

## STEPHEN RICHARD PROTHERO

Department of Religion  
Boston University  
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### EDUCATION

#### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Ph.D., Study of Religion, June 1990.  
M.A., Study of Religion, June 1986.

#### YALE COLLEGE

B.A., *summa cum laude*, with distinction in American Studies, June 1982.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Goldman Sachs Senior Fellow, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, August 2012-May 2013.  
Nominee (Boston University), 2013-14 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, January 2013.  
Elected a member of the American Society for the Study of Religion, May 2012.  
“Literary Lights of 2012,” Associates of the Boston Public Library (awarded alongside Amy Chua, Mary Higgins Clark, Michael Korda, Siddhartha Mukherjee, and Isabel Wilkerson), April 15, 2012.  
Finalist, Religion Newswriters Association, Best Religion Commentary 2012 (for writing on CNN’s Belief Blog)  
“Washington Reads” book selection (for *Religious Literacy*) for all 4500 first-year students at Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, 2011-2012.  
Finalist, Religion Newswriters Association, Best Religion Commentary 2011 (for writing on CNN’s Belief Blog)  
Top 10 “Ideas” Stories of 2010, *Boston Globe* (for “Separate Truths”)  
Top 10 Religion Books of 2010, *Huffington Post* (for *God is Not One*).  
Top 10 Religion Books of 2010, *Patheos* (for *God is Not One*).  
Best of 2010 Audiobooks, Religion & Spirituality, iTunes (for *God is Not One*).  
Best of 2010 Enhanced Ebook, iTunes (for *God is Not One*).  
Best Religion Writing of 2008, *The Revealer* (for “A Niche of a Prayer in a Vulnerable Place,” *Killing the Buddha*, August 13, 2008).  
Quill Book Award in Religion/Spirituality for 2007 (for *Religious Literacy*).  
Best Non-Fiction Books of 2007, *Washington Post* (for *Religious Literacy*).  
Best Books of 2007, Amazon.Com (for *Religious Literacy*).  
Best Books of the Year (2007), *Publishers Weekly* (for *Religious Literacy*).  
Top Ten Religion Books (2007), *Booklist* (for *Religious Literacy*).  
Editor’s Choice (June 17, 2007), *New York Times Book Review* (for *Religious Literacy*).  
*New York Times Bestseller List*, March 21-April 7, 2007 (for *Religious Literacy*).  
Other bestseller lists (for *Religious Literacy*): *Publishers Weekly* religion bestseller list (April and June 2007); Catholic Book Publishers Association #1 bestseller (April-

July 2007)  
 Annual Book Award, Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association, October 2004 (for *American Jesus*).  
 Kahn Award 2004 for Best Book by Boston University faculty member (for *American Jesus*).  
 “Best Books of 2003, Religion” (for *American Jesus*), *Publisher’s Weekly*.  
 “Favorite Books: Nonfiction, 2003” (for *American Jesus*), *Chicago Tribune*.  
 Honorary Member and Keynote Speaker, Golden Key International Honour Society, Boston University, Spring 2001.  
 Contemplative Practice Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 1999-2000.  
 Junior Fellowship, Humanities Foundation, Boston University, 1999-2000.  
 Outstanding Academic Book 1999 (for *Asian Religions in America: A Documentary History*), *Choice*.  
 Outstanding Teaching Award, Honors Program, Boston University, Spring 1998.  
 Best First Book in the History of Religions (for *The White Buddhist*), American Academy of Religion, November 1997.  
 Best of Reference 1996 (for *The Encyclopedia of American Religious History*), New York Public Library.  
 Outstanding Academic Reference Book 1996 (for *The Encyclopedia of American Religious History*), *Choice*.  
 Young Scholars in American Religion Fellowship, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis, 1992-94.  
 Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1984-90.  
 Frederick Sheldon and Sinclair Kennedy Traveling Fellowships (India), 1988-89.  
 Lilly Endowment Research Grants, 1987-90.  
 Distinction in General Ph.D. Examinations, 1987.  
 Phi Beta Kappa, 1981.  
 L.B.J. Legislative Intern, Gerry Studds, U.S. House of Representatives, 1981.

## GRANTS

Consultant, National Museum of American History, to organize a public symposium on “Religions in the Early Republic” and to consult on the opening of an exhibition of the same name, November 2014-April 2015. \$20,000. The symposium concerned religious freedom (Kathleen Flake, David Sehat, Michelene Pesantubbee); religious growth (David Holland; Amanda Porterfield; John Wigger); and religious diversity (Kathryn Gin Lum, Michael Gomez, Nancy Schultz).

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/connect/webcasts/religion-early-america>

Consultant, National Museum of American History, to organize an in-house symposium on “Religion and American History,” December 4-5, 2013. \$10,000.

GUTS grant, “Exodus: How Religion Made America,” one-semester grant (Grants for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarship) to support undergraduate research on this topic. 2008. With Shari Rabin. \$2500.

"A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multireligious America," Two-year grant from the Smith-Richardson Foundation to fund two workshops and a book, 2001-2003. \$148,000. Co-investigator with Peter Berger.

Collaborative Research Grant, "African-American Esotericism," American Academy of Religion, 2002-03. With Jarett Kobek.

Collaborative Research Grant, "A Documentary History of Asian Religions in America," American Academy of Religion, 1996-97. With Thomas Tweed.

Research Initiation Grant, "Ashes to Ashes: A History of Cremation in America," Georgia State University, 1995.

Instructional Improvement Grant, "Course Design for African-American Religion," Georgia State University, 1993-94.

Research Assistance Grant, "Cremation in America," American Academy of Religion, 1992-93.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **TEACHING**

Full Professor, Department of Religion, Boston University, September 2004-present.  
Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Boston University, September 2000-September 2004. Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, January 1996-September 2000. Courses include: "Introduction to Religion," "Asian Religions in America," "Buddhism in America," "Hinduism in America," "American Religions," "Religions of the World: Eastern," "Death and Immortality," "New Religious Movements," "Atheism and Agnosticism in American History," "Wandering in the World's Religions," and "Jesus in America."

Visiting Capps Professor, Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Religion and Public Life, Department of Religion, University of California, Santa Barbara, Spring Semester, 2003. Taught a seminar on "The Politics of Religious Pluralism in the United States."

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy (Religious Studies Program), Georgia State University, Fall 1990-Winter 1995. Courses included: "World Religions," "Theories of Religion," "Religion in America," "African-American Religion," "Women and Religion," "History of Christian Thought (Modern Period)," "New Testament," "Eastern Religion and Philosophy," "Religious Issues in Death, Dying, and the Afterlife."

Visiting Lecturer, Religious Studies & American Studies, Yale College, Spring 1990.

