

[August 2024]
Joseph Dylan Witt

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Religious Studies
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 501 McClung Tower
 Knoxville, TN 37996-0450
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 jwitt16@utk.edu

Academic Employment

Associate Professor of Religion, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2022 – Present
 Courses Taught: Religion and Society in North America (REST 233); Topics in North American Religion (REST 355); Religions and Nature (REST 430); Religions in the U.S. (REST 103); Method and Theory in Religious Studies (REST 300/510); Religion, Nature, and Ethics (REST 343); Advanced Seminar in the Study of Religion (REST 499/599)

Associate Professor of Religion with Tenure, Mississippi State University, 2017 – 2022

Assistant Professor of Religion, Mississippi State University, 2011 – 2017
 Courses Taught: Introduction to Religion (REL 1103); Religion and the Environment (REL 3113-C); Religion in America (HIS/REL 4253); Religion in US Culture (REL 3103); Theory and Method in Religion (REL 3033)

Instructor of Environmental Humanities, Middlebury School of the Environment Summer Program (Middlebury, VT and Yunnan, China), 2015 – 2018
 Courses Taught in Middlebury, VT (2015-2017): Religion, Nature, and Justice (SENV 3302A); Nature, Culture, and Ethics (SENV 3302A); Understanding Place (SENV 3420)
 Courses Taught in Yunnan, China (2018): Understanding Place (SENV 3420A); Introduction to Environmental Analysis (SENV 3120A)

Education

PhD, University of Florida Department of Religion, August 6, 2011.

Dissertation Title: “The Faith to Save Mountains: Religion and Resistance to Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia”
 Committee: Bron Taylor (chair), Anna Peterson, David Hackett, Jack Davis

MA, University of Florida Department of Religion, May 5, 2006.

Thesis Title: “Celtic Christianity and the Future of New Religious Production”

BA, (Magna cum Laude), Philosophy and Religion, Hendrix College, May 7, 2003.

Awards

Awards

William Winter Faculty Scholar, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, 2021.

Sabbatical Leave, Mississippi State University, August 17, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Schillig Special Teaching Projects Award, Mississippi State University, (2015-\$3,000).

Grants and Funding

University of Tennessee, ORIED SARIF Scholarly Projects Fund, “Community-Engaged Research and Teaching Workshop,” PI Joseph Witt (2023-\$11,103.95).

Mississippi State University, College of Arts and Sciences Humanities and Arts Research Program, “Developing Collaborative Teaching and Research on Food Security through the Environmental Humanities at Mississippi State University,” PI Joseph Witt (2016-\$2,500)

Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development Cross-College Research Grant, “Community-Based Approach to Increasing Community and Parental Involvement for Youth Adoption of Healthy Lifestyles,” PI Dr. Brittney D. Oliver, co-PIs **Joseph Witt**, Kenny Anthony, Suzanne Powney (2016-\$2,000)

NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy Research Grant, “Communication Avenues for Vietnamese-American Fishing Communities on the Gulf of Mexico with Coastal Resource Agencies,” PI Dr. Matthew Freeman, co-PIs **Joseph Witt**, David Hoffman, Brian Shoup, and Rebecca Schewe (Syracuse University) (2015-2017-\$258,032)

Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development Cross-College Research Grant, “Measuring the Educational Impact of MSU Maroon Edition’s Heifer International Global Village Experience,” PI **Joseph Witt**, co-PIs Lindsey Peterson and Carolyn Huntington (2015-\$2,000)

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, “Communication Avenues for Vietnamese American Fishing Communities in Mississippi and Alabama with Coastal Resource Agencies,” PI Dr. Matthew Freeman, co-PIs **Joseph Witt**, Rebecca Schewe, David Hoffman, and Brian Shoup (2014-2015-\$9,600)

Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development Cross-College Research Grant, “Fishermen and Marine Governance,” PI Dr. Matthew Freeman, co-PIs **Joseph Witt**, Rebecca Schewe, David Hoffman, and Brian Shoup (2014-\$2,000)

