

Robert O. Smith, PhD

(Enrolled Citizen, Chickasaw Nation)

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY (WACO, TEX.)

- *Ph.D. in Religion, Politics and Society (2010)*
- Dissertation: “‘More Desired Than Our Own Salvation’: The Roots of American Christian Affinity for the State of Israel”

LUTHER SEMINARY (ST. PAUL, MINN.)

- *Master of Divinity (2003)*
- *Master of Arts in Islamic Studies (2003)*
- MA Thesis: “Prolegomenon to Dialogue: A Christian Response to Islamic Criticisms of Nicene Orthodoxy”

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY (STILLWATER, OKLA.)

- *Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (1998)*
- Senior Thesis: “Circle of Compassion: An Aristotelian Reading of the Gospel Narratives”

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Critical Race Theory

Native American & Indigenous Studies

American Studies

Interreligious Relations

Religion & Politics

Christian Zionism

Postsecularity & Political Theology

Supersessionism

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYMENT

- Vice President & Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Authentic Diversity, Justice, and Public Church, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago 2026–present

- Assistant Professor of History, University of North Texas (Denton, Tex.) 2022–2026
 - Affiliated Faculty: Political Science, International Studies, and Philosophy & Religion
- Director, Briarwood Leadership Center and Associate to the Bishop *Northern Texas–Northern Louisiana Synod of the ELCA* (Argyle, Tex.) 2019–2022
- Director, Jerusalem Global Gateway, University of Notre Dame 2015–2019
 - Special Professional Faculty appointments in the Keough School of Global Affairs and Department of Theology
- Academic Director (Acting) for the University of Notre Dame Jerusalem Global Gateway, at Tantur Ecumenical Institute 2014–2015
- Global Mission, Area Program Director for the Middle East & North Africa / Coordinator of the Peace Not Walls Campaign for Middle East Justice / Theological Content Developer for Global and Domestic Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 2010–2014
- Continental Desk Director for Europe and the Middle East 2007–2010
 - Global Mission Program Unit, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- University of Chicago 2005–2007
 - Lutheran Campus Pastor, Rockefeller Chapel
 - Staff Member, Augustana Lutheran Church
- Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Coryell City, Texas 2004–2005
- Baylor University 2003–2005
 - Graduate Student Teaching Assistant
- Luther Seminary 2002–2003
 - Research Assistant for Gary M. Simpson, Chair, Systematic Theology
- Lutheran Student Center, Lincoln, Nebraska 2000–2001
 - Intern Pastor under the supervision of The Rev. Larry Meyer
 - Taught “Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations,” with Ahmed Ismail, President, UNL Muslim Student Association
- Luther Seminary 1999–2000
 - Teaching / Research Assistant for Director of Islamic Studies Program

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Aja Y. Martinez and **Robert O. Smith**. *The Origins of Critical Race Theory: The People and Ideas That Created a Movement* (New York University Press; March 25, 2025)
 - Reviewed in *Composition Forum* (Fall 2025)
 - Reviewed in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (June 2025)
 - Starred Review, *Library Journal* (Feb. 2025)
 - listed in *Ms. Magazine*, “March 2025 Reads for the Rest of Us”
 - excerpted in *Yes! Magazine* (March 2025)
 - featured title in NYU Press Spring 2025 list
- Aja Y. Martinez and **Robert O. Smith**. *Harmony and Harassment: The Headwaters of Critical Race Theory* (University of California Press). In production, expected Fall 2026.

- **Robert O. Smith** and Aja Y. Martinez. *CRT Attacked! The New Right's Holy War and the Prophetic Witness of Critical Race Religious Literacy* (Penn State University Press). Expected Fall 2027.
- *More Desired than Our Own Salvation: The Roots of Christian Zionism* (Oxford University Press, 2013)
 - Foreword from Martin E. Marty
 - Reviewed in *The American Historical Review*; *Journal of American History*; *Politics & Religion*; *Church History*; *Teologinen Aikakauskirja (Finnish Journal of Theology)*
- Göran Gunner and **Robert O. Smith**, eds., *Comprehending Christian Zionism: Perspectives in Comparison* (Fortress Press, 2014)
- Charles P. Lutz and **Robert O. Smith**, *Christians and a Land Called Holy: How We Can Foster Peace, Justice and Hope* (Fortress Press, 2006)

