



Joseph Blankholm
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POSITIONS

- 2022 — present Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies
(and History and Anthropology, by courtesy)
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2015 — 2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
(and History, by courtesy)
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2013 — 2015 Preceptor, Literature Humanities in the Core Curriculum
Columbia University

EDUCATION

- 2008 — 2015 Ph.D., Religion, *Columbia University*
- 2010 — 2011 M.Phil., Religion, *Columbia University*
- 2008 — 2010 M.A., Religion, *Columbia University*
- 2006 — 2008 M.A., Cultural Anthropology, *University of California, Irvine*
- 2000 — 2005 B.A., summa cum laude, Comp. Literature, *University of Minnesota*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Blankholm, Joseph. *Not Nothing: Who the Nonreligious Are and Why They Matter* (under contract with W.W. Norton).
- . “*The Secular Paradox* Globally.” Author’s response to a forum focused on *The Secular Paradox*. Forthcoming in *Secular Studies*.
- . “There’s Something Queer About the Secular Paradox.” Author’s response to a forum focused on *The Secular Paradox*. Forthcoming in *Critical Research on Religion*.
- . “The Beliefs of Nonbelievers: Exclusive Empiricism and Mortal Finitude Among Atheists and Agnostics.” Lead author, co-authored with Ryan Cragun, Abraham Hawley Suárez, and Shakir Stephen. Forthcoming in *Sociology of Religion* (available online via early access).

- . “The Religiosity of the U.S. Nonprofit Sector and Its Impact on Secular Women.” Forthcoming in *The Non-Religious and the State*. Edited by Jeffrey Tyssens, Niels de Nutte, and Stefan Schröder (De Gruyter).
- . “Intergenerational Evolution of Religiosity and Spirituality in Sexual Minorities in an American Sample.” Co-authored with Maria T. Brown, Dusty Hoesly, Woosang Hwang, RianSimone Harris, and Merrill Silverstein. In *Religious and Spiritual Change and Continuity Across Generations: Passing on Faith in Six European and North American Nations*, edited by Merrill Silverstein, Christel Gärtner, and Maria Brown (Rowman & Littfield, 2024).
- . “Spiritual Beliefs and Practices of the Non-Religious in an American Context: A Cross-Generational Perspective.” Co-authored with Woosang Hwang, Dusty Hoesly, Maria T. Brown, RianSimone Harris, and Merrill Silverstein. In *Religious and Spiritual Change and Continuity Across Generations: Passing on Faith in Six European and North American Nations*, edited by Merrill Silverstein, Christel Gärtner, and Maria Brown (Rowman & Littfield, 2024).
- . “Foreword: The Frustrating and Wonderful Ambiguity of Secular Publics.” In *Global Sceptical Publics: From Nonreligious Print Media to ‘Digital Atheism,’* edited by Jacob Copeman and Mascha Schulz (London: University College London Press, 2022), xv-xix.
- . *The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious*. New York: New York University Press, 2022.
- . “Feeling Out Alternatives Within Secularity.” *Religion* 51:4 (2021): 593-605.
- . “Remembering Marx’s Secularism.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88:1 (March 2020): 35–57.
- . “Self-Critique and Moral Ground: Saba Mahmood’s Contribution to Remaking Secularism and the Study of Religion.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 87:4 (December 2019): 941–954.
- . “Secularism and Secular People.” *Public Culture* 30:2 (May 2018): 245-268.
- . “The Limits of Religious Indifference.” In *Religious Indifference: New Perspectives From Studies on Secularization and Nonreligion*, edited by Johannes Quack and Cora Schuh. (New York: Springer, 2017), 239-258.
- . “Secularism, Humanism, and Secular Humanism: Terms and Institutions.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Secularism*, edited by Phil Zuckerman and John Shook (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 689-705.
- . “The Social Context of Organized Nonbelief: County-Level Predictors of Nonbeliever Organizations in the United States.” Second author, co-authored with Alfredo García, Princeton University. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 55:1 (March 2016): 70-90.
- . “The Political Advantages of a Polysemous Secular.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 53:4 (December 2014): 775-790.

———. “No Part of the World: How Jehovah's Witnesses Perform the Boundaries of Their Community.” *ARC* 37 (January 1, 2009): 197-211.

BOOK REVIEWS

Blankholm, Joseph. Review of *Machines for Making Gods: Mormonism, Transhumanism, and Worlds Without End*, Jon Bialecki (Fordham University Press, 2022). Forthcoming in *Mormon Studies Review*.

———. Review of *The Scientific Spirit of American Humanism*, Stephen P. Weldon (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). *Isis* 113:2 (June 2022): 457-58.

———. Review of *Religious Parenting: Transmitting Faith and Values in Contemporary America*, Christian Smith, Bridget Ritz, and Michael Rotolo (Princeton University Press, 2019). Co-authored with Merrill Silverstein, Syracuse University. *Social Forces* 100:2 (December 2021): 1-3.

———. Review of *Jewish Materialism: The Intellectual Revolution of the 1870s*, Eliyahu Stern (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018). *Reading Religion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/jewish-materialism>.

———. 3,000-word review essay focused on *Village Atheists: How America's Unbelievers Made Their Way in a Godly Nation*, Leigh Eric Schmidt (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2016). *Public Books*. <https://www.publicbooks.org/atheists-in-the-pantheon/>.

———. Review of *Inventing American Religion: Polls, Surveys, and the Tenuous Quest for a Nation's Faith*, Robert Wuthnow (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015) in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 85:1 (March 2017): 280-282.

———. Review of *Secularization Without End: Beckett, Mann, Coetzee*, Vincent Pecora (Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press 2015) in *The Comparatist* 40 (October 2016), 359-361.

SELECTED ONLINE ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Blankholm, Joseph. August 15, 2022. “One Good Way to Understand Religion Is to Break It Apart.” *Aeon-Psyche*, <https://psyche.co/ideas/one-good-way-to-understand-religion-is-to-break-it-apart> (accessed August 16, 2022).

———. April 23, 2020. “Genealogy's Bad Blood.” *Political Theology Network*, <https://politicaltheology.com/genealogys-bad-blood/> (accessed April 23, 2020).

———. January 31, 2020. “Belief.” *The Immanent Frame*. Part of “A Universe of Terms,” a series on keywords in the study of religion. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2020/01/31/belief-blankholm/> (accessed April 23, 2020).

———. November 14, 2017. “The ghost of immanentism.” *The Immanent Frame*, <https://tif.ssrc.org/2017/11/14/the-ghost-of-immanentism/> (accessed November 17, 2017).

———. September 12, 2017. “Irreligion on its own terms.” Co-authored with Carlo Invernizzi Accetti, with whom I co-organized a forum for *The Immanent Frame* on the immanentist tradition. *The*

Immanent Frame. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2017/09/12/irreligion-on-its-own-terms/> (accessed September 27, 2017).

- . December 18, 2014. "Secular, Spiritual, Religious: American Religion Beyond the Baby Boomers." Religious Studies Project. <http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/2014/12/18/secular-spiritual-religious-american-religion-beyond-the-baby-boomers-by-joseph-blankholm/> (accessed January 15, 2015).
- . January 20, 2014. "Scholarly Production of the Religiously Unaffiliated." *Religion Bulletin*. <http://www.equinoxpub.com/blog/2014/01/non-theism-and-the-nones-four-scholars-weigh-in-part-1/> (accessed January 20, 2014).
- . June 28, 2012. American Civil Religion in the Age of Obama: An interview with Philip S. Gorski. *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2012/06/28/american-civil-religion-in-the-age-of-obama-an-interview-with-philip-s-gorski/> (accessed August 2, 2012).
- . June 15, 2012. "Twin tolerations" today: An Interview with Alfred Stepan. *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2012/06/15/twin-tolerations-today-an-interview-with-alfred-stepan/> (accessed August 2, 2012).
- . November 21, 2011. An Idea Whose Time Has Come. *Possible Futures*. <http://www.possible-futures.org/2011/11/21/an-idea-whose-time-has-come/> (accessed December 15, 2011).
- . October 10, 2011. Faith-Friendly Secularism. *Rethinking Religion*. <http://ircpl.org/2011/rethinking-religion/events/responses/faith-friendly-secularism/> (accessed December 15, 2011).
- . November 12, 2010. Terry Eagleton, New Atheism, and the War on Terror. *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/11/12/terry-eagleton-new-atheism-and-the-war-on-terror/> (accessed September 22, 2011).
- . August 20, 2010. After atheism (Part II). *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/08/20/after-atheism-part-2/> (accessed September 22, 2011).
- . August 20, 2010. After atheism (Part I). *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/08/20/after-atheism-part-1/> (accessed September 22, 2011).
- . July 9, 2010. The quiet (ir)religion of the polite and apathetic. *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/07/09/the-quiet-irreligion-of-the-polite-and-apatetic/> (accessed September 22, 2011).
- . June 15, 2010. "I study religion," or: How to start an awkward conversation. *The Immanent Frame*. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/06/15/i-study-religion-or-how-to-start-an-awkward-conversation/> (accessed September 22, 2011).

