

# JACOB BARRETT

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Dept. of Religious Studies  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2027 Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Religion and Culture
- Supervisor: Randall Styers
  - Graduate Certificates
    - Digital Humanities (Carolina Digital Humanities/Digital Innovation Lab)
- 2022 M.A. University of Alabama, Religion in Culture
- Supervisor: Russell T. McCutcheon
  - Graduate Certificates
    - Advanced Online Pedagogy (College of Continuing Studies)
    - Digital Humanities (Alabama Digital Humanities Center)
- 2020 B.A. Nebraska Wesleyan University, Major in Philosophy and Religion; Biology minor
- Supervisor: Rita Lester
    - Senior Project: “The Case for World Religions without the World Religions Paradigm” and the collaborative redesign of the course that resulted in the final paper

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- “Negotiating Authority: Marjorie Taylor Greene and the Governance of Belief Claims.” *Implicit Religion Special Issue: Belief Reconsidered*. (forthcoming)
- “Critical Theory in World Religions: An Experiment in Course (re)Design.” *Implicit Religion*. 23 (3): 218-232. 2020

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

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- “Introduction.” in Zachary Smith (ed.) *Religion and Alcohol: A Survey of the Field* (in progress)
- “Religious freedom is about religious freedom.” Co-authored with Rita Lester, in Craig Martin and Brad Stoddard (eds.) *Stereotyping Religion: Critiquing Clichés Volume 2*. Bloomsbury Academic (forthcoming)
- “Can’t live with it, can’t drop it from the undergraduate curriculum: World Religions.” Co-authored with Rita Lester, in James Dennis LoRusso (ed.) *On the Subject of Religion: Charting the Fault Lines of a Field of Study*. Equinox Publishers (forthcoming)

## REVIEW ESSAYS

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- “Brian Carwana – A Professor to the Public.” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 51: (forthcoming)

“Leading Works in Religion and Law: A Fictional Volume Inspired by *Leading Works in Law and Religion*.” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 50 (1): 26-33. 2021

## PRESENTATIONS

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- November 2022 “RuPaul and Religious Freedom? What we stand to gain when we borrow from our critical disciplinary neighbors.” Critique in the Study of Religion: Theory panel, North American Association for the Study of Religion. Denver, CO
- November 2022 Chair, Disrupting the Canon: Teaching as Resistance co-sponsored panel, Teaching Religion Unit and Religion and Film Unit, American Academy of Religion. Denver, CO
- March 2022 “Negotiating Authority: Marjorie Taylor Greene and the Governance of Belief Claims.” Religion of the Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion – Southeast, Hosted by Florida State University, Virtual Meeting
- November 2021 “Critical Theory in World Religions: An Experiment in Course (re)Design.” Teaching Tactics panel, Teaching Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, TX (presented virtually)
- November 2021 Chair, Language: Theorizing Crisis as ‘A Turning Point’ panel, North American Association for the Study of Religion, Virtual Meeting
- September 2021 “Critique, Solve, Repeat: Moving Beyond the Sullivanian Model of Religious Freedom Scholarship in the United States.” Religion and the Nation State panel, British Association for the Study of Religion and International Association for the History of Religions special conference, Hosted by the University of Edinburgh, Virtual Meeting
- March 2021 “Critical Theory in World Religions: An Experiment in Course (re)Design.” Method and Theory Unit, American Academy of Religion – Southeast, Hosted by Florida State University, Virtual Meeting  
\*Winner of the AAR Graduate Student Paper Award
- March 2021 “The Case for World Religions without the World Religions Paradigm.” Undergraduate Papers panel, American Academy of Religion – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains, Hosted by the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Virtual Meeting (accepted for 2020 but postponed to 2021)
- November 2019 “Can’t live with it, can’t drop it from the undergraduate curriculum: World Religions.” Co-authored but only presented by Rita Lester, Teaching the Field panel, North American Association for the Study of Religion. San Diego, CA
- November 2018 “From Jewish Sect to Christian Religion: Why the Two-Gospel Hypothesis is More Accurate than the Two-Source Hypothesis.” Truman State University Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference. Kirksville, MO

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

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### *The Religious Studies Project* Podcast

“#ClassificationMatters | Discourse! September 2021.” With David G. Robertson and Ting Guo, <https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/classification-matters-discourse-september-2021/>

## *Studying Religion in Culture Blog*

“Thinking With Baudrillard.” Posted February 2022,

<https://religion.ua.edu/blog/2022/02/03/thinking-with-baudrillard/>

“The Relevance of Religious Studies is Not that We Study Religion.” Posted December 2020, <https://religion.ua.edu/blog/2020/12/21/the-relevance-of-religious-studies-is-not-that-we-study-religion/>

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

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August 2022	Druscilla French Graduate Student Excellence Fund Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Awarded \$5000.
August 2022	Boyd Fellowship Top-Up, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Awarded \$2000.
April 2022	Ulysses V. Goodwyn Endowed Excellence in the Study of Religion Award, University of Alabama.
March 2021	AAR Graduate Student Paper Award, American Academy of Religion – Southeast. Awarded for “Critical Theory in World Religions: An experiment in course (re)design.”
August 2020	Graduate Council Fellowship, University of Alabama Graduate School. Awarded full tuition and stipend for the 2020-2021 academic year
March 2019	Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Grant, Nebraska Wesleyan University. Awarded \$2000 for “Religions of the World Without the World Religions Paradigm” to attend the NAASR 2019 Annual Meeting and present
October 2018	Wolf Fund for Diversity Education Grant, Wolf Fund at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Awarded \$1500 for “Religious Diversity and Interfaith Initiatives on College Campuses” to attend the AAR 2018 annual meeting and attend panels on interfaith initiatives
February 2018	Wolf Fund for Diversity Education Grant, Wolf Fund at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Awarded \$5000 for “Expanding Religious Diversity Education on Campus” for five students to attend the Encounter World Religions Centre’s Discovery Week
September 2017	Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Grant, Nebraska Wesleyan University. Awarded \$5000 for “Field Testing and Electron Microscopy of SD Pro from Global Shield Solutions” to purchase supplies and conduct independent research in the NWU Biology Department

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

RELI 103: Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature – Graduate Teaching Assistant

Supervisor: Joseph Lam

- Plan and lead 3 separate recitation sections once a week, including independent instruction and lesson planning
- Grade assignments and manage online gradebook
- Attend lectures and take detailed notes for students who are unable to attend

## University of Alabama

REL 100: Introduction to Religious Studies – Graduate Teaching Assistant

Supervisor: K. Merinda Simmons

- Attend lectures and take detailed notes for students who are unable to attend
- Manage and respond to weekly work discussion posts
- Design and host review sessions before each exam

REL 241: American Religious History – Graduate Teaching Assistant

Supervisor: Lauren Horn Griffin

- Lead full class periods once a week and integrated several classroom management techniques including seminar style discussion, pair and share, in class writings, etc.
- Developed lesson plans for each week's discussion section that integrated innovative ways to engage every student in discussion

## Nebraska Wesleyan University

RELIG 1100: World Religions – Student Co-Designer and Co-Instructor

Supervisor: Rita Lester

- Redesigned and restructured course with professor, including deciding on readings, assignments, essay prompts, and class schedule
- Reviewed all assignments turned in by students and gave feedback on work submitted
- Lead full class periods and integrated several classroom management techniques, including seminar style discussion, pair and share, in class writings, etc.
- Arranged and instructed writing review workshops every two weeks before each essay was due to ensure students were successful in their writing
- Managed grade book and attendance tracker

Archway Seminar: New & Old Religious Movements – Student Co-Designer and Co-Instructor

Supervisor: Rita Lester

- Worked as a Co-Instructor on a course that doubled as a First Year Seminar and gateway course for the Religion Department
- Redesigned and restructured course with professor, including deciding on readings, assignments, essay prompts, and class schedule
- Advised first year students, both academically and personally
- Lead writing workshops over the eleven writing steps for the students' ten-page research paper
- Designed a role-playing final presentation activity to engage students in research and public speaking
- Managed grade book and attendance tracker

