

ELESHA COFFMAN

Assistant Professor
Department of History
Baylor University
One Bear Place, #97306
Waco, Texas 76798-7306

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Duke University, 2008

M.A., Duke University, 2006

B.A., Wheaton College (IL), 1997, *summa cum laude*

EMPLOYMENT

Baylor University, Waco, TX

Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2016-
Graduate faculty, 2017-

Courses taught: U.S. since 1877; History of American Thought, 1630-1859; History of American Thought, 1860-present; Business in American History; American Liberal Religion (graduate seminar)

Thesis and dissertation committees: Paul Putz (Baylor history PhD), Timothy D. Grundmeier (Baylor history PhD), Skylar Ray (Baylor history MA), Abigail Higgins (Baylor history undergrad honors), Emily Hunt (Baylor sociology PhD), Jason Burt (Baylor sociology MA)

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA

Assistant Professor of Church History, 2012-2016

Courses taught: Early and Medieval Church History; Reformation and Modern Church History; Theology of John Calvin; The Mainline Tradition; Jesus in America

Waynesburg University, Waynesburg, PA

Assistant Professor of History, 2008-2012

Courses taught: U.S. to 1865; U.S. since 1865; 20th Century World History; Colonial America; Gilded Age and Progressive Era; Public History; Women's History; Sports in American History; American Religious History; Church History

BOOKS AND CHAPTERS

In print

The Christian Century and the Rise of the Protestant Mainline (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).

“The Significance of Preaching in Mainline Protestantism,” in W. Hulitt Gloer and Shawn Boyd, eds., *God’s Word and Our Words* (Wipf and Stock, 2019), 177-189.

with Timothy D. Grundmeier, “Print Media,” in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, ed. John Corrigan (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 113-133.

“The Bible and the Mainline Denominations,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America*, ed. Paul Gutjahr (New York: Oxford University Press, November 2017), 546-557.

“‘You Cannot Fool the Electronic Eye’: Billy Graham and Media,” in *Billy Graham: American Pilgrim*, eds. Andrew Finstuen, Grant Wacker, and Anne Blue Wills (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 197-215.

“Marketing the Mainline: *The Christian Century* and the Business of Ecumenism,” in *Religious Periodicals and Publishing in Transnational Contexts: The Press and the Pulpit*, eds. Oliver Scheiding and Anja-Maria Bassimir (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), 107-124.

“*The Chicago Call* and Responses,” in *Evangelicals and the Early Church: Recovery, Reform, Renewal*, eds. George Kalantzis and Andrew Tooley (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2012), 108-124.

Under contract and forthcoming

Margaret Mead: A Twentieth Century Faith. Spiritual Lives Series, Timothy Larsen, series editor. Oxford University Press. Manuscript due Dec. 31, 2019

Turning Points in American Church History. Baker Academic. Under contract; projected completion 2022.

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

In print

“‘I Didn’t Say That’: Margaret Mead on Nature, Nurture, and Gender in the Nuclear Age,” *Modern Intellectual History* (online, August 14, 2019; print forthcoming).

“Anthropology Meets the *Book of Common Prayer*: Margaret Mead’s role in revising the liturgy of baptism”

Fides et Historia, 51.1 (Winter/Spring 2019), 124-134.

“On Methodological Evangelicalism”

Fides et Historia, 51.1 (Winter/Spring 2019), 72-76.

“Gender and the ‘New Hagiography’”

Fides et Historia 49.2 (Summer/Fall 2017), 37-39.

“*Christ and Culture* and Christian Historiography”

Fides et Historia 49.1 (Winter/Spring 2017), 105-108.

“The Measure of a Magazine: Assessing the Influence of *The Christian Century*”

Religion and American Culture 22.1 (Winter 2012), 53-82.

“The ‘Religious Issue’ in Presidential Politics”

American Catholic Studies 119.4 (Winter 2008), 1-20.