Fellowships and Scholarships

Mississippi State University Community-Engaged Teaching Fellow (2018-\$1,000)

Mississippi State University, A&S HARP Research Fellow (2016-\$2,500)

Gibson Dissertation Fellowship, University of Florida (2010-\$5,000 + tuition waiver)

Scholarly Research Fellowship, Kentucky Historical Society (2009-\$500)

Grinter and Wells Fellowship, University of Florida (2006-2010-\$8,000)

Hendrix Founder’s Scholarship (2002-2003)

Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholar (1999-2003-full tuition and board)

Other Funding

Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development, International Institute, and College of Arts and Sciences Academic Excellence Fund Travel Grants:
 2018- \$1,000 2017-\$1,500 2016-\$1,250 2014-\$1,000

Publications

Book

Joseph D. Witt, *Religion and Resistance in Appalachia: Faith and the Fight against Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2016 (paperback reprint, 2020).

Edited Volumes/Special Issues

Joseph Witt and Bron Taylor (eds.), "Religion and Eco-Resistance Movements in the Twenty-First Century," *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 11 (1): 2017.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Joseph Witt, "What are Scholars For?: Negotiating Critical Analysis and Advocacy through Community-Engaged Research and Teaching," *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 18 (4): 2024, pp. 444-464.

Rebecca L. Schewe, David Hoffman, **Joseph Witt**, Matthew Freeman, and Brian Shoup, "Cross-Cultural Environmental Research: Lessons from the Field," *Environmental Management* 70 (2): 2022, pp. 241-253.

Sandie Gravett, Laura Ammon, Ann Burlein, Amanda Beckenstein Mbuvi, and **Joseph Witt**, "The Classroom is a Public Space: Occupying Learning Outcomes to Foster Public-Facing Pedagogy," *Wabash Journal on Teaching*, 3 (1): 2022, pp. 60-71.

Joseph D. Witt, "The 'Book of Mamaw:' Religion, Representation, and *Hillbilly Elegy*," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 118 (1): 2020, pp. 135-162.

Rebecca L. Schewe, David Hoffman, **Joseph Witt**, Brian Shoup, and Matthew Freeman, "Citizen-Science and Participatory Research as a Means to Improve Stakeholder Engagement in Resource Management: A Case Study of Vietnamese American Fishers on the US Gulf Coast," *Environmental Management* 65 (1): 2020, pp. 74-87.

Joseph Witt, Holly Peterson, and Stephen C. Trombulak, "Case Study: 'Understanding Place' at the Middlebury School of the Environment," *Journal of Sustainability Education* 11 (February): 2016, ISSN: 2151-7452 (online).

Lindsey Peterson, **Joseph Witt**, and Carolyn Huntington. "Teaching 'Real Utopias' through Experiential Learning," *Teaching Sociology* 43 (4): 2015, pp. 262-276.

Joseph Witt, Lucas Johnston, and Bron Taylor, "Exploring Religion, Nature, and Culture (continued): The Growing Field, Society, and Journal," *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 5 (1): 2011, pp. 8-17.

Joseph Witt and David Wiles, "Nature in Indigenous Asian Traditions: A Survey Article," *Worldviews* 10 (1): 2006, pp. 40-68.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Joseph Witt, "Introducing Place-Based Pedagogy and 'the South,'" in *Grounding Education in Environmental Humanities: Exploring Place-Based Pedagogies in the South*, Dave Aftandilian and Lucas Johnston (eds). Routledge: London, 2019, pp. 1-14.

Joseph Witt, "Case Study: Religion and the Twenty-First Century North American Anti-Extraction Movement," in *Grounding Religion: A Field Guide to the Study of Religion and Ecology*, 2nd ed., Whitney Bauman, Kevin J. O'Brien, and Richard Bohannon (eds). Routledge: London, 2017, pp. 24-31.