Instructor, Study of Religion, Harvard University, Spring 1988.

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

American Religious History  
Asian Religions in the United States  
Death in American Life  
Asian Religions/The World's Religions

Theory and Method in Religious Studies  
Islam in the United States  
African American Religions

#### WRITING/BLOGGING

Contributor, CNN's "Belief Blog," May 2010-October 2013. Author of hundreds of posts on topics such as the Obama inaugurations, the Islamic community center near Ground Zero, feminist theology, Europe's burqa wars, and religion on the Supreme Court. Also a series of "What is?" pieces on Ramadan, Sufism, etc.

Panelist, *Newsweek/Washington Post* blog, "On Faith," November 2006-May 2010. Entries on such issues as Mitt Romney's "Faith in America" speech; religious literacy and foreign policy; death and immortality; and Abrahamic America.  
[http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/stephen\\_prothero/](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/stephen_prothero/)

#### EDITORIAL

Editorial Board, *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, 2001-2009.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Global Buddhism*, 1999-2010.

Editorial Consultant, *Nova Religio*, 1999-2011.

Editorial Consultant, *Harvard Theological Review*, 1990-2000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

##### Boston University

Department of Religion: Chair, Fall 2003-Spring 2008; Acting Chair, Summer-Fall 2001;  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 1996-Spring 1999, Fall 2013-present.

Division of Religious and Theological Studies: Director, Fall 2003-Fall 2006; Associate  
Director (admissions/placement), Fall 2000-Spring 2002.

College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities Curriculum Committee, Fall 1996-Spring 1999  
(Chair, Fall 1998-Spring 1999).

University-wide: Search Committee, Dean, College of Communications, Fall 2007-  
Spring 2008.

##### Georgia State University

Various university-wide, Arts & Sciences, and departmental committees.

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### BOOKS

*How Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections): The Battles that Define America from the Election of 1800 to Gay Marriage* (New York: HarperOne, 2016).

*The American Bible: How Our Words Unite, Divide, and Define a Nation* (New York: HarperOne, 2012).

*God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World—And Why Their Differences Matter* (New York: HarperOne, 2010). Also published in Australia/New Zealand by Penguin Australia and Black Inc. (as *God is Not One*); in Germany by Diederichs (as *Die neun Weltreligionen: Was sie eint, was sie trennt*); in the Netherlands by Prometheus (as *God is Niet Een: Overzicht van de Grootste Godsdiensten*); in Brazil (as *As Grandes Religioes do Mundo*); in France as *Dieu N'est Pas Unique*). Translation forthcoming in Russian.

*Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't*. New York: HarperOne, 2007. Also published in Japanese as (宗教リテラシー アメリカを理解する上で知っておきたい宗教的教養).

*A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multireligious America*. Raleigh: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. Edited volume.

*American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003.

*The Encyclopedia of American Religious History*. Second edition, revised. New York: Facts on File, Inc. 2002. Co-author with Edward Queen II.

*Purified by Fire: A History of Cremation in America*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

*Asian Religions in America: A Documentary History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. Co-edited with Thomas A. Tweed.

*The White Buddhist: The Asian Odyssey of Henry Steel Olcott*. Religion in North America Series. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996). Also published in the Bibliotheca Indo-Buddhica Series. Delhi, India: Sri Satguru Publications, 1997. And published in paperback in 2010.

*The Encyclopedia of American Religious History*. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1996. Co-author with Gardiner Shattuck and Edward Queen II.

#### BOOKS ON TAPE

*God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World—and Why Their Differences Matter*. New York: HarperAudio, 2010.

*Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—And Doesn't*. New York: HarperCollins Audio, 2007.

*Religions of the East: Paths to Enlightenment*. The Modern Scholar series. New York: Recorded Books, 2006.

## DISSERTATION

“Henry Steel Olcott and the Construction of ‘Protestant Buddhism’.” Adviser: William R. Hutchison, Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America, Harvard Divinity School. Readers: Diana Eck and David Hall.

## SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

“The Irony of Religious Illiteracy in the USA,” with Lauren R. Kerby, in Adam Dinham and Matthew Francis, ed., *Religious Literacy in Policy and Practice* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015).

“Where Have All the People Gone?: American Religion After the Genealogical Turn,” *Proceedings: Fourth Annual Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture* (Indianapolis, IN: The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, June 2015): 71-74.

“Belief Unbracketed: A Case for the Religion Scholar to Reveal More of Where He or She is Coming From,” (reprinted), in John Wilson, ed., *Best Christian Writing 2006* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005), 121-29.

“Belief Unbracketed: A Case for the Religion Scholar To Reveal More of Where He or She is Coming From,” *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* 32.2 (Winter/Spring 2004), 10-11. (See also “Four Responses to ‘Belief Unbracketed,’” *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* 32.3 (Fall 2004), 16-18.)

“Telophase Society,” in Douglas J. Davies with Lewis H. Mates, ed., *Encyclopedia of Cremation*, (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2006), 396-97.

"The Twentieth Century: The First Fifty Years," in Douglas J. Davies with Lewis H. Mates, ed., *Encyclopedia of Cremation*, (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2006), 407-09.

“The Demographic Layout: A Tale of Two New Englands,” in Andrew Walsh and Mark Silk, eds., *Religion and Public Life in New England: Steady Habits, Changing Slowly* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), 23-39.

"Asian Religions," in Burt Feintuch and David H. Watters, eds., *Encyclopedia of New England* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005).

"Buddhism in America," in Gary Laderman and Luis Leon, eds., *Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Religions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions* (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2003), 47-55.

"Hinduphilia and Hinduphobia in American Culture," in Anna Lannstrom, ed., *The Stranger's Religion: Fascination and Fear* (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame

Press, 2004).

“Henry Steel Olcott,” in Lindsay Jones, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion* (2d ed., New York: Macmillan, 2005).

“The Cremation versus Burial Debate,” Colleen McDannell, ed., *Religions of the United States in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), 1.492-503.

“Mother India's Scandalous Swamis,” in Colleen McDannell, ed., *Religions of the United States in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), volume 2.

“Islam,” in Paul Boyer, ed., *The Oxford Companion to United States History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 396-97.

"Cremation," in Wade Clark Roof, ed., *Contemporary American Religion* (New York: Macmillan, 2000), I.158-59.

"Hinduism," in Wade Clark Roof, ed., *Contemporary American Religion* (New York: Macmillan, 2000), I.302-304.

“Readin’, writin’, and ideas about God,” review of Butler and Stout “Religion in American Life” series (Oxford University Press), in *Religion & Values in Public Life* (*Harvard Divinity Bulletin*) 8.1 (Spring 2000): 13-14.

