

Robert M. Royalty, Jr., Ph.D.

Education

Ph.D. in Religious Studies, Yale University, December 1995

S.T.M, Yale Divinity School, May 1990

M. Div. *cum laude*, Yale Divinity School, May 1989

B. A. with Honors in English and Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 1983

Professional Experience

Professor of History and Religion, Wabash College, 2017—

Previous Positions

Visiting Scholar, Department of Classics, Stanford University, Spring 2015

Visiting Professor, Harlaxton College, Fall 2014, Spring 2020

Professor of Religion, Wabash College, 2013–2017

Associate Professor of Religion, Wabash College, 2005–2013

External (Visiting) Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, 2005–2006

Assistant Professor of Religion, Wabash College, 1999–2005

Publications and Research

Narrative nonfiction

Walking Hadrian's Walk: A Memoir of a Father's Suicide. Shanti Arts Publishing, 2021

Scholarly Monographs:

The Origin of Heresy: A History of Discourse in Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity. Routledge Studies in Religion, 18. Routledge, 2013. Paperback edition June 2015

The Streets of Heaven: The Ideology of Wealth in the Apocalypse of John. Mercer University Press, 1998

Refereed Articles:

“Demonic Symposia in the Apocalypse of John.” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, 38.4 (March 2016) 503–25

“Justin’s Conversion and the Rhetoric of Heresy.” *Studia Patristica* XL (2006) 509–514.

“Etched or Sketched? Inscriptions and Erasures in the Messages to Sardis and Philadelphia,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, 27.4 (June 2005), 447–63.

“Don’t Touch This Book: Rev 22:18–19 and the Rhetoric of Reading (in) the Apocalypse of John,” *Biblical Interpretation* 12:3 (December 2004), 282–300

- “Dwelling on Visions: The Nature of the So-Called ‘Colossians Heresy,’” *Biblica* 83 (2002) 329–57
- “Ancient Cities in Cyberspace: Exploring the Uses of Digital Media in Teaching Early Christianity,” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 5:1 (2002) 42–48
- “The Rhetoric of Revelation,” *Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997): 596–617
- “Theory at Work,” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 14.4 (October 2011), 384–385
- “Student Research as Transformative Pedagogy,” Revise and resubmit requested 2011 from *Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly*.

Invited Articles and Encyclopedia Entries

- “Heresy/Heretical,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Christianity*, forthcoming
- “Apocalypticism in the 21st Century,” Guest Editor, *Religions* Special Issue, 2019
- “Hadrian and the Walls of Heresy,” *exCommunicated: the Journal of the International Society of Heresy Studies* 3:2 (June 2017)
- “Walking Hadrian’s Wall: Meditations on Romans, Christians, Birds, and Growing Older.” *The Charles D. LaFollette Lectures Series* (2016):
<<http://www.wabash.edu/lafollette/royalty2016/>>
- “Heresy,” “Simon Magus.” *Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religion* (December, 2015).
- “Political Leadership and Gender: Early Church,” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies* 2.44–50 (October, 2014).
- “The Emergence of “heresy” in Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity,” *Concilium: International Journal of Theology* 2014.2, 37–47. German ed. “Das Aufkommen des Häresiebegriffs im Judentum des Zweiten Tempels und im frühen Christentum,” 131–40. Italian ed. “Il sorgere dell’“eresia” nel giudaismo del secondo Tempio e nel cristianesimo primitivo,” 49–62. Spanish ed. “La aparición de la «herejía» en el judaísmo del Segundo Templo y en el cristianismo primitivo,” 33–45.
- “Helping Students Navigate Faith Challenges in the Biblical Studies Classroom” (participant). *Teaching Theology and Religion* 15.4 (October, 2012), 357–71.
- “Apocalypticism in Early Christianity,” *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Wiley; November, 2012)
- “The Dangers of the Apocalypse,” *Word and World* 25.3 (Summer 2005), 283–293

Dissertation and Thesis

- The Streets of Heaven: The Imagery and Ideology of Wealth in the Apocalypse of John. Ph.D. Dissertation, Yale University. December, 1995. Dissertation Director: Professor Susan R. Garrett
- “‘Seeds of Better Arts’: John Donne and the *Ars Moriendi* Tradition.” Honors Thesis, UNC Department of Religious Studies. May, 1983.

Conference Presentations:

- “Building Walls and Setting Boundaries: Hadrian and Heresy.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2017.

- “The Glorious Appearance Daily at 4:30 pm: Tensions and Contradictions in Contemporary Christian Apocalypticism.” “On the Edge of Apocalypse,” Elon Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society, Elon University N.C., February 2017.
- “An American New Jerusalem: Biblical Art at the Holy Land Experience.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2015.
- “Demonic Symposia in the Apocalypse of John.” Revelation Seminar, British New Testament Society Conference, Manchester, England, September 5th, 2014.
- “Staging the Bible: Performing Jesus at the Holy Land Experience.” The Bible in American Life Conference, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, August 8th, 2014.
- “Heresy before ‘Heresy.’” International Society of Heresy Studies, New York University, May 30, 2014.
- “The Glory and the Honor of the Nations” (Rev 21:26): Orlando as the New Jerusalem.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 20, 2012.
- “Scripture as Tradition: Authority and Subversion in 1 Timothy and the Gospel of Mary.” European Association of Biblical Studies, Lincoln, England, July 28, 2009.
- “The Invention of Heresy and the Politics of Orthodoxy.” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Rome, Italy, July 1, 2009.
- “Faculty/Student Collaborative Research in the Humanities.” Roundtable Session, 3rd National Conference on Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Liberal Arts Colleges, Wabash College, March 7, 2009.
- “The Rhetoric of Difference and the Appeal to Empire in the Disputed Pauline Epistles.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 22, 2008.
- “The True Israel? The Politics of Unity and Difference in Hasmonean Ideology and the Qumran Community.” European Association of Biblical Studies, Lisbon, August 4, 2008.
- “Heresy Before ‘Heresy’: The Discursive Origins of Early Orthodoxy.” Paper presented at the 15th International Patristics Conference, Oxford University, August 8, 2007.
- “Immersion Learning: An Alternative Model for Off-Campus and Study-Abroad Programs in Liberal Arts Education.” With V. Daniel Rogers (Wabash College) and Richard E. Berman (Kalamazoo College). Association of American Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 29, 2005.
- “Justin’s Conversion and the Rhetoric of Heresy” (14th International Patristics Conference, Oxford University, August 2003)
- “Women Enter the Picture: Queen Eleanor’s Apocalypse” (Apocalypse of John and Cultural Contexts Section, SBL Annual Meeting, November 2002, Toronto)
- “Etched or Sketched? Inscriptions and Erasures in the Messages to Sardis and Philadelphia” (Midwestern SBL Annual Meeting, Mundelein IL, February 2002)
- “Satan Takes Over: The Apocalypse and the Visionary Art of Myrtice West” (SBL Annual Meeting, Nashville, November 2000)
- “Don’t Touch *This* Book! (Rev 22:18–19)” (SBL Annual Meeting, Orlando, November 1998)
- “‘Dwelling on Visions’: The Nature of the So-called ‘Colossians Heresy’” (SBL Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 1997)

- “The Rhetoric of Revelation” (SBL Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 1997)
“Apocalyptic Economics or Economic Apocalypse? The Third Seal and the Mark of the Beast in the Apocalypse of John” (SBL Western Regional Meeting, Santa Clara University, CA. March, 1994)

Invited Panels and Lectures

- “Walking Hadrian’s Wall: Meditations on Romans, Christians, Birds, and Growing Older.” The 37th LaFollette Lecture in the Humanities. Wabash College, October 21, 2016
- “Performing Jesus at the Holy Land Experience,” Elon University Department of Religious Studies, March 8, 2016
- “Orthodoxy and Heresy Reconsidered.” Panel discussion of Robert M. Royalty, Jr., *The Origin of Heresy* and Paul Hartog, ed., *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christian Contexts*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2015.
- “Staging the Bible: Performing Jesus at the Holy Land Experience.” Department of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield, December 8, 2014.
- “Why Heresy Now?” Roundtable discussion at the inaugural conference of the International Society of Heresy Studies, New York University, May 30, 2014.
- “The Origins of Apocalyptic.” Trinity Forum, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington, IN, November 17, 2013.
- “Reading the ‘Bible’: What’s in there? What’s not? And Why?” Ember Day Clergy Conference for the Diocese of Indianapolis, February 19, 2013.
- “People of the Book / أهل الكتاب: Historiography as Pedagogy for Bible and Qur’ān.” Panel discussion for “Reading in Tandem: Pedagogical and Hermeneutical Issues in Analyzing Parallel Biblical and Qur’ānic Texts with Lay Persons and Students.” Qur’ān and Biblical Literature Section, SBL Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 18, 2012.
- “Jesus in Orlando: Performance at the Holy Land Experience.” Ides of August, Wabash College, August 17, 2012.
- “Peter Lied, Jesus Died, Mary Cried, and Judas Laughed: Representations of Power and Difference in post-Resurrection Narratives.” Wabash College Humanities Colloquium, April 4, 2011.
- “Helping Students Navigate Faith Challenges in the Biblical Studies Classroom.” Wabash Center and Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Section, SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 21, 2010.
- “Teaching the Undergraduate Capstone Course.” Wabash Center Lunch Table Teaching Conversation, SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 20, 2010.
- Panel discussion of “Visionary and Apocalyptic Rhetoric.” Rhetoric and the New Testament Section, SBL Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 21, 2009.
- “The Politics of Orthodoxy and the Invention of Christianity.” Wabash College Humanities Colloquium, December 4, 2007.
- “The Shifting Shape of Lost Gospels: A Peak into the Polemics of Earliest Christianity.” Ides of August, Wabash College, August 17, 2007.

- “Episcopal and Anglican Relations: Issues, History, and Responses to the Current Divisions.” Three lectures. St. John’s Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, Indiana, April 18, 25, and May 2, 2007.
- “Difference, Dissidents, and Heresy in the early Roman Empire.” Empires and Cultures Workshop, Department of History, Stanford University, June 1, 2006.
- “When Saints Argued: Religious Disagreements among the First Believers.” St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, CA, May 18, 2006
- “*The Gospel of Judas—A Revolutionary Text?*” With Robert C. Gregg. Stanford Continuing Studies Program and Stanford Humanities Center, May 9, 2006
- “The History of Heresy and the Origin of Christianity,” Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University, March 9, 2006
- “The History of Heresy and the Origin of Christianity,” Stanford Humanities Center, January 31, 2006
- Response to Steve Moyise, “Is the Book of Revelation the Death of Scripture.” (Apocalypse of John and Cultural Contexts Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 20, 2005)
- “Apocalypse Past, Present and Future: a series of three lectures on the Book of Revelation.” Holy Communion Episcopal Church, Memphis TN, November 18, 19, and 27, 2005
- “The Origins of Christian Heresy.” (Wabash College Humanities Colloquium, March 23, 2004)
- “Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*.” DePauw University, February 26, 2004.
- “‘Now Write What You Have Seen’: The Envisioned Visionary of the Apocalypse” (Wabash Humanities Colloquium, November 2001)

Electronic Publications:

- “Heresy in Earliest Christianity” *The Bible and Interpretation* July 2015
<http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/2015/07/roy398027.shtml>
- “Ancient Cities in Cyberspace,” *Academic Commons*, Center for Teaching and Learning, June 14, 2005 (<http://www.academiccommons.org/ctfl>)
- “The Second Century: Archaeological Remnants and Virtual Realities” (with Wabash College students from Religion 360, Spring 2003) www.wabash.edu/Asiaminor

Book Reviews

- Classifying Christians: Ethnography, Heresiology, and the Limits of Knowledge in Late Antiquity*. Todd S. Berzon (Oakland: University of California Press). *Review of Biblical Literature* March 16, 2017.
https://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/11190_12438.pdf
- Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christian Contexts: Reconsidering the Bauer Thesis*, ed. Paul A. Hartog. *Review of Biblical Literature* Sept. 1, 2016.
https://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/10191_11306.pdf
- The Social World of Intellectuals in the Roman Empire: Sophists, Philosophers, and Christians*, by Kendra Eshelman (Greek Culture in the Roman World. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), *Church History* 84.4 (2015): 864.