INTERVIEWS: PODCAST AND VIDEO

- Oct 2022 “Joseph Blankholm, The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious.” New Books Network <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-secular-paradox>
- June 2022 “The Secular Paradox, with Dr. Joseph Blankholm.” Beyond Atheism <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-44-the-secular-paradox-with-dr-joseph-blankholm/id1553137916?i=1000566375664>
- June 2022 “Is It Possible to Be Non-Religious in the United States?” Straight White American Jesus <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/is-it-possible-to-be-non-religious-in-the-united-states/id1441649707?i=1000567153468>
- Aug 2021 “Religious exemption may be a loophole in vaccine mandates,” KCRW/NPR <https://www.kcrw.com/news/shows/kcrw-features/religious-exemption-vaccine-mandate-joseph-blankholm>
- June 2016 “Organized Nonbelievers in the United States,” The Robert Wright Show <http://meaningoflife.tv/videos/35320>
- May 2016 “Permutations of Secularism,” Religious Studies Project <http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/permutations-of-secularism/>

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2024 Arnhold Innovative Teaching and Learning Initiative Grant (\$16,480), to support Religion and Technology course taught in virtual reality
- 2023 UCSB Hybrid Course Development Grant (\$19,980), to support Religion and Technology course taught in virtual reality
- 2023 UCSB Hybrid, Online, and Technology-Enhanced (HOT) Teaching Mini-Grant (\$3,000), to support Religion and Technology course taught in virtual reality
- 2019 — 2024 John Templeton Foundation Grant, sub-award for “[Spirituality and Prosocial Values in the Absence of Religion Among Millennials and Their Families](#),” \$942,814 is the portion that went to UCSB from a \$2,781,745 award. Co-Leader of the entire award.
- 2018 Hellman Family Fellowship (\$21,024)
- 2018 — 2019 Regents Humanities Faculty Fellowship (one-course release)
- 2018 — 2019 Fellow of the Young Scholars in American Religion Program at the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture

2016	Research Grant from UCSB Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research for “Nonbeliever Communities in the United States” (\$7,920)
2016	Faculty Research Grant from UCSB Academic Senate for “Secular Tradition and the Purification of Religion” (\$9,051)
2014	Fellow, Summer Institute on “Problems in the Study of Religion” <i>National Endowment for the Humanities</i>
2012 — 2013	Paul H. Klingenstein Fellow <i>Columbia University</i>
Summer 2012	Ph.D. Seed Grant <i>Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion</i>
Sep 2011 — Sep 2012	Graduate Fellowship <i>Religions of Harlem Project, Columbia University</i>
Fall 2010	Graduate Research Fellowship <i>Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life</i>
Summer 2010	Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship <i>Social Science Research Council and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation</i>

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mar 2024 — present	Committee Member, Committee on Committees, University of California, Santa Barbara
June 2022 — Aug 2023	Board Member, Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara
Oct 2021 — present	Leader, UCSB WASC Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation, Qualitative Data Team Lead
2021	Section Organizer for the Religion section, Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association
Jan 2021 — present	Member, Faculty Advisory Board that oversees the UCSB Certificate in College and University Teaching
Jan 2021 — present	Chair, the American Academy of Religion’s Committee on Professional Conduct

