

## Curriculum vitae

**Margo Kitts, PhD** ORCID 0000-0002-2567-076X

Professor, Department of History, Humanities, and International Studies 500 Ala Moana Boulevard, WP6-322

Coordinator, Religious Studies and East-West Classical Studies

Post-Editor: *Journal of Religion and Violence*

Editor, Cambridge series, Elements of Religion and Violence

Senior Editor, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion

Co-Creator, Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence,  
Unit of the American Academy of Religion

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## EDUCATION

**PhD** University of California at Berkeley

**Joint Program in Near Eastern Religions, with the Graduate Theological Union** 1994.

Dissertation Title: *Oath-Making in the Iliad*

Committee: Michael Nagler, Classics and Peace Studies, Chair; Anthony Bullock, Classics;  
Ruggero Stefanini, Near Eastern Studies; Victor Gold, Graduate Theological Union; Richard  
Payne, Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Comprehensive exams: Hittite ritual, Greek sacrifice, Homer as an oral poet.

**MA with distinction.** History and Phenomenology of Religion, Graduate Theological Union, 1984

**BA with distinction.** Philosophy, California State University at Chico, 1975

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Violence, Conspiracies, and New Religious Movements: A Tribute to the Work of James R. Lewis.* 2024.

Editor Margo Kitts. Equinox Press. <https://www.amazon.com/Violence-Conspiracies-New-Religious-Movements/dp/1800505078>

*Cambridge Companion to Religion and War.* 2023. Editor Kitts. ISBN:978110888407

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-religion-and-war/F9EFA93EEAFF57B76F9D19718BAC6D33>

Kitts, Margo. *Sacrifice: Themes, Theories, and Controversies*, 2022

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/sacrifice/9A5583880E76A99D63D36D488B62FD0C>

Kitts and Juergensmeyer, Editors. *Buddhist Violence and Religious Authority: Tribute to the Work of Michael Jerryson*, 2022. <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/buddhist-violence/>

Kitts, Margo. *Elements of Ritual and Violence*, 2018

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/abs/elements-of-ritual-andviolence/E4D15686F2A18B38E141EA16C9336BB5>

Kitts, Margo, Ed. *Martyrdom, Self-Sacrifice, and Self-Immolation: Religious Perspectives on Suicide*, 2018 <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/martyrdom-self-sacrifice-and-self-immolation9780190656485?cc=us&lang=en&>

Juergensmeyer, M, Kitts, M. and Jerryson, M., Editors. 2016. *Violence in the World's Religious Traditions*. Oxford University Press. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/violence-and-the-worldsreligious-traditions-9780190649661?cc=us&lang=en&>

Juergensmeyer, M, Kitts, M., and Jerryson, M., Editors. 2013 (hardback), 2015 (paperback). *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence*. Oxford University Press. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-oxford-handbook-of-religion-and-violence9780199759996?cc=us&lang=en&>

Kitts, Margo. 2005, 2012 paperback and e-book. *Sanctified Violence in Homeric Society: Oath-Making Rituals and Narratives in the Iliad*, Classics Division of Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/sanctified-violence-in-homericsociety/FF23BB9213C52A3B2A0A42CD837E6D33>

Juergensmeyer, Mark, and Margo Kitts, Editors. 2011. *Princeton Readings in Religion and Violence* Princeton University Press. <https://press.princeton.edu/titles/9566.html>

Kitts, M., et al., Editors. 2010. *State, Power, and Violence*, Vol. 3 of *Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. Series General Editor, Axel Michaels. [https://www.harrassowitzverlag.de/pdfs/web/viewer.html?file=/ddo/artikel/50354/978-3-447-062039\\_Table%20of%20Contents.pdf#pagemode=thumbs](https://www.harrassowitzverlag.de/pdfs/web/viewer.html?file=/ddo/artikel/50354/978-3-447-062039_Table%20of%20Contents.pdf#pagemode=thumbs)

### **Journal Issues (as editor)**

*Journal of Religion and Violence* 9(2-3). No theme. Articles range in topic from the 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian attack on Serapeum to a data-set analysis of contemporary Russian nationalism.

*Journal of Religion and Violence* 9(1). Themed Religious Nationalism. I managed to attract eight excellent articles for this issue. <https://www.pdcnet.org/collection-anonymous/browse?fp=jrv&fq=jrv/Volume/8991%7C9/8999%7CIssue:%201/>

*Journal of Religion and Violence* 8(3). Themed China, Religion, and Violence. See link. <https://www.pdcnet.org/collectionanonymous/browse?fp=jrv&fq=jrv%2FVolume%2F8992%7C8%2F8997%7CIssue%3A+3%2F>

*Journal of Religion and Violence* 8(2). Themed Religion and Terrorism. See introduction here: [https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/content/jrv\\_2020\\_0008\\_0002\\_0129\\_0132](https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/content/jrv_2020_0008_0002_0129_0132)