ARTICLES

- Aja Y. Martinez and **Robert O. Smith**, “Foreword: Be Afraid: The radical prophetic witness of Critical Race Theory,” *Communication & Democracy* 59:2 (August 2025): 269–274, ed. Danielle Hodge and Karma Chávez.
- Aja Y. Martinez and **Robert O. Smith**, “The War on ‘Woke’ and the Attack on Critical Race Theory,” *African Arguments* (April 9, 2025), <https://africanarguments.org>.
- **Robert O. Smith** and Aja Y. Martinez, “Critical Race Religious Literacy: Exposing the Taproot of Contemporary Evangelical Attacks on CRT,” *Journal of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies* 1.1 (December 2023): 83–104.
- Aja Y. Martinez and **Robert O. Smith**, “Critical Theory, Critical Race Representations: Counterstory as Literary Intervention,” *Writers: Craft and Context* 4:1 (2023): 52–59.
- “Acknowledge the Land: An Indigenous Historical Reflection on Extractive Theology,” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* 62:2 (Summer 2023): 148–155.
- “Christian Responsibility and Anti-Jewish Theology: Revisiting ‘Reclaiming Bonhoeffer After Auschwitz,’” in *Nexus 6: Essays in German Jewish Studies*, ed. William C. Donahue and Martha B. Helfer (Rochester: Camden House, 2023).
- Munib A. Younan and **Robert O. Smith**, “Critical Approaches to Christian Zionism,” in *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church* 22.4 (Winter 2022): 324–332.
- “Disintegrating the Hyphen: The ‘Judeo-Christian Tradition’ and the Christian Colonization of Judaism,” *ReOrient: The Journal of Critical Muslim Studies* 5/1 (Autumn 2019): 73–91.
- “Bonhoeffer Moment(s)?: Learning to See ‘From Below’ in Indian Country,” *Theology Today* 76/2 (July 2019): 145–157.
- “Sanctifying the Settler-Colonial Gaze: Nineteenth-Century American Christian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” *Theology Today* 74/4 (January 2018): 365–375.
- “Civilization, Savagism, and the Presence of Burning Children,” *CrossCurrents* 66/2 (June 2016): 204–214.
- “Replacement Theology, Christian Zionism, and the Anglo-American Protestant Tradition of Judeo-Centric Prophecy Interpretation,” *Current Dialogue (WCC)* 53, Special Issue: Christian Self-Understanding in Relation to Judaism (December 2012): 21–9.
- “Anglo-American Christian Zionism: Implications for Palestinian Christians,” *Ecumenical Review (WCC)* 64:1 (March 2012): 27–35.
- “Toward a Lutheran Response to Christian Zionism,” *dialog: A Journal of Theology* 48/3 (Fall 2009): 281–93. Published with an invited response from Pentecostal theologian Tony Richie.

- “Implications of Christian Zionism for Interfaith Relations,” *American Baptist Quarterly* 26/3 (Fall 2007).
- “Luther, the Turks and Islam,” *Currents in Theology & Mission* 34/5 (October 2007): 351–64.
- “Jewish-Christian Difficulties in Challenging Christian Zionism,” *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 7/5 (May 2007).
- “Bonhoeffer and Musical Metaphor,” *Word & World* 26/2 (Spring 2006): 195–206.
- “Palestinian Nationalism(s): Religious and Secular,” *Koinonia Journal: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* 17 (2005): 1–30.
- “Response to the Respondents,” *Koinonia Journal* 17 (2005): 77–92.
- “Secular and Religious: ELCJHL Contributions to Palestinian Nationalism,” *Currents in Theology & Mission* 32/5 (October 2005): 338–47.
- “Response to Dahill on Bonhoeffer,” *dialog: A Journal of Theology* 43/4 (December 2004).
- “Between Restoration & Liberation: Theopolitical Contributions & Responses to U.S. Foreign Policy in Israel/Palestine,” *Journal of Church and State* 46/4 (Autumn 2004): 833–60.
- “Reclaiming Bonhoeffer After Auschwitz,” *dialog: A Journal of Theology* 43/3 (September 2004): 205–220.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- **Robert O. Smith** and Aja Y. Martinez, “And We Are Not Saved?: Historicizing the Evangelical Christian Media’s ‘Holy War’ on CRT,” in *Critical Race Theory and the American Media*, eds. Sarah E. Turner and Sarah Nilsen (Routledge, 2025), 77–94.
- Munib A. Younan and Robert O. Smith, “Antisemitism and the Question of Palestine,” in *Interreligious Solidarity for Justice in Palestine-Israel: Ecumenical Response to International Law Violations*, ed. Ulrich Duchrow and Mark Braverman (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025), 61–74.
- “Pandemic Politics: Critical Social Theory and Societal Chaplaincy,” in *Theology and Ethics for the Public Church: Mission in the 21st Century World*, ed. Samuel Y. Deressa and Mary Sue Dreier (Minneapolis: Fortress Academic, 2023), 171–185.
- “An Urgent Call to Challenge Christian Zionism,” in *Blessed are the Peacemakers: Theology, Compassion, and Action for a Global Mission*, *Studia missiologica et oecumenica Fennica* 65 (Helsinki: Luther-Agricola Society, 2023), 351–364.
- “Christian Zionism, Settler Coloniality, and Supersessionist Anxiety,” in *Global Transformation of Christian Zionism*, ed. Yoshihiro Yakushige (Kyoto: University of Kyoto Press, 2022), 67–72.
- “The Ecumenical Deal, the Judeo-Christian Tradition, and the Christian Colonization of Judaism,” *The New Diaspora and the Global Prophetic: Engaging the Scholarship of Marc H. Ellis*, ed. Susanne Scholz and Santiago Slabodsky (Lanham, Md.: Lexington/Fortress Academic, 2021), 53–70.
- “State(s) of Exception: Christian Zionism, Replacement Theology, and the Right of Conquest,” in *T&T Clark Handbook of Political Theology*, ed. Rubén Rosario Rodríguez (London: Bloomsbury / T & T Clark, 2019).
- “Christian Zionism and Jerusalem Holy Places,” in *Naming the Sacred: Religious Toponymy in History, Theology and Politics*, eds. Anna Mambelli and Valentina Marchetto (Fscire Research and Papers 1, Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2019).
- “Today, Know This,” in *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*, ed. Steve Heinrichs (Manitoba: United Church Canada, 2018).

- “Prophecy, the Pope, and the Turk: Luther’s Pastoral Apocalyptic,” in *On the Apocalyptic and Human Agency: Conversations with Augustine of Hippo and Martin Luther*, ed. Kirsi Stjerna and Deanna A. Thompson (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholar’s Publishing, 2014).
- “Reading Palestine Realities with American Indian Eyes,” in *Palestinian Identity in Relation to Time and Space*, ed. Mitri Raheb (Bethlehem: Diyar, 2014).
- “Interpreting the Bible, Interpreting the World: Anglo-American Christian Zionism and Palestinian Christian Concerns,” in *The Biblical Text in the Context of Occupation: Towards a New Hermeneutics of Liberation*, ed. Mitri Raheb (Bethlehem: Diyar, 2012).
- “American Expansionism, Theologies, and the Israel/Palestine Question,” in *The Invention of History: A Century of Interplay between Theology and Politics in Palestine*, ed. Mitri Raheb (Bethlehem: Diyar, 2011).

MEDIA & INTERVIEWS

- Richard Solomon, “‘We just want her home’ | North Texas family continues search for missing teen who's been missing for nearly 11 months,” WFAA ABC Channel 8, Dallas (4 November 2025), <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/north-texas-family-continues-search-for-missing-teen/287-19d5a6ac-f79d-4b21-b725-410081bf042c> (speaking about the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women)
- “Critical Historical Views of Christian Zionism,” The Thinking Muslim Podcast (2 September 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-DT9nheSF8> (over 167,000 views)
- “Christian Views on Gaza,” Council on American-Islamic Relations press conference (28 August 2025)
- “Reclaiming the Narrative about Critical Race Theory,” *Inside Higher Ed* online (17 April 2025, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/books-publishing/2025/04/17/qa-new-book-about-critical-race-theorys-origins>)
- “The Origins of Critical Race Theory,” Busboys & Poets (K Street), YouTube.com livestreamed book event (13 April 2025).
- “The War on ‘Woke’ and the Attack on Critical Race Theory,” *African Arguments* (9 April 2025), <https://africanarguments.org/2025/04/the-war-on-woke-and-the-attack-on-critical-race-theory/>
- “The Humanizing Power of Critical Race Theory,” *Yes! Magazine* (25 March 2025), published book excerpt, <https://www.yesmagazine.org/political-power/2025/03/25/critical-race-theory-origins-excerpt>
- Daoud Kuttab, “At the Baptismal site, theologians discuss effects of Christian Zionism on Christians in the Middle East,” *Milhilard* (Jordan, 28 January 2025), <https://milhilard.org/jtqt>
- “The Roots of Christian Zionism,” Across the Divide Podcast (18 September 2024), <http://www.youtube.com/@AcrossTheDividePodcast> (first in a series on the topic)
- “Marc Ellis and the Refusal of Innocence: Remembering Marc H. Ellis,” *Contending Modernities*, University of Notre Dame Keough School of Global Affairs (blog, 26 July 2024), available at <http://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/>
- “American Indian academic and pastor engaged at the intersection of religion and politics Robert Smith to Al Mayadeen,” *Al Mayadeen Television*, Beirut, Lebanon (8 February 2022).
- “The History of Christian Attitudes toward the State of Israel,” *Christian History* 133, Christianity and Judaism (2020).

- “Christian Zionism, American Modernity, and the Trump Declaration on Jerusalem,” *Contending Modernities*, University of Notre Dame Keough School of Global Affairs (blog, 8 January 2018), available at <http://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/>
- “When Religion Defeated the State – Max Weber and The Al-Aqsa Crisis Of 2017,” *Political Theology Today* (blog, 11 August 2017), available at <http://www.politicaltheology.com/blog/>
- “Christian Zionism: It Challenges Our Lutheran Commitments,” *The Lutheran* (June 2009): 18–23.
- Alex Kane, “Israeli settlers accept an invite to Trump's inauguration,” *Vice News* (January 18, 2017), <https://www.vice.com/en/article/434jqd/israeli-settlers-accept-an-invite-to-trumps-inauguration>

REVIEWS

- Without a Prayer: Religion and Race in New York City Public Schools, by Leslie Beth Ribovich, in *Teachers College Record* (July 2025).
- *God's Country: Christian Zionism in America*, by Samuel Goldman, in *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 20:3 (Winter 2019): 383–384.
- *Bridges Instead of Walls: Christian–Muslim Interaction in Denmark, Indonesia and Nigeria*, ed. Lissi Rasmussen, in *Religious Studies Review* 35:1 (March 2009): 44.
- *The Bonhoeffer Phenomenon: Portraits of a Protestant Saint*, by Stephen R. Haynes, in *Fides et Historia* 37:1 (Winter/Spring 2005): 144–45.
- *Getting Over Equality: A Critical Diagnosis of Religious Freedom in America*, by Steven D. Smith, in *Word & World* 25:1 (2005) 99–101.
- *Regulating Religion: The Courts and the Free Exercise Clause*, by Catharine Cookson, in *Word & World* 25:1 (2005) 99–101.
- *For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts and the End of Slavery*, by Rodney Stark, *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, 43:4 (December 2004).
- *Elvis in Jerusalem: Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel*, by Tom Segev, *Word & World: Theology for Christian Ministry* 24:3 (Summer 2004)
- *Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding*, ed., David R. Smock, *Journal of Church & State* (Summer 2004)
- *Who Are the Christians in the Middle East?*, by Betty Jane Bailey & J. Martin Bailey, *Journal of Church & State* (Winter 2004)
- Book Notes, *Journal of Church & State* (2004 and 2005 issues)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- “The New Right, Technofascism, and the New Face of Christian Zionism,” for *Journal of the Institute for the Study of Christian Zionism* (2025).
- “Christian Zionism.” In *The Palace of Thundering Gods: History of Religion in the United States* (Stanford University Press, 2025), eds. Ben Wright and Joseph Locke.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

- Steering committee member and chief content developer for the International Consultation on Christian Zionism and Its Effects on Middle Eastern Christians (Amman / Dead Sea, Jan 2025)
- Oversaw budgetary spending of \$300,000

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

- Departmental Coordinator, Native American Heritage Month
- Co-Faculty Advisor, Native American Student Association

BRIARWOOD LEADERSHIP CENTER

- Oversaw programmatic shift from summer camp focus to 'leadership center' structure
- Developed new curricula, focused on adult learning opportunities
- Supervised personnel and oversaw budget of \$1.2m

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

- Founding Academic Director, Jerusalem Global Gateway
- For undergraduate study abroad, developed contextual learning opportunities while coordinating all housing, transportation, meals for up to 35 students
- For university programming, developed strategic relationships with both Israeli and Palestinian institutions
- Coordinated relationships between Notre Dame International, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, and local leaders, including governmental representatives (Israeli, PA, and PLO) along with leaders of local religious communities

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

- Supervised up to 30 staff and volunteers serving throughout Europe and the Middle East; developed several initiatives and creatively responded to regional developments, both for personnel safety and security and for changing regional dynamics (i.e., the Arab Spring)
- As Desk Director, oversaw annual programmatic budget of \$900k along with overseeing project management and reporting for an additional \$1m in World Hunger grants while maintaining strong relationships with Lutheran and ecumenical partners throughout the MENA region
- As director of the Peace Not Walls campaign (now called Sumud), implemented a strategic plan for awareness-raising and advocacy concerning church interests and US policy in Palestine and Israel with an annual budget of \$150k

AWARDS, HONORS & GRANTS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

- Nominated for the 2025–2026 Fessor Graham Award
 - Recognizes outstanding service to students, excellence in teaching, and significant scholarly contributions
 - Highest student body honor bestowed through the Student Government Association
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - Conference Funding Support (\$300,000)
- University of California Press

- First-Generation Writing Grant (\$3000)

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

- Graham Writing Award (First place, Ph.D. category, 2005)
 - “Luther, the Turks, and Islam”
- Doctoral Fellow, J.M. Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies
- Research Fellow, Center for American & Jewish Studies

LUTHER SEMINARY

- *John Milton Award in Old Testament*
 - “The Imprecations of Psalm 69: An Attempt at Political Exegesis”
- *G.M. & Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament*
 - “And Hope Does Not Disappoint Us: Reconciliation and Romans 5:1–11”
- Interpretation Award: Outstanding Student, History & Theology Division

WORKSHOPS

- “Let’s Learn about Chickasaw History,” workshop on Freedmen history Alaina Roberts (University of Pittsburgh) at Ardmore Public Library (June 30, 2025)
- “It Was Always Story: The Prophetic Witness of Critical Race Theory,” four-day workshop at Holden Village, Chelan, WA (June 2025)
- Invited participant, “Conversations on Christian Zionism,” hosted by the Religion, Conflict and Peace Initiative (RCPI) of the Program on Religion and Public Life, Harvard Divinity School (Fall 2024–)
- “Counterstory as Pedagogy and Research,” workshop with Aja Y. Martinez, Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX (November 2024)
- “Lutheran Confessional Heritage,” workshop with Bishop Dr. Anne Edison Albright for the Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders (TEIL) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Portland, Ore. (24–28 June 2024)
- “The Storied History of Critical Race Theory,” workshop with Aja Y. Martinez, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT (April 2024).
- “The Storied History of Critical Race Theory,” workshop with Aja Y. Martinez, UConn-FYW Conference on the Teaching of Writing, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (April 2024).
- “The Storied History of Critical Race Theory,” workshop with Aja Y. Martinez, Thirteenth Biennial Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Feminisms and Reckonings: Interrogating Histories and Harms, Beginning Restorative Practices, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA (30 Sept–3 Oct 3, 2023)
- “Confronting Christian Zionism,” online webinar hosted by the Working Group on the Middle East, Metro Chicago Synod, ELCA (Chicago, 11 February 2021)
- “Trans-Indigenous Solidarity and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” consultation on the Holy Land hosted by the National Council of Churches USA and the World Council of Churches (September 2016).
- “What about US? American Christian Contributions to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” Churches for Middle East Peace annual conference, June 18–19, 2012.

- “Accompaniment and Ethical Mission Practice,” paper presented for an ecumenical and inter-religious consultation on mission practice hosted by the ELCA at Luther Seminary (Nov. 2009, St. Paul, Minn.)
- Invited Participant, WCC consultation on “The Promised Land” (Geneva, Switzerland), Sept. 2009.
- “Armageddon Theology and Its Impact on the Middle East,” National Council of Churches (NCCUSA) National Assembly Workshop (Orlando, Florida), November 2006.
- “Remarks on Christian Zionism and U.S. Foreign Policy,” Council for the National Interest Public Hearing, Capitol Hill (Washington, DC), October 2006.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

- “White Supremacy and Racial Justice in the Church,” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with Aja Y. Martinez (30 October 2025)
- “Red Power, Black Power, and Critical Race Theory,” University of North Texas Native American Student Association conference: “Knowledge Keepers: Indigenous Research Studies Symposium” (29 March 2025)
- “Assimilation and Resistance: The Red, the Black, and Critical Race Theory,” Vine Deloria Jr. Theological Symposium, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (November 18, 2024)
- “How Does the West View Eastern Christianity?” The Ecumenical Institute of the Middle East, Anafora, Egypt (18 September 2024)
- “Reconstructing Solidarities Beyond Supersessionism,” Kyoto University, *International Conference on the Global Transformation of Christian Zionism*, with a response from Miyuki Kinjo (25 October 2021)
- “Responding Faithfully to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” and “Reclaiming Our Voice: A Lutheran Response to Christian Zionism,” Tearing Down the Walls One *Peace* at a Time, seminar sponsored by the Global Mission Task Force of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, Appleton (27 April 2013)
- Theological Educator, Fall Ministry Retreat, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA), 27–29 August 2009 (four one-hour sessions)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Sermon (online), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (5 November 2025)
- “Origins, Hope, and Faith: The Truth about Critical Race Theory,” teaching series with Aja Y. Martinez at Holden Village (June 2025)
- “Red Power, Black Power, and Critical Race Theory,” lecture hosted by the Department of Latina/Latino Studies, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (April 14, 2025)
- “Christian Zionism and White Christian Nationalism: Root and Branch,” Omnia (5 December 2024)
- “Critical Race Theory, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Israel/Palestine,” Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Forum on Gaza (11 April 2024)
- “A Chickasaw Perspective on Citizenship,” Dallas Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (6 August 2023)

