

L. BENJAMIN ROLSKY
Curriculum Vitae

Dept of History and Anthropology
Monmouth University
400 Cedar Ave
West Long Branch, NJ
07764

O: 732-571-3440
C: 480-650-9341
lrolsky@monmouth.edu

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D., American Religious History, Drew University
Dissertation: “Norman Lear and the Spiritual Politics of Religious Liberalism”

Examination Fields: 1) Pre-1865 American History and Religion, 2) Post-1865
American History and Religion, 3) Critical Theory, Religion, and the Culture
Industry, 4) A Recent History of the Culture Wars
- 2010 M.A.R., History of Christianity, Yale Divinity School
- 2008 M.A., American Religion, Race, and Politics, Claremont School of Theology
Thesis: “Scaling the Wall: Two Contemporary Presidents on Religion and
Politics”
- 2006 B.A., Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College
summa cum laude, Religious Studies *and* History

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019 Rutgers University, Department of Religion, Part-Time Lecturer
2018 - 2019 Lehigh University, Department of Religion Studies, Research Fellow
2018 - 2019 Monmouth University, Department of History and Anthropology, Adjunct

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2020 Norman Lear and the Spiritual Politics of Religious Liberalism (Under contract
with **Columbia University Press**).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2018 “Religion, Genealogy, and the Study of US American Religions,” Bulletin for the Study of Religion. *forthcoming*
- 2012 “Review Essay: Charles H. Long and the Re-Orientation of American Religious History,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion 80:3.
- 2011 “Bishop Lamont and the Hermeneutics of Play: Hip Hop, Religion, and the Study of American Religious History,” Bulletin for the Study of Religion 40:3.
- 2011 “Edwards and the Enlightenment: Mapping the Secular within the Covenanted Community,” REA: Religion, Education, and the Arts 7 (Spring 2011).

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2019 “Charles H. Long,” in Palgrave Handbook of Radical Theologies edited by Christopher Rodkey and Jordan Miller (New York: Palgrave MacMillan), *forthcoming*.

Peer-Reviewed Encyclopedia Entries

- 2019 "The 1970s" (10,000 words) in Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History, Jon Butler, ed. *forthcoming*

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2018 “*The Chronic*” (1500 words), “Producers/Beatmakers” (1500 words), “Culture Wars” (2500 words) in St. James Encyclopedia in Hip Hop Culture, Thomas Riggs, ed. (Farmington, MI: Gale Publishing, 2018). [**commissioned**]

Book Reviews

- 2019 Charles Long, Ellipsis...The Collected Writings of Charles H. Long (New York: Bloomsbury). Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion *forthcoming*
- 2018 Kevin Kruse and Julian Zelizer, Fault Lines: A History of of the United States since 1974 (New York: W.W. Norton). Los Angeles Review of Books *forthcoming*
- 2018 Emily Johnson, This is Our Message: Women’s Leadership in the New Christian Right (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018). Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion *forthcoming*

- 2018 Martha Nussbaum, The Monarchy of Fear: A Philosopher Looks at our Political Crisis (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2018). Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion. (August)
- 2018 Robert Wuthnow, The Left Behind: Decline and Anger in Rural America (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018). *Essay*. "Considering the Rural in American Public Life," Los Angeles Review of Books (May 9th).
- 2017 Kathryn Lofton, Consuming Religion (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017). *Review Essay*. "Theory and Practice in an Age of Precarity: Consuming Religion as the Study of Religion," H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews (November).
- 2017 Mark Lilla, The Once and Future Liberal: After Identity Politics (New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2017). *Review Essay*. "Liberalism, Mass Media, and the Anatomy of American Cultural Warfare," Sacred Matters. (September).
- 2017 David Watt, Antifundamentalism in Modern America (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2017). *Review Essay*. "Religion, Antifundamentalism, and the Study of American Religious History," H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews (July).
- 2017 E.J. Dionne, Why the Right Went Wrong: Conservatism—from Goldwater to the Tea Party and Beyond (New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2016). *Review Essay*. "Religion, Conservatism, and the Fundamentalization of the GOP," H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews (Jan).
- 2016 Arlie Russell Hochschild, Strangers in their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right, A Journey to the Heart of Our Political Divide (New York: The New Press, 2016). *Review Essay*. "Religion, Conservatism, and American Public Life: 2016," Marginalia Review of Books (November).
- 2016 Finbarr Curtis, The Production of American Religious Freedom (New York, NY: New York University Press, 2016). Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion. Available here: <http://readingreligion.org/books/production-american-religious-freedom>
- 2016 Stephen Prothero, Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars, But Continue to Lose Elections: The Battles That Define America from Jefferson's Heresies to Gay Marriage (New York: Harper Collins, 2016). *Review Essay*. "Wall Street Goes to War: Hardhat Politics and the Culture War of Everything since the 1960s," Marginalia Review of Books (Feb).
- 2015 Monica Miller, Anthony Pinn, and Bernard "Bun-B" Freeman, eds. Religion in Hip-Hop: Mapping the New Terrain in the US (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015). *Review Essay*. "Black Millennial Music and the Critical Study of Religion: A

