

JAMES B. BENNETT

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Yale University, December 1999
Religious Studies (American Religious History)
- M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, May 1993
- B.A. University of California Los Angeles, June 1989, *magna cum laude*
English/American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015- Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Santa Clara University,
Santa Clara California
- 2012-2015 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Santa
Clara University, Santa Clara, California
- 2008- Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Santa Clara University,
Santa Clara, California
- 2002-2008 Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Santa Clara University,
Santa Clara, California
- 2000-2002 Reach for Excellence Assistant Professor of Honors, University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Cultbusters: The Anticult Movement and the Challenge of Religious Freedom in Modern America

BOOK

Religion and the Rise of Jim Crow in New Orleans. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.
Paperback edition released 2017

ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND ESSAYS

- "Pseudo Religion and Real Religion: The Modern Anticult Movement and Religious Freedom in America." In *The Lively Experiment: The Story of Religious Toleration in America, from Roger Williams to the Present*, edited by Chris Beneke and Christopher Grenda. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015
- "Farewell to Faith? The Changing Role of Religion in Presidential Politics" *Theology Today* 70 (October 2013): 281-94.
- "Until This Curse of Polygamy is Wiped Out": Black Methodists, White Mormons, and Constructions of Racial Identity in the Late Nineteenth Century" *Religion and American Culture* Vol. 21 (Summer 2011): 167-194.
- "Tensions Within: The Elusive Quest for Christian Cooperation in America." In *American Christianities: A History of Dominance and Diversity*, edited by Catherine A. Brekus and W. Clark Gilpin. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.
- "Race and Racism." In *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. Vol. 4, edited by Peter W. Williams and Charles H. Lippy. Washington, D.C.: C Q Press, 2010.
- "Obama's Pastor's Words Ring Uncomfortably True," *San Jose Mercury News*, March 20, 2008: 15A

- "Neither Inevitable nor Continuous with the Past: Writing about Jim Crow New Orleans and Religion," *Journal of Southern Religion* 9 (October 2006): (<http://jsr.fsu.edu/Volume9/Bennett/Bennett.html>)
- "The Future of New Orleans," *Sightings* (http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/sightings/archive_2005/1222.shtml), December 22, 2005. Reprinted in *Criterion*, "Celebrating Sightings," (Special Edition), 2008: 30-31.
- "Religious Harmony: Being a Presbyterian Minister on a Catholic Campus." *Explore*, 8 (Spring 2005): 16-19.
- "Catholics, Creoles, and the Redefinition of Black and White in New Orleans, 1880-1920," in *Race, Nation, and Religion in the Americas*, ed. Henry Goldschmidt and Elizabeth McAlister (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004): 183-208.
- "Samuel Harris," *American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).
- "'Love to Christ,'—Gilbert Tennent, Presbyterian Reunion and a Sacramental Sermon," *American Presbyterians* 71 (Summer 1993): 77-89.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Hackworth Faculty Grant, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University (Spring 2014)
- Faculty Scholarship Course Release Grant (Spring 2013)
- Thomas Terry Research Grant, Santa Clara University (2010-2011)
- Bannan Grant to create and host the Bay Area American Religion Research & Teaching Symposium, Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, Santa Clara University (original grant April 2006, renewed in November 2007)
- Paul Locatelli, S.J. Junior Faculty Grant, Santa Clara University, Spring 2006
- Curriculum Development Series, Santa Clara University, 2005
- Young Scholars Program, Center for the Study of Religion and America Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, 2004-2006
- Thomas Terry Research Grant, Santa Clara University, 2003-2004
- Center on Religion and Democracy, University of Virginia, Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2002-2003
- Center for Religion and American Life, Yale University, Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2002-2003
- University of Oklahoma Junior Faculty Research Grant, Summer 2001
- Faculty Research Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale University (Religion and Race initiative), 1999-2000

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Fake Religion!: The Anticult Movement and the Rhetoric of "'Real' Religion," Religion and the American Normal Conference, Department of Religion, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, February 2018.
- Respondent for "The Quest for Unity in the Body of Christ: Slavery, Race, and Negotiating Difference in 19th-Century America," Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2018.
- "For Faith, Family, and the Future of America: The Rise of the Modern Anticult Movement and Religious Intolerance in the 1970s," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 2017.
- "Neither Spiritual nor Religious: The Anticult Movement, Intolerance, and the Rhetoric of Non-religious Religions," The Spectacle of Toleration: Learning from the Lively Experiment, Conference on Toleration and Religious Freedom, Newport, Rhode Island, October 2013.
- "The Myth of the Irreligious West," *Historiographical Heresy: A Conference on the Legacy of Jon Butler*, New Haven, CT, April 2103.

Respondent for “(Re)sacralizing the American West,” Religion in the American West Seminar, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November, 2012.

“Scriptural Politics of the American Presidency: Religion in the 2012 Presidential Election”
Bannan Institute Lecture, November 6, 2012
Repeated for Silicon Valley Interreligious Council (SiVIC), Nov. 7, 2012

“Would a Mormon President be a Christian President?”
SCU Religious Studies Lecture Series, February 29, 2012
Bannan Center Visitor, April 10, 2012
Jesuit Conversations, April 23, 2012

"Sacred but Not Religious: Finding Religion in the West and the West in Religion," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January 2011.

Respondent for “Re(de)fining Religious Identities East to West,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 2009.

“Black Anti-Mormonism and the Construction of African American Identity in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 2008.

Respondent for “Women and American Religion: Re-imagining the Past,” American Society of Church History, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 2007.

“Polygamy, Mormonism, and the Construction of African American Identity in the Late Nineteenth Century.” American Studies Working Papers Group, Santa Clara University, March 2006.

“African Americans, Mormons, and the Construction of Racial and Religious Identity.”
“Through the Prism of Race and Ethnicity”: Re-imagining the Religious History of the American West, Arizona State University, March 2006.

“Religion and Racial Transformation in New Orleans,” Southern Historical Association, Atlanta Georgia, November 2005.

“How to Turn Your Dissertation into a Book,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 2004.

“Black Methodists, Creole Catholics, and the Rise of the *Plessy* Case in New Orleans,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 2002.

“Reconstructing Racial Boundaries: The Suppression of Creole Identity and the Emergence of Black Catholic Parishes in New Orleans, 1890-1920,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 2002.

“The Rise of Segregated Catholic Parishes in New Orleans,” Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale, New Haven, CT, April 2000.

“‘The Ruinous Meshes of a False and Seductive System’: African American Methodists and Anti-Catholicism in New Orleans,” American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 1999.

“‘Until this Curse of Polygamy is Wiped Out’: Anti-Mormonism and African American Identity in the New South,” American Academy of Religion, Orlando, FL, November 1998.

“Religion, Gender and Identity in the New South,” American Religious History Workshop, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 1998.

“Black, White and Methodist: Religion and Race Relations in New Orleans,” Pew Fellows Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 1998.

“Religion, Race and Identity in Post-Reconstruction New Orleans,” Louisiana Historical Association, New Iberia, LA, March 1998.

“Working with Student Athletes,” California Association of College and University Housing Officers, Southern RAP, Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, February 1990.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Paul Harvey, *Bounds of their Habitation: Race and Religion in American History*, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 73 (December 2018): 101-2.
- Matthew Kester, *Remembering Iosepa: History, Place, and Religion in the American West* in *Journal of Religion* 96 (April 2016): 277-78.
- Gary B. Agee, *A Cry for Justice: Daniel Rudd and His Life in Black Catholicism, Journalism, and Activism, 1854-1933* in *Journal of Southern Religion* 15 (2013):
<http://jsreligion.org/issues/vol15/bennett.html>
- Erik S. Gellman and Jarrod Roll, *The Gospel of the Working Class: Labor's Southern Prophets in New Deal America* in *The American Historical Review* 117 (October 2012): 1248-9.
- Patrick Q. Mason, *The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti-Mormonism in the Postbellum South* in the *Journal of Religion* 93 (July 2012): 458-9.
- Barbara Dianne Savage, *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion* in *Journal of American History* 96 (December 2009): 893-94.
- Erskine Clark, *Dwelling Place: A Plantation Epic* in *Theology Today* 63 (October 2006): 410-14.
- R. Bentley Anderson, *Black, White and Catholic: New Orleans Interracialism 1947-1956* in *Journal of American History* 93 (September 2006): 596-7.
- R. Drew Smith, ed. *New Day Begun: African American Churches and Civic Culture in Post-Civil Rights America*, in *Journal of Church and State* 47 (Spring 2005): 405-6.
- Anne H. Pinn and Anthony B. Pinn, *Fortress Introduction to Black Church History*, in *Religious Studies Review* 29 (July 2003): 309.
- James F. Cooper, Jr. *Tenacious of Their Liberties: The Congregationalists in Colonial Massachusetts*, in *Religious Studies Review* 26 (Oct. 2000): 402.
- Keith Harper, *The Quality of Mercy: Southern Baptists and Social Christianity, 1890-1920*, in *Fides et Historia* 29 (Summer 1997): 97-8.
- Edward Larson, *Sex, Race and Science*, in *Fides et Historia* 28 (Fall 1996): 128-30.

MEDIA

- Cited in SFGate article about religious billboards, <http://m.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/What-s-the-deal-with-all-those-religious-12192709.php>, September. 14, 2017
- Interview with German Public Radio (Deutschland Radio Kultur) for special program on Fundamentalism and Politics in the United States (aired July 13, 2016)
http://www.deutschlandradiokultur.de/christliche-fundamentalisten-in-den-usa-alles-soll-so.976.de.html?dram:article_id=360023
- Interview regarding Romney Candidacy, NBC 11 (KNBC), January 10, 2012
(<http://www.scu.edu/news/videos/Prof-Bennett-discusses-Mormon-presidential-candidate.cfm>)
- Interview regarding death of Jerry Falwell, ABC 7 (KGO), May 15, 2007

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Orientation Working Group, co-chair (2018-present)
- Academic Support Services Committee, Sustaining Excellence Initiative (2016-17)
- Bookstore Advisory Committee (2015-present)
- Chair, Academic Integrity Pledge Implementation Team (2015-present)
- Integrated Six Quarter Experience Working Group (2015-present)
- Co-Chair (2016-)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies (2012- 2015)
- Religion, Theology and Culture Faculty Core Committee Chair (2012- 2015)

Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education Steering Committee (2012-present)
Work-Life Balance Committee, Santa Clara University (2010- 2014)
Creator and Co-Facilitator, American Studies Pathway (2009- present)
Faculty Companion, Ignatian Center Student Immersion trip to New Orleans (December 2012)
Evaluation Committee, Religious Studies Department (2008-2009, 2010-2012)
Faculty Senate Council Department Representative (2011)
United States Studies Core Committee, Santa Clara University Spring (2005-2008)
Faculty Advisor, *Perspectives* (Religious Studies Department student newsletter), Santa Clara University (2004-2006)
Board of Directors, Kids on Campus, Santa Clara University
President (2004-2005) and President-elect (2003-2004)
Graduate School Advisor, Religious Studies Department, Santa Clara University, 2003-2004

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Leader, Young Scholars in American Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, 2019-2021 cohort.
Conference co-chair, "Historiographical Heresy: A Conference on the Legacy of Jon Butler," Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 6, 2013.
Founder and Co-Chair, Religion in the American West Seminar, American Academy of Religion (2008-2012)
Founder and Coordinator, Bay Area American Religion Research and Teaching Symposium (2007-2010)
Research Committee, American Society of Church History (2007-2020)
Manuscript Reviewer for: Oxford University Press, University of Utah Press, *Religion and American Culture*, *Catholic Historical Review*

SELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Delphian Study Group Lecturer (2014-2015)
Instructor in the Osher Life Long Learning Institute
Lectures in Numerous Area Churches and Service Clubs

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Parish Associate for Adult Education, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Sunnyvale, CA (2009-2015)
Residence Life Coordinator, California State Polytechnic University Pomona, 1989-1990
Academic Advising Intern, California State Polytechnic University Pomona, 1989-1990

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
American Society of Church History
Organization of American Historians
American Association of Colleges and Universities
Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of San Jose

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST