

David Walker

Department of Religious Studies
Mail Code 3130
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3130

EMPLOYMENT

2013– Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D., Religious Studies, Yale University
Dissertation: “Third Corinnethians: Railroads and Religion in the American West”
with distinction
- 2010 M.A., M.Phil., Religious Studies, Yale University
with distinction
- 2003 B.A., Religious Studies, Wesleyan University
summa cum laude

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Railroading Religion: Mormons, Tourists, and the Corporate Spirit of the West (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming in 2019)

Articles and Chapters

“Mormon Melodrama and the Syndication of Satire, from *Brigham Young* (1940) to *South Park* (2003),” *Journal of American Culture* 40, no. 3 (September 2017): 259-275.

“Railroading Independence: Pulpit Rock and the Work of Mormon Observation,” *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 37, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2017): 29-50.

“Transporting Mormonism: Railroads and Religious Sensation in the American West,” in *Sensational Religion: Sensory Cultures in Material Practice*, ed. Sally Promey (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2014): 581-604.

“The Humbug in American Religion: Ritual Theories of Nineteenth-Century Spiritualism,” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 23, no. 1 (Winter 2013): 30-74.

Essays

“The End of the Circus,” *Is This All There Is*, eds. Courtney Bender and Nancy Levene, entry 23, Nov 24 2017, found at <https://tif.ssrc.org/2017/11/24/the-end-of-the-circus/>

“Moonlighting in Magic: The Real (and More Interesting) World Behind *Magic in the Moonlight*,” *Religion Dispatches*, Sep 16 2014, found at <http://religiondispatches.org/we-were-willing-fools-the-world-of-woody-allens-magic-in-the-moonlight-was-more-interesting-than-the-movie/>

“James Strang’s Letter of Appointment,” *Frequencies: A Genealogy of Spirituality*, eds. Kathryn Lofton and John Lardas Modern, entry 58/100, Nov 21 2011, found at <http://frequencies.ssrc.org/2011/11/21/james-strang’s-letter-of-appointment/>

Reviews

Review of *Unpopular Sovereignty: Mormons and the Federal Management of Utah Territory* by Brent M. Rogers, *American Historical Review*, 123, no. 3 (June 2018): 953-54.

Review of *Walking Where Jesus Walked: American Christians and Holy Land Pilgrimage* by Hillary Kaell, *History of Religions* 57, no. 1 (August 2017): 100-103.

Review of *The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith* by Matthew Bowman, *Mormon Studies Review* 1, no. 1 (Fall 2014): 166-174.

TEACHING

Graduate courses (UCSB): *Historiography of the Nineteenth Century*; *Writing U.S. Religious History*; *Religion in the Gilded Age*; *Revivalism in Early America*; *Incorporating Religion*; *Proseminar in Theory & Method in Religious Studies: Critical Theory*

Undergraduate courses (UCSB): *Introduction to the Study of Religion in America*; *Religion in Early America*; *Religion in Modern America*; *Religion & Tourism*; *Theory in Magic*; *Problems in the Study of Religion*; *Religion in the American West* (co-taught with Rudy Busto)

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2016, Hellman Family Faculty Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara

2016, Regents Junior Faculty Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara

2015, Article Award of Excellence, Mormon History Association (for “Transporting Mormonism: Railroads and Religious Sensation in the American West”)

- 2015, LeRoy S. Axland Best Utah History Award, Utah Division of State History, Utah Department of Heritage & Arts (for “Transporting Mormonism: Railroads and Religious Sensation in the American West.”)
- 2014–2016, Young Scholar, Young Scholars in American Religion Program, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
- 2014, Charles Redd Fellowship, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University
- 2011–2012, Howard R. Lamar Scholarship, Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders, Yale University
- 2011, Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Autry Institute for the Study of the American West, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011, Research Fellowship, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University
- 2008–2011, Initiative Fellowship, Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion. Sally M. Promey, director
- 2003, Giffin Prize for Excellence in Religious Studies, Wesleyan University Department of Religious Studies
- 2003, Phi Beta Kappa, Wesleyan University

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- June 2018, “Supernatural Borderlands: Encounters between Spiritualists and Mormons” (session respondent), at the Mormon History Association annual meetings, Boise, ID
- November 2017, “Railroading Secularism,” at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Cultural History of the Study of Religion Program Unit), Boston, MA
- November 2017, “Plural Marriage and the Study of Religion,” at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Mormon Studies Program Unit), Boston, MA
- November 2017, “Analytical Frames: Appropriation, Taking, and Territoriality” (moderator), at the Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline annual pre-AAR workshop, Boston, MA
- November 2016, “Method and Theory in the Aesthetics of Religion” (chair and discussant), at the Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline annual pre-AAR workshop, San Antonio, TX
- September 2016, “Railroading Independence: Trains and the Mainlines of Mormon Observation” (Howard Lecture keynote address), at the John Whitmer Historical Association annual meetings, Kirtland, OH