- Journal of Religion and Violence* 8(1). No theme. Articles address religious expression in Kenya as well as the riddles of discourse on apocalyptic terrorism. See introduction here:  
[https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/content/jrv\\_2020\\_0008\\_0001\\_0001\\_0004](https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/content/jrv_2020_0008_0001_0001_0004)
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 6(2). 2018. Themed Suicide, Martyrdom, and Violence (co-edited with James Lewis). I copyedited the articles and wrote one: "The *Martys* and Spectacular Death, From Homer through the Roman Arena." <https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/onlinefirst>
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 5(3). 2018. Themed Religion and Struggle. I copyedited the articles and book reviews and wrote the introduction. <https://www.pdcnet.org/collection-anonymous/browse?fp=jrv&fq=jrv%2FVolume%2F8995%7C5%2F8997%7CIssue%3A+3%2F>
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 5(2). 2017. Themed, Violence, Religion, and State. I copyedited the articles and book reviews, and wrote the 3000 word introduction.  
<https://www.pdcnet.org/collection-anonymous/browse?fp=jrv&fq=jrv%2FVolume%2F8995%7C5%2F8998%7CIssue%3A+2%2F>
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 4(3). 2017. Themed, Violence and Biblical Imagination. I edited the six articles for this, as well as the book reviews, and wrote the introduction.  
<https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv>
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 4(1). 2016. Themed, African religion and violence. I solicited, had peer reviewed, and copy-edited all the articles, as well as wrote one myself, entitled "Whose 'Religion' and Whose 'Violence'? Diversity and Definition in African Studies."  
[https://www.academia.edu/27163487/Whose\\_Religion\\_and\\_Whose\\_Violence\\_Definition\\_and\\_Diversity\\_in\\_Africa\\_Studies\\_Journal\\_of\\_Religion\\_and\\_Violence\\_4.1.01](https://www.academia.edu/27163487/Whose_Religion_and_Whose_Violence_Definition_and_Diversity_in_Africa_Studies_Journal_of_Religion_and_Violence_4.1.01)
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 3(3). 2015. This issue was a symposium on *Religion, War, and Ethics, A Sourcebook of Textual Traditions*, ed. Reichberg, Syse, and Hartwell 2014 (Cambridge University Press). I copyedited the articles as well as book reviews, and prepared them for publication. <https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv>
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 3(2). 2015. "Pain, Politics and the Monstrous Other." I coordinated and copy-edited all the articles and book reviews, as well as wrote the 3500 word response to the papers.  
[https://www.academia.edu/16244718/Pain\\_Politics\\_and\\_the\\_Monstrous\\_Other\\_Journal\\_of\\_Religion\\_and\\_Violence\\_3.2\\_2015](https://www.academia.edu/16244718/Pain_Politics_and_the_Monstrous_Other_Journal_of_Religion_and_Violence_3.2_2015)
- Open Theology*. "Violence of Non-Violence." 2015. Michael Jerryson and I wrote the introduction and prepared the articles as guest editors of this new journal.  
<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/opth.2014.1.issue-1/opth-2015-0001/opth-2015-0001.xml>
- Journal of Religion and Violence* 2014. "Invoking Religion in Violent Acts and Rhetoric." 2014. This was a specially themed issue of the *Journal of Religion and Violence* 2(2), reflective of our 2013 AAR panel on Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence ("CARV"). With Michael

Jerryson I introduced the subject and prepared the contributions. Thereafter I was invited to edit this journal.

<http://www.pdcnet.org/collectionanonymous/browse?fp=jrv&fq=jrv%2fVolume%2f8998|2%2f8998|Issue%3a+2%2f>.

## Articles/Chapters

- 2025 "Sacred Violence in Contemporary Times." 8000-word contribution to *A Cultural History of Violence in the Modern Age*. Edited by Joanna Burke. Bloomsbury Press. In press.
- 2025 Book review, *Broken Altars: Secularist Violence in Modern History*, Yale University Press. 2025 For the *Journal of Religion*. Manuscript 7975. Forthcoming.
- 2025 "Rituals of Menace: Homeric Oath-Making Rituals and the Sotloff Beheading Video of 2014." In *Art-Making as Spiritual Practice: Rituals of Embodied Understanding*. Volume editors Lexi Eikelboon and David Newheiser. Bloomsbury. 155-165.  
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/artmaking-as-spiritual-practice-9781350474185/>  
<https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/monograph?docid=b-9781350474215>
- 2023 "Sacrifice in Contemporary Vernacular and Ancient Ritual Texts." 3000 word essay for *Human Sacrifice and Value*. Edited by Lasse Sørensen with the National Museum of Denmark, Matthew J. Walsh with the Museum of Cultural History at University of Oslo, and Sean O'Neill with Aarhus University. Volume published by Routledge under Taylor and Francis imprint.  
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9781003242475/human-sacrifice-value-seanneill-matthew-walsh-marianne-moen-svein-gullbekk>
- 2022. "Contextualizing the Proud Boys: Violence, Misogyny and Religious Nationalism." In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*. Oxford University Press.  
<https://oxfordre.com/religion/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore9780199340378-e-1066>
- 2022. "Introduction." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 9(2). Summarized our excellent articles.
- 2022 "Contemporary Perspectives on Religion and Violence." Chapter 00236. *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Edited by Lester Kurtz. Elsevier. 276-286.
- 2021 "Proud Boys, Nationalism, and Religion." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 9(1):12-32 and in the *Journal of Cultic Studies*, simultaneously.
- 2021 "Cosmic war and atavistic longing." *Religion, Conflict and Global Society: Festschrift for Mark Juergensmeyer*. Edds Mona Kanwal Sheikh and Isak Svensson. 27-36.  
[https://euagenda.eu/upload/publications/abstract\\_diis\\_book\\_festschrift\\_mark\\_juergensmeyer\\_nov\\_2020.pdf.pdf](https://euagenda.eu/upload/publications/abstract_diis_book_festschrift_mark_juergensmeyer_nov_2020.pdf.pdf)
- 2020 "Religion and Terror." Introduction to the 8(2) issue of the *Journal of Religion and Violence*. 129-132.

- 2020 "Ritual, Spectacle, and Menace: An Ancient Oath-Sacrifice and an ISIS 'Message' Video." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 8(2):133-152.
- 2020 "Introduction." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 8(1): 1-4.
- 2019 Review, Arnaud Blin, *Religion and War: From the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries* (University of California Press 2019). *Church History and Religious Culture* 99: 271-299 (Brill).  
[https://brill.com/view/journals/chrc/99/2/article-p296\\_14.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/chrc/99/2/article-p296_14.xml)
- 2019 "Grasping Ritualized Violence in Ancient Texts." Chapter 10 in *Entering Religious Minds: Essays on the Study of Social Worldviews*. Eds. Mona Kanwal Sheik and Mark Juergensmeyer, Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Entering-Religious-Minds-The-Social-Study-ofWorldviews/Sheikh-Juergensmeyer/p/book/9781138603936>
- 2018 "The *Martys* and Spectacular Death: From Homer to the Roman Arena." *Journal of Religion and Violence* (6.2): 33-52. <https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/onlinefirst>.
- 2018 "Suicide, Martyrdom, and Violence: Introduction to the 6(2) issue of the *Journal of Religion and Violence*." With James Lewis, my co-editor for this issue.
- 2018 "Religion and Struggle." Introduction to the 5(3) issue of the *Journal of Religion and Violence*.  
<https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/free>
- 2017 "Discursive, Iconic and Somatic Perspectives on Ritual." *Journal of Ritual Studies* 31(1):11-26.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/44988486>
- 2017 "Introduction: Violence, Religion and State." This 3000 word essay introduces the articles in the 5.2 issue of the *Journal of Religion and Violence*. <https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/free>
- 2017 "Ancient Near Eastern Perspectives on Evil and Terror." Chapter 9 in *Cambridge Companion to the Study of Evil*. Eds. Chad Meister and Paul Moser. Cambridge University Press. 165-192.  
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-companion-to-the-problem-ofevil/ancient-near-eastern-perspectives-on-evil-and-terror/D2C0F2296ADF1AB9D3037419C5A8A90C>
- 2016 "Violence in Biblical Imagination." Introduction to the 4.3 issue of the *Journal of Religion and Violence*. <https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/free>
- 2016 "Mimetic Theory, Sacrifice, and the Iliad?" *Bulletin of Religious Studies* 45(3): 46-57.  
<https://journal.equinoxpub.com/BSOR/article/view/14604>
- 2016 "Whose 'Religion' and Whose 'Violence'?" Definition and Diversity in African Studies." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 4(1): 3-14.

- 2015 Book Review: Jack David Eller's *Cruel Deeds, Virtuous Violence: Religious Violence across Culture and History*. *History of Religions* 55(2): 229-231.  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/683069>
- 2015 "On Pain, Politics, and the Monstrous Other." *Journal of Religion and Violence* 3(2): 289-298.
- 2015 With Michael Jerryson: "Introduction: Religion and the Violence of Non-Violence." *Open Theology* 1, 122-125.
- 2015 "Anthropology and the Iliad." *Ashgate Research Companion to Anthropology*. Eds Pamela Stewart and Andrew Strathern. Ashgate Press. 389-410.  
<https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315612744.ch19>
- 2014 "Invoking Religion in Violent Acts and Rhetoric." Kitts and Jerryson. *Journal of Religion and Violence* 2(2).
- 2014 "Suicide in World Religions: A Sketch." *Brill Vocabulary for the Study of Religion (VSR)*. Eds Professors Segal and von Stuckrad. Leiden: Brill. 436-442.  
[https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/vocabulary-for-the-study-of-religion/suicideCOM\\_00000079?s.num=0&s.rows=20&s.f.s2\\_parent=s.f.book.vocabulary-for-the-study-ofreligion&s.q=Kitts](https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/vocabulary-for-the-study-of-religion/suicideCOM_00000079?s.num=0&s.rows=20&s.f.s2_parent=s.f.book.vocabulary-for-the-study-ofreligion&s.q=Kitts)
- 2013 "What's Religious about the Iliad?" *Religion Compass* 7(7): 225-244 10.1111/rec3.12050  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264611697\\_What%27s\\_Religious\\_about\\_the\\_Iliad](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264611697_What%27s_Religious_about_the_Iliad)
- 2013 "The Near Eastern *Chaoskampf* in the River-Battle of Iliad 21." *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 13(1):86-112. [This is a most cited article for September 2016]  
[https://brill.com/view/journals/jane/13/1/article-p86\\_6.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/jane/13/1/article-p86_6.xml)
- 2013 "Religion and Violence from Literary Perspectives." *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence*. Eds Mark Juergensmeyer, Margo Kitts, and Michael Jerryson. Oxford University Press. 410-423.
- 2013 "Violent Death in Religious Imagination." *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence*. Eds Mark Juergensmeyer, Margo Kitts, and Michael Jerryson. Oxford University Press. 351-362.
- 2013 With Susumu Shimazono. "Rituals of Death and Remembrance." *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Violence*. Eds Mark Juergensmeyer, Margo Kitts, and Michael Jerryson. Oxford University Press. 345-350.
- 2012 For *Sage Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. Eds Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Roof, I wrote entries on
- Mohamed Atta* (500 words)  
*Epic of Gilgamesh* (500 words)  
*Ancient Near Eastern Religions* (1500 words)  
*Cosmic War, Cosmic Conflict* (3000 words).

- 2011 "Ritual scenes in the Iliad: rote, hallowed, or encrypted as ancient art?" *Oral Traditions* 26(1).
- 2010 "Poinē as a ritual leitmotif in the Iliad," *State, Power and Violence*. Vol. 3 of *Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual*, Eds, Kitts, et al. General editor Axel Michaels (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz ) 7-31.
- 2010 "Introductory Comments: Panel on Ritual and Violence." *State, Power and Violence*. Vol. 3 of *Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual*, general editor Axel Michaels (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz ) 3-6.
- 2010 "The Last Night: Ritualized Violence and the Last Instructions of 9/11," *Journal of Religion* 90:283-312.
- 2008 "Funeral sacrifices and ritual leitmotifs in Iliad 23," in *Transformations in Sacrificial Practices, Performenzen Band 15*. Eds. E. Stavrianopoulou - Cl. Ambos - A. Michaels. Berlin: LIT-Verlag, 217-40.
- Sections of this article are on line at <http://books.google.com/books>.
- 2007 "Bulls cut down bellowing: liturgical orders and ritual leitmotifs in Iliad 23," *Kernos, Revue internationale et pluridisciplinaire de religion grecque antique* 20:1-25.
- 2003 "Not Barren is the Blood of Lambs: Homeric Oath-Sacrifice as Metaphorical Transformation," *Kernos, Revue internationale et pluridisciplinaire de religion grecque antique* 16:17-34.
- 2002 "Sacrificial Violence in the Iliad," *Journal of Ritual Studies* 16:19-39.
- 2001 "Why Homeric Heroes Don't Eat Quiche," *Literature and Theology* (Oxford University), 15(4): 1-19. <http://litthe.oxfordjournals.org/content/15/4.toc>
- 2000 "The Wide Bosom of the Sea as a Place of Death: maternal and sacrificial imagery in Iliad 21," *Literature and Theology* 14(2): 103-124.
- 1999 "Killing, Healing, and the Hidden Motif of Oath-Sacrifice in Iliad 21." *Journal of Ritual Studies* 13(2): 42-57.
- 1994 "Two Expressions for Human Mortality in the Epics of Homer." *History of Religions* 34:132-151.
- 1992 "The Sacrifice of Lykaon in *Iliad* 21:1-125." *Metis* 7(1-2):161-176.
- 1980 "New Testaments, a review and critique of *Unspoken Worlds, Women's Religious Lives in NonWestern Cultures*, Eds Nancy Falk and Rita Gross.

My critique was published in three versions, in *Plexus* (Oakland, CA), in the *Newsletter for the Center for Women and Religion* ("CWR") of the Graduate Theological Union, and the *San Francisco Review of Books*, all in summer, 1980.

- 1980 "Basta." CWR Newsletter. This is a summary of opinions offered at a conference of the same name, in Oakland, California.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (beyond HPU)

- 2025 Manuscript review of Walls and Gates in the Hebrew Bible, for the Society of Biblical Literature, Archeology and Biblical Studies series. Editor Brian Schmidt.
- 2025 Review of promotion portfolio of Angela Lahr, for Westminster College, in New Wilmington, PA. Contact Russel E. Martin.
- 2025 Reviewer, *Broken Altars: Secularist Violence in Modern History*, by Thomas Albert Thomas (Yale UP), for *The Journal of Religion*. Forthcoming.
- 2023 Reviewer, *Ritual and the Enemy Body: A New Approach to Modern Atrocity*, for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*
2023. Reviewer, manuscript on Human Sacrifice, for the *Society of Biblical Literature*
2023. Reviewer, "When arms speak, do religions fall silent? The Roman Catholic Church and the Ukraine War" for *Religion and Politics*.
2023. Reviewer, Wiley-Blackwell's *Companion to Religion and Violence*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, edited by Andrew Murphy.
- 2023 External Reviewer, Damian Stocking's Promotion Portfolio, Associate to Full Professor of Comparative Literature and Culture at Occidental College.
- 2023 External Assessor for Raymond Radford's dissertation, "What Will Become of Us? The Great Replacement, History, Narrative, and Religion." University of Sydney.
- 2023 Endorsement for James Aho's *Maelstrom: Christian Dominionism and Far-Right Insurgence*, to wit: provides a thorough and disturbing account of Christian Dominionism in the U.S. However troubling the topic, the coverage is delivered in an engaging writing style which makes for easy if also alarming reading. Veteran Sociologist of Religion James Aho once again has placed his finger on the pulse of the American far right, delivering sharp insight into extremist thinking and imagination.
- 2022 Promotion Review for Marie Alohalani Brown, from Assistant to Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

- 2017 Reviewed prospectus for Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO, the Dutch Research Council) April
- 2016 Reviewed prospectus for the Centre for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters
- 2016-2023 Co-Editor, Cambridge Elements of Religion and Violence, with James Lewis (2016ff). We have over 40 volumes commissioned for this series. My co-editor sadly passed away last fall. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/series/elements-in-religion-andviolence/B75F2C2DC0E481904FDCF47983C5F6B7>
- Editor for the *Journal of Religion and Violence*, 2013-2022; Handled all editorial duties, from copyediting, soliciting peer reviews, to marketing. <https://www.pdcnet.org/jrv/Editorial-Team>. I resigned from this position in fall 2022.
- 2013-present Senior Editor, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion, from 2013 to present. <http://religion.oxfordre.com/page/editorial/editorial-board>
- 2014 Co-Editor for an issue of *Open Theology*, on the Violence of Non-Violence.
- 2013-2017. Co-Creator, AAR unit on Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence (3-year chair)
- 2013 Senior Editor for Oxford Handbooks Online/Religion
- Reviewed manuscripts for:
- Society of Biblical Literature*, Archeology and Biblical Studies division.  
*Heythrop Journal*  
*Comparative Studies in Society and History*  
*Society of Biblical Literature*  
*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*  
Routledge  
*Religion, Ideology, and Political Science*  
Baylor University Press  
Rowman and Littlefield  
Columbia University Press  
University of California Press  
Bloomsbury Press  
*Political Theology*,  
*Oral Tradition Journal*  
Oxford Handbooks Online  
Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion  
*Religion Compass*  
*Numen*

*Critical Research on Religion*  
*World History Connected* Palgrave  
MacMillan.  
*Religions*  
*World History*  
Cambridge Elements of Religion and Violence  
Cambridge Elements of New Religious Movements  
University of Toronto Press  
*Religion and Politics*  
Wiley-Blackwell

Was Editor, Newsletter for the Women's Center at the Graduate Theological Union, early 80s.

Was Director of Advertising and Communications for a small business college in Berkeley, early 80s.

Judge for Hawai'i High School Speech League 2008-2012.

Wrote appraisals of work submitted for promotion, for Julie Ingersoll, Paul Powers, Alohalani Marie Brown, and Damian Stocking.

## **AWARDS and HONORS**

2023 HHIS award for scholarship

2022 HHIS award for scholarship

Guest for Jeffrey Rich's Hangin at the Reef. We discussed religious nationalism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-hangin-at-the-reef-230262006/episode/understanding-religious-nationalism-270238221/>

Guest at Symposium on Ritual and Art, 10-14 October 2022, in Rome, Italy. This was sponsored by Australian Catholic University and the Templeton Religion Trust. Proceedings are to be published by Routledge.

Hawai'i Pacific University NEH grant. This was to facilitate my attendance at the 2021 American Academy of Religion. However, due to covid and other problems in Texas, we decided to meet virtually. I presented two talks. One was for Mark Juergensmeyer's *God at War* panel, and the other was an overview of my recent work for Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant: fall 2019. This was for my second trip to the Institute for Globalizing Civilizations at Zhejiang University at Hangzhou, China. My talks were on Religious Underpinnings to the Proud Boys and What Religion has to do with Violence.

Hawai'i Pacific University Golden Apple Award for excellence in scholarship. 2018.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant, summer 2018: This is for participation in Oxford University's Symposium in Religious Studies August 1-3. My paper is entitled Ritual and Violence.

Hawai'i Pacific University NEH grant, fall 2017. This enabled me to attend the 2017 AAR/SBL conference and is to result in two articles for the *Journal of Religion and Violence*.

Hawai'i Pacific University College Scholarship Grant 2017. This award bought me plane fare to spend winter break in Berkeley, using Doe Library resources.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant 2016. This was for participation in the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting in San Antonio. I hosted a panel on "The curious connection of purity and violence."

Hawai'i Pacific University Paid Research Leave Fall 2016. For this leave I drafted the Cambridge Elements volume, Ritual and Violence, for Cambridge University Press. I also researched and wrote the introduction for my Oxford volume, Martyrdom, Self-Sacrifice, and Self-Immolation: Religious Perspectives on Suicide.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant 2015. This was for participation in the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting in Atlanta. I coordinated the CARV panels and was the moderator for one. We also hosted a reception there for the *Journal of Religion and Violence*.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant 2014. This was for participation in SORAAAD (paper on ritual and violence) as well as for responding to one of the CARV panels of the American Academy of Religion. This panel was on Religion and Constructions of Violent Alterity. I was involved in five panels for CARV.

Hawai'i Pacific University CHSS Faculty Scholarship Grants (2), summer 2014. These were for research into African religious traditions at Doe Library of UC Berkeley and for the purchase of books for the same project.

Oxford University Press Encyclopedia of Religion, On-Line. I was one of six senior editors, 2013 to 2016.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant, fall 2013. Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence, unit of the AAR's Baltimore meeting in November 2013.

Hawai'i Pacific University Trustee's Scholarship Grant, spring 2013: Ritual and Violence. The text I wrote based on this research is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

Oxford University Press Editorial Board Member (with Mark Juergensmeyer, Amir Hussein, Michael Jerryson), *Oxford Handbooks Online, Religion*, 2012-2015. This venue is now closed.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant, fall 2012: "What's religious about Homer's Iliad?" North American Association for the Study of Religion, conference in Chicago. This became an article. See publications.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant, spring 2012: "The Near Eastern *Chaoskampf* in Iliad 21," paper for the Biennial Conference of Oral Traditions in the Ancient World, Ann Arbor, Michigan June 2012.

Hawai'i Pacific University Trustee's Scholarship Grant, spring 2012: Book proposal, *Ritual and Violence: Theories and Traditions*.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant fall 2011: Designed panel and gave paper for the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco 2011.

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant, summer 2010: IXth International Conference on Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World, Australian National University, Canberra.

Hawai'i Pacific University Trustees' Scholarship Grant, spring 2010: *Cosmic War Then and Now*

Hawai'i Pacific University Faculty Development Grant, fall 2008: Symposium on Ritual Dynamics, University of Heidelberg.

Invited participant at the Colloquium on Ritual Dynamics at the University of Heidelberg, 2006.

Merrimack College Faculty Development Grant, spring 2002

Merrimack College Faculty Development Grant, spring 2000.

*Best Graduate Student Paper*, American Academy of Religion, West Coast Division, 1993: *Images of Dogs in Hittite and Archaic Greek Literature*.

*Best Graduate Student Paper*, American Academy of Religion, West Coast Division, 1991, *Agricultural and Preagricultural Expressions for Human Mortality in the Epics of Homer*

## **PAPERS and PANELS**

October 2022: Symposium on Art-Making as Ritual Practice. Australian Catholic University in Rome. Proceedings to be published this year (2025).

November 2021: "Religion and Violence: State of the Discipline." Invited contribution to a panel for Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence, of the AAR. (We postponed this from 2020.)

March 12, 2020. "Religious Exclusivism, Pluralism, and Violence." At the State Department in Washington D.C. I was hosted by CENTRA.

December 10-16, 2019: "Proud Boys and Religion," and "What Religion Has to Do with Violence." Presentations for Globalizing Religions Seminar at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. Organizers James Lewis (Wuhan University) and Xinzhang Zhang (Zhejiang University).

October 30-November 2, 2018: "Ritualized Violence and the Ancient Sensorium." Institute for Globalizing Religions, Zhejiang University conference on religion, violence, and new religious movements. Organizers were James Lewis and Xinzhang Zhang.

August 1-3, 2018: "Ritualized Violence." Paper for Oxford Symposium in Religious Studies.

- November 2016: I was the moderator for a panel entitled The Curious Connections of Purity and Violence for the CARV (Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence) unit of the American Academy of Religion.
- November 2015: I coordinated and introduced the papers for a panel for the CARV (Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence) unit of the American Academy of Religion.
- November 21, 2014: Presentation for SORAAAD: "Ritual and Violence," for Comparison and the Analytical Study of Religion. This was solicited by the organizers.
- November 22, 2014. Respondent, AAR panel on Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence We had five panels at the 2014 AAR.
- January 11, 2014. "Persistence and Perversion in Ritual Performance in Contexts of Conflict." Workshop on the global study of religious movements, at the Orfalea Center for Global Studies.
- November 2013. Chair, AAR unit on comparative approaches to religion and violence. Co-Creator and Co-Chair with Michael Jerryson.
- November 2012: "'What's religious about the Iliad?'" for panel on Historical-Critical Reflection on Formulating the Category "Religion," for the North American Association for the Study of Religion. See publications.
- June 2012: The Near Eastern *Chaoskampf* in Iliad 21." For the Xth International Conference on Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This is a shortened version of the paper described below. See publications.
- November 2011: Gods and Monsters in Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Imagination, AAR panel for the national meeting in San Francisco, 2011: I designed the panel and invited participants (with Mary Bachvarova, Robert Littman, Carolina Lopez-Ruiz, and Brian Doak). I also presented a paper entitled "Hearing the *Chaoskampf* in Iliad 21."
- 2010: Ritual Scenes in the Iliad: rote, hallowed, or encrypted as ancient art? IXth International Conference on Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World, at Canberra, Australia in early July 2010. See publications.
- 2008: *Poinē* (ritualized revenge) as a ritual leitmotif in the Iliad. International Symposium on Ritual Dynamics at the University of Heidelberg. See <http://rituals-2008.com/panels.php>. I was also section chair for the panel on ritual and violence, which I organized. My panel has been published as the first part of Band 3, by Harrassowitz.
- 2007: The Ritualization of Violence and the Last Instructions of 9/11. Faculty Roundtable, Hawai'i Pacific University (April 2, 2007). This essay eventually became my article entitled "The Last Night" in the *Journal of Religion* (University of Chicago).
- 2006: Reflections on 'bulls cut down bellowing,' in Iliad 23. International Symposium on Ritual Dynamics, University of Heidelberg. This was published in *Kernos*. See publications.
- 2006: The Last Instructions of 9/11. Panel on religion and violence, Midwestern meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature in Chicago.
- 2006: Respondent and Chair, Religion and Violence in Mediterranean Antiquity, Midwestern meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, Chicago.
- 2005: Panelist, ISU symposium on Islam, religion and violence. Steffen Schmidt, presiding.
- 2005: *Poinē* (revenge) as a ritual leitmotif in the Iliad. Religion and Literature, Midwestern Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in Chicago. A version of this was published in the Harrassowitz volume. See publications.
- 2005: Bulls cut down bellowing .Panel on Greco-Roman Religion, Upper Midwestern Regional AAR in Minneapolis. A version of this was published in *Kernos*. See publications.
- 2005: The Sacrifice of Lykaon in Iliad 21. ISU Classics Department Symposium.

- 2004: Battlefield Theophanies and Ritualized *Poinē* in the Iliad. Graeco-Roman Religion section of the Upper Midwestern meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Philip Sellew presiding). This became a chapter of my Cambridge book.
- 2002: Not Barren is the Blood of Lambs. Panel on Religion and Literature, American Academy of Religion, Toronto. This was published in *Kernos*. See publications.
- 2000: Theories of Sacrifice and the Epics of Homer. College Theology Society. This became an article in the *Journal of Ritual Studies*. See publications.
- 1999: The Wide Bosom of the Sea, reflections on maternal and sacrificial imagery in Iliad 21. College Theology Society, national conference
- 1998: Healing and the Hidden Motif of Oath-Sacrifice in *Iliad* 21. New England Maritime Region of the American Academy of Religion. This became an article in the *Journal of Ritual Studies*. See publications.
- 1997: Maternal Imagery in the *Iliad*. College Theological Society, national meeting. This became an article in *History of Religion*. See publications.
- 1994: Chair, section on History of Christianity. American Academy of Religion, West coast division.
- 1993: Images of Dogs in the Literature of Homer and the Hittites. American Academy of Religion, West coast division. For this paper I received the AAR award for **best graduate student paper**.
- 1992: Kukeon, an alternative food in the epics of Homer. American Academy of Religion, West coast division.
- 1991: Agricultural and preagricultural expressions for human mortality in the poems of Homer. American Academy of Religion, West coast division. For this paper I received the AAR award for **best graduate student paper**.
- 1990: The Sacrifice of Lykaon in Iliad 21, lines 1-125. American Academy of Religion, West coast division. I rewrote this argument many times, including for the journal *Mētis* and as a chapter in my Cambridge book.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE: summary

- 2006-present: Assistant (2006-2008), Associate (2008-2013) and Full (2013 forward) Professor of Humanities and Coordinator for Religious Studies and East-West Classical Studies at Hawai'i Pacific University, Honolulu, HI.
- 2003-2006: Full-time lecturer in Classics and Religious Studies, Iowa State University. Taught courses on Greek and Roman epics, world religions, war in world religions, women in world religions, and Buddhism.
- 1996-2002: Assistant Professor at Merrimack College, Department of Religious Studies, in North Andover, Massachusetts. New courses I created for this small Catholic college included Women in World Religions, Female Martyrs in Western Antiquity and Islam, War in World Religions, Religion, Sacrifice, and Violence (a first-year seminar), and an introductory approach to religion through literature (Introduction to Religious Studies). Courses I adopted and revised included Islam, Religions of India, Religions of China and Japan, Buddhism, and a jointly taught humanities course called Ancient Greek Stories.
- 1995-96: Adjunct professor in religious studies at the University of San Francisco. I taught courses on sacred traditions and on women, society and religion.
- Spring 1994: Lecturer, UC Davis, theories of sacrifice. I designed this course for inclusion in the humanities series at UC Davis.
- While a graduate student I was a teaching assistant and adjunct lecturer for thirteen courses at UC Berkeley, under Mark Juergensmeyer and Sandy Frankiel, and at UC Davis, under Whalen Lai.

These included history of religions (4X), theories of religion (4X), phenomenology of religion (3X), a seminar on sacrifice, and a special course on religion and love.

### **Courses, 2006-present at HPU**

#### **REL 1000: Introduction to World Religions**

Course explores founding myths, dramas, histories, rituals, and poetry of oral/indigenous traditions, western traditions, and eastern traditions. Satisfies Gen Ed.

#### **CLST 1000: Great Books East and West**

Course is structured as comparative epics. We read the Iliad, Odyssey, bits of the Heike Monogatari and lately Monkey, Journey to the West, exploring the themes which resonated with ancient audiences and continue to resonate with us. Satisfies Gen Ed.

#### **REL 2001: Search for Meaning**

Course examined religious themes in world literatures.

#### **HONS 2100: Religion, Nationalism, and Violence. Honors course.**

#### **REL 3000: Religion, Sacrifice, and Violence**

Course applies classical theories of religious violence to selected events, stories, or films. Textbook is the *Princeton Readings on Religion and Violence*, eds. Juergensmeyer and Kitts.

#### **CLST 3100: Gender in Classical Myth, Religion, and Literature**

Course explores gender in western classical imagination, starting with Minoan art and the Homeric epics, continuing through the Greek and Gnostic Gospels. Satisfies minors in REL, CLST, EWCS, WS, and HUM, as well as E-W Hum major.

#### **HIST 3101: Greek History to Alexander.**

Taught for Military Campus Programs as well as downtown HPU. I especially enjoy this course.

#### **REL 3151: Bible as Literature**

Course explores biblical stories for their possible significance in ancient times as well as for their resonance today.

#### **REL 3200: Abrahamic Traditions**

Course explores religious traditions of the ancient Near East, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as well as the contemporary interactions and conflicts among the last three. Satisfies REL minor, EW Hum major.

#### **REL 3310: Asian Traditions**

Survey of the literature, history, and cultural traditions associated with Asian religions, such as Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Bo, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, and numerous folk traditions. Course begins in ancient India and expands into Nepal, Tibet, Sri Lanka, China, Korea, Japan, and Hawai'i. Satisfies REL minor, E-W Hum major, and Asian Studies major.

REL 3600: War in World Religions

Course explores ideological coupling of religion and war from the earliest times through the present. Focus is on evidence presented in literature and art. Satisfies REL minor, History major, Military Studies Major, and upper division general education category in Ethical Reasoning and Values.

HUM 3601: Mythology

Course explores a variety of themes in ancient Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern mythology. Satisfies REL, CLST, HUM, and EWCS minors, E-W Hum major.

REL 3700: Gender in the Bible

Course explores gender in biblical imagination. Satisfies REL minor, Women's Studies minor, E-W Hum major, ENG major.

[REL 4002/6002: Religion, Sustainability, and Globalization. This course is retired.]

Course was an overview of the various traditional religious attitudes toward environmental issues, and in depth study of particular issues emergent in the recent decades of globalization. Satisfies REL minor and MGLS majors and grad program. This course is retired. ]

[HUM 1000: Introduction to Humanities

This course is retired. Used to explore classical texts and themes from east and west.]

**Teaching Experience at Iowa State University (2003-2006)**

REL 200: Introduction to World Religions. See REL 1000 above.

CLST 373: Classical Epic

Close study of the Iliad, Odyssey, and Aeneid, the literary devices and cultural contexts which illuminate the great themes of the epics, and the resonance of those themes into contemporary imagination.

REL 300: Women in World Religions

Course explores the assigned nature and roles of women in world religious traditions.

