurman
 New Religious Movements
 Slave Religion and Culture in the American South
 Religions of the African Diaspora
 Black Religion in Context: Harlem
 Postcolonial Discourse and Black Religious Thought
 Master of Divinity Senior Seminar

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Undergraduate Courses

Black Religion in America
 Slave Religion and Culture in the American South
 Special Topics: Black Religion and Hip-Hop

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA

Special Topics Course

Public Theology and Prophetic Witness (Summer 2021)

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Special Topics Course

Cone, Cannon and the Moral Theology of Black Popular Culture (Spring 2019).

A Black History of Liberation: The Black Church Tradition and the Quest for Social Justice (Spring 2016).

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Undergraduate Courses

U.S. History Survey Since 1877

The African American Experience Since 1619

The American Mind to 1877 (Honors Course)

America Between World Wars, 1919-1941

Ethnic Elements of American History to 1877

Ethnic Elements of American History since 1877

The Civil Rights Movement in America

Graduate Courses Taught:

Reading Seminar in US History—The New Deal

Research Seminar in US History—The Civil Rights Movement

Reading Seminar in World History—The Atlantic Slave Trade

Research Seminar in US History—American Intellectual History

Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX

Seminary Courses (Masters and Doctoral levels) Taught:

The Church in the Midst of Pluralism: The Black Church in America

The Black Religious Experience in America

The State of the Black Church

The Black Church and the Civil Rights Struggle: Race, Religion, and the “Beloved Community”

Pan-African Origins and Retentions in North American Christianity— Ghana Study Seminar

The Crossroads of Civilizations and Religions— Egypt Study Seminar

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Undergraduate Courses

History of the United States, 1865 to Present

Recent America, 1917 to Present

Religion in American Life

Honors Colloquium: Utopian Thought in American Culture

Black Studies Seminar: Black Nationalism

Freedom and Authority in America

Modern United States, 1877 to 1917

Introduction to Black Studies

GRANTS

Project Member / Co-Investigator, Louisville Institute Collaborative Inquiry Team (CIT) Grant. "Transforming Churches and Communities: Cooperative Developments in a World of Growing Inequality." \$45,000. Duration: September 2019-September 2021.

Primary Investigator, Wabash Center Mid-Career Colloquy Fellowship. "From Academic to Auteur: Sparking the Cinematic Imagination of a Theological Educator." \$1000. Duration: September 2010-September 2011.

Co-Investigator, Louisville Institute General Grant Program. Black Religious Scholar Group, "Making It Plain: Doing Theology in the Black Community." \$25000. Duration: Fall 2003-Summer 2006.

Co-Investigator, "Being Black/Teaching Black: An African-American Dialogue Concerning the Influences of Blackness in Theological Education Teaching Practices." \$3000. Duration: Fall 2003-Summer 2005.

Primary Investigator, Wabash Center Summer Grant Program. "Researching and Writing *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Civil Rights Struggle in Postwar Philadelphia, 1945-1985*." \$7000. Duration: Summer 2003.

Primary Investigator, Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for African American Faculty. "Religious History as a Vehicle for Social Justice: Developing a Revisionist Approach to Teaching 'Religion in American Life.'" \$2750. Duration: June 2002-June 2003.

Co-Investigator, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Interdisciplinary Task Force, Globalizing Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Virginia Tech. "Black Nationalism and the Dilemma of Globalization." \$3000. Duration: 2001.

Co-Investigator, Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching International Faculty Fellow Grant, Virginia Tech. "Developing Religion in American Life." \$9000. Duration: May 2000-December 2001.

Primary Investigator, VA Tech History Department Research Grant, \$2500. Duration: October 1999-May 2001.

Primary Investigator, Mellon Summer Dissertation Fellow, \$2000. Duration: 1997.

HONORS/AWARDS

Honoree, Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. College of Ministers and Laity, Collegium of Scholars, 2018.

Warren Center Fellow, Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities—Vanderbilt University (2016-2017)

Visiting Sankofa Scholar, Candler School of Theology—Emory University (Spring 2016)

Thomas V. Fontaine Fellow – University of Pennsylvania.

Mellon Foundation Summer Fellowship Grant.

Future Faculty Fellow - Temple University.

James Dickson Carr Scholar – Rutgers University.

National Merit Scholar.

Garden State Scholar.

Golden Scroll Winner - American Academy of Achievement.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER)—Executive Director, 2017-2021

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

American Historical Association (AHA)
 American Society of Church History (ASCH)
 Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH)
 Black Religious Scholars Group (BRSG)
 Collegium of African American Research (CAAR)
 National Council of Black Studies (NCBS)
 Organization of American Historians (OAH)
 Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR)

PROFESSIONAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

AAR Committee on Professional Conduct, 2021-2024.
 AAR Best First Book in the History of Religions Book Award Jury, 2021-2023.
 AAR *Reading Religion* Associate Editor, 2020-2022.
 Vanderbilt University Press Editorial Committee, 2020-2022.
 Vanderbilt University Robert Penn Warren Center Faculty Advisory Committee, 2020-2021.
 Vanderbilt University Faculty Athletics Committee, 2019-2022.
 Vanderbilt University Divinity School Master's Admissions Committee, 2009-2011; 2017-2018; 2019-2021.
 Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate, 2018-2020.
 Student Life Committee, 2018-2019.
 University Athletic Advisory Committee, 2018-2019.
 Vanderbilt University Library Committee, 2017-2019.
 Vanderbilt University Divinity School Worship Committee, 2015-2016.
 Vanderbilt University Divinity School Academic Program Committee, 2014-15.
 Vanderbilt University Appellate Review Board (ARB), 2010-2013.
 Vanderbilt University Divinity School Honor Council, 2012-2014.
 Texas Christian University Faculty Senate 2005-2008.
 Chair, Faculty Governance Committee 2007-2008.
 Texas Christian University History Department Undergraduate Committee 2002-2008.
 Consultancy with Abingdon Press and Cokesbury Bookstores, Inc. in Nashville, TN on the State of African American Religion/Black Church studies in the United States, Dec. 2003.
 Virginia Tech History Department liaison for the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS) 2001-2002.
 University Libraries representative, Virginia Tech History Department 2001-2002.
 Member, Virginia Tech History Department Mentoring Committee 2001-2002.
 Member, Virginia Tech History Department Research Committee 2001-2002.
 Faculty Associate, Center for Race and Social Policy at Virginia Tech 2001-2002.
 Assistant Marshal, Virginia Tech Spring University Commencement 2001.
 Undergraduate Advisor, Virginia Tech History Department 2000-2002.
 Advisory Board Member, Christiansburg Institute 2000-2002.
 Steering Committee Member, Afro-American Religious History Group-American Academy of Religion (AAR) 2001-2005.
 Steering Committee Member, Black Religious Scholars Group 1997-present
 Steering Committee Member, "Backyard Talks" 2nd Annual Fontaine Society Symposium 1998.
 Steering Committee Member, "Afric's Sons and Daughters with Banner Red" Conference 1998.

VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member, Chi Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, 2018-Present.

Campus Scout, DART Organizers Institute, 2010-2013.
Board Member, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Nashville, TN, 2010-2012.
Theologian-in-Residence, Friendship-West Baptist Church of Dallas, TX, 2008-2012.
Faculty advisor, TCU Chapter of NAACP, 2004-2008.
Faculty advisor, African Heritage Organization (AHO), 2004-2008.
Faculty advisor, Black Seminarians Union (BSU) – Brite Divinity School, 2003-2008.
Faculty advisor, Enlightened Gospel Choir – Virginia Tech, 1999-2002.
Faculty advisor, Caribbean Student Organization – Virginia Tech, 1999-2002.
Trustee, Greater St. Stephen First Baptist Church, 2005-2006.
Member, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Evangelism Ministry 1998-1999.
Member, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Men's Usher Board, 1997-1999.
Thomas V. Fontaine Society – University of Pennsylvania, 1996-2000.
Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia Branch 1993 – 1997.
Community Coordinator, NJ Citizen Action, 1993-1994.
Director, WRSU New Music Department, 1990-1992.
James Dickson Carr Society – Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, 1989-1993.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST