

Jon H. Roberts

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Education:

Ph.D., Harvard University, 1980
A.M., Harvard University, 1970
A.B., University of Missouri, Columbia 1969

Academic Positions:

2007- Tomorrow Foundation Professor of History, Boston University
2001- Professor of History, Boston University
1995-2001 Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
1988-95 Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
1985-88 Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
1980-85 Assistant Professor of History, Harvard University

Concurrent Appointments:

2003-2004, 2005-2007, Spring, 2013 Director of Graduate Studies, Boston University
2001- Core Faculty Member, Boston University Religion and Science Program,
Graduate Division of Religious and Theological Studies
1993 Visiting Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan (Winter, Spring
Terms)
1992 Visiting Scholar, University of Michigan (Fall Term)
1990-1992 Director of the University Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Stevens
Point
1989 Visiting Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Spring
Term)
1986-1988 Director of American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Books:

The Sacred and the Secular University (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000)
(with James Turner). Named by *Choice Magazine* as one of its "Outstanding
Academic Titles" for the year. Recipient of the Thomas Bonner Prize from Wayne
State University.

Darwinism and the Divine in America: Protestant Intellectuals and Organic Evolution, 1859-1900 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1988). Recipient of the Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History.

Articles:

"Theology, Reconstructed: Liberal Protestants Accommodated Evolution," *Christian History* 107 (2013), 14-15

"Religious Responses to Philosophy in America, 1865-1945," in *The Cambridge History of Religions in America*, ed. Stephen J. Stein, 3 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 2: 545-568

"In Defense of Methodological Naturalism," *Fides et Historia* 44 (Winter/Spring 2012), 61-64

"American Liberal Protestantism and the Concept of Progress, 1870-1930" in *British Abolitionism and the Question of Moral Progress in History*, ed. Donald A. Yerxa (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2012), 219-247

"Science and Christianity in America: A Limited Partnership," in *American Christianities: A History of Dominance and Diversity*, ed. Catherine A. Brekus and W. Clark Gilpin (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 327-346

"Louis Agassiz on Scientific Method, Polygenism, and Transmutation: A Reassessment," *Almagest: International Journal for the History of Scientific Ideas*, 2, no. 1 (May 2011), 76-99 [a slightly revised version of an article published in Portuguese only in 2009]

"Science and Religion," in *Wrestling with Nature: From Omens to Science*, ed. Peter Harrison, Ronald L. Numbers, and Michael Shank (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), 253-279

"Religious Reactions to Darwin," in *The Cambridge Companion to Science and Religion*, ed. Peter Harrison (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 80-102

"That Darwin Destroyed Natural Theology," in *Galileo Goes to Jail and Other Myths about Science and Religion*, ed. Ronald L. Numbers (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009), 161-169

"Louis Agassiz: Poligenismo, Transmutação e a Metodologia Científica. Uma Reavaliação" ("Louis Agassiz on Polygenism, Transmutation, and Scientific Methodology: A Reassessment"), in *Darwinismo, Meio Ambiente, Sociedade*, ed. Heloisa Domingues, et al. (Rio de Janeiro: Museu de Astronomia, 2009), 73-99

- “American Liberal Protestantism and the Concept of Progress, 1870-1930,” *Historically Speaking* 9 (September/October 2007), 15-17
- “Darwinism,” in Jonathan Hill, *et al.*, *Zondervan Handbook to the History of Christianity* (Oxford: Lion Publishing Plc, 2006), 357
- “Conservative Evangelicals and Science Education in American Colleges and Universities, 1890-1940,” *Journal of the Historical Society* 5 (2005), 297-329
- “James H. Leuba,” in *The Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers*, ed. John R. Shook, 4 vols. (Bristol, UK: Thoemmes, 2005), 3: 1446-1447
- “Psychoanalysis and American Religion, 1900-45,” in *When Science and Christianity Meet: From Augustine to Intelligent Design*, ed. David C. Lindberg and Ronald L. Numbers (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003), 225-244
- “‘The Idea That Wouldn’t Die’: The Warfare Between Science and Christianity,” *Historically Speaking* 4 (February 2003), 21-24
- “The Struggle Over Evolution,” *Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*, ed. Mary Kupiec Cayton and Peter W. Williams, 3 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2001), 1: 589-597
- “Charles Hodge” and “Psychotherapy,” *The Oxford Companion to United States History*, ed. Paul Boyer (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 342, 632-634
- “Psychology in America,” *The History of Science and Religion in the Western Tradition: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Gary B. Ferngren (New York: Garland Publishing Company, 2000), 502-507
- “Darwinism, American Protestant Thinkers, and the Puzzle of Motivation,” in *Disseminating Darwinism: The Role of Place, Race, Religion, and Gender*, ed. Ronald L. Numbers and John Stenhouse (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 142-172
- “Religion, Secularization, and Cultural Spaces in America,” in *American Catholic Traditions: Resources for Renewal*, ed. Sandra Yocum Mize and William Portier (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997), 185-205
- “The Human Mind and Personality,” *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Stanley I. Kutler, 4 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1996), II: 877-898
- “Darwinism,” in *A Companion to American Thought*, ed. James Kloppenberg and Richard Wightman Fox (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995), 167-168