- Classroom Presentation for “Politics and Religion in the Modern World,” Prof. Janneke Stegeman, Utrecht University (Netherlands, 31 March 2021)
- “Luther, the Turk, and Islam,” Martin Luther on the Other Children of Abraham, in cooperation with Pekka Lindqvist, Abo Akademi, Finland (Jerusalem, October 2017)
- “Comprehending Christian Zionism,” inaugural lecture for a new speakers’ series, Tantur Ecumenical Institute (Jerusalem, May 2016).
- “Justification and the Lutheran Tradition,” Latin Patriarchal Seminary, Beit Jala, Palestine (March 2015).
- “Religion and the Middle East Today,” Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem (March 2015).
- “Christian Zionism and Replacement Theology,” presentation for the Three Month Sabbatical Program, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem (1 October 2014).
- “Toward Trans-Indigenous Solidarity: Reflections on Israel and Palestine,” second session of the *Ecumenical Conversation on the Middle East, World Council of Churches Assembly*, Busan, Republic of Korea (1 November 2013)
- “Development of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches,” opening session of the *Ecumenical Conversation on the Middle East, World Council of Churches Assembly*, Busan, Republic of Korea (31 October 2013)
- Panel Response to Syrian Christian Representatives, “Ecumenical Conversation on Emerging Trends in Syria,” World Council of Churches, Geneva, 7–10 December 2011.
- Invited Moderator and Reporter, Theology Group, Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches, Bethlehem, 12–13 December 2009.
- Invited Respondent, “A U.S. perspective on The Kairos Palestine Document: A moment of truth – A word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering,” Palestinian Kairos Group, Bethlehem, 11 December 2009.
- Workshop Presenter, Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA), 6 June 2009.
- “Christians, America, and the Holy Land: Examining Christian Support for Israel.” Chicago Friends of Israel (University of Chicago), January 2009.
- “Christian Grassroots Advocacy and Solidarity: Leadership for Serious Engagement,” Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Tenth International Conference (Washington, DC), October 2008.
- “Toward a Lutheran Response to Christian Zionism,” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Conference of Bishops (San Mateo, Calif.), March 2008.
- “Stir Up Your Power, Lord: The Magnificat and the Call of Advent (Luke 1:46b-55),” for *No Easy Answers: Active Engagement with Challenging Texts*, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago 2007 Leadership Conference, February 2007.
- “Christian Zionism, the Bible and the Holy Land.” Panel discussion during the 7th International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, October 2005.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Freedmen Futurities in the Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations,” roundtable for the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), with Shannon Speed (UCLA), Alaina E. Roberts (Pittsburgh), Jenny L. Davis (UIUC), Jodi A. Byrd (University of Chicago), Keziah Anderson (Harvard), and others; Oklahoma City (28 June 2025)

- “Christian Zionism, Christian Nationalism, and Academic Contributions to Policy Formation,” International Consultation on Christian Zionism (January 2025, Amman, Jordan)
- “Christian Zionism as a Field of Analytical Inquiry,” *Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar*, session chair and participant, American Academy of Religion (November 2024)
- “Archival Corrective: Assessing Contemporary Evangelical Critiques of Critical Race Theory,” *Black Christian Radicalism after the Civil Rights Era*, American Society of Church History (5 January 2024, San Francisco, California)
- “Bonhoeffer Moment(s)? Class Analysis and Learning to See ‘From Below’ in Indian Country,” *Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit*, American Academy of Religion (November 2018)
- “Supersessionism, Political Theology, and Settler Coloniality,” *Political Theology Seminar*, American Academy of Religion (November 2018)
- “Christian Zionism, the End Times and the Question of Israel/Palestine,” Harvard Law School conference “Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif: Conflict, Culture, Law” in cooperation with the Julis-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program (Cambridge, November 2017)
- “Christian Zionism and Jerusalem Holy Places,” Jerusalem and Religious Toponomastic in History, Theology, and Politics (Jerusalem, October 2017)
- Presenter and session chair, “Religion, Media, and Development in the Post-Truth World,” G20 Interfaith Summit, “Religious, Sustainable Development, and the Refugee Crisis (Potsdam, Germany, June 2017)
- “Sanctifying the Settler-Colonial Gaze: Nineteenth-Century American Christian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” Ritual Studies Group, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (San Antonio, 2016)
- Respondent, Liberation Theology Section, meeting of the American Academy of Religion (November 2015)
- “Christian Zionism as Imperial Theology,” Council for World Mission, “Theological Colloquium on Palestine” (Bethlehem, October 2015)
- “A Theology of American Empire: Christian Zionism and the Demonization of Islam,” Church of Sweden Policy Unit conference, “Mending the World? Possibilities and Obstacles for Religion, Church, and Theology” (Uppsala, October 2015)
- Convener, conference statement drafting committee, Thirtieth Anniversary of Kairos South Africa (Johannesburg, August 2015)
- Session chair and respondent, Seminar on Christian Zionism in Comparative Perspective, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (November 2014)
- “Prophecy, the Pope, and the Turk: Luther's Pastoral Apocalyptic,” *Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Group*, 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (November 2013)
- “Christian Zionism: Defining the Field of Inquiry,” *Seminar on Christian Zionism in Comparative Perspective*, 2013 meeting of the American Academy of Religion (November 2013)
- “Comprehending Christian Zionism,” lecture at *Illiff School of Theology*, Denver, Colorado (21 October 2013)
- “Reading Palestinian Realities with American Indian Eyes,” Diyar Consortium Seventh International Conference, “Palestinian Identity in Relation to Time and Space,” Bethlehem (August 2013)