Feb 2020 — Feb 2022	Expert Witness, State of Florida Capital Collateral Regional Counsel— South: religion-related consulting on capital case
Jan 2020 — Jan 2021	Committee Member, The American Academy of Religion's Committee on Professional Conduct
Aug 2019 — present	National Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Jul 2019	Expert Witness, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Central District of California: religion-related consulting on capital case
April — May 2019	Expert Witness, Attorney Matthew Pappas and Hundred Harmonies Association of Faith Church
Jan 2019 — present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Sociology of Religion</i>
Sep 2017 — 2019	UCSB First Gen Mentor: mentor to incoming undergraduates who are first-generation college students, like myself
Jun 2017 — Jun 2018	Co-researcher of ACLU report on the harsh conditions of Santa Barbara's County Jail
Sep 2016 — present	UCSB Dream Scholar Mentor: mentor to undocumented students majoring in Religious Studies
Nov 2015 — present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
Jan 2014 — Dec 2019	Co-chair, <i>Secularism and Secularity, a Program Unit of the American Academy of Religion</i> : write CFP and annual review; organize paper selection for unit's panels.
Dec 2012 — Dec 2013	Co-founder and Steering Committee Member, <i>Secularism and Secularity, a Program Unit of the American Academy of Religion</i> : founding member, wrote proposal for new program unit and initial CFP; committee chose papers for unit's panels.
Feb 2012 — Jun 2012	Consultant, <i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i> : researched and wrote a global assessment of UNDP interaction with faith-based organizations and religious leaders.
Nov 2011 — Feb 2012	Consultant, <i>Social Science Research Council (SSRC)</i> : wrote the summary report of consultations on the United Nations' engagement with faith-based organizations.
Nov 2011 — Jul 2012	Co-founder and Editor, <i>Possible Futures</i> (http://www.possible-futures.org): a digital forum produced by the Social Science Research Council and founded as an academic venue for writing on the Occupy movement.

- Jan 2011 — May 2014 Contributing Editor, *Rethinking Religion*: a blog managed by the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life.
- Sep 2010 — Aug 2012 Co-founder and Adviser, *Religions of Harlem Project* (<http://religionsofharlem.org>): designed and implemented a project and course documenting the religious life of Harlem.
- Jun 2010 — Jun 2014 Contributing Editor, *The Immanent Frame* ('Notes from the Field' and 'here & there' sections): a blog managed by the Social Science Research Council that is the eminent website for the academic discussion of religion.

REFEREE (BOOKS AND ARTICLES)

Indiana University Press, Columbia University Press, Bloomsbury, Routledge, Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, W.W. Norton, Social Forces, American Sociological Review, Sociological Quarterly, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Journal of Religious History, Secularism and Nonreligion, Critical Research on Religion, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Sociological Forum, UMBC Review, American Ethnologist, Qualitative Sociology, American Religion, Religion Compass, Religion, University College London Press

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Nov 2024 Panelist on a roundtable on "Power and Transgression in Hagiology," to be held at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA.
- Oct 2024 Invited panelist on a plenary panel entitled "SSSR Presidential Panel SSSR Presidential Panel: Deconstruction and Nonreligion: Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of The Deconstructed Church by Gerardo Martí and Gladys Ganiel (OUP 2014). To be held at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Jun 2024 "A Secular Tradition Within and Without Religion." Lecture given at a workshop entitled "History and the Secular," held at the University of Munich.
- Jun 2024 Invited panelist on a panel entitled "Religious Studies Divide" at the Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture in Indianapolis, IN.
- Mar 2024 "The Secular's Unmarked Presence." Lecture given as part of the colloquium series in the Department of Anthropology at UCSB.
- Mar 2024 "Recovering Poetic World-Making for the Secular Tradition." Lecture given at "After the Human," a symposium held at UCSB in honor of the life and work of religion scholar Mark C. Taylor.