Works in Progress:

“Mainline Protestants and the ‘Warfare’ Thesis,” in *The Idea That Wouldn’t Die: The Warfare Between Science and Religion*, ed. Jeffrey Hardin and Ronald L. Numbers, under review at Harvard University Press

(With Peter Harrison), eds., Book-length manuscript: “Science Without God? Scientific Naturalism, Democritus to Darwin” (currently under review at Oxford University)

Book-length manuscript: “The ‘Science of the Soul’: American Protestants and the Mind, 1607-1940”

Long-term project: “Secularization in America”

Reviews:

Words, Works, and Ways of Knowing: The Breakdown of Moral Philosophy in New England Before the Civil War, by Sara Paretsky, *Journal of American History* 104 (2017), 490-491

Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America’s Continuing Debate over Science and Religion, in *A Companion to the ISSR Library of Science and Religion*, ed. Pranab K. Das II (Cambridge, UK: International Society for Science and Religion, 2011), 421-422

In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, the Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement, by Michael Lienesch, *Journal of Church and State* 50 (2008), 383-384

Before Darwin: Reconciling God and Science, by Keith Thomson, *Journal of the Early Republic* 26 (Winter 2006), 704-707

Preaching Eugenics: Religious Leaders and the American Eugenics Movement, by Christine Rosen, *American Historical Review* 110 (2005), 815

Darwinism and Theology in America: 1850-1930, ed. Frank S. Ryan, 4 vols., *Endeavour*, 27, no. 1 (March 2003), 5-6

Social Darwinism in European and American Thought, 1860-1945, by Mike Hawkins, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 37 (2001), 174-175

Evangelicalism: Comparative Studies of Popular Protestantism in North America, the British Isles, and Beyond, 1700-1990, ed. Mark A. Noll, et al., *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 40 (1998), 187-188

Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America, by D. G. Hart, *American Historical Review* 100 (1995), 1314

B. F. Skinner: A Life, by Daniel W. Bjork, *Isis* 85 (1994), 733-734

The American Encounter with Buddhism, 1844-1912: Victorian Culture and the Limits of Dissent, by Thomas A. Tweed, *Journal of American History* 80 (1993), 269-270

The Transformation of Theology, 1830-1890: Positivism and Protestant Thought in Britain and America, by Charles D. Cashdollar, *Isis* 82 (1991), 584-585

J. W. De Forest and the Rise of American Gentility, by James A. Hijiya, *American Historical Review* 95 (1990), 1628-1629

Darwin's Forgotten Defenders: The Encounter between Evangelical Theology and Evolutionary Thought, by David N. Livingstone, *Isis* 80 (1989), 715-716

The Sciences and Theology in the Twentieth Century, ed. A. R. Peacocke, *Isis* 79 (1988), 511-512

Without God, Without Creed, by James Turner, *Isis* 78 (1987), 451-452

Jacques Maritain: Antimodern or Ultramodern? An Historical Analysis of His Critics, His Thought, and His Life, by Brooke Williams Smith, *Review of Books and Religion* 5 (July-August, 1976)

Papers Presented (partial list):

"The Compromises of a Popular Evangelist: A Commentary on Grant Wacker's *America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation*," American Society of Church History, January 9, 2016

"American Protestantism and the Science of Mind," Boston Historians of American Religion, September 25, 2015

"Mainline American Protestant Responses and the 'Warfare' Thesis, 1874-1960," Conference on "*The Idea that Wouldn't Die: The Warfare between Science and Religion*," Madison, Wisconsin, May 15, 2015

"The 'Science of the Soul' in Great Britain and North America," Conference on "Science Without God: Religion, Naturalism, and the Sciences," Florida State University, February 16, 2013

