

Curriculum Vitae

Ken Chitwood

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-October 2023-

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic

- Senior Research Fellow, Muslim Philanthropy Initiative, Lily School of Philanthropy, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). July 2022 – June 2024.
 - *Conducted research in relation to philanthropy and social activism in and among Muslims in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinx U.S.*
- Researcher and Journalist Fellow, University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture, Engaged Spirituality Project. May 2019 – October 2023.
 - *Conducted research on new methodological insights gleaned from the hybrid data collection model used in the project.*
- Fritz Thyssen Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin. Berlin, Germany. March 2020 – March 2022.
 - *Conducted research in conjunction with the Graduate School, mentored and worked with graduate students, and participated in the academic life of the Graduate School.*
- Lecturer, Islamwissenschaft, Otto Friedrich Universität Bamberg. Bamberg, Germany. March 2020 – July 2020.
 - *Delivered lectures and taught a course on Islam and Muslim communities in the Americas.*
- Lecturer, Concordia College New York. April 2019 – June 2021.
 - *Taught courses on Christianity for the college's "Global Initiative" program with students in New York and India.*
- Program Coordinator, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. February 2018 – May 2019.
 - *Responsible for the oversight and coordination of the center's primary responsibilities in communications, disbursement and reporting of grants, and event programming for scholars in the humanities and in a variety of publics.*
- Digital Humanities Specialist, University of Florida — Religion Department. Gainesville, FL. February 2015 – August 2019.
 - *Oversaw digital media communications, training, and special projects for the department as well as coordination with other digital humanities groups, projects, and communities on campus.*
- Teaching Assistant, University of Florida – Religion Department. Gainesville, FL. August 2014 – May 2018.
 - *Taught, administered, and assisted in the teaching of courses in religious studies.*

- Adjunct Instructor, Laidlaw College. Palmerston North, New Zealand. January 2008 - December 2008.
 - *Taught two courses in hermeneutics on a semester-by-semester basis.*

Other

- Editor, ReligionLink. December 2021 – present.
 - *Oversaw development of free tools and tips for writing about religion with comprehensive source guides and story ideas on the most timely and controversial issues in religion and ethics.*

EDUCATION

- University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2014 - 2019. Ph.D. Religion in the Americas.
 - Dissertation, “Los Musulmanes Boricuas: Puerto Rican Muslims and the Idea of Cosmopolitanism.”
 - Graduate Certificate, Global Islamic Studies.
- Concordia University, Irvine, CA, 2010-2014. M.A. Theology and Culture (May 2014).
 - Thesis, “Islam en Español: The Conversion Pathways of Latina/o Muslims in the U.S.”
- Concordia University, Irvine, CA, 2003-2007. B.A. Christian Education Leadership & Theological Studies (May 2007).

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Monographs

- 2024 *AmeRícan Muslims: The Everyday Lives of Puerto Rican Converts to Islam*, University of Texas Press (Austin, TX) – under contract.
- 2021 *The Muslims of Latin America and the Caribbean*, Lynne Rienner Publishers (London/Boulder).
- 2018 eBook Series with Gale Researcher:
- *Introduction to the Sociology of Religion*. Gale Researcher: Sociology.
 - *The Global Justice Movement*. Gale Researcher: Sociology.
 - *Christianity in the U.S.* Gale Researcher: Sociology.
 - *World Religions II: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Gale Researcher: Sociology.

Editorial Work

- 2023 Guest Editor, Special Issue: Muslim Philanthropy in Latin America and the Latinx U.S., *Journal of Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society*, (Vol. 7, no. 2 – December).
- 2023 Guest Editor, “Special Collection: Islam & Muslim Socialities in Latin America,” *International Journal of Latin American Religions*.
- 2021 Desk Editor, *Caribbean Conjunctures: Caribbean Studies Association Journal*, (The University of the West Indies, 2021-present).

- 2020 Founding Editor, *Latin America and Caribbean Islamic Studies Newsletter*, (Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin, 2020-present)
- 2018 Section Editor, "Judaism and Islam in Latin America," *Encyclopedia of Religion in Latin America*, ed. By Henri Gooren, (Berlin: Springer References).

Refereed Journal Publications

- 2024 Forthcoming: "Ethnographic Journalism and the Public Understanding of Religion," *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*.
- 2023 Forthcoming: "From El Barrio to La Perla: Puerto Rican Muslims and their Philanthropic Activism," *Journal of Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society* (Vol 7., no. 2, December).
- 2023 "Halāl Habichuelas: Food, belonging, and the conundrums of being a Puerto Rican Muslim," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (Vol. 90, no. 4)
- 2022 "'A Place of Our Own': Puerto Rican Muslims and their Architectural Responses as Quadruple Minorities on the Margins," *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*, Special Issue: Hinterland Forces: Architectural Responses at the Margins, ed. Angela Andersen (Vol. 11, no. 2 – May).
- 2021 "An Ethnographic Turn in Comparative Theology? A Review Essay," *Ecclesial Practices*, (Winter).
- 2021 "Making Ethnography More Familiar, Theology More Strange: Ethnographic Theology as Theological Practice," *Concordia Journal*, (Summer).
- 2019 "Muslim AmeRícan: Puerto Rican Muslims in the USA and the Need for More Cosmopolitan Frames of Analysis in the Study of Islam and Muslim Communities in the Americas," *International Journal of Latin American Religions* (Vol 3, no. 2. – Fall 2019): 413-434.
- 2019 "The 'Global War on Terror' & the Tenuous Public Space of Muslims in Latin America and the Caribbean," *Hamsa Journal of Judaic and Islamic Studies*, (no. 5): 128-145.
- 2017 "The Study of Islam and Muslim Communities in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Americas: The State of the Field," *International Journal of Latin American Religions*, (Vol. 1, no. 1): 57-76.
- 2017 "Somalis as Samaritans: A Case Study of Christian-Muslim conflict in eastern Africa among evangelical Kenyan Christians," *Journal of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, (Vol. 28, no. 1 — Spring): 69-84.
- 2016 "Globalizing the Study of American Islam: Approaches to the field through the lens of globalization theory," *University of Waikato Islamic Studies Review*, (Vol 2, no. 2 — Fall): 27-49.
- 2016 "Review essay: 'What Hath Cassettes to do with Christianity? Instagram with Islam?,'" *African Studies Quarterly*, (Vol. 16, Issue 2 — March).

- 2015 "Islam en Español: The narratives, demographics, & reversion pathways of Latina/o Muslims in the U.S.," *University of Waikato Islamic Studies Review*, (Vol 1, no. 2 — Fall): 35-54.
- 2014 "Building bridges: Toward constructing a Christian foundation for inter-religious relationships in the shift from religious privilege to spiritual plurality," *Missio Apostolica*, (Fall/Winter).

Peer Reviewed Chapters and Contributions

- 2025 Forthcoming: "Muslim Migrants at American Borders," in *A Place of Their Own: Religion and Immigration among U.S. Latinos*, edited by Lloyd Barba, Silvia Pedraza, and João Chaves.
- 2025 Forthcoming: "'The Communist Manifesto in One Hand, the Quran in Another': Marxism, Anticolonial Resistance, and Religio-political Self-fashioning among Puerto Rican Converts to Islam," in *Marxism in Muslim Contexts*, edited by Danielle Wildmann Abraham.
- 2024 Forthcoming: "The Spectre of Islam: Muslims' Absent Presence in the James Bond Films," in *James Bond and Religion*, edited by George Tsakiridis.
- 2023 Forthcoming: "Interreligiöser Dialog in der Spätmoderne: Ein Vergleich zwischen den USA und Deutschland," in *Interreligiöse Kartographie Deutschlands* (Ergon Verlag).
- 2023 Forthcoming: "Dreams of al-Andalus: Latinx Muslims Re-Imagining Race as Quadruple Minorities," in *Routledge Handbook of Islam and Race*, edited by Zain Abdullah, Routledge.
- 2023 "Islam in the Caribbean," *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam in North America*, ed. by Amir Hussain (New York: Oxford University Press).
- 2023 "Muslims in the Latinx U.S. and Latinx Americas," in *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*, edited by Lloyd Barba. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- 2020 "Disciples of the New Digital Religions: Or, How to Make Your 'Fake' Religion Real," in *Believing in Bits: Digital Media and the Supernatural*, ed. By Simone Natale and Diana Pasulka, Oxford University Press.
- 2019 "Latinx Muslims 'Like' One Another: Building Community & Seeking Reform through the Navigation of Tensions on Facebook," *Anthropological Perspectives on the Religioius Uses of Mobile Apps*, ed. Jacqueline Fewkes, Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2019 "The Idea of a Global Hero: Global Heroism as a Discursive Tradition?," *Heroism as a Global Phenomenon in Popular Culture*, eds. Barbara Korte and Simon Wendt, Routledge.
- 2017 "Hero and/or Villain?: 'The 99,' mixed reception, & the politics of hybrid religious pop-culture production," *Muslim Superheroes: Comics, Islam, and Representation*, ed. By Martin Lund and A. David Lewis, ILEX Foundation: 170-191.

- 2016 "American Islam: The study of American Islam from demographic & ethnographic perspectives," *Yearbook of International Religious Demography: 2016*, Brill Publishing: 129-137.
- 2015 "Foreword" on religion and film culture, *Jesus Christ Movie Star*, by Ed McNulty, Read the Spirit Publishing, December.
- 2015 "Our Man in Havana: Turkey's alter-Islamist agenda in a global context," *Critical Muslim 16: Turkey*, London, UK: Hurst Publishers, December.

Reports

- 2022 "Latinx Giving: An Environmental Scan," for the Lilly School of Philanthropy, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Encyclopedia Contributions

- 2019 Multiple entries for "Judaism and Islam in Latin America," *Encyclopedia of Religion in Latin America*, ed. by Henri Gooren, (Berlin: Springer References).

Reviews

- 2024 "Across the Worlds of Islam," *Reading Religion* (January).
- 2023 "Covering Muslims," *Reading Religion* (July).
- 2023 "Rooted Globalism by Kevin Funk," *Latin America and Caribbean Islamic Studies Newsletter*, (May).
- 2022 "Manifold Destiny by John Tofik Karam," *Latin America and Caribbean Islamic Studies Newsletter*, (October).
- 2021 "Deepest Dye: Obeah, Hosay, and Race in the Atlantic World by Aisha Khan," *Latin America and Caribbean Islamic Studies Newsletter*, (April).
- 2020 "Far from Mecca: Globalizing the Muslim Caribbean by Aliyah Khan," *International Journal of Latin American Religions* (September).
- 2018 "Latino and Muslim in America," *Reading Religion* (July).
- 2016 "The Bloomsbury Reader on Islam in the West," *Reading Religion*, (December).
- 2016 "Beyond Tradition, Beyond Invention; Cosmic Technologies and Creativity in Contemporary Afro-Cuban Religions," *Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe*, (October).
- 2016 "Regarding Muslims: From slavery to post-apartheid by Gabeba Baderoon." *Journal of Religion in Africa*, (Winter).

- 2016 "Forbidden Passages: Muslims and Moriscos in Colonial Spanish America," *Reading Religion*, (August).
- 2016 "The Virgin of Guadalupe and the Conversos: Uncovering Hidden Influences from Spain to Mexico, by Marie Theresa-Hernández," *Religious Studies Review*, (Summer).
- 2015 "Islam and the Americas, ed. By Aisha Khan," *Religious Studies Review*, (September).
- 2015 "Muslim Portraits: The Anti-Apartheid Struggle, by Goolam Vahed." *Journal of Islamic Studies*, (Spring/Summer).
- 2015 "The Study of Religion: An Introduction to Key Ideas and Methods, 2nd Edition. By George Chryssides and Ron Greaves," *Alternative Spirituality & Religion Review*, (March).
- 2015 "The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith by Mark A. Noll" *Concordia Journal*, (Spring).

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Luce-American Academy of Religion Advancing Public Scholarship Grant.
- 2022 Affect and Colonialism WebLab Micro-Grant.
- 2020 Fritz Thyssen Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.
- 2020 Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers (Awarded).
- 2019 Center for Islam in the Contemporary World "Islam on the Edges" Grant.
- 2018 Spalding Trust Dissertation Grant.
- 2018 Center for Global Islamic Studies Summer Research Grant.
- 2017 University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Grant.
- 2016 University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Grant.
- 2015 University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Travel Grant.
- 2015 Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC), HASTAC Scholar, 2015-2019.
- 2014 University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate School Fellowship.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Conferences Organized

- 2022 “Muslim Philanthropy in Latin America and the Latinx U.S.,” Latin America and Caribbean Islamic Studies Association Colloquium, with support from the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative, December 7-8.
- 2021 “The Study of Islam and Muslim Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean in Transdisciplinary Perspective,” Latin America and Caribbean Islamic Studies Association Colloquium, Berlin, Germany, October 20-21.
- 2018 “Religion and Power,” 3rd Annual University of Florida Religion Graduate Students Association Conference, Gainesville, Florida, March 17-18. Committee Member.
- 2013 Religion News Association Conference 64th Annual Conference, Austin, Texas, September 26-28. Committee Member.

Conference Panels Organized

- 2023 “Report Back: Journalists collaborating with scholars to tell good stories,” Co-organized with Megan Sweas of the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture, Religion News Association Conference, Bethesda, MD, March 16.
- 2021 “Islam and Muslim Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Narratives of resilience and change,” European Association for the Study of Religions, Pisa, Italy, August 30-September 3.
- 2013 “Latina/o Religious Trends: Embracing a New Pope; Challenging Tradition.” Religion Newswriters Association 64th Annual Conference. Austin, TX, September.

Conference Presentations

- 2024 “Encountering Berlin’s Religio-city and Co-Rituality in Urbanized Space(s),” Urban Co-temporalities Conference, Universität Erfurt, February 21-23, 2024.
- 2023 “Media Engagement as Public Engagement?,” ACLS/ AAR Convening in Public Engagement, New York City, NY, May 5.
- 2022 “Ethnographic journalism and the public understanding of religion,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19-22.
- 2022 “Engaged Spirituality: The Role of Religion in the Lives of 100 Humanitarians,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 11-13.
- 2022 “Putting the Anglophone and Hispanophone Muslim Caribbeans into Conversation,” Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT), Berlin, Germany, September 13-17.
- 2021 “Berlin zu Fuß: Anthropologizing the City’s Spirituality with its ‘Digital Flâneurs’,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20-23.

- 2021 "Aquí en la Brega: The Multiple Valences of Puerto Rican Muslim Resistance," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20-23.
- 2021 "Puerto Rican Muslims and their politics: Resilience through intersectional activism," European Association for the Study of Religions, Pisa, Italy, August 30-September 3.
- 2021 "Puerto Rican Muslims and the Search for 'Authentic' *Puertorriqueñidad*," SISR/ISSR Conference, Online, July 14.
- 2021 "Anthropological perspectives on the religious uses of mobile apps," Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Panelist, Online, May 14-16, 2021.
- 2020 "'I've Seen You': Reflections on Ethnographic Theology, Accountability, & Christian-Muslim Relations," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, December 3.
- 2020 "The #AmericasMuslimsMap: Using Digital Visualization to Expand our Notion of 'Global Islam,'" 4th Annual Islamicate Digital Humanities Network (IDHN) Conference, Online, November 18.
- 2019 "The Multiple Valences of Puerto Rican Muslim Resistance: A Critical Muslim Cosmopolitanism from the Margins," American Academy of Religion — Western Region Annual Meeting, Tempe, AZ, March 2-3.
- 2017 "AmeRícan Muslims: Puerto Ricans, Global Islam, and Critical Cosmopolitanism," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, November 20.
- 2017 "Complexity & hybridity in Muslim comics: The case of 'The 99,'" at the International Conference on Heroism as a Global Phenomenon in Popular Culture, Freiburg, Germany September 28-30.
- 2017 "The Fluid Dynamics of Puerto Rican Muslim Community," Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Nassau, Bahamas, June 5-10.
- 2016 "Risky Business: Public Scholarship & Blogging as an Academic," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20.
- 2016 "Three Critical Questions for Public Scholarship in Islamic Studies," Re-Thinking Islamic Studies Group Workshop, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 16.
- 2016 "Like a river through rock: the dynamics of Puerto Rican Muslim migration to Central Florida," The 6th Conference on Immigration to the US South "Immigrants Making an Impact: Challenges and Opportunities in the South and Nationwide," University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, October 13 – 15.
- 2016 "Islamophobia in Focus: Muslims and the Media," Religion News Association Conference, Silver Spring, MD, September 22.
- 2016 "Youth, Islam, and the Construction of Religious Identities: A Case-Study among Puerto Rican Muslims," Latin America Studies Association, New York City, NY, May 29.

- 2016 “Winks and twitches, likes and comments: approaching thick description in digital ethnography,” THATCamp Gainesville, FL, April 23.
- 2016 “What does it mean to be a public intellectual in a religiously pluralistic world?” Jochum Chair Symposium — University of Valparaiso, Valparaiso, IN, February 18-19.
- 2015 “Augmented religiosity — exploring religion & place through augmented reality,” THATCamp — AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 20, 2015.
- 2015 “Dreams of al-Andalus: narratives of conversion and identity reconstruction among Latina/o Muslims in the U.S.” American Academy of Religion — Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting, Nashville, TN, March 6.

Invited Talks

- 2024 “All rise: Synchronicity, syncretism, and salvation,” Chautauqua Institution, August 19.
- 2024 “Disciplining the spirit,” Camp Arcadia, August 4-10.
- 2023 “Reporting on Culture and Communities in Morocco,” New York University, May 3.
- 2022 “The Muslims of Latin America and the Caribbean,” Edinburgh University, November 30.
- 2022 “Fall 2022 Multi-faculty Book Launch Event,” Moderator, University of Michigan, November 29.
- 2022 “Diversity, Dialogue, and Difference,” Keynote, Interfaith Day, UWC Freiburg, Germany, October 13.
- 2022 “Cosmopolitan Christianity,” Camp Arcadia Dean & Lecture Series, MI, July 30 – August 6.
- 2022 “Ethnographic Theology in Interreligious Perspective,” Emmanuel College of Victoria University, Toronto, Canada, March 11.
- 2022 “Creating an online presence as an academic,” University of Florida Religion Department, Gainesville, FL, February 25.
- 2022 “Anthropologizing a ‘Muslim Atlantic,’” Das Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, January 26.
- 2021 “Introducing the Muslims of Latin America & the Caribbean,” University of Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, Edinburgh, Scotland, December 2.
- 2021 “Puerto Rican Muslim Philanthropy,” 5th Annual Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 9-13.
- 2021 “Latinx Muslims: An Introduction to a New Muslim *Mestiza*,” Capital Group Investments Hispanic Heritage Month, October 13.

- 2021 "Traditional and Social Media: Make or Break for the Faith and Diplomacy Nexus?" Conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy: Generations in Dialogue, Lindau, Germany, October 6.
- 2021 "'So, a religion scholar and a religion journalist walk into the same project...': Reflections on ethnography, journalism, and the public understanding of religion," Universität Erfurt, June 21.
- 2021 "Putting American Muslims on the Map," Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, February 18.
- 2021 "Academic Cultures Abroad: The U.S.A.," Freie Universität Berlin, February 4.
- 2021 "Halāl Habichuelas: The Food Conundrums of Puerto Rican Converts to Islam," Das Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Online. January 26.
- 2020 "The Transregional Lives of Palestinian Muslims in Puerto Rico," Lost and Found: Tracing the Transregional Lecture Series, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany, Recorded Online.
- 2020 "Between al-Andalus and the Americas: Islam and Muslim Communities in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latinx U.S." Zentrum für Interreligiöse Studien (ZIM), Otto Friedrich Universität, January 28.
- 2019 "Latinx Muslim Communities in the U.S.: An Introduction," Otto Friedrich Universität Bamberg, Germany, "Islam in the U.S." seminar, December 5.
- 2019 "Diversity, Difference, and the Inevitability of Cosmopolitanism," Michigan District All Pastors' Conference, October 3-5.
- 2019 "Re-Imagining Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations," Camp Arcadia Dean & Lecture Series, MI, June 22-29.
- 2019 "Puerto Rican Muslims living as 'Quadruple Minorities,'" University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez, April 22.
- 2019 "Contemporary Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations," Best Practices Conference, Christ Church Phoenix, AZ, February 21-23.
- 2018 "Theology and Anthropology in Tension and Practice," Oregon District Conference, Bend, OR, April 17-19.
- 2017 "American Muslim World(s): Islam & Muslim Communities in Latin America & the Caribbean," Florida International University, November 7.
- 2017 "Changing the conversation around Christian-Muslim relations," Camp Arcadia Dean & Lecture Series, Arcadia, MI, August 12-18.
- 2017 "Islam & Muslim Communities in the Caribbean," Florida Caribbean Students Association Inc., 43rd Annual Conference, Gainesville, FL, March 25.
- 2016 "Islam & the Christian Liberal Arts University," Presidential Inauguration Town Hall, Concordia University New York, Bronxville, NY, October 23.

- 2016 “Religion in the Balkans,” Mostar Summer Youth Program, Mostar, Bosnia, July 5.
- 2016 “Religion beyond religion: augmented reality and hyper-real religion,” Davis Lecture Series, Shenandoah University, VA, March 22.
- 2016 “Mapping religious studies in a digital age,” Faculty workshop, Shenandoah University, VA, March 23.
- 2016 “Muslims, Media, & (Mis)Representation,” Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc., Gainesville, FL. January 25.
- 2016 “Welcoming Diversity: A Community Action Forum against Islamophobia and Intolerance,” The Thomas Center, Gainesville, FL. January 20.
- 2015 “Faith Goes Pop: Sighting and interpreting the interplay between religion and pop culture,” Santa Fe College, Gainesville, FL. June 16.
- 2015 “Buffet-style Religion: Picking our way through the contemporary spread of spiritualities.” Concordia University of Texas. Austin, TX. April 10.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2023 Goldziher Prize for Journalists, Honorable Mention.
- 2023 Associated Church Press, Award of Excellence, Denominational Reporting.
- 2022 American Academy of Religion, 3rd Place, In-Depth Journalism Award
- 2022 Religion News Association, 1st Prize, Best Nonfiction Book, for *The Muslims of Latin America and the Caribbean*.
- 2016 Religion News Association, Finalist, Best News Analysis.
- 2016 Graduate Student Paper Award, 1st place, Religion Department, University of Florida.
- 2016 Evangelical Press Association, 3rd Place, Student Writer of the Year.
- 2015 Religion Newswriters Association, Best News Analysis Finalist.
- 2015 Religion Department, University of Florida, 1st place, Graduate Student Paper Award.
- 2014 Concordia University Irvine, M.A. Summa Cum Laude.
- 2011 Religion Newswriters Association, Best Online Religion Section, 3rd place — for work with “Houston Belief,”
- 2007 Concordia University Irvine, B.A. Summa Cum Laude.
- 2007 Concordia University Irvine, Outstanding Senior, School of Theology.

- 2007 Concordia University Irvine, 1st Place, Presidential Showcase of Undergraduate Research.
- 2006 Theta Alpha Kappa (ΘAK), National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology.
- 2006 Omicron Delta Kappa, National Leadership Honor Society, 2006-2007.
- 2003 Concordia University Irvine, Honor's School Associate, 2003-2006.

TEACHING

Principal Instructor

- "Cultural Anthropology," Concordia St. Louis (Summer 2019/Winter 2022/23)
- "Ethnographic and Journalistic Approaches to the Middle East," Freie Universität Berlin (Summer 2022).
- "Digital Ethnography," Freie Universität Berlin (Summer 2021)
- "Theorizing Global Islam," Freie Universität Berlin (Winter 2020/21)
- "Islam and Muslim Communities in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latinx U.S." Otto Friedrich Universität, Bamberg (Summer 2020)
- "Introduction to Christianity," Concordia College New York (Fall 2019)
- "Global Christianity," Concordia College New York (Spring 2019)
- "American Religious History," (Online) University of Florida (Spring 2018)
- "Islam, Christianity, & Religious Pluralism," Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Winter 2018)
- "Islam in the Americas," University of Florida (Spring 2017)
- "The 'God Beat': Religion & the News," University of Florida (Spring 2016)
- "World Religions: Introduction," LINC Bible Institute, Houston, TX (Fall 2010)
- "History of Christian Hermeneutics," Laidlaw College, Palmerston North, New Zealand (Spring 2008)
- "Introduction to Hermeneutics," Laidlaw College, Palmerston North, New Zealand (Fall 2008)

Co-instructor

- "Writing Your Career," Graduate Workshop, Freie Universität Berlin (Winter 2021/22)
- "Digital Ethnography," Freie Universität Berlin (Summer 2021)
- "Introduction to Islam" (Online) University of Florida (Fall 2017, Summer 2018)
- "Christian-Muslim Relations: Past and Present," Concordia College New York (Fall 2017)

Assistant

- "Religion, Medicine, and Healing," University of Florida (Summer 2017)
- "Religion and Science," University of Florida (Spring 2015)
- "American Religious History," University of Florida (Fall 2014, Fall 2016)

CAMPUS LECTURES

- "Towards a 'Bahamas-to-Bengal' Complex?" Freie Universität Berlin. March 15, 2022.
- "My German Postdoc Experience," Freie Universität Berlin. March 24, 2021.
- "AmeRican Muslims: The Everyday Lives of Puerto Rican Muslims," Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Online. November 5, 2020.
- "Digital Ethnography," Jour Fixe, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin, Online. November 3, 2020.
- "How to Understand and Address the New Zealand Mosque Attacks," Looking for Good (LFG) 24-hour Stream, University of Florida. April 13, 2019.
- "Muslims and the 'Religious Other,'" Global Islam – Guest Lecture, University of Florida, March 21, 2019.
- "America and the 'religion of no religion': Esalen and beyond," Cults and New Religious Movements — Guest Lecture, University of Florida, November 28, 2018.
- "Islam across the Americas," Religion in Latin America — Guest Lecture, University of Florida, November 16, 2016 | November 15, 2018.
- "Tweeting religion: putting social media to work in religious studies," University of Florida, April 12, 2016.
- "Issues and ethics surrounding the coverage of Islam," Journalism Ethics — Guest Lecture, University of Florida, November 9, 2015.
- "Encounters with Māori religion & culture," Indigenous Religions of the World — Guest Lecture, University of Florida, October 27, 2015.
- "Blogging like an academic," Digital Humanities Seminars, University of Florida, September 24, 2015, February 1, 2017.
- "Somalis as Samaritans: Kenyan Evangelical Christians and the reimagining of Christian-Muslim conflict in East Africa." Islam in African Working Group, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, February 10, 2015.
- "The Rise of Islamism: Al-Banna, Mawdudi, and 'Muslim Brotherhood-ness.'" Global Islam — University of Florida Religion Department, Gainesville, FL, November 12, 2014.
- "Islam en Español: the narratives, demographics, conversion causeways, and conditions for community cohesion of Latina/o Muslims in the U.S." Concordia University Irvine, CA, December 2, 2014.
- "Islam in the Americas: Approaches to the field." Religion in the Americas, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, November 18, 2014.
- "Decolonizing Methodologies: Consideration subaltern research theory, methods." Religion in the Americas, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, September 20, 2014.

SELECTED POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Essays

- "BorderLine Impossible: Muslim Migrants at American Borders," NewLines Magazine, March 28, 2023.
- "The Enduring Legacy of Black Muslims in the Americas," NewLines Magazine, January 18, 2022.
- "In Europe's 'Secular Capital,' Some Berliners Are Finding Solace in Religion," Religion Unplugged, May 19, 2021.
- "Why al-Aqsa has often been a site of conflict," Chicago Tribune, May 13, 2021.

- “Hajj cancellation due to coronavirus is not first-time plague has disrupted this Muslim pilgrimage,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 23, 2020.
- “What is a caliph? The Islamic State tries to boost its legitimacy by hijacking a historic institution,” *The Jakarta Post*, November 13, 2019.
- “Puerto Rican Muslims and the ‘Flaw in the Algorithm of Cosmopolitanism,” *M3 Dialogue on Migrants, Minorities, and Marginalisation*, October 28, 2019.
- “When Religion Is Not a Religion: Inside Religious Studies’ Fight for Religious Literacy in the Public Sphere, a Response to Asma Uddin,” *Religious Studies Project*, August 21, 2019.
- “How an ancient Islamic festival became uniquely Caribbean,” *The Los Angeles Times*, September 19, 2018.
- “Explaining the Muslim pilgrimage of hajj,” *Newsweek*, August 30, 2017.
- “Why Muslims celebrate Eid twice a year: 6 questions answered,” *The Conversation*, August 28, 2017.
- “On Eid 2017, A Peek Into the Lives of Puerto Rico’s Muslims,” *Salon*, June 27, 2017.
- “The Sunni-Shia Divide: Explained,” *The Conversation*, May 25, 2017.
- “How ISIS continues to justify its use of human shields,” *HuffPost*, May 18, 2017.
- “What Does God Require of Us Amid Rising Islamophobia?,” *Sojourners Magazine*, February 8, 2017.
- “The two questions neither political convention is asking,” *Sojourners Magazine*, July 2016.
- “The Interplay of Religion and Popular Culture in Contemporary America,” *Religious Studies Project*, March 12, 2016
- “Inscribing pilgrimage on my body — one pilgrim’s story of religious body art,” *Dialog Magazine*, March 2016.
- “It’s time we change the way we talk about Islam,” *The Daily Dot*, February 3, 2016.
- “Coming to terms with Islam’s contradictions,” *The Huffington Post*, November 16, 2015.
- “Human consciousness and human reality,” *Religious Studies Project*, September 24, 2015.
- “A ‘radical’ response to Islamophobia,” *Sojourners*, August 2015.
- “The Christian cross, Texan identity, and ‘Tex-ianity.’” *Sacred Matters*. Emory University, August 26, 2014.
- “Slenderman: Internet Fiction with Murderous Implications?” *Sightings*. University of Chicago, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. Chicago, IL. July 3, 2014.
- “Selling Scientology at the Super Bowl,” *Sightings*. University of Chicago, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. Chicago, IL. February 20, 2014.
- “Latino Muslims emerging in news, academia.” *Sightings*. University of Chicago, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. Chicago, IL. October 31, 2013.
- “The Catholic Church and Technology: The Case of the Confession App.” *Sightings*. University of Chicago, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. Chicago, IL, May 26, 2011.

Articles

- “The little-known Jewish history in the hearty of Germany,” *Patheos*, August 13, 2021.
- “A Legacy of Transformation: Alissa Wahid and the Gusdurian Network Indonesia,” *KAICIID*, August 10, 2021.

- “Yiddish music is resurging in the Weimar square Hitler frequented,” Religion Unplugged, July 16, 2021.
- “Streaming Ramadan TV to the world,” AramcoWorld, July / August 2021.
- “After Angela: German evangelicals consider their political future,” Christianity Today, June 21, 2021.
- “Germany celebrates a historic milestone of Jewish culture – while looking forward,” Religion News Service, May 6, 2021.
- “The Liverpool Effect: Moroccan Acrobats, Mo Salah, and Cosmopolitanism in England” AramcoWorld, April 2021.
- “Waiting for Justice: A World Vision Employee Is Still Awaiting Fair Trial in Israel,” Christianity Today, March 2021.
- “Dream of Three Faiths in One Building Meets Reality in Berlin,” Religion News Service, February 15, 2021.
- “Refugee Converts Aren’t ‘Fraudsters,’ German Pastors Say,” Christianity Today, July / August 2020.
- “The World’s First Oils,” AramcoWorld, May / June 2020.
- “No Joyful Noise as German Churches Reopen Without Singing,” Christianity Today, May 12, 2020.
- “A Butcher By Name, This Muslim Surgeon Saves Lives Across Battle Lines,” Religion Unplugged, April 23, 2020.
- “A short history of hajj cancellations,” The Conversation, April 23, 2020.
- “Coronavirus fears put a halt to the Muslim pilgrimage of umrah – but not yet the hajj,” The Conversation, March 6, 2020.
- “O For a Global Tongue to Sing: Praising God in English, German evangelicals connect with global Christianity,” Christianity Today, March 2020.
- “How to Brexit like a Christian,” Christianity Today, December 13, 2019.
- “What is a caliph? The Islamic State tries to boost its legitimacy by hijacking a historic institution,” The Conversation, November 13, 2019.
- “Campaign posters in ‘Luther country’ raise specter of anti-Semitism,” Religion News Service, October 9, 2019.
- “Amid Ramadan celebrations, Jordanians fear an uncertain future,” Religion News Service, June 5, 2019.
- “‘Brewery church’ is the latest in craft of luring folks to church,” Religion News Service, February 12, 2019.
- “Clearing up misconceptions about Sharia Law,” The Gainesville Sun, April 9, 2016.
- “Should we be comparing the Bible and the Quran?,” The Daily Dot, December 10, 2015.
- “Coming to terms with Islam’s contradictions,” The Huffington Post, November 16, 2015.
- “The news that matters to Muslims should matter to us all,” IslamiCommentary, September 23, 2015.
- “Why ISIS Vandals Destroy Ancient Temples at Palmyra and Bel,” Newsweek, August 31, 2015.
- “‘Radical Muslim’ clothing line attempts to shatter stereotypes,” The Washington Post, April 13, 2015.
- “How a novel can help us navigate religious, ethnic, tension in Europe,” IslamiCommentary, January 8, 2015.
- “Can Christians celebrate Diwali? Indian leaders disagree.” Deseret News National, November 14, 2014.

- “The lonely jihadi: why Westerners join ISIS.” *Sojourners*, September 26, 2014.
- “Iraqi refugee works to make life safer for secular humanists,” *Religion News Service*, December 3, 2013.
- “Long an oasis of Christian-Muslim calm, Kenya may see more strife.” *Washington Post*, Washington D.C., October 8, 2013.
- “Tattooed Traditionalist: Pastrix Nadia Bolz-Weber has a new book.” *Publisher’s Weekly*. Chicago, IL. July 25, 2013.
- “Mission-shaped architecture.” *The Living Church*. Milwaukee, WI. December 21, 2012.
- “The Sunday before the election.” *Religion & Politics*, November 5, 2012.
- “‘Eid Mobile’ aims to mainstream Muslim holiday,” *The Houston Chronicle*. Houston, TX, August 17, 2012.
- “Pastor wants you to look good.” *Real Clear Religion*, May 15, 2012.
- “English Musical Play ‘Ek’ Brings Shirdi Sai Baba to Stage.” *IndoAmerican News*. Houston, TX, May 4, 2012.