- Magical Motifs in the Book of Revelation*, by Rodney Lawrence Thomas (Library of New Testament Studies 416; London/New York; Clark, 2010), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, 73 (2011) 176–177.
- The Lamb Christology of the Apocalypse of John: An Investigation into its Origins and Rhetorical Force*, by Loren L. Johns (WUNT II.167; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003) and *Spectacles of Empire: Monsters, Martyrs, and the Book of Revelation*, by Christopher A. Frilingos (Divinations: Rereading Late Ancient Religion; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004), *Journal of Biblical Literature* 124.3 (Fall 2005) 571–575. Also published online in the *Review of Biblical Literature*, http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/4430_5605.pdf.
- In God's Time: The Bible and the Future*, by Craig C. Hill. (Grand Rapids and Cambridge : Eerdmans, 2002), *Interpretation* 59.3 (July 2005) 310–312
- Engaging LARGE Classes: Strategies and Techniques for College Faculty*, ed. Christine A. Stanley and M. Erin Porter. (Bolton, MA: Anker, 2002), *Teaching Theology and Religion* 8:1 (2005)
- Parables of War: Reading John's Jewish Apocalypse*, by John W. Marshall (Studies in Christianity and Judaism 10. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2001), *Journal of Biblical Literature* 122.3 (Fall 2003) 585–588
- Studies in the Book of Revelation*, ed. Steve Moyise (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2001), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 10:1 (Feb. 2003) 30–32
- From Hebrews to Revelation: A Theological Introduction*, by Lewis R. Donelson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001, *Review of Biblical Literature* (Online <http://www.bookreviews.org>, April 5, 2003)
- “Teachers, Texts, and Scribes: *Teachers and Texts in the Ancient World: Philosophers, Jews Christians*, by H. Gregory Snyder (London: Routledge 2000) and *Guardians of Letters: Literacy, Power, and the Transmitters of Early Christian Literature*, by Kim Haines-Eitzen (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2000), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 8:5 (Nov. 2001) 488–494
- Magic and Paganism in Early Christianity: The World of the Acts of the Apostles*, by Hans-Josef Klauck (trans. Brian McMeil; Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 8:4 (Sept. 2001) 406–408
- Revelation Down to Earth: Making Sense of the Apocalypse of John*, by Edwin Walhout (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 8:4 (Sept. 2001) 451–453
- Religious Rivalries and the Struggle for Success in Caesarea Maritima*, ed. Terence L. Donaldson (ESJ 8; Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2000) *Review of Biblical Literature* (Online <http://www.bookreviews.org>, April 3, 2002)
- Texts Reading Texts, Sacred and Secular : Two Postmodern Perspectives*, by Alison M. Jack (JSNTSup. 179; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999), *Review of Biblical Literature* (Online <http://www.bookreviews.org>, July 10, 2000)
- Christ and Community: A Socio-Historical Study of the Christology of Revelation*, by Thomas B. Slater (JSNTSupp 178; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999), *Review of Biblical Literature*, (Online <http://www.bookreviews.org>, July 13, 2000).
- The Antecedents of Antichrist: A Traditio-Historical Study of the Earliest Christian Views on Eschatological Opponents*, by L. J. Lietaert Peerbolte (Leiden: Brill, 1996),

Review of Biblical Literature (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 1999) Vol 1: 421–423; Online <http://www.bookreviews.org>.

Major Fellowships and Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, \$40,000, August 2005–July 2006

External (Visiting) Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, \$50,000, Sept. 2005– June 2006

Referee/Reviewer

Bloomsbury-T&T Clark

Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Journal of Early Christianity

National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship

Eastern Great Lakes Society of Biblical Literature Regional Scholar Award

Oxford University Press

Political Theology

Biblical Interpretation

Society of Biblical Literature Academia Biblica (New Testament Dissertation Series)

Stanford Humanities Center

Teaching Theology and Religion

Press Interviews

“Doomsday Clock: Why Americans Love Apocalyptic Predictions,” by Sarah Pulliam Bailey, *Washington Post*, January 25, 2018

“With Hurricanes and Terrorism, Some Wonder if Apocalypse is Near,” by Otis Hart, Associated Press, October 7, 2005

“Earning Heavenly Rewards,” by Gayle White, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, November 2, 2002: Religion Faith & Values; Pg. 1B

“The Downside to the Upside,” in “Findings.” *The Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2001, p. 8.