Joseph Witt, "Engaging the Empathetic Imagination to Explore Environmental Justice," in *Learner Centered Teaching Activities for Environmental and Sustainability Studies*, Loren Byrne (ed.). Springer: New York, 2016, pp. 221-226.

Joseph Witt, "Dark Green Religion: Advocating for the Sacredness of Nature in a Changing World," in *The Changing World Religion Map: Sacred Places, Identities, Practices and Politics, Vol. 1*, Stanley D. Brunn (ed.). Springer: New York, 2015, pp. 381-396.

Joseph Witt, "Case Study: 'Religion' in Appalachian Environmental Struggles," in *Grounding Religion: A Field Guide to the Study of Religion and Ecology*, Whitney Bauman, Kevin J. O'Brien, and Richard Bohannon (eds). Routledge: London, 2011, pp. 41-46.

Bron Taylor and **Joseph Witt**, "New and Alternative Nature Religions in America," in *Introduction to New and Alternative Religions in America: Volume 5, African Diaspora Traditions and Other American Innovations*, Eugene V. Gallagher and W. Michael Ashcraft (eds). Greenwood Press: Westport, CT and London, 2006, pp. 253-272.

Encyclopedia and Reference Entries

Joseph Witt, "Natural Space and Religion in North America" in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, John Corrigan (ed.), Oxford University Press: New York, 2018, pp. 115-137.

Bron Taylor and **Joseph Witt**, "Bricolage," in *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*, vol. 1, Robert Segal and Kocku von Stuckrad (eds). Brill: Leiden, 2015, pp. 197-198.

Bron Taylor and **Joseph Witt**, "Nature," in *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*, vol. 2, Robert Segal and Kocku von Stuckrad (eds). Brill: Leiden, 2015, pp. 528-534.

Joseph Witt, "Marsh, George Perkins," in *SAGE Green Series, Volume 8: Green Ethics and Philosophy*, Julie Newman (ed.), SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA, 2011, pp. 314-315.

Book Reviews

Review of Evan Berry (ed.), *Climate Politics and the Power of Religion* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2022), in H-Environment, H-Net Reviews, September 2022.

Review of Nicholas F. Stump, *Remaking Appalachia: Ecosocialism, Ecofeminism, and Law* (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2021), in *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 119 (3): 2021, pp. 320-321.

Review of Whitney A. Bauman and Kevin J. O'Brien, *Environmental Ethics and Uncertainty: Wrestling with Wicked Problems* (London: Routledge Press, 2020), in *Environmental Values* 29 (5): 2020, pp. 625-627.

Review of Mark R. Stoll, *Inherit the Holy Mountain: Religion and the Rise of American Environmentalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), in *The Journal of Southern History* 83 (1): 2017, pp. 197-199.

Review of Evan Berry, *Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015), in *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture and Ecology* 21 (1): 2017, pp. 103-105.

Review of Susan Power Bratton, *The Spirit of the Appalachian Trail: Community, Environment, and Belief on a Long-Distance Hiking Path* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2012), in *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture and Ecology* 17 (3): 2013, pp. 267-269.

Review of Helen M. Lewis, with Patricia D. Beaver and Judith Jennings (eds.), *Helen Matthews Lewis: Living Social Justice* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012), in *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 26 (3): 2013, pp. 729-732.

Review of Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, *Mountain Nature: A Seasonal Natural History of the Southern Appalachians* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010), H-Environment, H-Net Reviews (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=30638>, September 2010).

Review of Michael Shnayerson, *Coal River* (New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2008), in *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism: A Journal of Socialist Ecology* 21 (2): 2010, pp. 124-126.

Review of Silas House and Jason Howard (eds.), *Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009), in *Journal of Agriculture and Environmental Ethics* 23 (3): 2010, pp. 289-291.

Review of Kimberley Smith, *African American Environmental Thought* (Lawrence: University of Kansas, 2007), in *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* 1 (4): 2007, pp. 522-523.