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Director of Marketing and Publicity – *American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Southeastern Region* June 2022-present

- Ensure timely and effective communication between the board and members regarding conferences, announcements, and other notes of news

Media and Communications Coordinator – *North American Association for the Study of Religion* Feb. 2022-present

- Monitor and run NAASR social media accounts
- Create cross-platform content promoting activities, publications, and other initiatives by NAASR and NAASR members
- Promote NAASR's position as a scholarly society dedicated to historical, critical, and social scientific approaches to the study of religion, as well as a relentlessly reflexive critique of the theories, methods, and categories used in such study

Editorial Assistant – *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* Oct. 2020-Dec. 2021

- Author pieces for publication in each edition (see “Review Essays” for list of contributions)
- Organize, conduct, and transcribe interviews for publication
- Review and edit submissions, columns, and editorials to ensure a consistent tone and flow in each piece
- Format pieces in Chicago style before they are sent to publication

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

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University of Alabama, 2020-Present

### **University**

Student Experience Committee Chair – Graduate Student Association, Sept. 2020-May 2021

- Organize and execute all events hosted by the Graduate Student Association
- Work closely with the Vice President for Student Engagement and the rest of the Graduate Student Association Executive Committee to advocate for the graduate student community

### **Department**

Video Creator and Editor

- Designed, edited, and produced 7 videos in a new series, “What is the study of religion?” where current BA and MA students were interviewed about their understanding of the field and the benefits to studying religion
- Created, edited, and produced 7 videos as parts of ongoing series for the Department's web presence, including “A Good Book”, “Meet the REL Faculty”, “Studying Religion and...”, and “artifacts”

Graduate Student Ambassador

- Meet with applicants and prospective students to answer questions about the department and program

Nebraska Wesleyan University, 2016-2020

### **University**

Student Body Vice President – Student Affairs Senate, May 2019-May 2020

- Ran weekly meetings, managing a 50-person senate and maintaining proper parliamentary procedure
- Met biweekly with the university President and worked to maintain open communication between the student body and university administration
- Successfully redesigned, implemented, and oversaw a new Conference Request process to ensure the equitable allocation of \$100,000 to student organizations

Student Affairs Committee Chair – Student Affairs Senate, Sept. 2018-May 2019

- Advocated for student organizations and student affairs issues on the Student Affairs Senate
- Directly wrote and passed nineteen pieces of legislation amounting to over \$50,000
- Participated in the reconstructing of the Student Affairs Senate constitution that was successfully passed

Co-Founder – Bridge: Wesleyan’s Interfaith Organization, August 2018-May 2020

- Established an interfaith organization after noticing the lack of conversation about religious diversity on campus
- Grew the organization to twenty-five student members within the first two months
- Wrote and saw a \$15,000 budget request get passed through student government
- Organized ten students attending two separate conferences and handled the details such as flights, housing, registration, etc.

Member - Forum Committee, Sept. 2017-May 2020

- Served as one of two student members on Forum Committee, a faculty committee that plans and executes an annual, university wide symposium with lecturers
- Handled lecturers when they arrived on campus and worked with them until the time of their talk
- Lecturers include Bryan Stevenson, John Quinones, Trace Lysette, Irshad Manji, DeRay McKesson, etc.

Involvement Intern/Presence Coordinator – Center for Student Involvement, Oct. 2016-May 2020

- Managed and communicated with over 70 student organizations to ensure their success
- Implemented Presence, a student engagement software, across campus to over 2500 students, faculty, and staff
- Lead campus wide trainings to effectively onboard the software
- Organized individual training sessions with campus leaders and offices that wanted to get more experience with the software

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR)

British Association for the Study of Religion (BASR)

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (beginner)

German (beginner)

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

Web Management: WordPress, Adobe Express

Coding Languages: Python (working proficiency), HTML (working proficiency), CSS (working proficiency)

Audio Recording and Editing: Adobe Audition, Zencastr, Anchor

Video Editing: Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Rush

Learning Management Systems: Blackboard, Canvas, Sakai