- “Anglo-American Christian Zionism, Islam, and Western Perceptions of Arab Christians,” Annual Gathering of the American Academy of Religion, Christian Zionism in Comparative Perspective Seminar (19 November 2012)
- “Judeo-centric Prophecy Interpretation, Christian Zionism and the Typological Foundations of Anglo-American Identity,” British International Studies Association and the International Studies Association Joint International Conference (20–22 June 2012, Edinburgh, Scotland)
- “How the West was Won: American Expansionism and the Question of Israel and Palestine,” Violence in the Name of God? Joshua in Changing Contexts, International Conference of the World Council of Churches and the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum (23–27 February 2012, Protestant Academy Hofgeismar, Germany)
- Moderator, Consultation on Christian Zionism in Comparative Perspective, 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (San Francisco, California).
- “Anglo-American Christian Zionism: Implications for Palestinian Christians,” Christian Presence and Witness in the Middle East Today: Theological and Political Challenges, conference organized by the World Council of Churches and the Volos Academy of Theological Studies (June 19–23, 2011, Volos, Greece)
- “Global Perspectives on the Representation of Palestinian Christians in the Media: The United States,” A Communicating Church: Palestinian Christians and the Media, educational conference organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (May 2011, Bethlehem, West Bank)
- “Martin Luther, the Turko-Catholic Threat, and the Foundations of Protestant Apocalyptic Geopolitics,” Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Chicago (March 11, 2011, Chicago, Illinois)
- Response to Papers, Christian Zionism in Comparative Perspective Seminar, 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Atlanta, Georgia)
- “Replacement Theology, Christian Zionism and the Anglo-American Protestant Tradition of Judeo-centric Prophecy Interpretation,” plenary presentation for the WCC Consultation on Christian Self Understanding in the Context of Judaism (18 June 2010, Istanbul); served on the drafting team for the consultation statement
- “Opening the Conversation from a North American Perspective,” short opening presentation for the World Council of Churches Consultation on Christian Self Understanding in the Context of Judaism (18 June 2010, Istanbul)
- “Christianity and Politics in the United States,” English-speaking session in the Svenska kyrkans Forskardagar (theological conference sponsored by the Church of Sweden department of studies), Teologiska högskolan Stockholm (2–3 December 2009, Stockholm, Sweden)
- “International Christian Perspectives on Christian Zionism,” wildcard session panel participant and organizer, with speakers from Canada, Sweden and the United States, 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Montréal, Quebec, Canada)
- “Surveying the Exception: Quantifying American Religious Attitudes toward the State of Israel.” Presented for the Religion and Politics Section, 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Montréal, Quebec, Canada)
- “American Expansionism, Theologies, and the Israel/Palestine Question,” Tantur / International Center of Bethlehem Conference on “The Promised Land,” (Aug. 2009), panel presentation with Luis Rivera-Pagán
- “The Commitment of the Church to the Quest of a Just Peace: A North American Perspective,” World Council of Churches Theological Consultation on “Promised Land” (Bern, Switzerland),

September 2008 (hosted by the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches and the Reformed Churches Bern-Jura-Solothurn). Served as principal drafter and rapporteur for the resulting “Bern Perspective.”

- “Not So Concerned about Justice: Evangelical Christian Zionism and U.S. Middle East Policy.” Presented for the Religion, Politics, and the State Group, 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (San Diego, Calif.)
- “Christian Zionism, Ideology, and American Foreign Policy.” Midwest Political Science Association, 2007 (Chicago, Ill.)
- “Dangerous Memory and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict,” Annual Conference of the Middle East Studies Center, North Park University, May 2007.
- “Bonhoeffer, Bloggers & Bush: Uses of a ‘Protestant Saint’ in the Fog of War.” Presented for the Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group, 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- “Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Musical Metaphor.” American Academy of Religion, Southwest Region, March 2005 (Dallas, Tex.).
- “Holy Land, Holy Power: An American Approach to Religious Nationalism in Israel/Palestine.” Religious Movements, Conflict, and Democracy: International Perspectives. CESNUR (Center for Studies on New Religions), 2004.
- “Between Power and Justice: American Christian Theopolitical Perspectives on U.S. Foreign Policy in Israel/Palestine.” Symposium on Religion & Politics, The Henry Institute (Calvin College), 2004.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS (DENTON, TX)

- HIST 2620 United States History Since 1865
- HIST 4217 Jew, Greek and Roman: Backgrounds of Early Christianity
- HIST 4263 History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- HIST 5110 Indigenous Research Methodologies
- HIST 6900 Topics in Critical Race Theory: History and Theory (with ENGL 6810)

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME (JERUSALEM | SOUTH BEND, IN)