“Cremation American Style: Consumers' Last Rites,” in Marjorie Garber and Rebecca Walkowitz, *One Nation Under God?: Religion in Contemporary America* (New York: Routledge, 1999), 184-207.

“Lived Religion and the Dead: The Cremation Movement in Gilded Age America,” in David D. Hall, *Lived Religion in America: Toward a History of Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), 92-115.

“Introduction,” in Carole Tonkinson, ed., *Big Sky Mind: Buddhism and the Beat Generation* (New York: Riverhead, 1995), 1-20.

“Theosophy’s Sinner/Saint: Recent Books on Madame Blavatsky,” *Religious Studies Review* 23.2 (July 1997).

“Henry Steel Olcott and 'Protestant Buddhism,’” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 63.2 (1996), 281-302.

“Henry Steel Olcott, Anagarika Dharmapala, and the Maha Bodhi Society,” *Theosophical History* 6.3 (July 1996), 96-106.

“Conjuring Race,” in Linda Bell and David Blumenfeld, eds., *Overcoming Racism and*

*Sexism* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1995), 103-112.

“Henry Steel Olcott, Anagarika Dharmapala and the Development of the Maha Bodhi Society,” in P. C. Roy, ed. *Maha Bodhi Society Centenary Celebrations: Souvenir* (Bodhi Gaya, India: Maha Bodhi Society, 1993), 17-27.

“From Spiritualism to Theosophy: 'Uplifting' a Democratic Tradition,” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 3.2 (Summer 1993), 197-216.

“On the Holy Road: The Beat Movement as Spiritual Protest,” *Harvard Theological Review* 84:2 (April 1991) 205-22.

#### POPULAR ARTICLES AND OP-ED PIECES

“Rope-a-Pope,” *Politico*, February 19, 2016,  
<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/02/donald-trump-pope-francis-feud-213656>

“Why Liberals Win Culture Wars and Conservatives Win Elections,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 14, 2016, <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-0214-prothero-culture-war-20160214-story.html>.

“Jedem Sein Jenseits,” *Nzz Folio* (Switzerland), February 2016,  
<http://folio.nzz.ch/2016/februar/jedem-sein-jenseits>.

“Obama to Visit a Mosque, and Wade into America’s War over Islam,” *Cnn.com*, February 2, 2016, <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/02/opinions/prothero-obama-mosque/>.

“They’ll Always Lose the Culture Wars: The Right Loves Fighting Lost causes—But Liberals Keep Winning,” *Salon*, January 31, 2016,  
[http://www.salon.com/2016/01/31/theyll\\_always\\_lose\\_the\\_culture\\_wars\\_the\\_right\\_loves\\_fighting\\_lost\\_causes\\_but\\_liberals\\_keep\\_winning/](http://www.salon.com/2016/01/31/theyll_always_lose_the_culture_wars_the_right_loves_fighting_lost_causes_but_liberals_keep_winning/)

“Vying for the Faithful in Iowa,” *USA Today*, January 31, 2016,  
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/01/31/religion-evangelicals-iowa-caucuses-faith-column/79606322/>.

“Why Conservatives Start Culture Wars and Liberals Win Them,” *Washington Post*, January 29, 2016, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-conservatives-start-culture-wars-and-liberals-win-them/2016/01/29/f89d0b2c-b658-11e5-a842-0feb51d1d124\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-conservatives-start-culture-wars-and-liberals-win-them/2016/01/29/f89d0b2c-b658-11e5-a842-0feb51d1d124_story.html).

“When Donald Trump Goes to Liberty U.,” *CNN.com*, January 17, 2016,  
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/16/opinions/prothero-trump-liberty/>.

“Trump’s Religious Bigotry Is as American as Apple Pie,” *USA Today*, December 8,



2015, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/12/08/donald-trump-muslim-ban-religious-freedom-column/76981166/>

“A Secret Muslim President? Been There. Done That,” *USA Today*, September 22, 2015, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/09/21/ben-carson-donald-trump-muslim-islam-president-column/72563196/>

“Indiana Needs to Balance Gay, Religious Rights,” *USA Today*, March 30, 2015, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/03/29/indiana-religious-freedom-prothero/70632870/>

“When Every Day Is a Religious Holiday,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 9, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/stephen-prothero-when-every-day-is-a-religious-holiday-1425943088>.

“Folly of Good vs. Bad Religions,” *USA Today*, February 9, 2015, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/02/09/obama-christian-muslim-national-prayer-breakfast-prothero-column/23119801/>.

“Islam Isn’t About Good vs. Bad,” *USA Today*, October 13, 2014, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/10/13/islam-muslim-good-bad-diverse-column/17215997/>.

“Hobby Lobby Bible Course Objective?” *USA Today*, May 11, 2014, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/05/11/green-hobby-lobby-bible-course-textbook-column/8974511/>.

“On Easter, Jesus’ Evolution Tells of Changing America,” *National Geographic*, April 19, 2014, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/04/140419-easter-jesus-holidays-christianity-opinion-united-states/>.

“Hindu Fundamentalists vs. Hinduism,” *USA Today*, February 23, 2014, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/02/23/hindu-hinduism-wendy-doniger-penguin-books-column/5760611/>. Widely reprinted, including in *Huffington Post*, *Patheos*, *Washington Post*.

“A Cage-Fighting Christ for Our Time,” *Wall Street Journal*, December 12, 2013, <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB1000142405270230407320457916796388780566>

“Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, 150 Years Later,” *Religion & Politics*, November 19, 2013, <http://religionandpolitics.org/2013/11/19/abraham-lincolns-gettysburg-address-150-years-later/>.

“Navy Yard Shooting Puts Buddhism in Spotlight,” *USA Today*, September 18, 2013, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/09/18/stephen-prothero-on-alexis-and->

[buddhism/2831189/](#).

“‘I Have a Dream’: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther King’s Famous Speech,” *Religion & Politics*, August 27, 2013, <http://religionandpolitics.org/2013/08/27/i-have-a-dream-the-50th-anniversary-of-martin-luther-kings-famous-speech/>.

“New Pope, New Era, Few Changes,” *USA Today*, March 14, 2013, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/03/13/new-pope-argentina-francis/1986151/>.

“We Need Less Religion in our Politics and Less Politics in our Religion,” *Religion & Politics*, February 5, 2013, <http://religionandpolitics.org/2013/02/05/we-need-less-religion-in-our-politics-and-less-politics-in-our-religion/>.

“The Message of Obama’s Inaugural Bibles,” *Wall Street Journal*, January 17, 2013, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324235104578243740146205394.html>.

“A Hindu Moment for Congress,” *USA Today*, January 3, 2013, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/01/03/hindu-tulsi-gabbard-congress/1808127/>.

“What James Madison Would Tell Grover Norquist,” *USA Today*, December 9, 2012, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2012/12/09/grover-norquist-tax-pledge-james-madison/1757029/>.

“Why Obama Cried,” *USA Today*, November 15, 2012, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2012/11/15/obama-cried-campaign/1707509/>.

“Introduction,” in Richard Zaleski, *Best Spiritual Writing 2013* (New York: Penguin, 2012), pp. xvff.

“Our Least Christian President,” *USA Today*, July 1, 2012, <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/story/2012-07-01/jefferson-christian-david-barton/55964380/1>.

“Five Best: Books on Religion and Politics,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 22, 2012, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303830204577448783675638366.html>.

“Memorial Day and the American Bible,” *Wall Street Journal*, May 24, 2012, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000142405270230470760457742404332698190.html>.

“A Mormon Moment,” *USA Today*, May 20, 2012, <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/story/2012-05-20/romney-mormon-evangelicals-liberty-commencement/55096402/1>.

“Why Rick Santorum is no JFK,” *USA Today*, March 4, 2012, <http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/story/2012-03-05/santorum-church-state-jfk-religion/53356508/1>.

“How 9/11 Changed Religion in America,” *USA Today* (September 10, 2011), <http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/story/2011-09-10/911-religion-islam-christianity/50354708/1>.

“You Can’t Reconcile Ayn Rand and Jesus,” *USA Today* (June 5, 2011), [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-06-05-Ayn-Rand-and-Jesus-dont-mix\\_n.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-06-05-Ayn-Rand-and-Jesus-dont-mix_n.htm).

“Muslim Teacher’s Hajj Lawsuit an Overreach,” *USA Today* (April 3, 2011), [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-04-04-column04\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-04-04-column04_ST_N.htm)

“Thomas Jefferson’s Cut-and-Paste Bible,” *Wall Street Journal* (March 25, 2011), <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220612714039084.html>

“In Changing Egypt, Where Will Faith Fall?” *USA Today* (February 20, 2011), [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-02-21-column21\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-02-21-column21_ST_N.htm)

“Sex in the Bible: An Interview with the Author of ‘Unprotected Texts,’” *Huffington Post*, February 15, 2012, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephen-prothero/sex-in-the-bible-an-inter\\_b\\_820950.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephen-prothero/sex-in-the-bible-an-inter_b_820950.html).

“Should Schools Scrap Religious Holidays,” *USA Today* (December 19, 2010), [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-12-20-column20\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-12-20-column20_ST_N.htm)

“Can Yoga Be Christian?” *Wall Street Journal* (October 22, 2010), <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304510704575562651537656366.html>

“It’s Time to Teach Religion in Schools,” *USA Today* (October 3, 2010), [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-10-04-column04\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-10-04-column04_ST_N.htm)

“Against the ‘Answer Bank’ Theory of Religion,” *Big Questions Online* (August 9, 2010), <http://www.bigquestionsonline.com/features/against-the-%E2%80%9CAnswer-bank%E2%80%9D-theory-of-religion>

“The Muslim Veil: Europe vs. USA,” *USA Today* (August 2, 2010), [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-08-02-column02\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-08-02-column02_ST_N.htm)

“Wrestling with One God or Another,” *The Chronicle Review* (June 27, 2010), <http://chronicle.com/article/Wrestling-With-One-God-or/66026/>

“How to Make Interfaith Relationships Work,” *Oprah.Com*,  
<http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Making-Interfaith-Relationships-Work/print/1>

“Questions about God: Don’t Assume all Religions Offer Similar Answers,” *Christian Science Monitor* (May 17, 2010),  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/0517/Questions-about-God-Don-t-assume-all-religions-offer-similar-answers>.

“Faith on the Court Does, in Fact, Matter,” *USA Today* (May 16, 2010),  
[http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-05-17-column17\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-05-17-column17_ST_N.htm)

“Separate Truths,” *Boston Globe* (April 25, 2010),  
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## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

“Religious Literacy and Religious Diversity: How to Talk (and think) about the ‘R’ Word in Public,” Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, February 5, 2016.

“Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars,” Politics & Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC, January 11, 2016, broadcast on C-Span, <http://www.c-span.org/video/?402949-1/book-discussion-liberals-win-culture-wars>.

“After Paris: Anti-Muslim Backlash: What You Need to Know,” town hall panel with Pamela Lightsey, Susannah Heschel, and Kenn Elmore, Boston University, Boston, MA, December 7, 2015.

“Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars,” Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA, November 11, 2015.

“Religious Literacy in Christian and Multireligious America,” Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, June 30, 2015, <https://beta.prx.org/stories/154273>.

“God Is Not One: Difference and the Road to Religious Literacy,” Spring Scholar in Residence, Larchmont Temple, Larchmont, NJ, April 19, 2015.

“Religious Literacy and Public Universities,” Keynote Address for “Religious Studies, the Liberal Arts, and the Public University,” Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, April 10, 2015.

“Religious Literacy,” Keynote Speaker, Religion Communicators Council, Newseum, Washington, DC, April 9, 2015, <http://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/events/previous/rcc/>.

Moderator and Organizer, “Religion in Early America” symposium, National History of American History, Washington, DC, March 19-20, 2015.

“Religious Difference Without Religious Conflict,” Durfee Lecture Series, American University, Washington, DC, March 18, 2015.

“Why Liberals Win: America’s Culture Wars from the Election of 1800 to Same-Sex Marriage,” Washington University in St. Louis, October 23, 2014.

“Religious Literacy: Why It’s Vital to Understand Religious Diversity in America,” Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan, October 16, 2014.

“Religious Literacy,” Baldwin Wallace University, Cleveland, OH, April 9, 2014.

“The American Bible: How Our Words Unite, Divide, and Define a Nation,” Discoveries Lecture, BU Alumni Association, Boston University, February 26, 2014.

“A History of the Culture Wars,” Religious Studies faculty and graduate student seminar, University of California, Santa Barbara, January 27, 2014.

“God Is Not One: Religious Tolerance in an Age of Extremism,” Martin E. Marty Lecture on Religion and Public Life at UCSB, Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB, University of California, Santa Barbara, January 26, 2014.

Moderator and Organizer, “Religion in U.S. History” symposium, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, December 4-5, 2013.

“The Culture Wars from the Election of 1800 to the Ground Zero Mosque,” Department of Religion Colloquium, Boston University, Boston, MA, December 11, 2013

“Religious Literacy—What’s at Stake?” Panel with David Hempton, Harvard Divinity School Dean, Harvard Faculty Club, New York City, November 7, 2013, <http://www.hds.harvard.edu/news-events/articles/2013/11/25/religious-literacy-whats-at-stake-video>.

“God Is Not One: Religious Tolerance in an Age of Extremism,” Religion and Conflict: Alternative Visions Lecture Series, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, October 21, 2013.

“Religious Literacy—What Every American Needs to Know and Doesn’t,” Delta College President’s Speakers Series, Delta College, University Center, MI, October 13, 2013.

“Religion and Museums,” National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, April 25, 2013.

“Our Uncommon Creed: Reflections on the World’s Religions and American Politics,”

Lee Institute, Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO, April 15, 2013.

“No Common Path: From Interfaith 1.0 to Interfaith 2.0,” Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, April 9, 2013.

“No Common Creed: The American Bible from Thomas Jefferson to Barack Obama,” Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, April 9, 2013.

“The American Bible: Into the Heart of America’s Culture Wars,” Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, February 4, 2013.

“Religion at the Smithsonian,” New England and American Studies Program, Boston University, Boston, MA, January 29, 2013

“The American Bible,” “Trinity Forum,” Trinity Church, Boston, MA, December 16, 2012.

“God Is Not One,” Office of Student Life’s Mosaic Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore, November 29, 2012.

“Hinduism, Religious Diversity, and the Roots of Religious Pluralism,” Central College, Pella, Iowa, November 12, 2012.

“Religious Divides in America: From Jefferson to Limbaugh,” Depaul University, Chicago, IL, November 5, 2012.

“The World’s Religions,” Tony Robbins Platinum Partnership event, Udaipur, India, October 8, 2012.

“The American Bible,” Religion Newswriters Association, Bethesda, MD, October 6, 2012.

“God Is Not One,” Trinity Church, Dallas, TX, October 2, 2012.

“God Is Not One,” 2012 Da Vinci Lecture and Luncheon, Marshall University, Huntington, WV, September 28-29, 2012.

“God Is Not One,” Mary Ellen Borges Memorial Lecture, Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, September 27, 2012

“God Is Not One,” University of Wyoming, Laramie, September 25, 2012.

“God Is Not One,” Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA, September 23, 2012.

“Many Faiths, One Community: Compassion and Religion,” Building Common Ground:

Race, Religion and Politics in Columbus, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, Columbus, GA, April 23, 2012.

“Are Mormons the New Catholics and Jews? Mitt Romney and the State of the Union,” Dean’s Colloquium on Religion and Public Culture, panel with Kristine Haglund, moderated by Alan Wolfe, Boston College, Brookline, MA, March 13, 2012.

“Our Not-So-Post-Christian Society,” “Theology on Tap” series, Church of the Advent, Boston, MA, March 6, 2012.

“God Is Not One,” Interfaith Council of Westport and Westin, Temple Israel, Westport, CT, March 4, 2012.

Convener, “Maps: Orientations and Disorientations,” Comparative Studies in Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 22, 2011.

Convener, “Teaching Interreligious Engagement?: Exploring Models for Teaching Religion in Light of Religious Diversity,” Teaching Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 21, 2011.

Panelist, “Confronting Islamophobia: How to Prevent a Holy War,” panel with Philip Jenkins, Omid Safi, and Miroslav Volf, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 19, 2011.

“Religious Literacy,” “Western Reads” Book of the Year Lecture, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, November 15, 2011.

“God Is Not One,” Schmidt Annual Lecture, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, October 4, 2011.

“The Cremation Boom: Cultural and Religious Factors,” New Jersey State Funeral Directors Convention, Atlantic City, NJ, September 27 and 28, 2011.

Panelist, “Religious Literacy and the Professions,” September 21, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, September 21, 2011.

“God Is Not One,” Voices of Our Time presidential series, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, September 20, 2011.

“God Is Not One,” Wilson Lecture Series, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, September 15, 2011.

“American Jesus: From Thomas Jefferson to Barack Obama,” Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, September 13, 2011.

Panelist, “Religions in America: Source of Healing or Sower of Discord?” with Kathryn Lofton, Charlemont Forum lectures on “The Use and Misuse of Religion in American Political Life,” Charlemont, Massachusetts, June 22, 2011.

“Fostering Religious Literacy after 9/11 and Revolution 2.0,” Zaidee Creel Williams Lecture, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA, May 1, 2011.

“God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World and Why Their Differences Matter,” keynote, Public Affairs Conference on “Leading in a Global Society,” Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, April 14, 2011.

“A Dialogue of Religion,” UNA Distinguished Events Series, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL, April 12, 2011.

“Religious Literacy,” St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Osterville, MA, April 11, 2011.

“God Is Not One,” St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Barnstable, MA, April 10, 2011

“God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World—Moving from Interfaith 1.0 to Interfaith 2.0,” Depaul University, Chicago, IL, April 6, 2011.

“God Is Not One,” Diversity Education Series, Penn State University, State College, PA, April 4, 2011.

“American Jesus,” Christ Church, Charlotte, NC, April 3, 2011.

“711-2011 East Meets West” Conference keynote, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA, March 25, 2011.

“God is Not One Panel” with Omid Safi and Seshagiri Rao, Duke Faith Council, Duke University, Durham, NC, March 23, 2011.

“Islamophobia,” Islam Awareness Week, Islamic Society of Boston University, March 21, 2011.

“Why Mormons Should Support the ‘Ground Zero Mosque,’” Mormon Studies Conference on “Mormonism and Islam: Commonality and Cooperation Between Abrahamic Faiths,” Utah Valley University, Orem, UT, March 11, 2011.

“God Is Not One,” City of God Lecture, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA, March 9, 2011

“Religious Literacy,” Association of Religious Counselors, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, February 9, 2011.

“God Is Not One: From Interfaith 1.0 to Interfaith 2.0,” Addir Fellows, MIT, Cambridge, MA, February 10, 2011.

Participant, panel on the PBS documentary *God in America*, American Historical Association annual meeting, Boston, MA, January 6, 2011.

“God is Not One” book reading, Hingham Public Library, Hingham, MA, December 6, 2010.

“Religious Literacy: Home, Church, Classroom and Beyond,” Saint Michael’s and All Angels Episcopal Church, Distinguished Lecture Series, Dallas, TX, November 20, 2010.

“Stories, Questions, and Conflicts in the World’s Religions,” Robbins Research International, Jerusalem, Israel, November 14, 2010.

“Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn’t,” Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI, November 10, 2010.

“Are the Ten Commandments Still Relevant?” conversation with David Hazony, Jennifer Michael Hecht, and Sam Friedman, Jewish Center, New York, NY, November 4, 2010.

“Are Americans God’s Chosen People?” a conversation on religion and foreign policy with Andrew Bacevich and Stephen Prothero, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 27, 2010, <http://www.bu.edu/today/node/11942>

“Creating ‘God in America,’” panel with Mike Sullivan, Marilyn Mellowes, and Lisa Mullins, WGBH-TV, Boston, MA, October 6, 2010, <http://forum-network.org/lecture/god-america-panel-stephen-prothero>.

“Taking Religion Public: Stamping Out Religious Illiteracy on Oprah, The Colbert Report, and the Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” BU Day in New York, BU Alumni Association, New York, NY, October 2.

“Symposium on the Pew Forum’s U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey,” panel moderated by Ray Suarez (PBS), with Krista Tippett (NPR), Gregory Smith (Pew Trust), Alan Cooperman (Pew Trust), and myself, Newseum, Washington, DC, September 28, 2010.

“Why Our Differences Matter and How To Learn From Them,” Washington National Cathedral, Washington, DC, September 26, 2010.

“The Art of Doing Nothing: Wandering as Contemplative Practice,” keynote address, The Contemplative Academy, The Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education, Amherst, MA, September 24, 2010.



“The Ground Zero Mosque Controversy: What You Need To Know,” moderator of three-person panel, Boston University, Boston, MA, September 16, 2010, <http://www.bu.edu/buniverse/view/?v=1u8D8dNq>

“God is Not One” book reading, Borders, Dedham, MA, June 26, 2010.

Speaker and participant, “Advancing Interfaith Community Service on College and University Campuses,” sponsored by the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the White House Office for Social Innovation and Civic Participation, White House, Washington, DC, June 7, 2010.

"God in America" panel with Stephen Marini, Mike Sullivan, and Marillyn Mellowes, Catholic Press Association annual convention, New Orleans, LA, June 1, 2010.

“The Future of Fundamentalism in an Obama Era,” Book Expo America panel with Lynn Garrett and Becky Garrison, May 27, 2010.

“God is Not One” book reading, Quail Ridge Books & Music, Raleigh, NC, May 13, 2010.

"God is Not One" book reading, St. John's Lutheran Church, Atlanta GA, May 12, 2010.

"God Is Not One" book reading, Buckhead Barnes & Noble, Atlanta, GA, May 11, 2010.

"God is Not One" book reading, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT, May 7, 2010.

"God is Not One" book reading, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA, May 6, 2010.

“God is Not One,” Boston University Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Boston, MA, April 27, 2010.

“Religious Illiteracy: Is it Really a Problem?” Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington annual convocation, Washington, DC, April 17, 2010.

“Wandering in the World’s Religions,” Coming Together 4 Conference, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, April 14, 2010.

“Religious Literacy in a Furiously Religious World,” Swope Lecture, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, April 15, 2010.

“The Work of Doing Nothing: Wandering in the World’s Religions,” Bates College, Lewiston, ME, March 24, 2010.

“Religious Literacy,” Union University, Union Forum, Jackson, Tennessee, March 10,

2010.

“Wandering as Spiritual Practice,” St. James Episcopal Church, New York, NY, November 11, 2009.

"Religious Literacy," Oakland University, Rochester, MN, November 9, 2009. This lecture followed on OU naming *Religious Literacy* its “community book” (required reading for first-year students) for 2009-2010.

“Religious Literacy,” Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, October 28, 2009.

“Religious Literacy,” Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH, October 15, 2009.

“Religious Literacy,” Keynote Address, National Campus Ministers Association, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, June 23, 2009

"Religious Literacy," College Lecture Series, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL, April 21, 2009.

“Religious Literacy,” Veritas Forum, California State University, Fresno, CA, March 11, 2009.

"Landiss Lecture: Religious Literacy," Georgia Tech, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2, 2009.

Panelist, “Living in Harmony in a Pluralist Religious Culture,” National Security Agency, Fort Meade, MD, February 3, 2009.

Moderator, “Abrahamic Religions Discussion Panel,” Sandwich Reads Together, Quaker Meeting House, Sandwich, MA, January 25, 2009.

“William Belden Noble Lectures: The Work of Doing: Wandering as Practice and Play,” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, November 14-16, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN, November 14, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Festival of Faiths, Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, KY, November 11, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Bentley College, Waltham, MA, November 28, 2008.

“Exodus: Story of a Nation,” conversation with Adam Kirsch and Eliza New, Nextbook Boston, “Festival of Ideas, “Promised Land: Exodus and America,” Northwestern University, Boston, MA, October 26, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Peace Symposium, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH, October

22, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Harper College, Palantine, IL, October 8, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Alma College, Alma, MI, October 7, 2008.

“Wandering as Practice and Play,” The First Parish in Lincoln, Lincoln, MA, September 28, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Martha’s Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, Oak Bluffs, MA, July 7, 2008.

“Biblical Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know and Doesn’t,” Museum of Biblical Art, New York, NY, May 9, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, April 7, 2008.

“Religious Pluralism,” panel conversation with Eboo Patel, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, April 7, 2008.

“Religious Literacy and Higher Education,” Visiting Presidential Scholar Program, Hofstra University, March 1, 2008, Long Island, New York.

“Religious Literacy,” Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, April 10, 2008

“Religious Literacy,” Crichton Club, Columbus, OH, February 27, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Messiah College, Grantham, PA, February 26, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, February 13, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Presidents Distinguished Lecture Series, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, February 12, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Oxford College at Emory University, Oxford, GA, February 11, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” Utah State University, Logan, UT, February 1, 2008.

“American Jesus,” Theology on Tap series, Church of the Advent, Boston, MA, January 29, 2008.

“The Role of Schools in Teaching Religious Literacy,” Falmouth Academy, Falmouth, MA, January 17, 2008.

“Religious Literacy,” keynote speaker for Interfaith Month, Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ, December 10, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Pew Forum Faith Angle Conference, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Key West, FL, December 3, 2007.  
<http://pewforum.org/events/rss.php?EventID=162>.

Panelist, “Author Meets Critics: Catherine L. Albanese’s *A Republic of Mind and Spirit*,” North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 17, 2007.

Panelist, “Going Public on Religion: Paradise or Pitfall?” Public Understanding of Religion Committee, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 19, 2007.

“Leadership Workshop: The Religion Major and Liberal Education,” keynote address, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 16, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Center for Religion, Law and Democracy, Willamette University, Salem, OR, November 15, 2007.

“Religious Literacy in the United States,” Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, MA, November 8, 2007.

“Religious Literacy in Public Service,” Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the Department of Religion’s Alumni Lecture Series, University of Florida, Gainesville, November 7, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” St. Joseph’s College, Patchogue, New York, October 29, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Harvard University’s Committee on the Study of Religion and the Cambridge Roundtable on Science, Art & Religion, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 17, 2007.

“Jewish Literacy Kickoff: A Conversation,” Hillel House, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 16, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Gerrish Fund Lecture, Colby College, Waterville, ME, October 10, 2007.

“Religion and Politics,” American Heritage Scholarship Lecture, Central Valley High School, Ceres, CA, October 6, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Modesto Bee Book Club, Central Valley High School, Ceres, CA, October 6, 2007.

“Religious Literacy and the Public Intellectual,” University of Denver, Denver, CO, October 4, 2007.

“Religious Literacy and the American Scholar,” Laboratory of Arts and Ideas at Belmar, Denver, CO, October 4, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Five College Roundtable on God and Science, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA.

“Religious Literacy,” Department of Religion, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA.

“Religious Literacy,” Schaff Lecture, Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, PA, September 24, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Columbia Basin College, Pasco, WA, September 14, 2007.

“Religious Literacy and American Politics,” Center on Religion and the Professions, University of Missouri, Columbia, September 7, 2007.

“Religious Studies in Higher Education,” joint meeting of Boston University’s Trustees and Board of Overseers, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 15, 2007.

“Jesus in the Promised Land,” conversation with Paula Fredriksen and Alan Segal, The Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, April 29, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Cody’s Books, Berkeley, CA, April 24, 2007.

“Religion in U.S. Culture and Society,” conversation with Michael Lerner and Michael Maudlin, Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, CA, April 23, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” conversation with Alan Jones, “The Forum” at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA, April 22, 2007.

“Religious Literacy,” Barnes & Noble at Boston University, Boston, MA, March 27, 2007.

"Writing the Story of America's Religious Origins," panelist with Mark Noll, Susan Jacoby, Jonathan Sarna, and Catherine Albanese, Library of Congress, November 20, 2006. Co-sponsored by the Library of Congress, the American Academy of Religion, and the National History Center.

"The American Jesus," New Developments in Religious Studies VI: Keeping Ourselves Current, conference co-sponsored by the Program in Religion and Secondary Education

at Harvard Divinity School, Religious Studies in Secondary Schools, and the Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education, Washington, DC, November 17, 2006.

"Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know about Christianity and the World's Religions," Maurice Meyer Distinguished Endowed Lecture, Rogers State University, Claremore, Oklahoma, October 5, 2006.

"American Jesus: Icon of a Nation," Saginaw State Valley University, Saginaw, Michigan, October 3, 2006.

"Religious Literacy: What Americans Don't Know About the World's Religions, and Why Their Ignorance is Imperiling our Politics," Annual Zerby Lecture, Bates College, November 6, 2005.

"Religious Literacy: An American History," Annual Lowell Institute Lecture, Boston University School of Theology, November 2, 2005.

"American Jesus," Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida, September 27, 2005.

"Is America's Jesus Good for the Jews?" 2005 Swig Lecture, The Swig Judaic Studies Program, University of San Francisco, September 22, 2005.

"American Jesus," University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, March 21, 2005.

"Religion and American Electoral Politics," Panel Participant, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, March 21, 2005.

"America's Jesus," Panel Participant, Aurora Forum at Stanford University, Stanford, California, March 3, 2005.

"Finding Jesus," keynote address, "The Big Event," Baltimore Presbytery, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, Maryland, Keynote February 26, 2005

"American Jesus," St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont, February 4, 2005.

"An American Jesus: The Books of Stephen Prothero and Richard Wightman Fox," Panel Participant, American Society of Church History, Seattle, Washington, January 7, 2005.

"The 'God Gap' in Presidential Politics," Undergraduate Religion Association, Boston University, October 26, 2004.

"The Changing Face of Christianity in America," James Madison University, September 21, 2004, Harrisonburg, Pennsylvania.

"Jesus in America," Massachusetts Bible Society, September 15, 2004, Boston,

Massachusetts.

“Religious Literacy,” Ideas Boston 2004 conference, June 8, 2004, Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.

Class Day Speech, Boston University, May 15, 2004.

“Cremation in America,” Forest Hills Cemetery, May 15, 2004, Boston, Massachusetts.

“American Jesus,” Orleans Methodist Church, May 10, 2004, Orleans, Massachusetts.

“Cremation in America,” Green-Wood Cemetery, May 1, 2004, Brooklyn, New York.

“American Jesus,” Algonquin Club, April 7, 2004, Boston, Massachusetts.

“American Jesus,” Emmanuel Church (Episcopal), Boston, MA, March 28, 2004.

“Mel Gibson’s ‘The Passion of the Christ,’” Undergraduate Religion Association discussion (with Professor Deena Klepper), Boston University, March 18, 2004.

“American Individualism & Spirituality: Transforming Religion, Transforming Jesus,” panel conversation with Alan Wolfe in “America the Spiritual” series, Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts, February 26, 2004.

“American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon,” Boisi Center for Religion & American Public Life, Boston College, February 10, 2004.

“From Churchyards to Memorial Parks: Cemeteries and Funeral Rituals in America,” Forest Lawn Museum symposium, Hollywood Hills, California, November 1, 2003.

“Purified by Fire: A History of Cremation,” Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., September 30, 2003.

“Funeral Customs of Asian Religions,” New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association, Atlantic City, New Jersey, September 18, 2003.

“Cremation and the Memorial Ideal,” Arizona Funeral Directors Association/Arizona Cemetery Association, Scottsdale, Arizona, June 6, 2003.

“Jains in the American Context,” Jain Studies Conference, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 31, 2003.

Roundtable participant, “The Future of Religious Pluralism,” Religious Pluralism in Southern California conference, Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 10, 2003.

“American Jesus,” School of Religion, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California.

“American Jesus,” American Religions Study Group, University of California, Santa Barbara, May, 2003.

“Cremation,” Michigan Funeral Directors Association, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 6, 2003.

“Cremation in American History,” Interment Association of California, Century City, California, March 27, 2003.

"History of Cremation and Contemporary Trends," Cremation Association of North America, Southern Pines, North Carolina, March 12, 2003.

"Louisa May Olcott and Transcendentalism," The Wing School, Sandwich, Massachusetts, March 5, 2003.

“The Changing Faces of Jesus,” Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, March 3, 2003.

"Maps and American Religious History," The Wing School, Sandwich, Massachusetts, December 10, 2002.

"Hinduphilia and Hinduphobia in American Culture," part of lecture series on "The Stranger's Religion: Fascination and Fear," Institute for Philosophy and Religion, Boston University, October 30, 2002.

"Islam in America," Retired Clergy Association of Cape Cod, Sandwich, Massachusetts, September 19, 2002.

"Multireligious America," The American Studies Institute on Religion and Society in Contemporary America, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College, September 17, 2002.

"Cremation in America: From Birth to Boom," Cremation Association of North America Annual Conference, Boston, August 17, 2002.

"Cremation in American History," Worcester Historical Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, April 18, 2002.

"Ignoring the Rites of Passage Paradigm," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Ritual Studies Group), Denver, Colorado, November 18, 2001.



"Keynote Address," New Member Induction Ceremony, Golden Key International Honour Society, Boston University, October 21, 2001.

"Buddhism in America," Religion Newswriters' Association, Annual Convention, Boston, September 19, 2001.

Response to Diana Eck, "Common Ground and Religious Pluralism," Congress 2000: The Future of the Study of Religion, Boston University, September 2000.

"Cremation or Burial?" Adult Forum, First Lutheran Church, Sandwich, Massachusetts, April 30, 2000.

"Crazy for Love: Hinduism and the Ole Bull Case," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Special Topics Forum), November 2000.

"Christianity and Asian Religions," Adult Forum, First Lutheran Church, Sandwich, Massachusetts, September 26, 1999.

"Teaching the Religion in America Course," New World Colloquium, Harvard Divinity School, December 1, 1998.

"Asian Religions in America," Institute for the Study of Economic Culture, Boston University, November 11, 1998.

"The Episcopal Church in American History," St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Osterville, Massachusetts, December 1998.

"Cremation American Style: Consumers' Last Rites," One Nation Under God? Religion in Contemporary America conference, Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, November 1997.

Panel respondent, Buddhism in America: Methods and Findings in Recent Scholarship conference, Harvard University, May 1997.

Panel respondent, Transient and Permanent: The Transcendentalist Movement and its Contexts conference, Center for the Study of New England History, Massachusetts Historical Society, May 16, 1997.

"Is Religion Hazardous to Your Health?" An Undergraduate Religion Students Association panel on the Heaven's Gate suicides (with Professor David Eckel), Boston University, April 18, 1997.

"Freedom of Religion?: Recent Court Cases," Midday Series, Old South Meeting House, Boston, Massachusetts, January 1997.

“The Cremation Debate in Gilded Age America: Death and Its Denials,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (North American Religions Section), Chicago, November 1994.

“Lived Religion and the Dead: Popular Resistance to The Cremation Movement in Gilded Age America,” Lived Religion in America conference, Harvard Divinity School, September 1994.

“Religion, Gender and Sexuality Among the Beats,” The Beat Generation: Legacy and Celebration conference, New York University, May 1994.

“Sacred Space as Spiritual Autobiography: Howard Finster's 'Paradise Garden,’” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Arts, Literature, and Religion Section), Washington, D.C., November 1993.

“Religion, Gender and Sexuality Among the Beats,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Arts, Literature, and Religion Section), San Francisco, November 1992.

“Theosophists as Insiders: Thoughts on Rerouting the American Religious Mainstream,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (North American Religion Section), Kansas City, Missouri, November 1991.

“Conserving Race Through Conjure,” Symposium on Racism and Sexism: Differences and Connections, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, May 4, 1991.

“Is There a 'Protestant Buddhism' in American Culture?” American Academy of Religion New England Meeting, Amherst, Massachusetts, May 1990.

“'Creolization' and 'Syncretism' in American Religious History: Notes on Applying the African-American Paradigm to the Asian-American Experience,” paper delivered at the American Academy of Religion New England Meeting, Amherst, Massachusetts, March 1990.

“Is There a 'Protestant Buddhism' in the United States?: An Inquiry into Japanese/American Religious Syncretism,” The Protestant Establishment in American Culture conference, Harvard Divinity School, January 1990.

“The Meaning of Henry Steel Olcott: A Study in the Persistence of the Protestant Establishment,” The Protestant Establishment in American Culture conference, Harvard University, May 1988.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Consultant for various awards, including the MacArthur Fellowship, the Heinz Awards, the Grawemeyer Religion Award, and NEH fellowships.

Consultant and Moderator, “Religion in Early American History” symposium, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, March 19-20, 2015.

Consultant and Moderator, “Religion in American History” symposium, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, December 4-5, 2013.

Technical Advisor, Inclusive America Project, a nonpartisan initiative devoted to improving interfaith interactions across U.S. civil society (moderated by David Gergen and Madeleine Albright), 2013.

Adviser, Pew Forum for “U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey” (2009-2010) and “Global Survey of Islam” (2010-2011).

Television: Appearances “The Colbert Report” (for *God is Not One*), March 29, 2011 and June 14, 2010; “The Oprah Winfrey Show” (for *Religious Literacy*), April 6, 2007; “The Daily Show with John Stewart” (for *Religious Literacy*) March 20, 2007; Today,” NBC, April 7, 2004.

Other television appearances on CNN, C-Span, FoxNews, FoxBusiness, PBS, NBC, National Geographic Channel, A & E.

Television: Chief editorial consultant, “God in America,” six-hour WGBH-TV series on religion in American history (2010).

Radio: Appearances on “All Things Considered,” National Public Radio, “To the Best of Our Knowledge,” National Public Radio, “On Point,” National Public Radio, “The Connection,” National Public Radio, “Special Coverage,” National Public Radio, “The Bryant Park Project,” National Public Radio, “Radio Times,” National Public Radio (WHYY), “The Todd Mundt Show,” National Public Radio (Michigan Radio), “The Exchange,” New Hampshire Public Radio, “Radio-active,” KRCL (Salt Lake City), “On Second Thought,” WFPL (Louisville, Kentucky), “Open Line,” WOSU-AM (Columbus, Ohio), “Michelangelo Signorile Show,” Sirius Satellite Radio, “The Bob Dutko Show,” WMUZ (Detroit), “Nightcall,” WRIF (Detroit), “Bloomberg Simply Put,” Bloomberg Radio (New York), “Radio Health Journal” (nationally syndicated), “Odyssey,” Chicago Public Radio, “The John Cleary Interviews,” ABC National Radio (Australia), “The Good Life Radio Show,” SIRIUS Satellite, “Leonard Lopate Show,” WNYC-New York, “Extension 720 with Milt Rosenberg,” WGN-Chicago, “AirTalk with Larry Mantle,” KPCC-Los Angeles, “Pete Wilson Show,” KGO-San Francisco.

Mentor, Young Scholars in American Religion Program, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis, 2003-2004.

Member, Steering Committee, North American Religions Section, American Academy of

Religion, 2002-2005.

Consultant, "The Changing Role of Religion in American Life," National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, May and October 1998. Sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Member of American Academy of Religion, American Society of Church History, American Studies Association.

**REFERENCES**

Professor Thomas Tweed, Notre Dame

Professor Julie Byrne, Hofstra

Professor Catherine Albanese, University of California, Santa Barbara

Professor Diana Eck, Harvard University