- Aug 2023 “Measuring the Metaphysical Tradition: A Mixed- Methods Approach to Studying Spiritual Americans.” Panel presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Philadelphia, PA. Panel entitled “Measuring Religion.”
- Aug 2023 “Manuscript-Meets-Critics: *Growing up Godless: Nonreligious Childhoods in Contemporary England.*” Panel participant at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Philadelphia, PA.
- Aug 2023 “Studying Spirituality.” Roundtable participant at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Philadelphia, PA.
- May 2023 “The Secular Discursive Tradition: Grasping an Elusive Presence.” Panel presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion in Victoria, British Columbia.
- May 2023 “New Frontiers in Family Research on Religion and Spirituality.” Organized and presented at a private daylong workshop on May 10th and a half-day public symposium on May 11th. The events brought together the qualitative (UCSB) and quantitative (Syracuse University) teams of the Templeton-funded research project, “Spirituality And Prosocial Values In The Absence Of Religion Among Millennials And Their Families.”
- Mar 2023 “American Religion is...Obsolete/the Future.” Invited presentation at Columbia University as part of the Shifting Paradigms in American Religion seminar series. This panel took place over Zoom to include panelists and audience members who couldn’t be physically present.
- Feb 2023 Meet the Author event on *The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious*. Via Zoom, sponsored by the University of Ottawa, the Secularism on the Move Project, and the Nonreligion in a Complex Future Project. Presentation and Q&A are available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/DPT5LXGDQp0>
- Feb 2023 “Why Atheism Can Feel So Weirdly Religious.” Lecture given at UC-Riverside, sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies.
- Dec 2022 Discussion respondent, Global Epistemological Politics of Religion research group’s monthly reading group. Responded to a group of about eight scholars who invited me to discuss my book. The event sponsored by the Centre for Global Knowledge Studies at Cambridge University.
- Nov 2022 Participant in an author-meets-critics roundtable focused on Méadhbh McIvor's recent book, *Representing God: Christian Legal Activism in*

Contemporary England (Princeton University Press, 2020), at the 2022 annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO.

- Nov 2022 “Secular Ambivalence and Secular Misfits: A Roundtable on Joseph Blankholm’s *The Secular Paradox* (New York University Press, 2022).” Respondent to author-meets-critics roundtable focused on my book, at the 2022 annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO. Participants included Janet Jakobsen (Barnard), Jacqui Frost (Purdue), Bradley Onishi (independent scholar), and Eric Stephen (Harvard PhD student).
- Nov 2022 “The hidden transmission of religion across generations: Evidence from the U.S.” Co-presenter (with Merrill Silverstein) and co-author of a paper on a panel at the 2022 annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Baltimore, MD.
- Nov 2022 “Deconstruction, Dechristianization, and Decolonization: Challenges and Opportunities.” Panel presentation at the 2022 annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Baltimore, MD.
- Nov 2022 “The Garden of Religious Pluralism and Its Weeds.” Presentation at a workshop in New York City, sponsored by Syracuse University, and funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Gathered scholars from seven countries, including our project focused on the U.S., who researching the intergenerational transmission of religion and values.
- Oct 2022 Respondent at a daylong symposium focused on my book, *The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious*. The symposium comprised three two-hour sessions that focused on a visiting scholar’s response to the book. Participants included Terence Keel (UCLA), Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (Northwestern), and Candace Lukasik (Mississippi State).
- Aug 2022 “Secular Feelings: Mapping the Affective Terrain of Secular Life on a Large Scale.” Panel presentation at the annual conference of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Presented research from a project for which I am Principal Investigator. The other two panelists were members of my research team.
- Jul 2022 “Secular Anger: Strong Feelings about Religion as Signs of Secular Life.” Panel presentation at the annual Global Meeting on Law & Society in Lisbon, Portugal. The presentation was online via Zoom.
- Jun 2022 “Controlling for Christianity’s Inheritance in Social Scientific Research.” Panel presentation at the annual conference of Critical Research on Religion in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Presented alongside three UCSB graduate students on a panel I assembled.

- Apr 2022 “New Thought’s Poetic Language Ideology: Better Understanding, Better Strategy.” Presentation at the annual conference of the *Political Theology Network*, hosted by Arizona State University.
- Mar 2022 “On the Secular Paradox: Why Atheism Can Feel So Weirdly Religious.” Lecture delivered to a group of humanist scholars and practitioners in Brussels, Belgium. Delivered online because of COVID-19.
- Feb 2022 “Why Atheism Can Feel So Weirdly Religious.” Public Lecture at Oklahoma State University, delivered online because of COVID-19.
- Jul 2021 “Secular Rituals: How Nonreligious People Make Religion Less Religious.” Panel presentation at the annual conference of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion. The presentation was online because of COVID-19.
- Jun 2021 “The Secular Communities Survey: Comparing Secular Affiliates and the Religiously Unaffiliated.” Panel at the annual conference of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network. Presented research from a project for which I am Principal Investigator. The other two panelists are members of my research team.
- Apr 2021 “Is There a Secular Tradition? How Religious Studies Can Help Us Understand Secular People.” Invited lecture at the University of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies. The presentation was online because of COVID-19.
- Dec 2020 “I Know the Feeling: Affect in the Academic Guild.” Co-organizer and participant in a roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. The roundtable was online because of COVID-19.
- Nov 2020 “Retirement Without God: Activism and Community Among Secular People Over 60.” Panel presentation was delivered in an online format at the annual conference of the Gerontological Society of America.
- Oct 2020 “Secular Feelings: Anxiety about Religion as a Constitutive Emotion for Secular People.” Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, though the meeting was canceled because of COVID-19.
- Mar 2020 “Race, Spirituality, and Secularism,” a public dialogue with Juhem Navarro-Rivera, a demographer who worked on the Black Census. Sponsored by the Multicultural Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as part of the Center’s “Race and Religion” series.
- Feb 2020 “Secular Misfits: What Humanistic Jews and Ex-Muslims Can Teach Us About Religion.” Invited lecture at the College of William & Mary. Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies.