- “The Argument from Design: A Brief History,” Conference on the History and Philosophy of Biology, Florida State University, April 16-18, 2010
- “The Persistence of Natural Theology After Darwin,” Conference on “Mythbusting in Science and Religion,” Green College, University of British Columbia, August 25, 2007
- “American Liberal Protestantism and the Concept of Progress, 1870-1930,” London Conference on British Abolitionism, Moral Progress, and Big Questions in History, co-sponsored by The Historical Society and The John Templeton Foundation, April 28, 2007
- “Louis Agassiz on Polygenism, Transmutation, and Scientific Methodology: A Reassessment” (Third International Congress on the History of Darwinism in Europe and the Americas, Manaus, Brazil, September 29, 2004)
- “Science, Liberal Protestantism, and Philosophical Idealism in America” (Annual Conference of The Historical Society, June 3, 2004)
- “God, Humanity, and the Emergence of the ‘New Psychology’” (Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy and History of Science, February 10, 2003)
- “Science and Christianity” (Conference on “Wrestling with Nature: From Omens to Science,” in Madison, Wisconsin,” April 26-28, 2001)
- “Intelligent Design, Nineteenth-Century Style” (National Conference, “Design and Its Critics,” Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin, June 24, 2000)
- “The Response of Conservative Evangelicals to Science Education in American Colleges and Universities, 1890-1940” (Organization of American Historians, April 22, 1999)
- “Freud and American Christianity, 1900-1945,” (Conference at Berkeley Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, March 26, 1999)
- “Freud and American Religion, 1900-1940” (American Association for the Advancement of Science, January 23, 1999)
- “Religion, Secularization, and Cultural Spaces in America” (plenary address to the College Theology Society, Dayton, Ohio, May 31, 1996)
- “Scientific Culture, Religion, and Higher Education in America, 1870-1930” (Princeton University, March 21, 1996, as part of The Princeton Conference on Higher Education, in celebration of Princeton’s 250th Anniversary)

“The Psychologist as Heretic: James Leuba’s Campaign Against Religion” (CHEIRON Conference, Montreal, Canada, June 2, 1994)

“Darwinism, American Protestant Thinkers and the Puzzle of Motivation” (National Science Foundation-sponsored conference on “Responses to Darwinism in the English-speaking World” in Dunedin, New Zealand, May, 1994)

“Freudianism and American Christian Theology, 1910-1940” (American Historical Association, December 28, 1992)

“James Leuba and the Psychology of Religious Belief: A Chapter in the ‘Warfare’ Between Science and Religion” (Northern Great Plains History Conference, October 6, 1990)

“Behaviorism and American Protestant Theology, 1913-1940” (History of Science Society Convention, October 28, 1989)

“The Response of American Liberal Protestants to the Psychology of Religion, 1890-1930” (Northern Great Plains History Conference, October 17, 1987)

“Science and American Protestant Theology, 1900-1950” (Craigville, Massachusetts Conference on the History of the American Protestant Establishment in the Twentieth Century, June 28-30, 1985)

Other Presentations (partial list):

“‘The Science of the Soul’: Protestantism, Scientific Naturalism, and Academic Psychology, 1870-1920,” Invited Presentation, History of Science Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 6, 2017

Commentator on David Hempton and Hugh McLeod, eds., *Secularization and Religious Innovation in the North Atlantic World*, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, October 30, 2017

Commentator on Leigh Eric Schmidt, *Heaven’s Bride: The Unprintable Life of Ida C. Craddock, American Mystic, Scholar, Sexologist, Martyr, and Madwoman*, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, March 22, 2011

Participant, “Bracketing Faith and Historical Practice: A Roundtable,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 8, 2011

Chair and Commentator, session on “Psychology and the Spirit: Protestant Experiences of the Self in Twentieth-Century North America” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 10, 2010

- Commentator, session on “Ellen White and the Self: Mind, Body, and Soul,”
Conference on “Ellen White: American Prophet,” Portland, Maine, October 22-25,
2009
- Commentator, session on “The Anointed: American Evangelical Experts,” Conference
on “The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind, Fifteen Years Later,” October 2, 2009
- Presentation, “God, Human Nature, and Religious Knowledge: The Response of
American Protestant Thinkers to Darwinism, 1859-1920,” Conference on “Religious
Responses to Darwin, Oxford University, July 17, 2009
- Presentation, “Darwin’s Challenge to Religion,” Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of
Science, April 24, 2009
- Presentation, “Social Darwinism and Religion,” Conference on “The Science and
Politics of Improving the Human Species: The Disastrous History of Social
Darwinism and Eugenics,” Boston Theological Institute, April 3, 2009
- Plenary Address, “Changing Protestant Responses to Darwinism, 1859-1900,”
Symposium on “War and Peace: 150 Years of Christian Encounters with Darwin,”
Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee, February 27, 2009
- Presentation, “The Psychotherapeutic Gospel in America,” Templeton Research Group,
Center for the Study of Religion and Psychology, The Danielsen Institute at Boston
University, January 26, 2008
- Presentation, “Varieties of Scientific Experience: Mary Baker Eddy, William James, and
Other Honest Investigators of the Nineteenth Century,” Mary Baker Eddy Library,
October 9, 2008
- Chair, session on “Uncomfortable Bedfellows? Historians, Religion, and Other
Awkward Subjects,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 5,
2007
- Presentation, “Darwinism and Intelligent Design: Deep Background and Recent
History,” symposium on “Evolution and Intelligent Design: Science, Religion and
American Culture,” co-sponsored by The Center for the Study of Religion and
Conflict, Arizona State University and the Metanexus Institute, January 22, 2006

