

Richard Kent Evans, PhD
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2021-present** Haverford College, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion
- 2020-2021** Haverford College, Visiting Assistant Professor of Independent College Programs (Quaker Studies, Peace Justice and Human Rights, Writing Program)
- 2017-2020** The College of New Jersey, Adjunct Professor of History

EDUCATION

- 2018** Ph.D. in History (North American Religions) Temple University
- 2013** M.A. Texas Tech University
- 2011** B.A. Auburn University

PUBLICATIONS

Book

MOVE: An American Religion. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

- finalist for the 2021 Pauli Murray Book Prize from the African American Intellectual History Society

Chapters in Edited Collections

“The Life and Thought of Rufus Jones” in *The Quaker World*, edited by C. Wess Daniels and Rhiannon Grant, Abingdon, UK: Routledge, forthcoming.

“Liberal Quakers and the Religion of Reason,” in *The Quakers, 1830-1937: The Creation of Modern Quaker Diversity*, edited by Stephen W. Angell, Pink Dandelion, and David Harrington Watt. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, forthcoming.

“MOVE, Mourning, and Memory,” in *Race, Religion, and Black Lives Matter: Essays on a Movement and a Moment*, edited by Christopher Cameron and Phillip Luke Sinitiere. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, forthcoming.

“What is ‘Religion?’” in *Religion in Philadelphia*, edited by Elizabeth Hayes Alvarez, 35-42. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2016.

“MOVE,” in *Religion in Philadelphia*, edited by Elizabeth Hayes Alvarez, 254-261. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2016.

Journal Articles

“Race and Religion in John Edgar Wideman’s *Philadelphia Fire*.” *Religious Studies Review*, forthcoming.

“Redeeming the Human: Black Natural Law, Secularism, and Human Rights.” *Journal of Politics, Religion, and Ideology* 20, no. 2 (2019): 263-265.

“‘A New Protestantism Has Come’: World War I, Premillennial Dispensationalism, and the Rise of Fundamentalism in Philadelphia.” *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 84, no. 3. (2017): 292-312.

received the Robert G. Crist Pennsylvania History Article Prize

“A Confession of Defeat”: Mormon Apologetics versus Academic Consensus, 1879-1922,” *Symposia: The Journal of Religion* 4, no. 1 (2012): 11-23.

Essays, Public Scholarship, and Encyclopedia Entries

“Contagion, a Lament,” *Political Theology Network’s* “Body Politics” (September 2020), available [here](#).

“Religious Madness and the Logic of Contagion,” *Political Theology Network’s* “Body Politics” (September 2020), available [here](#).

“MOVE” in *World Religions and Spirituality Project (WRSP)*, edited by David G. Bromley, available [here](#).

“MOVE Bombing,” in *Encyclopedia of Racial Violence*, edited by Sowande Mustakeem and Douglas Flowe (New York: ABC-CLIO, forthcoming).

“Cults,” in *Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Supernatural Events from Antiquity*, edited by Patrick J. Hayes (New York: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 93-95.

“Mesmerism,” in *Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Supernatural Events from Antiquity*, edited by Patrick J. Hayes (New York: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 259-260.

“Islamic Fundamentalism,” in *Ideas and Movements that Shaped America: From the Bill of Rights to Occupy Wall Street*, edited by Michael S. Green and Scott L. Stabler (New York: ABC-CLIO, 2015): 562-567.

Book Reviews and Review Essays

Review, Spencer Dew, *The Aliites: Race and Law in the Religions of Noble Drew Ali* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019) in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88, no. 3 (September 2020), 906-908.

To-be-titled interview on documentary films and the study of “new religious movements,” *Religious Studies Review*, forthcoming.

Review Essay, “The Myth of J.Z. Smith,” Willi Braun and Russell T. McCutcheon, eds. *Reading J.Z. Smith: Interviews and Essays*. (Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 2018) in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*. [[Link](#)]

Review Essay, Josef Sorett, *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016) in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* [[Link](#)]

Review, Francio Guadeloupe, *Chanting Down the New Jerusalem: Calypso, Christianity, and Capitalism in the Caribbean* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009) in *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 30, no. 2 (2018): 141-142.

Review Essay, “Social Power, Pluralism, and Religious Sound in America: On Isaac Weiner’s *Religion Out Loud*.” *Marginalia Review of Books*. [[Link](#)]

Review, A. Glenn Crothers, *Quakers Living in the Lion’s Mouth: The Society of Friends in Northern Virginia, 1730-1865* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2012) in *Southern Historian* 34 (2013).

Review, Gary Scharnhorst, ed. *Twain in His Own Time: A Biographical Chronicle of His Life, Drawn from Recollections, Interviews, and Memoirs by Family, Friends, and Associates* (Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 2010) in *Journal of the West* 50, 2012.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED LECTURES

“MOVE: An American Religion,” Haverford College Faculty Publications Series, April 21, 2021.

“Socialism and the Black Metaphysical Tradition,” *Socialist Aspirations: Sovereignty, Ethics, and Global Politics*, Chicago Divinity School, May 1, 2020. [postponed]

Organizer and Participant, “Death, Dying, Domination: Racism and the Ends of Life,” Villanova University, January 2020.