- Jan 2020 “Archaeology and Borders in Di/ego and the K/id.” Presentation at a conference entitled “Imagined Borders, Epistemic Freedoms: The Challenge of Social Imaginaries in Media, Art, Religion and Decoloniality,” hosted by CU-Boulder and funded by SIMAGINE and CU-Boulder.
- Oct 2019 “Historicizing Secular Studies Across the Disciplines.” Paper presentation for a workshop at Harvard University. Sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation.
- Oct, 2019 “Secular Rituals: How Nonreligious People Make Religion Less Religious.” Invited lecture at the Center for the Study of Religion at the University of California, Los Angeles.
- Oct 2019 “What Is Secularism? Who Are Secular People?” Invited lecture, part of the California State University Bakersfield Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Colloquia Series.
- May 2019 “Poverty Action Week: Class Inequality on College Campuses.” Invited panelist for an event sponsored by the Blum Center for Global Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Panel focused on the experience and needs of low-income and first-gen students.
- Apr 2019 “Secular People’s Ambivalence Toward Ritual.” Invited lecture at Yale University. Sponsored by the Sensory Cultures of Religion Research Group at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.
- Nov 2018 “Locating the Spiritual but Not Religious.” Invited panelist for an exploratory session at the 2018 annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in Denver, CO.
- Sep 2018 “What is Secularism? Who Are Secular People?” Invited lecture at Middlebury College. Sponsored by the Charles P. Scott Endowment and the Religion Department.
- Mar 2018 “Leaving Religion and Losing Culture: Secular Conversion among Hispanic Freethinkers, Black Atheists, and Ex-Muslims.” Invited lecture at the Townsend Center for the Humanities at the University of California, Berkeley. Co-sponsored by the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion and the UC Humanities Research Institute.
- Nov 2017 Respondent, author-meets-critics roundtable on Finbarr Curtis’ *The Production of American Religious Freedom* at the 2017 annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in Boston, MA.
- Apr 2017 “Bridging the Gap in Secular Studies.” Invited paper given at “What Comes After the Critique of Secularism?”, a workshop at UC-Berkeley,

hosted by the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion and sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation.

- Feb 2017 Organized and moderated a panel on atheism in African American life, entitled "Black Without God." The event was hosted by UCSB's Multicultural Center and co-sponsored by the Departments of Religion and Black Studies.
- Aug 2016 "Arenas of Authority and Movement Mobilization Among the Nonreligious." Paper given at a joint session of the Association for the Sociology of Religion and American Sociological Association in Seattle, WA.
- Aug 2016 Invited participant on a roundtable entitled "Who cares about unbelief? Social, political and legal questions for the scientific study of nonreligious belief" at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in n Seattle, WA.
- Jul 2016 "The Language Ideologies of Nonbelievers." Paper given at "A Postsecular Age? New Narratives of Religion, Science, and Society," a conference at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England.
- Nov 2015 Introductory remarks for a panel I organized entitled, "Future Directions in the Study of the Secular" at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA.
- Oct 2015 "The Private and Public Beliefs of Nonbelievers." Paper given on a panel entitled, "Sincerely Held Belief as a Problem for the Law" at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Newport Beach, CA.
- Apr 2015 "Sincerely Held Beliefs of Nonbelievers." Paper given on a panel entitled "In Bad Faith" at the biennial conference of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion in San Diego, CA.
- Jan 2015 "Sixty Years of Religious Decline? An Interdisciplinary Conversation." Participant on a panel at the 2015 winter meeting of the American Society of Church History in New York City.
- Nov 2014 "The Interwoven Genealogies of Secularism and Humanism." Paper given at the 2014 annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, CA. Panel sponsored by the Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion group.
- Nov 2014 "Navigating the Nonbeliever Constellation: What's at Stake in Labeling Nonbelievers and Secular Activists?" Paper given at the 2014 annual conference of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network hosted by Pitzer College in Claremont, CA.