SELECT PUBLIC HUMANITIES COLLABORATIONS

- Multimedia Exhibit: “Stories of Social Change: Spirituality in Action,” USC Annenberg School of Journalism, Los Angeles, CA. September 2023.
- Art Exhibit: “Americans Looking In,” Center for the Book Arts, October 2020.
- Book reviews: Christianity, global Islam, political Islam, religion and popular culture, evangelicalism, emergent Christianity, global Christianity, politics, & social issues, *Publisher’s Weekly*, New York, NY. November 2011-present.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION, INSTITUTIONS, & ORGANIZATIONS

- External Reviewer, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University, 2023.
- Peer reviews for *Anabaptist Witness Review*, *International Journal of Latin American Religions*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, *Review of Religious Research*.
- University of Florida, Department of Religion, Professional Development Advisory Board, 2023 – present.
- Religion News Association, President, March 2023 – present.
- Religion News Foundation, Board of Directors, Vice Chair, September 2022 – present.
- External Committee Member, Nazanin Badiei (Freie Universität Berlin), 2023 – 2024.
- External Committee Member, Veronica French (Universität Erfurt), 2022 – 2023.
- External Committee Member, Nik Hasif (University of Copenhagen), 2022.
- External Committee Member, Benjamin McDowell (Columbia International University), 2021.
- Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures & Societies, Admissions Committee, 2020/21.
- Planning Committee, THATCamp News, January 2018-April 2018.
- Religion News Service, Board of Managers, Member. August 2016 - May 2018.
- Planning Committee, THATCamp AAR/SBL 2016, September - November 2016.
- Religion News Service, Managing Board, Treasurer. September 2016 - present.
- Graduate Faculty Liaison, Religion Graduate Student Association (RGSA), University of Florida Religion Department. 2016-2017 Academic Year.

- Religion News Foundation, Board of Directors, Treasurer. August 2015 – September 2022.
- Religion News Association, Board of Directors, Treasurer. March 2015 – March 2023.
- Handa Fellowship Mentor, Religion Newswriters Association, 2015-2016.
- Vice President, Religion Graduate Student Association (RGSA), University of Florida Religion Department. 2015-2016 Academic Year.
- Planning Committee, THATCamp Gainesville 2016, September 2015-April 2016.
- Religion News Association, Strategic Planning Committee. September 2014-September 2015.
- Religion News Association, Conference Committee. October 2012 - September 2013.
- Religion News Service (RNS) Freelance Correspondent. September 2013-February 2015.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- "The Israel-Hamas Conflict and its Repercussions in the UK," BBC Radio 4 "Sunday," October 22, 2023.
- "Why do Latinos convert to Islam? Are Hispanics fasting growing Muslim group?" Deseret News, May 3, 2022.
- "Ken Chitwood: Theologian Without Borders," ATLA, July 8, 2021.
- "No Victor but God," Kerning Cultures Podcast, March 18, 2021.
- "How Parler played to Christian conservatives' fear of censorship," Sojourner's Magazine, January 25, 2021.
- "Ken Chitwood: A Voice for Religious Literacy," STAND, June 19, 2020.
- "Museums' mislabeling can leave visitors with misconceptions of biblical proportions," Religion News Service, December 6, 2018.
- "Nabeel Qureshi, who shared conversion from Islam to Christianity, dies at 34," Religion News Service, September 18, 2017.
- "Hola, Allah: Welcome to the Country's Only Latino Mosque, Right Here In Houston," Houstonia Magazine, May 25, 2017.
- "HBO's 'Westworld': Robot sex and the nature of the soul," Religion News Service, December 2, 2016.
- "Latino Muslims at country's first Spanish-speaking mosque: 'Islam changed my life'" The Guardian, May 9, 2016.
- "How American Muslims can overcome their public relations crisis," Deseret News National, January 2, 2016.
- "There is something about Mary," The Washington Post. December 23, 2015.
- "5Q+1 Interview: Religion and the news," GetReligion. November 9, 2015.
- "A Practical Guide to Islam," The Spiritual Howcast. Invited guest. July 6, 2015.
- "Christianity and the world's religions," Reconnect Podcast. Invited guest. July 5, 2015.
- "'The Jim Gaffigan Show' mixes comic's humor with religion," Religion News Service. Commentary, June 11, 2015.
- "Iraq, ISIS, and Islam." Haven Radio. Invited guest. August 22, 2014.
- "Latina/o Ministry in the 21st Century: A conversation between Andres Zelaya and Ken Chitwood." ELM Radio. KKHT 100.7fm. Houston, TX. November 25, 2012.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Spanish, C1 (reading/comprehension)
- German, B2 (reading/spoken)
- Arabic, A2 (reading/comprehension)
- Koine Greek (translation competency)

PAST & PRESENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Associate Research Member, University of Waikato Islamic Studies Group (UWISG). 2014-2015, 2022-present.
- Association for the Social Scientific Study of Religion. 2022.
- Islamicate Digital Humanities Network. Since 2019.
- Mizan Project. 2017.
- American Anthropological Association. 2017.
- Religion Research Association. 2017.
- Caribbean Studies Association. Since 2017.
- Latin American Studies Association. 2015.
- American Academy of Religion. Since 2014.
- Religion News Association. Since 2011.
- Theta Alpha Kappa Religious Studies Honors Society. 2007.