November 2015, “The Silent Missionary: Stereoscopic Tourism in the Mormon Imaginary,” at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Religion, Memory, and History Group), Atlanta, GA

November 2015, “Canon and/in Science Fiction” (chair and discussant), at the Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline annual pre-AAR workshop, Atlanta, GA

September 2015, “Rout(e)s of Religion: Wrestling Rings, World’s Fairs, and the Makings of Modern Mormonism” (invited lecture), Lafayette College, Easton, PA

June 2015, “Mormon Missionaries, Mormon Maulers: Performing World Religions in the Wrestling Ring,” at the Mormon History Association annual meetings (50th Anniversary Special Session), Provo, UT

June 2015, “Legacies of Leonard Arrington” (session chair), at the Mormon History Association annual meetings (50th Anniversary Special Session), Provo, UT

May 2015, “Railroad Time and Technologies of Nostalgia,” Religious Studies Colloquium, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

November 2014, “Key Concepts in the Study of Religion” (session chair), at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group), San Diego, CA

November 2014, “Comparison and the Analysis of Religion and Ritual” (discussant), at the Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline annual pre-AAR workshop, San Diego, CA

November 2014, “An Incitement to Excitement: The Touristic Imperative in 19th-Century Utah,” at the American Studies Association annual meetings, Los Angeles, CA

June 2014, “Teaching Religion in California,” at the California Pluralism Project Conference, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

May 2014, Respondent: “American Catholic Cultural Engagement from Orestes Brownson to Rick Santorum,” at the annual Catholic Studies Conference, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

November 2013, “Contested Representations in Religion and Politics” (session chair), at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group), Baltimore, MD

November 2012, “Railroading Rituals: Mormons and Tourists in the American West,” at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Religion and Popular Culture Group), Chicago, IL

November 2012, “Territorial Rewriting of Religious-Political Violence” (session chair), at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group), Chicago, IL

November 2012, “Tourism, Scrapbooking, and Bricolage in the American West,” at the Sensory Cultures of Religion Research Group symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT

October 2012, “Humbug: A Theory of Religion,” at the Columbia University Religion in America Seminar, New York, NY

November 2011, “The Humbug in American Religion: Spiritualist Ritual and Religious Theory in the 19th Century” at the American Academy of Religion annual meetings (Religion, Media, and Culture Group), San Francisco, CA

November 2011, “Training the Eye: Railroads and Comparative Religious Imagination in the American West,” at Sensational Religions: Sense and Controversy in Material Religious Practice, a conference sponsored by the Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, New Haven, CT

October 2011, “The Transportation of Mormonism: Railroads and Religious Encounters in 19th-Century Utah” at the American Studies Association annual meetings, Baltimore, MD

October 2011, “On Comparison,” at the Wesleyan University Religion Colloquium, Middletown, CT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018– , Editorial Board, *Reading Religion*

2018– , Editorial Board, “Religions in America” digital archive, Gale Group

2017– , Steering Committee Member, Mormon Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion

2015– , Advisory Network Member, Center for the Study of Material & Visual Cultures of Religion

2013– , Chair, Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion

2013– , Steering Committee Member, The Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline Workshop

2014–2016, Editorial Board Member, “Religion, Spirituality, Reform, and Society” digital archive, Gale Cengage’s *Nineteenth Century Collections Online* Project

2013–2016, Chair, Social Theory and Religion Cluster, American Academy of Religion

2014-2015, Steering Committee Member, Mormon History Association (50th Anniversary meetings)

2011–2013, Steering Committee Member, Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group, American Academy of Religion

2009, Graduate Associate, Cultures of American Religious Liberalism Project, New Haven, CT and Princeton, NJ. Sally M. Promey and Leigh Eric Schmidt, Directors

Departmental Service (UCSB Religious Studies)

- 2017-2018 Executive Committee
 Director of Undergraduate Studies
 Walter H. Capps Center Advisory Committee and Search Committee
 Robert S. Michaelsen Lecture Series Committee
 Faculty Advisor to Lead TA and Graduate Student Liaison
 Departmental Mentor for Summer Instructors
- 2016-2017 Executive Committee
 Director of Undergraduate Studies
 Curriculum Committee (Theory & Method series)
 Walter H. Capps Center Advisory Committee
 Robert S. Michaelsen Lecture Series Committee
 Faculty Advisor to Lead TA and Graduate Student Liaison
 Departmental Mentor for Summer Instructors
- 2015-2016 Personnel Committee
 Ad-Hoc Curriculum Committee (Theory & Method series)
 Faculty Advisor to Lead TA and Graduate Student Liaison
 Departmental Mentor for Summer Instructors
- 2014-2015 Search Committee
 Personnel Committee
 American Cultural Studies Steering Committee
- 2013-2014 Graduate Committee
 Academic Senate Representative

Reviewer

Journal of the American Academy of Religion
Object Narratives (for Initiative for the Study of Material & Visual Cultures of Religion)
Religion & American Culture
Theory & Society

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
American Culture Association
American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Mormon History Association