- Nov 2014 “Religious Indifference Beyond the Religious Field.” Article presented at workshop on religious indifference hosted by the Department of Social/Cultural Anthropology at the Goethe-University in Frankfurt, Germany; funded by the Emmy Noether Programme of the German Research Foundation.
- Oct 2014 “America’s Organized Nonbelievers: A Social Movement?” Paper given at the 2014 annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Indianapolis, IN.
- Apr 2014 “Hearing the Secular Speak: A Perspectivist Approach to Religion.” Paper given at a University of Toronto religious studies graduate student conference entitled, “Methods of Madness: An Inquiry into Methodology in the Study of Religion.”
- Mar 2014 “Beyond the Subtraction Story: Secular Religion and Other Hybrids.” Paper given at a conference entitled “Working with *A Secular Age*,” hosted by the University of Bern, Switzerland.
- Feb 2014 “The Challenge of Being Secular: Nonbelievers as a Precarious Religious Minority.” Invited public lecture at Columbia University. Co-sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life; the Departments of Political Science and Religion; and the Sociology Department of the CUNY Graduate Center.
- Feb 2014 “Religion and Digital Technologies Workshop.” Invited panelist on a panel hosted by the Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion; presented on the Religions of Harlem project and using digital technology to teach about the ethnographic encounter.
- Jan 2014 “The New Spiritual Technology and the Restructuring of American Religion.” Paper given at the 2014 winter meeting of the American Society for Church History in Washington, DC. The panel revisits Robert Wuthnow’s *The Restructuring of American Religion* 25 years after its publication, with Wuthnow responding.
- Nov 2013 “After Secularization: Formations of a Secular Movement and a Secular Identity.” Paper given at the 2013 AAR annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. The panel is co-sponsored by four AAR groups.
- Oct 2013 “The Challenge of Being Secular: Nonbelievers as an American Religious Minority.” Paper given at “The Spectacle of Toleration,” a conference in honor of the 350th anniversary of the Rhode Island Charter. Co-sponsored by Brown University, the Newport Historical Society, and the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy.

- Aug 2013 “Functionalist Understandings of Religion as an Explanation of Organizational Variety in the Secular Movement.” Paper given at the 2013 annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in New York, NY.
- Apr 2013 “Secularism as Religious Ideology in the New American Pluralism.” Paper given at the biennial conference of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion in Pasadena, CA.
- Mar 2013 “The Political Advantages of a Polysemous Secular.” Invited paper given at “After Secularization,” a conference co-sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the UC Humanities Research Institute at the University of California, Irvine.
- Dec 2012 “Out of the Tower: Academics Writing for Public Audiences.” Invited panelist on a panel discussion at the Princeton Center for the Study of Religion; alongside Wallace Best (Princeton), Kevin Eckstrom (Religion News Service) and Paul Raushenbush (Huffington Post).
- May 2012 “Elmer Gantry was drunk?: Public Rhetoric and Private Vice in Sinclair Lewis’s America.” Given at Stanford University for a religious studies graduate student conference entitled, “Sanctified Indulgence.”
- Apr 2009 “Branding Belief: Chabad Outreach in the 21st Century.” Given at Columbia University for a Religion department graduate student conference entitled, “Belief Matters.”
- Mar 2009 “No Part of the World: How Jehovah’s Witnesses Perform the Boundaries of their Community.” Given at McGill University for a religious studies graduate student conference entitled, “Performing Self and Community: New Perspectives on Ritual Practice.”

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
 American Sociological Association
 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
 Association for the Sociology of Religion
 American Gerontological Association
 Society for the Anthropology of Religion

LANGUAGES

French Advanced proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing.
 Spanish Intermediate proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing.
 German Reading with dictionary, basic proficiency in speaking.