

# JOHN LARDAS

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## ACADEMIC DEGREES

Ph.D	Religious Studies	University of California, Santa Barbara	2003
M.A.	Comparative Religion	Miami University (Ohio)	1996
B.A.	Religion	Princeton University	1993
Certificate	Hellenic Studies	Athens Center, Athens, Greece	1992

## DISSERTATION TITLE AND COMMITTEE:

“Specters of *Moby-Dick*: A Particular History of Cultural Metaphysics in America”

Catherine L. Albanese, Religious Studies (Committee Chair)

Giles Gunn, English and Global & International Studies

Richard D. Hecht, Religious Studies

Thomas A. Carlson, Religious Studies

## RESEARCH FIELDS

American Religious History, American Literary and Cultural History, Theory and Method in the Study of Religion, Religion and Modern Thought, New Religious Movements, Visual Culture

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND COURSE OFFERINGS

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Haverford College, 2003-

Religion in American History to 1865 • Religion in American History from the Civil War to the Present • Theoretical Perspectives in the Study of Religion • American Spiritualities • Gender and Sexuality in American Religious History • Religion and Literature • Civil Religion • African-American Religion

Teaching Assistant, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB (1998-2000)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Comparative Religion, Miami University (1994-1996)

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

*The Bop Apocalypse: The Religious Visions of Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Burroughs*

Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001

“Walter Benjamin’s 115<sup>th</sup> Dream, or, Toward a Secret History of *Moby-Dick*”

*Epoché* (forthcoming)

Review of Arthur Versluis’s *The Esoteric Origins of the American Renaissance* (2001)

*Church History* (forthcoming)

Review of Robert S. Cox’s *Body and Soul: A Sympathetic History of Spiritualism* (2003)

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (forthcoming)

“En Columbia Nunca Se Sabe!—Michael Taussig’s <i>Law in a Lawless Land: Diary of a Limpieza in Columbia</i> ”	<i>American Book Review</i> (July-August 2004)
“Building a Better Beat Generation”	<i>American Book Review</i> (forthcoming)
“The Ginsberg Century: Everything Zen”	<i>American Book Review</i> (July-August 2000)
“The Beats and Religion”	<i>Encyclopedia of Beat Literature and Culture</i> (ABC-CLIO) (forthcoming)
“Beat Writers”	<i>Encyclopedia of American Studies</i> (Grolier Press, 2001)
“Drugs”	<i>Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religion</i> (Macmillan, 2001)

### **HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

Faculty Research Award, Haverford College, 2004-2005  
 Robert Michaelsen Memorial Award for Academic Achievement in American Religions, UCSB, 2002  
 Interdisciplinary Humanities Fellowship, UCSB, 2002  
 Fletcher Jones Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, 2002-2003  
 Presidential Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, 2002-2003 (declined)  
 Humanities and Social Science Research Grant, University of California, 2002  
 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2001-2002  
 Humanities and Social Science Research Grant, University of California, 2001  
 W. Richard Comstock Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion and Culture, UCSB, 2000  
 Regent’s Fellowship, University of California, 1997  
 Junior Fellow, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB, 1997  
 Graduate Achievement Award, Miami University, 1996  
 Graduate Achievement Award, Miami University, 1995  
 Charles Caldwell Scholarship for Graduate Study, Princeton University, 1993  
 Seeger Fellowship for Summer Language Study, Princeton University, 1992

### **INVITED SCHOLARLY & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

Invited Lecture, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ. *The Melville Revival and the Doom of our White Day* (Fall 2004)

Presentation, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA. *The Work of Melville in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* (Spring 2004)

Presentation, Cultural History of Religions, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA. *Ungraspable Phantoms: The Emergence of the Culture Concept in Antebellum America* (Fall 2003)

Presiding, Religion and Literature, Western Regional of the American Academy of Religion, Davis, CA (Spring 2003)

Public Lecture, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. *Ungraspable Phantoms: Melville and the Emergence of the Culture Concept in Antebellum America* (Winter 2003)

Presiding, Arts of Interpretation Group, American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada (Fall 2002)

Respondent, Religion and Ecology, Western Regional of the American Academy of Religion, Moraga, CA (Winter 2002)

Respondent, Religion and Literature, Western Regional of the American Academy of Religion, Moraga, CA (Winter 2002)

Lecture and Book Signing, *The Bop Apocalypse: The Religious Visions of Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Burroughs*, City Lights Bookstore, San Francisco, CA (Spring 2001)

Lecture and Book Signing, *The Bop Apocalypse: The Religious Visions of Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Burroughs*, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara (Winter 2001)