Other

Joseph Witt and Bron Taylor, "Special Issue Introduction: Religion and Eco-Resistance Movements in the 21st Century," *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 11 (1): 2017, pp. 5-22.

Joseph Witt, "Reevaluating Lynn White: Celtic Christianity and the Cause of Wilderness," in Lisa Slawter Volkening, Dylan Wolfe, Emily Plec, William Griswold, and Kevin DeLuca (eds.), *Proceedings of the 8th Biennial Conference on Communication and Environment: Wilderness, Advocacy, and the Media* (Department of Speech Communication, University of Georgia: Athens, 2007), pp. 358-362.

Joseph Witt, "Community, Sustainability, and Hope: Reflections on the 'Penalties of an Ecological Education,'" *The Southern Good Life*, V. 2: 2014, pp. 22-26.

Presentations

International Academic Meetings

"Place, Mobility, and Climate Change on the U.S. Gulf Coast," STREAMS—Transformative Environmental Humanities, August 3-6, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, online due to Covid-19, 2021.

"Religion and Resilience among Vietnamese-American Communities on the U.S. Gulf Coast," Religion, Water, Climate: Changing Cultures and Landscapes: The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, June 13-16, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, 2019.

"Religion, Place-Attachment and Economic Transition in Appalachian Coal Country," PetroCultures 2018: Transitions, August 29-September 1, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, 2018.

"Religious Conceptions of Place in the Appalachian Anti-Mountaintop Removal Movement," Under Western Skies 3: Intersections of Environments, Technologies, and Communities, September 9-13, Mount Royal University, Calgary, AB, Canada, 2014.

"'The Earth is God's Body: Evangelical Christianity and Resistance to Mountaintop Removal,'" at 2nd International Meeting of the ISSRNC, January 17-20, Morelia, MIC, Mexico, 2008.

National Academic Meetings

"Rhetorics of Place and Intentional Transition in Contemporary Appalachia," 47th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, March 7-9, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, 2024 (March 9).

"Extractive Scholarship and Restorative Justice: Lessons from Appalachia," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-21, San Antonio, TX, 2023 (Nov. 18).

Roundtable Participant, "Dwelling with Pedagogy: Religion, Ecology, and the Craft of Teaching," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-21, San Antonio, TX, 2023 (Nov. 18).

"Religion, Place, and the Anthropocene: Exploring the Relevance of Religious Studies for Understanding Place in the 21st Century," Annual Meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 20-22, Baltimore, MD, 2022.

"Public Humanities and Environmental Studies: Developing Interdisciplinary Place-Based Pedagogy in Rural Mississippi," Annual Meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 28-July 1, Online due to COVID-19 crisis, 2021.

"Exploratory Session: A Public-Focused Religious Studies" (Panelist), Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 29-December 10, Online due to COVID-19 crisis,

2020.

“Building a ‘Public-Focused’ Future for Non-Sectarian Undergraduate Religious Studies Programs” (Panelist), Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 29-December 10, Online due to COVID-19 crisis, 2020.

“Place-Making and Resilience in a Climate Changed World: Lessons from Vietnamese-American Communities on the U.S. Gulf Coast,” Annual Meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, July 15-17, Pace University, New York City (modified to an online format during COVID-19 crisis), 2020.

“Sacred Mountains and the ‘Vocabulary of Protest’ of 21st Century Appalachian Environmental Movements,” at Mountains and Sacred Landscapes: International Conference Sponsored by the ISSRNC, India China Institute (New School), Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (American University), and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, April 20-23, The New School, New York City, NY, 2017.

“Building Community and University Collaboration on Food Justice in Mississippi: Lessons from the MSU Learn and Grow Garden,” at Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 2016 Conference and Expo, October 9-12, Baltimore, MD, 2016.

“Negotiating Difference in the Fight to Stop Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining: Religion, Activism, and Uneasy Collaborations in Appalachia,” at Religion, Science and the Future: The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, January 14-17, Gainesville, FL, 2016.