- 2015 State of the Field,” H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews (Oct).
- 2015 Andrew Hartman, A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015). *Review Essay*. “Confessions of a Hollywood Liberal: American Sitcoms and Culture Wars, from Norman Lear to ‘Parks and Recreation’” Marginalia Review of Books (Mar).
- 2015 Andrew Hartman, A War for the Soul of America. *Review Essay*. “You Can’t Endorse Me, But I Endorse You: American Religion and Politics in the Age of the Culture Wars” H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews (Sept).
- 2015 Kevin Kruse, One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America (New York: Basic Books, 2015). *Review Essay*. “The Businessman’s Revival” H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews (June).
- 2014 Jeremy Stolow, ed. Deus in Machina: Religion, Technology, and the Things in Between for Material Religion (New York: Fordham University Press, 2014) in Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief 10:4 (2014), 528-529.
- 2014 Monica M. Miller, Religion and Hip-Hop (New York: Routledge, 2013). *Review Essay*. “Hip-Hop and the Study of Religion: Diagnoses and Possibilities,” in Method and Theory in the Study of Religion 26:1 (2014).

Manuscripts in Preparation

Inventing the Christian Right: A Religious History of the Public Square. Endorsed for publication by editor of the Columbia Series on American Religion and Politics with Columbia University Press. For inquiries, contact Wendy Lochner: wl2003@columbia.edu

Essays

- 2018 “Off the Cuff: Teaching with TIF,” The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere. Available here: <https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/09/20/teaching-with-the-immanent-frame/>
- 2018 “The Fantasy of Analytics: Religion, Fantasy Sports, and the NFL Draft,” Sacred Matters. Available here: <https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/a-critical-study-of-fantasy-football/> **[commissioned]**
- 2017 “Exploring the Religious History of Kendrick Lamar” and “Religion and Hip-Hop, Part 2: Unpacking the Methodology,” Sacred Matters. (January 24th 2017). Available here: <https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/religion-in-hip-hop-part-1-exploring-the-religious-history-of-kendrick-lamar/> **[commissioned]**

- 2017 “The Struggle is Real, Indeed: American Cultural Warfare and the Recent Religious Past,” The Martin Marty Center: Religion and Culture Forum (July 25th 2017). Available here:
<https://voices.uchicago.edu/religionculture/2017/07/27/american-cultural-warfare-and-the-recent-religious-past-a-response-to-russell-johnson-by-l-benjamin-rolsky/>
- 2017 “Taking Conservatism Seriously in the Age of #MAGA,” The Martin Marty Center: Religion and Culture Forum (March 8th 2017). Available here:
<https://voices.uchicago.edu/religionculture/2017/03/08/studying-religion-in-the-era-of-trump-part-5-of-a-scholars-roundtable-by-l-benjamin-rolsky/>
- 2016 “Colin Kaepernick, Religion, and the Academic Think Piece,” The Marginalia Review of Books (Sept 10th 2016). Available here:
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-colin-kaepernick-religion-academic-think-piece/>
- 2016 “Trump, Awash in a Sea of Faith,” The Marginalia Review of Books (June 27th 2016). Available here:
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-trump-awash-sea-faith/>
- 2016 “How the Lear/Reagan Debates Mirrored the Course of America’s Culture Wars,” The Norman Lear Center (June 20th 2016). Available at:
<http://learcenter.org/learreagan-debates-mirrored-course-americas-culture-wars/>
- 2016 “‘The Evangelicals’ and the Rise of Donald Trump,” The Marginalia Review of Books (June 17th 2016). Available here:
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/mrblog-evangelicals-rise-donald-trump/>
- 2015 “Are Comedians the Political Vanguard?” The Christian Century (July 8th 2015). Available here:
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2015-07/are-comedians-political-vanguard>
- 2014 “The Jester and the Editor: A Tale of Frustration, Friendship, and the Making of People for the American Way,” The Christian Century (Oct 1 2014). Available here:
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-10/tale-frustration-friendship-and-making-people-american-way>

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2017** Columbia University Seminars Warner Fund Recipient
2014 Best Graduate Student Paper Prize, California Studies Association, Symposium