“Some Believers Waiting For Apocalypse—But Not On New Year's, Experts Say,” by Richard Ostling, Associated Press, December 25, 1999

“Next Week May Bring Its Glitches, But Few Say World Will End,” by Nicholas Kulish, *Wall Street Journal*, December 20, 1999, Section B; Page 1, Column 5

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion

International Society for Heresy Studies

North American Patristics Society

Society of Biblical Literature

Society for Qur'ānic Studies

World History Association

Languages:

Arabic, Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Latin, French, German

Service:

Stanford University

Resident Fellow, East Florence Moore Hall, Stanford University, 1997-1999

All-College Courses

Co-Chair, Freshmen All-College Courses, 2016–19

Co-Chair, “Enduring Questions” Freshmen Colloquium, 2010–2013, 2015–16

Cultures and Traditions, 1999-2000, Fall 2001, Spring 2003, Spring 2005, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Fall 2009. Lecturer for “Ancient Israel and the Hebrew Bible” Spring 2007, 2008, 2009; Fall 2009, 2010.

Subcommittee Chair, Hebrew Unit, Cultures and Traditions, 2004–2009

Senior Colloquium, 2000 (Fall), 2001 (Fall), 2002 (Fall), 2003 (Spring, Fall), 2004 (Spring, Fall), 2007 (Fall), 2008 (Spring, Fall), 2009 (Spring, Fall), 2010 (Spring, Fall), 2011 (Fall)

Webmaster, Cultures and Traditions, 2001–2005

Admissions Activities

Class visit days, 2002–2004, 2007

Honors Scholars Weekend Academic Session, March 2007–2014

“W” Night Interest Session, Indianapolis, October 25, 2009

Alumni Activities

"Wabash on the Road," Pittsburgh NAWM, October 2000

Presentation for Wabash Alumni Class Agents, Sept. 2001

Alumni Colloquium, "Teaching Religion with Technology," Alumni Reunion Weekend, May 2002

"Wabash on the Road," NAWM Raleigh-Durham, NC, May 21, 2003

"Wabash on the Road," NAWM Columbus, Ohio, October 2, 2003

"Wabash on the Road," IAWM Indianapolis, IN, May 12, 2005

Campus Committees (Appointed)

Teaching and Learning Committee, 2000-2002; co-chair, 2001–2002

Computer Advisory Committee, 2000–2001

Curriculum Appeals Committee, 2002–2003

Technology Advisory Committee (Chair), 2001–2003, 2003–2005

Integrated Marketing Committee, 2004–2005

Wellness Committee, 2007–2009

McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Research Scholar Committee, 2007–2010 (Chair, 2009–2010)

Lilly Scholarship Selection Committee, 2010–2013

All-College Course Development Committee, 2010

Web Redesign Committee, 2010–2012

Library Advisory Committee, 2011–14

Campus Committees (Elected)

Academic Policy Committee, 2001-2003
Gavitt Prize Committee, 2002, 2011, 2012
Financial Aid Committee, 2003–2005
GLCA Academic Council, 2002 (alternate), 2003–2005, 2008–2011
Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa, 2002–2003
President, Phi Beta Kappa, 2003–2004
Phi Beta Kappa Prize Committee, 2002–2005
Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts Steering Committee, 2007–2010
Faculty Development Committee, 2010–2013; Chair, 2012–13
Academic Dishonesty Appeals Panel, 2011–2013; Chair, 2012–13

Departmental Activities

Annual Christmas Service, December 2001, 2003, 2007, 2008
Host, Philosophy and Religion Departmental Picnic, October 2002, September 2003,
September 2004
Baccalaureate Service, May 2003; Commencement, 2010

Other Service Activities

Phi Beta Kappa Book Club, 2007–2008
Secretary, Division II, 2000-2001
Strategic Plan Initiative 5 Task Force, 2001-2003
Midwestern Instructional Technology Center Campus Liaison, 2002–2004
Planning Committee, Digital Image Symposium (MITC), 2002–2003
Strategic Plan Initiative 1 Task Force, 2002

Campus visits and lectures organized

Ian Morris (Stanford University), Classics and Religion (Sept. 2000)
Herman Saatkamp (IUPUI), Philosophy and Religion (January 2002)
Elias Jabbour, Religion and International Studies (March 2002)
Clayton L. Thomason, Jr. (Michigan State University), Philosophy and Religion (April 2002)
James McBride, author and musician, March 2011
Ann Lesch (American Univeristy Cairo), December 2013

Other Experience:

1986-93 - Programmer, Brenner, Saltzman, & Wallman, New Haven, Connecticut
1988-89 - Seminarian Assistant, The Episcopal Church at Yale
1987-88 - Chaplain, Yale-New Haven Hospital (CPE credit)
1984-86 - Programmer, Information Management Consultants, Falls Church, Virginia