“Race, Reconciliation, and Resilience in the Deep South,” at Religion, Science and the Future: The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, January 14-17, Gainesville, FL, 2016.

“Roundtable Discussion: The Value of Religious Studies in 21st Century Higher Education: Place Based Pedagogy in the Southern U.S.,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21-24, Atlanta, GA, 2015.

“Religious Environmentalism in Appalachia: Exploring the ‘Greening of Religion’ Thesis,” 37th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, March 28-30, Huntington, WV, 2014.

“Critics and Caretakers: Researching Environmental Movements and Teaching for Change,” 36th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, March 22-24, Boone, NC, 2013.

“Religion, Class, and Environmental Concern: Lessons from Appalachia,” at 35th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, March 23-25, Indiana, PA, 2012.

“Simple People in a Wasted Land: Stereotypes and Appalachian Environmental History,” at Annual Meeting of American Society of Environmental History, March 10-14, Portland, OR, 2010.

“Learning to Live in a World of Wounds: Virtue and the Practice of Ecological Restoration,” at Annual Meeting of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, October 8-11, Madison, WI, 2009.

“The Faith to Save Mountains: Religion and Resistance to Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining,” at 69th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, March 18-21, Santa Fe, NM, 2009.

“Religion and Resistance to Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia,” at Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 1-3, Chicago, IL, 2008.

“Religion and Resistance in Appalachia: Localized Narratives and the Fight against Mountaintop Removal,” at Fifth Annual Joint Environmental Philosophy Meeting (ISEE/IAEP), May 27-30, Allenspark, CO, 2008.

“The Taming of the Buffalo: Environmental Ethics and the Fight for the Buffalo National River,” at Inaugural Conference of the ISSRNC, April 7, Gainesville, FL, 2006.

“Ritualization, Contested Landscapes, and Green Futures: Theorizing Religion and Nature Part II,” at Inaugural Conference of the ISSRNC, April 6-9, Gainesville, FL, 2006.

“Re-evaluating Lynn White: Celtic Christianity and the Cause of Wilderness,” at 8th Biennial Conference on Communication and the Environment, “Wilderness, Advocacy, and the Media,” Jekyll Island, GA, June 24-27, 2005.

Regional Academic Meetings

“Appalachian Nature Religion: Spiritual Values of Place and History in the Coalfields,” at Annual Meeting of Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 4-6, Louisville, KY, 2011.

“Praise God and Fight the Power: Evangelicals, Anarchists, and Environmental Activism in the Coal Fields of Appalachia,” at Annual Meeting of Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, March 5-7, Atlanta, GA, 2010.

Invited Professional Lectures

“Religion and Resilience: Transcultural Ecological Knowledge among Vietnamese-American Shrimpers on the U.S. Gulf Coast,” invited speaker, January 24, 2019, Wake Forest University Social Science Research Seminar, Winston-Salem, NC.

“Faith and Fossil Fuels,” invited panelist, September 8, 2017, Religion News Association’s 68th Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.

“The Faith to Save Mountains: Redemptive Resistance against Mountaintop Removal Mining,” presented July 30, 2009 as part of a Kentucky Historical Society scholarly research grant. Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY.

“Putting Narratives in their Places: Reconsidering Religious Narratives and Grassroots Environmental Concern,” presented February 28, 2009 at Inherited Land Colloquium, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

Service

Professional Service

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, September 2024 – continuing
Duties include serving as principal figure in the administration of the journal. Edits and evaluates manuscripts, manages journal team and production, promotes and advances the mission of the journal.

Steering Committee Member, Publicly Engaged Scholarship in the Study of Religion Seminar, AAR, January 2024 – December 2029

Founding member of this seminar. Helped to propose the seminar to the AAR. Continuing duties include developing new programming for annual AAR conferences, evaluating presentation submissions, and managing the ongoing goals and development of the seminar.

Associate Editor, *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, March 2022 – 2024

Conference Program Committee Member, AESS Annual Conference, 2021

Duties included evaluating and ranking individual paper and session proposals for the 2021 annual meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences.