- on Religion in California, University of California, Berkeley
- 2014** Edwards-Mercer Prize for Dissertation Research, Drew University
- 2012** Teaching Stipend: International Students in Academic Support Services, Drew University
- 2011** Goizueta Foundation Award for Academic Excellence, Hispanic Summer Program
- 2010** Dwight-Hooker Fellowship Recipient, Yale Divinity School
- 2006** Best Concurrent Major, Religious Studies *and* History, Arizona State University

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2019 “Making the Christian Right: Media, Religion, and the Academic Study of Evangelicalism,” on a panel, Evangelical Loyalties Reconsidered: A Roundtable on Sex, Power, and the Media in the Study of American Evangelicalism, at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January 2019.
- 2017 “Norman Lear and the Spiritual Politics of Religious Liberalism,” on a panel, Whose Backlash? Liberal Religious Responses to Conservative Populism, 1965-1985, at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Denver, CO, January 2017.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2019 *Invited*, “Keyword: Popular Culture,” *Religion and its Many American Publics*, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, April 7-9
- 2018 “Left-Wing Patriotism: Race, Religious Toleration, and the Pendulum of Liberty,” *Fractured Paradigms: Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History*, Philadelphia, PA, June 2018.
- 2016 “Religion, Race, and Hip-Hop in a Neoliberal Age,” The Florida State University Department of Religion 16th Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Tallahassee, FL, February 2016.
- 2015 *Invited*, “Introduction,” The Richard O. and Cindy F. Connell Lecture Series, Harry Stout, at Lehigh University in Lehigh, PA, April 2015.
- 2015 “The Lear/Reagan Debates in Late Twentieth-Century America,” The Florida State University Department of Religion 15th Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Tallahassee, FL, February 2015.

- 2014 “‘This Dark Diction, Has Become America’s Addiction’: Religion, Race, and Hip-Hop in a Neo-Liberal Age,” in *Critical Approaches to Religion and Hip-Hop* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2014.
- 2014 *Invited*, “The Reagan/Lear Debates: How a Former Actor and Television Writer Changed the Course of America’s Culture Wars in late Twentieth Century America” at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.
- 2014 “The Reagan/Lear Debates: How a Former Actor and Television Writer Changed the Course of America’s Culture Wars in late Twentieth-Century America” at the Symposium on Religion in California, Berkeley, CA, University of California-Berkeley, April 2014.
- 2011 “The Consumable Other: Becoming the Man in ‘Going to Meet the Man,’” at the Mid-Atlantic Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ, November 2011.
- 2010 “Prophetic Social Activism Confronts American Terrorism: Ida B. Wells and Anti-Lynching Publications” at the Mid-Atlantic Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ, November 2010.
- 2009 “Edwards and the Enlightenment: Mapping the “Secular” within the Covenanted Community” at ‘A Secular Age’: Tracing the Contours of Religion and Belief, Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin, Ireland, June 2009.
- 2008 “Real Reasons for Publicizing Religion,” at the Fourth Biennial Symposium on Religion and Politics, The Henry Institute, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 2008.
- 2008 “Scaling the Wall: President Kennedy's Religious Discourse” and “Religious and Non-Religious Conceptions of the Sacred: Religion and Human Rights,” at the Western Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Pasadena, CA, March 2008.
- 2007 “Eisenhower, Religion, and the Founding Fathers: A Response to Communism” and “Worldview and Ontology among the Ho-Chunk People,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Monmouth University

Spring 2019	Introduction to the Study of Religion (Instructor of Record)
Spring 2019	Comparative Religions (Instructor of Record)
Fall 2018	Introduction to the Study of Religion (Instructor of Record)
Fall 2018	Independent Study: Women and Religion (Instructor of Record)
Fall 2018	Comparative Religions (Instructor of Record)

Rutgers University

Spring 2019	American Religious History (Instructor of Record)
-------------	---

Drew University

Summer 2012	American Religion <i>in</i> American History: Understanding the Archive (Instructor of Record)
Spring 2012	Church History I: The Early Church (Teaching Assistant)
Summer 2011	American Religion <i>in</i> American History: Theories and Approaches (Instructor of Record)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Associate Editor, *The Journal of Hip-Hop Studies* (2016-Present)

Co-Chair, *Religion in America* Section, for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, (2012-2015)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Historical Association

American Studies Association

REFERENCES

Gaston Espinosa, Arthur V. Stoughton Professor of Religious Studies
Claremont McKenna College
888 Columbia Ave
Claremont, CA 91711
909-621-8395
gaston.espinosa@cmc.edu

Tisa Wenger, Associate Professor of American Religious History, Divinity School & American Studies
Yale Divinity School
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-432-2493
tisa.wenger@yale.edu

Paul Harvey, Professor and Presidential Teaching Scholar
Department of History - University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-255-4078
pharvey@uccs.edu