

Grace Vargas, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

2020, Ph.D., Religious Studies, History

Southern Methodist University, Dedman College of Arts and Sciences

Dissertation: "North American Protestantism and Cross-cultural Religious Encounter in the Shadow of Empire: a twentieth century Cuban case," Faculty Advisor: Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi

2014, M.Div., Theology and Christian Ministry

Princeton Theological Seminary

Thesis: "Letters from Cuba: A case study on the relationship between American Baptist missionaries and Cuban Baptist missionaries," Faculty Advisor: Kenneth G. Appold

2005, B.A., Journalism and Mass Media Studies, Spanish

Rutgers University, School of Comm., Information, and Library Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters, Articles, & Contributions

"Baptists in the Caribbean," *The Oxford Handbook of Baptist Studies*, edited by Paul Fiddes, Betsy Flowers, Steve Harmon, and David Bebbington. (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press), forthcoming.

"Foreign Standards for a 'Home' Mission: American Baptist Home Mission Society's Ministerial Education Program in Early Twentieth-Century Cuba," *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, vol. 50, num 1, Spring 2023.

"Christianity in Cuba," in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 4th edition, edited by Andrew Louth. (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press), 2022.

"Venezuela: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives," in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the Global South*, edited by Mark A. Lamport and George Thomas Kurian. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield), 2018.

Book Reviews

Joel M. Cruz, *The Histories of the Latin American Church: A Handbook; and The Histories of the Latin American Church: A Brief Introduction*, in *Perspectivas*, Issue 14 (April 2017)

- <http://perspectivasonline.com/books/the-histories-of-the-latin-american-church-a-handbook-by-joel-m-cruz-fortress-press-2014-656-pages-35-00/>

Online

2016, Forum for Theological Exploration – Diversity in the Classroom series:

“Classroom Violence,”

<http://fteleaders.org/blog/classroom-violence>

“Beyond Resounding Gongs and Clanging Cymbals,”

<http://fteleaders.org/blog/diversity-in-the-classroom-beyond-resounding-gongs-and-clanging-cymbals>

2016, Patheos – Leading Differently Series:

“Recovering the Overlooked Stories of Christianity”

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithforward/2016/10/recovering-the-overlooked-stories-of-christianity/>

2015, Forum for Theological Exploration – Diverse Solutions, Thinking Out Loud:

“A Call to ‘Opt-in’,”

<http://fteleaders.org/blog/a-call-to-opt-in>

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

August 4, 2022, BSIR Scholar, “Foreign Standards for a Home Mission: American Baptist Home Mission Society’s Ministerial Education Program in Early Twentieth-Century Cuba.” [presented in absentia]
The Baptist Scholars International Roundtable (BSIR), Christ Church, Oxford, England.

March 5, 2022, Co-organizer & Panelist: AAR: Latinx Religions and the Profession (Joint Session) Unit –
Theme: “Mentoring and the Professionalization of Scholars of Religion: Latina/o/x Perspectives.”
Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Irving, TX.

January 18, 2022, Panelist: “Stereotyped”, a viewing and reaction to the film *Latinos Beyond Reel: Challenging a Media Stereotype*. Latinx Studies and Religion Department, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX.

October 28, 2019, Guest Lecturer: “Cuban Protestants and identity making at the end of the 19th century,”
Doctoral Seminar Course, Baylor University, Department of Religion, Waco, TX.

November 17, 2018, “A Labor of Love? Cuban Views on Early 20th Century U.S. Protestant Missions to the Island,” paper presented for Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit - Theme: Latinx Religion and Institutional Violence, AAR/SBL, Denver, CO

November 17, 2018, Panelist: Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit - Theme: Re-Thinking the Teaching of Theories and Methods: A Discussion of Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion (Bloomsbury, 2018) and *The Bloomsbury Reader for Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion* (2018), AAR/SBL, Denver, CO

January 18-20, 2018, “Uncovering a hidden mission: Cuban thought on Protestantism in the early twentieth century,” “Currents, Perspectives, and Methodologies in World Christianity,” International and Interdisciplinary Conference – Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

March 11, 2017, “Faith and Revolution: Different Perspectives from Protestants on the Island of Cuba”
Paper presented for Panel – “Christianities Engaged: Vignettes of Socio-Cultural Transitions in the Americas,” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies – Southwest Regional AAR, Irving, TX

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2018 - Adjunct Faculty, “Judaism, Christianity, and the Bible,” Southern Methodist University

Spring 2018 - Teaching Assistant, “Women in the History of Christianity,” Perkins School of Theology

Spring 2017 - Teaching Assistant, “Judaism, Christianity, and the Bible,” Southern Methodist University

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

01/18- 05/18, Research Assistant, Tamara Lewis, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity, SMU
Ethiopian Christianity book project

08/17- 12/17, Research Assistant, Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Dean of Esperanza College
Latinos and Theological Education book project

09/17- 12/17, Research Assistant, Kate Carté Engel, Assoc. Prof., Dir. of Graduate Studies, History, SMU
International Protestantism book project

02/15 - 05/15, Research Assistant, Abigail Evans and Katherine Doob Sakenfeld, PTS
Faith of our mothers, living still: Princeton Seminary women redefining ministry. Louisville,
Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

06/15- present, Co-Book Review & Technical Services Editor – *Perspectivas*, online, peer-reviewed,
bilingual journal of Hispanic Theological Initiative

06/12- 06/15, Editorial & Marketing Asst. & Assoc. Editor - Hispanic Theological Initiative

09/14 - 01/15, Interpreter, Travel Course: Christianity in Cuba, Princeton Theological Seminary

06/09 – 08/11, Assistant Product Manager - Customer Online Portal, PR Newswire Association, LLC.

09/05 – 06/09, Senior Editor /Messaging Services Team Lead, PR Newswire Association, LLC.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Academic

2019 – 2024, Steering Committee, Latino Religion Culture, and Society Unit
American Academy of Religion

2019 – 2024, Steering Committee, World Christianity Unit
American Academy of Religion

Community

2017 – present, Co-founding member and bilingual volunteer, Diapers, etc., Dallas, TX

2014 – 2015, Alumni Mentor to Undergraduates, Latino Alumni Association at Rutgers University

2013 – 2014, SGA Academic Concerns Committee, Princeton Theological Seminary

2013 – 2014, Latin@ Collegium, Princeton Theological Seminary

2012 – 2014, Executive Board of Association of Latin@ Seminarians, Princeton Theological Seminary

2011 – 2014, Navigating the Waters Diversity Initiative Design Team

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

Summer 2022, Baptist Scholars International Roundtable, Oxford, UK.

2019 – 2020, Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute

2018, Graduate International Research Travel Grant, The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, SMU / Luce Foundation

2018 – 2019, Dissertation Fellowship (Honorary), Forum for Theological Exploration

2018 – 2019, Dissertation Fellowship, Hispanic Theological Initiative

2017 – 2018, Research Cluster Grant: On Decolonial Options and the Writing of Latin American History, Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute

2016 – 2018, Doctoral Fellowship - Louisville Institute

2016 – 2017, Wabash Center Teaching Seminar for Graduate Students

2015 – 2020, University Fellowship – Southern Methodist University

2015 – 2020, Dedman College Dean's Fellowship – Southern Methodist University

2015 – 2020, Doctoral Grant Scholar, Hispanic Theological Initiative

2015, Doctoral Cohort Awardee, Forum for Theological Exploration

2014, Senior Fellowship in History – Princeton Theological Seminary

2012 – 2013, Ministry Fellowship – Fund for Theological Education

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

March 8, 2019, “Latinx, Theological Education, and the Changing Cultural Landscape”
Seminar for Pre-Tenure Faculty and PhD Candidates – Keynote Speaker: Edwin Aponte
Hosted by: The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, Perkins School of
Theology/SMU at Dallas, TX

October 26-28, 2018, “Teaching and Learning Workshop: *Teaching Latinamente*” – Keynote Speakers:
Carmen M. Nanko-Fernandez and Bobby Rivera
Hosted by: Hispanic Theological Initiative and Wabash Center at Crawfordsville, IN

September 20-22, 2018, “Workshop on Writing and Publishing”
Hosted by: Forum for Theological Exploration at Clinton, TN

March 9, 2018, “The Latinx Body and Pedagogy: Practical and Institutional Considerations”
Seminar for Pre-Tenure Faculty and PhD Candidates – Keynote Speaker: Daisy Machado
Hosted by: The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, Perkins School of
Theology/SMU at Dallas, TX

November 2016, “Hispanics and Theological Education in the U.S.”
Seminar for Pre-Tenure Faculty and PhD Candidates – Keynote Speaker: Juan Martinez
Hosted by: The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, Perkins School of
Theology/SMU at Dallas, TX

October 2016 - March 2017, “Doctoral Student Teaching Seminar Series”
Hosted by: Wabash Center at Irving, Texas

October 1-2, 2016, “Difficult Conversations in Religious Studies Classroom Settings Workshop”
Hosted by: Public Conversations Project and Wabash Center at SMU at Dallas, TX

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
American Society of Church History (ASCH)
Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH)
La Comunidad, the Association of U.S. Latino/a Scholars of Religion and Theology in the American
Academy of Religion & Society of Biblical Literature

LANGUAGES

Modern: Spanish (native), Portuguese (fluent in reading and writing), French (proficient in reading)

SKILLS

Canvas, Wordpress, Zotero, Endnote, Adobe Photoshop, Camtasia Studio