Presentation, American Literature Association, Long Beach, CA. *Underworld: Magnolia DeLillo Americana* (Spring 2000)

Presentation, Western American Studies Association, Santa Barbara, CA. *On The Edge of History: Don DeLillo as America Historian* (Spring 2000)

Respondent, Religion and Literature, Western Regional of the American Academy of Religion, Azusa, CA. (Spring 2000)

Guest Lecture, "The Gilded Age," Religion in American History, 1865-present, Professor Catherine Albanese, University of California, Santa Barbara (Spring 2000)

Guest Lecture, "19th Century Liberal Christianity," Religion in American History to 1865, Professor Catherine Albanese, University of California, Santa Barbara (Winter 2000)

Guest Lecture, "Religion and Popular Culture," Introduction to the Study of Religion, Professor Juan Campo, University of California, Santa Barbara (Winter 2000)

Guest Lecture, "Zen and Postwar America," Zen, Jeffrey Lidke, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 2000)

Guest Lecture, "Beat Zen, Square Zen," Zen, Jeffrey Lidke, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 1999)

Presentation, Western Academy of Religion Conference, San Francisco, CA. *Masculine Revelations in the Works of Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon, and Tom Wolfe* (Winter 1999)

Guest Lecture, "Religion and Literature," Religion and American Society, Elijah Siegler, University of California, Santa Barbara (Summer 1999)

Presentation, "Beat Poetics, Beat Religion," American Religions Group, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 1998)

Presentation, American Academy of Religion Conference, San Francisco, CA. *Art is Shapely, Mind is Shapely, Community is Shapely: Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" Revisited* (Fall 1997)

Presentation, American Academy of Religion Conference, San Francisco, CA. *A Revolution of The Soul: The Beats and The Postwar "Turn to Religion"* (Fall 1997)

Presentation, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Junior Fellows conference, Santa Barbara, CA. *Interdisciplinarity: The Difference Charles Olson Makes* (Fall 1997)

Presentation, National Poetry Foundation on American Poetry in the 1950s. Orono, ME. *America When Will Your Cowboys Read Spengler?: Allen Ginsberg's Response to Oswald Spengler's The Decline of The West* (Summer 1996)

Presentation, American Academy of Religion Conference, Philadelphia, PA. *Graceland: An Analysis of Sacred Space on the American Religious Landscape* (Fall 1995)

Guest Lecture, "The Cultural Meaning of Elvis Presley," Interpretations of Popular Music, Professor Curt Ellison, Miami University (Fall 1995)

Presentation, Midwestern Academy of Religion Conference, Chicago, IL. *Elvis Presley and America: Religion and the Popular Marketplace* (Spring 1995)

## **PUBLIC WRITINGS ON RELIGION & CULTURE**

"The Night Before Christmas It's Always the Same"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Spring 2001, pp. 16-23.	Essay
"Smells Like Don DeLillo"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Fall 2000, pp. 12-17.	Essay
"J. Gordon Melton"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Summer, 2000, pp. 18-23.	Interview
"Smells Like <i>Moby-Dick</i> "	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Spring 2000, pp. 82-89.	Essay
"Apocalypse Already: A Museum for the New Age"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Winter 2000, pp. 58-69.	Feature Article
"The Poet is Always on Time: Notes on Charles Olson"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Winter 2000, pp. 14-19.	Essay
"Advertising Ethics: Why Ask Why Ask Why?"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Fall 1999, pp. 72-81.	Feature Article
"Kill Your TV! The Writings of Sven Birkerts"	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , Summer 1999, pp. 108-111.	Review Essay
David Lemming's and Jack Page's <i>Myths, Legends, and Folktales of America: An Anthology</i>	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , March-April 1999, p. 90.	Book Review
Tom Wolfe's <i>A Man in Full</i>	<i>SPEAK Magazine</i> , January-February 1999, p. 96.	Book Review

## UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Steering Committee, Arts of Interpretation in the Study of Religion (AAR), 2000-

Chair, Religion and Literature Section, American Academy of Religion (Western Regional), 1998-2002

Administrative Assistant, Professor Catherine L. Albanese, 1998-2000

Professional Organizations and Membership:

American Academy of Religion

American Studies Association

Modern Language Association

The Herman Melville Society

The Charles Olson Society

## REFERENCES

Professor Catherine L. Albanese  
Department of Religious Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3130  
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Professor Giles Gunn  
Department of Global and International Studies  
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Professor Peter W. Williams  
Department of Comparative Religion  
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Oxford, OH 45056  
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