

Jonathan R. Baer

Wabash College

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Experience

2013-2016 Chair, Department of Religion, Wabash College
2021-2023

2009-present Associate Professor of Religion, Wabash College

2004-2009 Assistant Professor of Religion, Wabash College

2005-2006 Affiliate Visiting Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University

2002-2004 Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of Religion, Wabash College

2001-2002 Editorial Assistant, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Yale University

1996-1998 Teaching Assistant, American Religious History, Yale University

1991-1994 Director, Member Benefits and Services, Department of Alumni Affairs, Duke University

1991 Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Public Affairs, Duke University

Publications

Articles

“The Soil of the Prosperity Gospel.” Published online by 9Marks.
<http://www.9marks.org/blog/soil-prosperity-gospel>. December 20, 2013.

“Holiness and Pentecostalism.” In *The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America*. Ed. Philip Goff. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010, 569-86.

“Health, Disease, and Medicine.” In *The Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. 4 vols. Eds. Peter W. Williams and Charles H. Lippy. CQ Press, 2010. V. 2: 954-65.

“American Dispensationalism’s Perpetually Imminent End Times,” *Journal of Religion*, 87 (April 2007): 248-64.

“Sacred Bodies: Religion, Illness, and Healing.” In *Faith in America: Changes, Challenges, New Directions*, v. 2: *Religious Issues Today*. Ed. Charles H. Lippy. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2006, 237-59.

“Original Sin in America: Says Who?” Review article on *Blessed Are the Cynical: How Original Sin Can Make America a Better Place* (2003), by Mark Ellingsen. *Fides et*

Historia, 37 (Summer/Fall 2005), 38 (Winter/Spring 2006): 211-15.

“Confessions of a Non-Evangelical,” *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, 12 (April 2005): 213-21.

“Redeemed Bodies: The Functions of Divine Healing in Incipient Pentecostalism,” *Church History: Studies in Christianity & Culture*, 70 (December 2001): 735-71.

“Rhode Island Charter.” In *Religion and American Law: An Encyclopedia*. Ed. Paul Finkelman. New York: Garland Publishing, 2000, 421-23.

Book Reviews

Review of Frances FitzGerald. *The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017. 740 pages.
<https://www.9marks.org/review/book-review-the-evangelicals-by-frances-fitzgerald/>

Review of Melani McAlister. *The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of Evangelicals*. Oxford University Press, 2018. 394 pages.
<https://www.9marks.org/review/book-review-the-kingdom-of-god-has-no-borders-by-melani-mcalister/>

Review of Timothy P. Carney. *Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse*. New York: Harper, 2019. 348 pages. Published online at www.9marks.org.

Review of Daryn Henry. *A. B. Simpson and the Making of Modern Evangelicalism*. McGill-Queen's Studies in the History of Religion, ser. 2, vol. 87. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019. 403 pages. *Religious Studies Review*, 46 (December 2020): 549.

Review of *Baptists in America: A History*. By Thomas S. Kidd and Barry Haskins. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Published online at www.9marks.org.

Review of *The Healing Gods: Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Christian America*. By Candy Gunther Brown. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. *Journal of Religion*, v. 96 (April 2016): 261-63.

Review of *Guaranteed Pure: The Moody Bible Institute, Business, and the Making of Modern Evangelicalism*. By Timothy E. W. Gloege. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015. Published online at <http://9marks.org/review/book-review-guaranteed-pure-by-timothy-gloege/>.

Review of *God's Forever Family: The Jesus People Movement in America*. By Larry Eskridge. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Published online at <http://9marks.org/review/book-review-gods-forever-family-by-larry-eskridge/>.

Review of *Spirit Cure: A History of Pentecostal Healing*. By Joseph W. Williams. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*. v. 83 (December 2014): 1076-1079.

Review of *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*. By Kate Bowler. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Published online in 2013 by 9Marks.

<http://www.9marks.org/books/book-review-blessed-history-american-prosperity-gospel-kate-bowler>.

Review of *Testing Prayer: Science and Healing* (2012). By Candy Gunther Brown. H-Pentecostalism. Published in 2013 at <https://networks.h-net.org/node/9663/reviews/11406/baer-brown-testing-prayer-science-and-healing>.

Review of *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon*. By Kathryn Lofton. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011. Published online at <http://9marks.org/review/book-review-oprah-the-gospel-of-an-icon/>.

Review of *The Assemblies of God: Godly Love and the Revitalization of American Pentecostalism* (2010). By Margaret M. Poloma and John C. Green. *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*. v. 82 (March 2013): 247-50.

Review of *Faith and Health: Religion, Science, and Public Policy* (2008). By Paul D. Simmons. *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, 80 (December 2011): 971-72.

Review of *The Fire Spreads: Holiness and Pentecostalism in the American South* (2008). By Randall J. Stephens. *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, 80 (September 2011): 705-708.

Review of *Prescribing Faith: Medicine, Media, and Religion in American Culture* (2007), by Claire Hoertz Badaracco. *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, 33 (2011): 116-117.

Review of *Predestination: The American Career of a Contentious Doctrine*, by Peter J. Thuesen (2009). *First Things*. Published online in 2010 at <http://www.firstthings.com/onthesquare/2010/04/the-american-career-of-predestination>.

Review of *Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900* (2007), by Heather D. Curtis. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 83 (Summer 2009): 407-408.

Review of *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* (2007), by Eric Metaxas. *Christian Century*, 124 (November 13, 2007): 39-41.

Review of *The Evangelical Conversion Narrative: Spiritual Autobiography in Early Modern England* (2005), by D. Bruce Hindmarsh. *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, 13 (2006): 205-10.

Review of *The Making of the New Spirituality: The Eclipse of the Western Religious Tradition* (2003), by James A. Herrick. *Fides et Historia*, 37 (Summer/Fall 2005), 38 (Winter/Spring 2006): 284-87.

Review of *Before Scopes: Evangelicalism, Education, and Evolution in Tennessee, 1870-1925* (2004), by Charles A. Israel. *Journal of Religion*, 85 (October 2005): 665-66.

Review of *Wonderful Words of Life: Hymns in American Protestant History & Theology* (2003), eds. Richard J. Mouw and Mark A. Noll. *Journal of Religion*, 85 (April 2005): 322-23.

Review of *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys* (2003), by Mark A. Noll. *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, 12 (February 2005): 56-59.

Review of *Origins of the Quakers: From the Old World to the New World* (1998), by Clarke Garrett. *Religious Studies Reviews*, 25 (April 1999): 218-19.

Book Manuscript in Preparation

Embodied Power: Faith Healing and the Birth of Pentecostalism in Modernizing America.

Presentations and Conferences

“The Prosperity Gospel,” Rock Point Church, Crawfordsville, IN, November 17, 2019.

“Random Tales from the Teaching Front,” Wabash College Chapel, March 5, 2015.

“Seeking Your Vocation,” Wabash College Chapel, October 3, 2013.

“Christianity, Marriage, and Fatherhood,” Wabash College Newman Center, March 21, 2011.

“Victory in Defeat,” Wabash College Chapel, October 22, 2010.

Conference on Faculty Mentoring, Wabash College, December 4-5, 2009.
Co-organized, led, and presented at conference of 23 faculty and administrators representing seven liberal arts colleges.

Conference on New Faculty Orientation, Wabash College, May 8-9, 2009.
Co-organized, led, and presented at conference of 24 faculty and administrators representing seven liberal arts colleges.

“The Episcopal Church and Slavery,” St. John’s Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, IN, October 18, 2009.

“The Results of the Reformation,” St. John’s Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, IN, April 19, 2009.

“The Great Awakening in the American Colonies,” St. John’s Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, IN, January 11, 2009.

“The Diversity of Christianity,” Montgomery County Leadership Academy, Crawfordsville, IN, October 24, 2008, October 19, 2007, October 13, 2006.

“Faith Healing and the Law: Early Pentecostal Conflict,” Policy History Conference, St. Louis, May 31, 2008.

“Faith Healing and the Law: Early Pentecostal Conflict,” Humanities Colloquium, Wabash College, April 22, 2008.

“The Value of Church History,” guest scholar in church history, Lay Worship

Leadership Program, Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Wallace, IN, February 3, 2007.

“The Expansive Faith of Charles Cullis,” Religion and Culture Workshop, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, February 24, 2006.

Respondent to various presentations, Religion and Culture Workshop, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, March 3, 2006, November 18, 2005, September 28, 2005.

“Sacred Bodies: Religion, Illness, and Healing,” Young Scholars in American Religion Conference, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, October 2005.

History Session Respondent, Society for Pentecostal Studies Conference, Virginia Beach, VA, March 2005.

“Playing to Mixed Reviews: Early Twentieth-Century Pentecostal Healing and the Fundamentalist Response,” presented at the American Society of Church History Conference, Chicago, January 2003.

“Embodied Salvation: Divine Healing Among Higher Life Evangelicals,” presented at the American Society of Church History Conference, New Haven, CT, March 2001, as part of a session which I organized, entitled “Transforming the Body: Religious Healing in Modernizing North America.”

“Perfect Bodies: The Functions of Divine Healing in Incipient Pentecostalism,” presented at the Pew Program in Religion and American History Fellows Conference, Yale University, May 2000.

“Humanitarian Charity and Scientific Philanthropy: The Civil War and the Christian and Sanitary Commissions,” presented to the John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, Seminar on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations, Yale University, July 1996.

“Scottish Common Sense and Free Agency in the Theology of Nathaniel William Taylor,” presented to the Yale Seminar on American Intellectual and Cultural History, April 1995.

Manuscript Referee

Oxford University Press
New York University Press
Journal of Religion
Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation
Journal of Church and State
Teaching Theology & Religion
Journal of Historical Geography

Professional Service

Director, Scroll: The Wabash Institute of Theology for Youth
Co-Director, Callings: Exploring Vocational Identity and Purpose
Board of Trustees, Coram Deo Academy, Carmel, IN

Academic Advisory Committee, Indiana Historical Society (HIS) in Indianapolis,
for the Exhibit “You Are There 1839: Religion and the Divided Frontier,”
Associate Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture,
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
H-Net Pentecostalism

Consultant

Consultant to Arthur E. Farnsley III, sociologist of religion, on a book
project, *Flea Market Jesus* (2012)

Teaching Experience

Religion in America	Anthropology of Religion
Religion and Health in America	Sociology of Religion
African-American Religious History	Sects and Cults in America
Christian Lives	The Christian Church in the Modern Era
Religion and the American Dream	Cultures & Traditions (core sophomore course)
Projects in American Religion	Freshman Tutorials:
Puritanism	Christianity and Twentieth-Century Fiction
Religion and Sports in America	Indiana Writers and Literature
The Christian Tradition of Vocation	Callings
Christianity and Mental Health in America	Senior Seminar: The Nature & Study of Religion
Jesus in America	Low Wallace and American Religion
History of Christianity to the Reformation	Theological Ethics
History of Christianity from the Reformation to the Modern Era	

Committee and College Service

Religion Department Chair (2013-16, 2021-23)	Chaired Several Departmental Search Committees
Faculty Athletics Representative	Business Minor Committee
Faculty Development Committee (chair)	Callings: Exploring Vocational Identity and Purpose (founder and chair)
Faculty Athletics Committee (chair)	Co-leader of Immersion Course to Greece, 2004
Football Stadium Planning Committee	Community Service Committee (chair)
New Faculty Orientation (co-chair)	Athletic search committees for football, swimming, track & field, volleyball coaches, Assoc. AD, etc.
Tuttle Chapel Organizer and Leader	Faculty and Staff Prayer Lunch (founder)
Gavit Award Committee (chair)	International Studies Committee
Sphinx Club (honorary member)	Lecture Planning & Implementation Committees
Theta Delta Chi (faculty advisor)	Inter-Fraternity Council Advisory Committee
Lilly Grant Steering Committee	Fringe Benefits Committee
Lilly Scholarship Selection Committee	Honorary Degree Committee
Faculty Admissions Committee	Alumni-Faculty Symposium Organizing Committee
Institutional Review Board	
Senior Colloquium	
New Orleans Spring Break Katrina Rebuild Organizer and Leader, 2008-2013	
Academic Organizer and Co-leader of Basketball Team Trip to Ireland, 2019	

Education

Ph.D. Yale University, 2002
 American Religious History, Department of Religious Studies
 Dissertation: “Perfectly Empowered Bodies: Divine Healing in

Modernizing America”
 Comprehensive Fields: American Religious History, 1500-1865
 American Religious History, 1865-1995
 European Reformation
 Sociology of Religion

M.Phil. Yale University, 1998
 M.A. Yale University, 1995

M.Phil. Queens’ College, University of Cambridge, 1990
 Social and Political Theory
 Thesis: “Burke and Paine: The French Revolution and the Nature of Political Authority”

A.B. Duke University, 1989
 History & Political Science
 Magna cum Laude; Dean’s List with Distinction
 Senior Thesis: “Fighting Dry: Bishop James Cannon, Jr., and the South’s Repudiation of Al Smith in the Election of 1928”

Fellowships and Research Grants

2017-2023	Scroll: The Wabash Institute of Theology for Youth: \$530,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to establish and direct a Youth Theology Network summer institute for high school young men at Wabash
2013-2014	NetVUE (Network on Vocation in Undergraduate Education) two-year program development grant for Callings: Exploring Vocational Identity and Purpose
2013-2014	New Directions Initiative Grant, Great Lakes Colleges Association
2006-present	Associate Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
2009	Know Indiana Course Development Grant, freshman tutorial on Indiana Writers and Literature
2005-2006	Affiliate Visiting Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University
2005	John J. Coss Faculty Development Grant, Wabash College
2004-2005	Young Scholars in American Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
2003-2004	Byron K. Trippet Research Fund Summer Grants, Wabash College
2003	John J. Coss Faculty Development Grant, Wabash College
2000	John Perry Miller Fund Summer Research Grant, Yale University

1999-2000	Pew Dissertation Fellowship, Pew Program in Religion and American History, Yale University
1999	John F. Enders Summer Research Grant, Yale University
1999	Department of Religious Studies Summer Research Grant, Yale University
1998	Pew Summer Fellowship, Pew Program in Religion and American History, Yale University
1996	John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, Fellowship, Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University
1994-1998	University Fellowship, Yale University

Academic Societies

American Academy of Religion
American Society of Church History
Society for Pentecostal Studies
Conference on Faith and History
H-Net Pentecostalism