REL 370: Seminar: War in World Religions

See REL 3600, above.

REL 330: Introduction to Buddhism

See REL 3310, above.

**Teaching Experience at Merrimack College (1996-2002)**

I taught Introduction to World Religions, Religions of India, Religions of China and Japan, Buddhist

Traditions, Islamic Traditions, Women in World Religions, War in World Religions, Female Martyrs in Antiquity, and a freshman seminar entitled Religion, Sacrifice, and Violence. Twice I co-taught Ancient Greek Stories.

### **SERVICE TO HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, 2006 to present**

Current: University Curriculum Committee and College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee. 2023-2025

Current: Program Coordinator for Religious Studies and East-West Classical Studies, since 2010. Faculty Promotion Committee, 2020-2024; General Education Committee. College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee, 2023 ff

Created minor in Classical and Religious Studies 2023. This was to compensate for the loss of the East-West classical studies major. It is now Ancient and Religious Studies.

Created minor in East-West Classical Studies, spring 2010.

Because of the shrinking of the humanities department program offerings into a single major with a handful of emphases, students who majored in other subjects had no way to receive recognition for this unique area of study. The minor allowed that. I constantly refined this minor.

#### **Courses created 2007 to 2025**

REL 3600: War in World Religions

REL 3000: Religion, Sacrifice, and Violence.

CLST 3100: Gender in Classical Myth, Religion, and Literature

REL 1002: 1-unit course on Islam (created for MCP, but have not been allowed to teach it)

REL 4002: Religion, Sustainability and Globalization

REL 6002: Religion, Sustainability, and Globalization

REL 6000: World Religions

REL 3700: Female Figures in the Bible; as of 2019 renamed Gender in the Bible

#### **Created minor in Religious Studies 2007.**

Designed program, retired pastoral courses, and created new courses.

#### **Created minor in Ancient and Religious Studies, 2024. Minor combined East West Humanities and Religious Studies.**

#### **Courses created 2006-2014 to support REL minor**

REL 3000: Religion, Sacrifice, and Violence

REL 3200: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (now titled Abrahamic Traditions)

REL 3310: Buddhist Traditions (now titled Asian Traditions)

REL 3500: Indigenous Traditions

REL 3600: War in World Religions

REL 3700: Female Figures in the Bible, now Gender in the Bible

REL 4002: Religions, Sustainability, and Globalization

Redesigned the following pre-existing courses:

REL 2151: Hebrew Bible as Literature (from Understanding Old Testament)(now 3151)

REL 1000: Introduction to World Religions (from Introduction to Religion)  
REL 3152: Early Christian Literature (from Understanding New Testament, a 2000 level course)

### **New programs supported**

Major in East-West Humanities 2015-2017  
Minor in East-West Classical Studies 2009  
Major in Asian Studies 2008 (this program was collapsed into the E-W Humanities major)  
Minor in Religious Studies 2007  
[I am now a member of the department of History, Humanities and International Studies]

### **General Education Courses prior to 2015**

REL 1000: Introduction to World Religions  
REL 2151: Hebrew Bible as Literature (now retired)  
REL 2001: Search for Meaning (now retired)  
CLST 1000: Great Books East and West

### **General Education Courses with new Gen Ed, 2015ff**

REL 1000: Introduction to World Religions  
CLST 1000: Great Books East and West

### **Significant Committee Involvements**

Curriculum Committee CLA 2023 ff  
UCC Curriculum Committee, 2023-2025  
University Faculty Promotion Committee, 2020-2023  
Faculty Promotion Committee, CLA 2020-2021  
Shared Governance Budget Prioritization Committee 2019-2020  
East-West Humanities, Faculty Promotion and Review Committee 2017  
Scholarship and Learning Resources Committee, 2017-2018  
Arts and Humanities Program Revision Committee 2015-2017 (we became East-West Humanities)  
General Education Committee: 2006-2007; 2013-2015.  
Faculty Promotion CHSS: 2010-2012  
Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee: 2008-2010  
Research Issues and Scholarly Accomplishments: 2007-2008  
Faculty Development Grant Committee: 2008  
Viewpoints committee 2008-2014, when the program died.  
Freshman Seminar Committee: program expired in spring of 2014.  
Global Learning Seminar Committee: program expired in 2013

Introduced Matt George's presentation on Cyberpunk Frankenstein for Faculty Scholarship Day Spring 2011.

Supervisor for Honors Project of Shala Borne (2015), who won Best Honors Presentation, on death in Japanese religious imagination.

Master's thesis supervisor for Tiare Nichols, COM, for research and a screen play entitled Yoga Bliss. 2016.

Supervisor for Vanessa Hutchinson's East West Humanities Senior Thesis Project 2022.

Supervisor for Athena Mackey's East West Humanities Senior Thesis Project 2023.

**TRAVEL:** I go to Trieste, Verona, and Milan occasionally, as I have relatives there. I have traveled also in China, France, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, the UK, Australia, and Israel, where I was a member of the University of California at Berkeley's archeological team at Tel Dor. I am traveling to Iceland and northern Europe this summer.

**PERSONAL DETAILS:** California native. Mother of one (PhD in microbiology and environmental toxicology UCSC).

## REFERENCES

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Pierre Asselin, Dwight E. Stanford Chair in American Foreign Relations, CSU San Diego. ([asselin@sdsu.com](mailto:asselin@sdsu.com)).

James Lewis, Professor of Religious Studies, Wuhan University, China ([jrlewis@rocketmail.com](mailto:jrlewis@rocketmail.com)).