“Quakers, Religious Madness, and the Cognitive Limits of Experience,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 2019.

Co-Organizer, Political Theology Network Conference, Union Theological Seminary, October 2019.

“MOVE as Religion,” African American Intellectual History Conference, Waltham, Massachusetts, March 2018.

“The Impossibility of Definition-by-Analogy: Comparative Religion in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.

“‘Starve Them Out’: From Religious Liberty to Human Rights during the MOVE Blockade,” Law and Society Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 2016.

“MOVE between Religion and Politics,” in *Law, Religion, and Politics: Challenges to Traditional Borders in Global and Comparative Perspectives*, Yale Law School and Yale Divinity School, November 2015.

“Talal Asad’s Anthropology of the Historical Method,” at the Dean Hopper New Scholars Conference, Drew University, June 2015.

“Controversial Programming’: Billy James Hargis, Franklin Littell, and the Fairness Doctrine in Cold War America,” Samuel Paley Library Special Collections Research Center, Temple University, December 2014.

Invited Lecture, “MOVE: Religion or Politics?” Temple University Department of History, Religion in Philadelphia, Spring 2014.

Respondent, “Early Modern Identities,” Nineteenth Annual James A. Barnes Graduate History Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2014.

Chair, “Secularization and Deconversion in Society,” Third International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Temple, Arizona, 2013.

Chair, “Religion, Psychology, and Mental Health,” Third International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Temple, Arizona, 2013.

“Showdown at Empire Hall: The Career of a Mesmerism Lecturer” at the American Academy of Religion - Southwest Regional Annual Conference, Irving, Texas, 2013.

Chair, “Religion in Early Modern Europe,” Texas Tech University Graduate History Conference, Lubbock, Texas, 2012.

“‘A Confession of Defeat’: Mormon Apologetics versus Scientific Consensus, 1879-1922,” at the Canadian Association for American Studies, Ottawa, Ontario, 2011.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Crist Prize Committee member, Pennsylvania History, 2020-2021.

Roundtable Organizer and Editor, On Contagion, Political Theology Network’s *Body Politics*.

Workshop Co-Organizer, “Death, Dying, Domination: Racism and the Ends of Life,” Villanova University, January 2020.

Co-Coordinator, Haverford College Distinguished Visitors Lecture Series in Quaker Studies Conference Roundtable organized, “The Black Natural Law Tradition in Theory and in Practice,” proposed to the American Academy of Religion, 2018.

Conference Co-Organizer, “Encountering Crisis: Working Across the Humanities,” Center for the Humanities at Temple University (CHAT), 2016.

Associate Editor, *International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*, 2013.

Conference Organizer, Third Annual Texas Tech Graduate Student Conference, 2013.

Founder, Director, and Curator of the MOVE Oral History Project, Urban Archives, Temple University

MEDIA COVERAGE and WRITING

Interviewer/Author, “Child of Black Activists Bombed by Police: “My Activism is My Religion.” *Truthout*, February 28, 2021.

Abdul-Aliy Muhammad, “Penn Museum Owes Reparations for Previously Holding Remains of a MOVE Bombing Victim.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 21, 2021. Consulted and quoted.

Teo Armus, “A Philly Museum Kept the Bones of a Black Child Killed in a Police Bombing. Decades Later, It’s Apologizing.” *The Washington Post*, April 30, 2021. Quoted.

New York Times, “Delbert Africa, 74, Convicted in Radical Group’s Clash With Police, Dies.” June 17, 2020. Consulted and quoted.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, and GRANTS

2021 Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation Research Fellowship in support of *A Madness Divine*, \$5,000

2019 Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation Research Fellowship in support of *A Madness Divine*, \$5,000

2019 Invited Participant, American Examples Working Group, University of Alabama, Religious Studies Department

2019 Robert G. Crist Pennsylvania History Article Prize for the best graduate student authored article published in *Pennsylvania History* from 2017-2018

- 2016-2017 Temple University College of Liberal Arts, Advanced Graduate Scholar Fellowship
- 2016 Center for the Humanities at Temple University, Senior Doctoral Fellowship
- 2015 Conference Travel Grant, Temple University College of Liberal Arts
- 2015 Fellow, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry, The New School, 2015 Talal Asad Seminar on Secularism
- 2014 Research Grant, Philadelphia Foundation, \$4,000
- 2013 Graduate Scholar Award, International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society

COURSES TAUGHT

Break Every Yoke: Incarceration, Abolition, and Social Justice

Ethical Struggles in Catastrophic Times: Quakers' Responses to the Holocaust (seminar)

African American Religions (seminar/lecture)

Africana Religions (seminar)

Reinventing Quakerism: Haverford College, Rufus Jones, and the Invention of Liberal Quakerism (writing seminar for first-year undergraduates)

Postwar America (lecture)

American Religious History (lecture)

Introduction to Cultural Theory (seminar)

20th Century United States History (lecture)

The Sixties (lecture)

Religion and Law in American History (seminar/lecture)

The Making of American Society: Melting Pot or Culture Wars? (online lecture)

Sacred Texts in American Culture (seminar)