- THEO 44845 Three Faiths, Two Peoples
 - Contextual, interdisciplinary course taught as part of Notre Dame undergraduate study abroad at the Jerusalem Global Gateway
 - Covers the history of Jewish-Christian-Muslim theological and political relations in the Holy Land along with their contemporary global implications
 - Field visits included tours focused on ancient and biblical significance, sites of cultural significance, food tours, and visits with Israeli and Palestinian political and diplomatic leadership

BRIARWOOD LEADERSHIP CENTER (ARGYLE, TX)

- White Supremacy & Racism: Facing Reality, Taking Responsibility (Fall 2021)
 - A university-level course for community learners exploring American racism and American Christian responsibility, focused on source texts of Critical Race Theory

- Course crafted and co-led with Emma Rodgers, co-founder and curator of the Dallas Civil Rights Museum
- Guest presenters included Vance Blackfox (Cherokee, ELCA), Carmen Kynard (Texas Christian University), Aja Martinez (University of North Texas), and Santiago Slabodsky (Hofstra University)
- Public Faith: Evangelicals, Mainline Christians, and the 2020 Elections (Fall 2020)
 - Two-part series of interview-style conversations with evangelical leaders Hunter Baker (Union University) and Shane Claiborne
- Conversations at Briarwood: Trends in Latina/o/x Theology (Fall 2020)
 - Four-part series featuring Jennifer De Leon (ELCA) on “Building Movements, Mistakes & All,” Rubén Rosario Rodríguez (St. Louis University) on “Liberation Theology for Today,” Cláudio Carvalhaes (Union Theological Seminary) on “Liturgy and the Care of Creation,” and Jacqueline Hidalgo (Williams College) on “Monuments, Memory, and Inclusive Justice”

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

- CHS 3308 Hitler and the Holocaust (Teaching Assistant)

LUTHER SEMINARY

- HC 0305 History of Christianity I (Teaching Assistant)
- HC 0307 History of Christianity II (Teaching Assistant)
- ST 2450 The Theology and Ethics of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Teaching Assistant)

SERVICE TO CHURCH, SOCIETY AND ACADEMY

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

- Committee Chair, Founding of the UNT Program in Native American & Indigenous Studies
- History Department, Committee Chair, Native American History Month
- Co-Faculty Advisor, Native American Student Association
- Committee Member, MA Student Project (2023), College of Visual Arts and Design

INTERNATIONAL

- Churches for Middle East Peace consultation on Gaza (hosted at the Carter Center, August 2025)
- Consulting Adviser on Jerusalem Affairs and US Advocacy, Royal Court of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2020–present)
 - Co-Chair, International Planning Committee, International Consultation on Christian Zionism (planned for January 2025, Amman); other committee members: Bp. Munib Younan, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Dr. Wasfi Kailani, Dr. Tarek Elwaghary
 - First conference in an anticipated series was held January 23–26 at the Baptismal Site of Jesus with a total budget of \$300,000
 - The gathering featured 60 scholars from all continents, the single largest gathering focused on academic assessment of the topic
 - US-based meeting organizer for HM King Abdullah II and HRH Prince Ghazi (Royal Adviser on Interreligious Relations)

- Bristol Baptist College and Trinity College Bristol (England)
 - PhD Dissertation Exam Committee Member, Sara Amestegui
- Past Special Adviser to the President of the Lutheran World Federation (Bishop Munib Younan)
- Past Moderator, World Week of Prayer for Palestine and Israel, World Council of Churches
- Past Co-Moderator, Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches

NATIONAL

- Series Editor, Fortress Press
 - Survivance Series on Christianity and Indigenous Life
 - Co-editor with Carmen Lansdowne (Heiltsuk), University of Toronto; and Vance Blackfox (Cherokee), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Theological Roundtable, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - Executive Committee, 2025–present
 - Representative, Network of Native Theologians
 - Participant, Planning Committee (2024–present)
- Choctaw & Chickasaw Scholars Group (CCSG)
 - Founding member
 - Secretary, September 2024–present
- American Academy of Religion
 - Steering Committee Member, Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar (2023–present)
 - Past AAR Section co-Chair, Christian Zionism in Comparative Perspective Seminar
- Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
 - PhD Dissertation Committee, Crystal Silva-McCormick
 - Comprehensive Examination Committee, Crystal Silva-McCormick
- Book proposal reviewer, Pluto Press (UK)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Politics, Religion & Ideology*
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Theology Today*
- Member, National Council of Churches USA Task Group on Christian Zionism
- Former Co-Convener, Working Group on Religious Extremism, Metro Chicago Synod of the ELCA
- Former Member, Working Group on the Middle East, Metro Chicago Synod of the ELCA
- Former Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator, Churches for Middle East Peace
- Former Board Member, Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Peace
- Former Advisory council member, *Word & World: Theology for Christian Ministry*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion
- American Historical Association
- American Political Science Association
- American Society of Church History

- International Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Association