Chair, session on “Contextualizing Catholic Doctrine: Biology, Psychology, and Papal Pronouncements in the Nineteenth Century,” American Catholic Historical Society, January 6, 2006

Presentation, “The Inward Turn in American Protestant Thought, 1870-1940,” Eastern Nazarene College, Nov. 10, 2005

Presentation, “The Emergence of the Modern Scholarly Ideal” at a conference sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin, September 20, 2003

Chair and Commentator, session on “Reimagining Secularization in Twentieth-Century American Culture” at the meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 7, 2001

Chair and Commentator, session on “Victorian Crisis of Objectivity: The Revolt Against Scientific Completeness” at the annual convention of the History of Science Society, November 3, 2000

Workshop Director, “Science and Christian Millennialism,” at the conference “Waiting in Fearful Hope: Approaching the New Millennium,” Madison, Wisconsin, September 23, 1997

Commentator, session on “The Victorian Era,” conference on “The Evangelical Engagement with Science” held at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, March 31, 1995

Commentator, session on “Psychology and Secularization” at a national conference on “Secularization of Science” held in Madison, Wisconsin, September 21-22, 1990

Commentator, session on “Intellectuals and American Culture” at the annual convention of the American Historical Association, December, 1985

Professional Activities:

Member of the Editorial Board, *History of Psychology*, 1997-2009, 2015-

Member, Jack Miller Center Essay Prize Committee for the best essay in Intellectual History/Political Thought in *Historically Speaking*, 2011-2013

Advisory Editor, *Fides et Historia*, 2011-

Steering Committee, The Polkinghorne Society, based at Eastern Nazarene College (sponsored by Metanexus Institute on Religion and Science), 2010-

Elected Member, International Society for Science and Religion, 2007-

Chair, Research Committee, American Society of Church History, 2003-2006

Member, Research Committee, American Society of Church History, 2001-2003

Advisory Editor, *Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*, ed. Mary Kupiec Cayton and Peter W. Williams, 3 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001)

Member, Committee on Honors and Prizes, History of Science Society, 1998-2001

Co-Chair, Program Committee, American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 1999

Member, Council of the American Society of Church History, 1994-1996

Advisory Editor, *Isis*, 1993-1995

Member, National Subcommittee on Undergraduate Education in the History of Science, History of Science Society, 1994-1997

Teaching Experience:

Lecture Courses (Partial List):

Religious Thought in America

American Intellectual History (2-semester sequence)

Science and Christianity in Europe and America, 1500 to the Present

Science and American Culture

Evolution, Society, and Culture in Great Britain and the United States

American History, 1607-Present (2-semester sequence)

Graduate Seminars:

American Intellectual History

Science and Religion Since 1600

Dissertation Workshop

Undergraduate Seminars and Colloquia:

History of Science
Religion and American Culture
Science and Religion Since 1600
Science and Philosophy Since 1850
The Cultural Impact of Scientific Revolutions in America
Popular Culture in the United States
American Intellectual History in the Nineteenth Century

Selected Awards and Honors:

Recipient, Jeffrey Henderson Senior Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2015

Co-Grantee, Historical Society's Religion & Innovation in Human Affairs initiative (funded by the Templeton Foundation), 2012-2013

Elected Corresponding Member, International Academy of the History of Science, 2011-Present

Elected Member, International Society for Science and Religion, 2007-Present

Recipient, University Scholar Award, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1996

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grantee, 1995

Templeton Foundation Science-Religion Course Prize, 1995

System Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1993-94

Honorary Faculty Member, Phi Eta Sigma, 1991

Recipient of the Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History, 1985

Charles Warren Center Fellow, Harvard University, 1983-84

Graduate Prize Fellow, Harvard University, 1969-70, 1972-76

Woodrow Wilson Fellow, 1969

Junior Electee, Phi Beta Kappa, 1968