Co-Editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, January 2017 – 2020

Duties included full management of the journal, including evaluation of submissions and peer reviews, managing the team of journal editors and assistants, planning future issues, promoting the journal to relevant audiences and recruiting new submissions and special issues, and tracking submission and subscription statistics.

Assistant Editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, January 2009 – 2017

Duties included editing and formatting submitted manuscripts, corresponding with authors on manuscript revisions, managing and coordinating the efforts of other editorial assistants, and developing themes for the journal and recruiting submissions.

Managing Editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, October 2005 – 2009

Duties included maintaining an administrative calendar, tracking submissions in the various stages of revision and publication, managing subscriber information, and editing submissions.

Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences liaison to ISSRNC, 2010 – 2011

Duties included coordinating announcements, managing development between organizations, and working with the AESS Outreach and Membership Committee on promoting the society.

Peer reviewer for the following academic journals/projects:

2022 – National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipends Review Panelist, American Studies; Manuscript peer reviewer for *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* (Equinox)

2021 – Textbook reviewer for updated edition of Kent Richter's *Religion*, Oxford University Press; Manuscript peer reviewer for *Religions* (twice) (MDPI) and *Journal for the Study*

of Religion, Nature and Culture (Equinox)

2020 – Book manuscript reviewer for Lexington Books (academic imprint of Rowman & Littlefield)

2019 – Manuscript peer reviewer for *Worldviews* (Brill)

2018 – Manuscript peer reviewer for *Sustainability* (MDPI) and *Religions* (MDPI)

Professional Development Service

Participant, “Publicly Engaged Scholarship: Climate Insecurity, Socio-Political Unrest, and the Future of Academic Research,” Annual Conference of the ISSRNC, February 3-5, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 2023.

Discussant, “Religious Rhetorics of Resource Extraction,” Annual Conference of the ISSRNC, February 3-5, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 2023.

Participant, “Building a ‘Public-Focused’ Future for Undergraduate Religious Studies Program,” Henry Luce Foundation Responsive Grant, Sandie Gravett (PI), \$50,000 for 2020.

Chaired Conference Panel: “Land Tenure and Heritage Sites,” at Mountains and Sacred Landscapes, conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture and the India-China Institute of the New School, April 20-23, The New School, New York City, 2017.

Chaired Conference Panel: “Religious and Ecotheological Conceptions,” at Under Western Skies 3: Intersections of Environments, Technologies, and Communities, September 9-13, Mount Royal University, Calgary, AB, Canada, 2014.

Proposed, organized, and led workshop entitled “Teaching Religion, Nature, and Culture” at the 4th annual conference of the ISSRNC, in Malibu, CA, August, 2012.

Respondent: Inherited Land Colloquium, Florida International University, February 27-March 1, Miami, FL, 2009.

Chaired Conference Panel: “Making Environmental Worldviews: Spirituality, Experience, and Engaged Scholarship,” at Second International Meeting of the ISSRNC, January 17-20, Morelia, Mexico, 2008.

Proposed and Chaired Panel: “Contested Spaces: Religion, Politics, and Environmental Preservation,” at Inaugural Conference of the ISSRNC, April 6-9, Gainesville, FL, 2006.

Service to the University of Tennessee (2022 – Present)

Service to Department

Associate Department Head, 2024-present

Bylaws Committee (Chair), 2024-present

Religion and Nonprofit leadership job search committee (Chair), 2024-25

Curriculum Committee, 2023-present

Peer Teaching Committee (Chair), 2023-24

African Religions job search committee, 2022-23

Student Advisement

Invited Lectures

“Exploring the Religious Dimensions of Environmental Challenges,” UT One Health Initiative Lunch and Learn, January 26, 2023.

“Religions and Nature: A Field Guide,” Department of Religious Studies Board of Visitors meeting, October 19, 2022.

Service to Community

“Environmental Disasters and Religious Responses: Case Studies from Appalachia and the US Gulf Coast,” First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge Science and Theology Committee Lecture, Oak Ridge, TN, April 28, 2024.

“Religions and Nature: How Religious Communities are Contributing to Global Sustainability Efforts,” Church Street United Methodist Church Summer Lecture Series, Knoxville, TN, July 30, 2023.

Service to Mississippi State University (2011 – 2022)

Service to Department

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Curriculum Committee (Chair), 2021 – 2022.

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Religion Concentration Coordinator/Undergraduate Advisor, 2018 – 2022.

Department of Philosophy and Religion Ad Hoc Search Committee Membership:

Religion Job Search Committee (Chair), 2021-2022

Department Head Search Committee, 2018-2019

Moral Psychology Job Search Committee, 2013-2014

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2017 – 2019.

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Five Year Review Committee, 2016.

Helped evaluate departmental progress and set new goals for department development; produced fifth year review report.

College/University Committee Service

College of Arts and Sciences Public Humanities Steering Committee, member, 2019 – 2022.

MSU Schillig Teaching Award Selection Committee, 2016.

MSU College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate Representative, Department of Philosophy and Religion, January 2015-December 2016.

Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate Vice President, August 2015-December 2016

MSU Maroon Edition Programming Committee, member, 2013-2016.

MSU Maroon Edition/Maroon Volunteer Center Alternative Fall Break, Chief Organizer, 2012-2018

Proposed, organized, gathered funding for, and led a trip to Heifer Project International with the MSU Maroon Edition reading program. After 2017 this program was conducted as an Alternative Fall Break service trip through the Maroon Volunteer Center.

MSU Environment and Sustainability Minor Advisory Committee, member, September 2011 – present.

Invited University Lectures

“What does Religion have to do with Climate Change?,” Presentation at Climate Reality Project monthly meeting, November 9, 2021.

“Religion and Nature: State of the Field,” Presentation at MSU CHASES Experiment Station (History Graduate Student Discussion Group), January 9, 2015.

“Religion and Nature,” Presentation to the MSU Philosophy and Religion Club, November 19, 2014.

Student Advisement

Faculty Advisor, MSU Climate Reality Project, August 2019 – 2022.

Shakhoul's Honors College Honors Thesis Committee (member), for Alex Ward. Title of thesis: “Love of the Law: The Ethical Christology of Southern Baptist Rhetoric and Language Concerning the LGBTQ Community in the Rural, Religious South.” April 21, 2015.

Center for Distance Education, Community College Leadership Program, PhD Defense (external observer), for Charles M. Blankenship. Title of Dissertation: “Human Resource Managers’ Perceptions of Soft Skills, Involuntary Employment Turnover, and the Efficacy of a Proposed Career Pathway Model.” February 23, 2017.

Service to Community (Mississippi)

Invited Public Lectures

Presented “Principles of Universalism in Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors,” by invitation, at Universalist Convocation 2017, May 20, 2017, Louisville, MS.

Presented “Religion and the Environment,” by invitation, to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford, February 28, 2016. Oxford, MS.

Presented “Religious Environmentalism,” by invitation, to Trinity Presbyterian Church, Journeys in Faith Class, February 23, 2014. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Starkville, MS.

Presented “The Ethics of Eating,” by invitation, Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network Awards Banquet, October 12, 2013. Mississippi Modern Homesteading Center, Starkville, MS.

Presented “A Sense of Place: Cultivating Relationships between Culture and the Environment through Food and Farming,” part of the Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network’s “Sustainable Agriculture Comprehensive Training Course,” directed toward providing resources and education for farmers and other Mississippi citizens concerned about environmental sustainability. July 15, 2013, Mississippi State University.

Presented “Midsummer: Bringing together Time, Place, and Care for Nature,” by invitation, at Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute of Mississippi monthly meeting, June 20, 2012. Starkville, MS.

Organization Service

Member, Board of Directors, Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute of Mississippi, 2014-2015.