ACADEMIC BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Andrew Atherstone and David Ceri Jones, *The Routledge Research*

Companion to the History of Evangelicalism

Church History, March 2019

Review of David Harrington Watt, *Antifundamentalism in Modern America*

Journal of Church and State, Spring 2018

Review of David Mislin, *Saving Faith: Making Religious Pluralism an American Value at the Dawn of the Secular Age*

The Journal of Religion, October 2017

Review of Andrew Preston, Bruce J. Schulman, and Julian E. Zelizer, eds., *Faithful*

Republic: Religion and Politics in Modern America

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Spring 2016

Review of George Marsden, *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief*

American Historical Review, February 2015

Review of David A. Hollinger, *After Cloven Tongues of Fire: Protestant Liberalism in Modern American History*

The Journal of Religion, January 2015

Review of Molly Worthen, *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism*
The Journal of American History, December 2014

Review of Fay Botham, *Almighty God Created the Races: Christianity, Marriage & American Law*
Christian Scholar's Review, Winter 2011

Review of Barry Hankins, *The Second Great Awakening and the Transcendentalists*
The Journal of Religion, April 2006

ESSAYS (SELECTED)

“Rachel Held Evans: Gone and Soon Forgotten?”
Sightings, May 16, 2019
<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/rachel-held-evans-gone-and-soon-forgotten>

“Can Churches Come in from the Cold War?” (review of Paul Mojzes, ed., *North American Churches and the Cold War*, Eerdmans, 2018)
Comment, Mar. 1, 2019
<https://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/can-churches-come-in-from-the-cold-war/>

“Beyond Empathy: On Historical Disgust and Lament,” *Patheos Anxious Bench*, Oct. 16, 2018
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/anxiousbench/2018/10/beyond-empathy-historical-disgust-lament/>

Review of David Hollinger, *Protestants Abroad: How Missionaries Tried to Change the World but Changed America*. Society for U.S. Intellectual History blog, Oct. 14, 2018
<https://s-usih.org/2018/10/review-of-protestants-abroad-how-missionaries-tried-to-change-the-world-but-changed-america/>

“It’s Not about Paige Patterson, Continued: Sex and Gender Beyond Evangelicalism.”
Righting America, <https://rightingamerica.net/its-not-about-paige-patterson-continued-sex-and-gender-beyond-evangelicalism/>. June 12, 2018

“How will Billy Graham be remembered?” Oxford University Press blog,
<https://blog.oup.com/2018/04/billy-graham-legacy/>. April 23, 2018

“Fundamentalists, Modernists, and the Rest of the Story” (review of Geoffrey Treloar, *The Disruption of Evangelicalism*, InterVarsity, 2017)
Christianity Today online, May 9, 2017
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/may-web-only/fundamentalists-modernists-and-rest-of-story.html>

- “Margaret Mead: Christian, Pro-Life Feminist”
Patheos Anxious Bench, Mar. 1, 2017
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/anxiousbench/2017/03/margaret-mead-christian-pro-life-feminist/>
- “Are We Entering the End Times for Mainline Seminaries?”
Religion Dispatches, Aug. 30, 2016
<http://religiondispatches.org/are-we-entering-the-end-times-for-mainline-seminaries/>
- “The Good (and Bad) News about Christian Higher Education” (interview with William C. Ringenberg, author of *The Christian College and the Meaning of Academic Freedom: Truth-Seeking in Community*)
Christianity Today, August 22, 2016
- “Mainline Ecumenism: It’s Older Than You Think”
Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice, Nov. 4, 2015
<http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/mainline-ecumenism-its-older-than-you-think/>
- “Billy Graham Is Probably Not the Author of His Own ‘Final Chapter’”
Religion Dispatches, Nov. 2, 2015
<http://religiondispatches.org/billy-graham-is-probably-not-the-author-of-his-own-final-chapter/>
- “Belief and Behavior Up, Belonging Down”
Patheos Public Square, “Future of Faith in America” series, July 29, 2015
<http://www.patheos.com/Topics/Future-of-Faith-in-America/Progressive/Belief-and-Behavior-Up-Belonging-Down-Elesha-Coffman-07-29-2015>
- “How Evangelicalism Built Its Brand Loyalty” (review of Timothy Gloege, *Guaranteed Pure: The Moody Bible Institute, Business, and the Making of Modern Evangelicalism*)
Christianity Today online, June 4, 2015
- “Religious Decline in America? The Answer Depends on Your Timeframe”
Religion News Service “Corner of Church and State” blog, Jan. 21, 2015
- “High Priests of Middlebrow Culture” (review of Matthew S. Hedstrom, *The Rise of Liberal Religion: Book Culture and American Spirituality in the Twentieth Century*)
Books and Culture, March-April, 2015
- “Evangelicals, Gender, and Anxiety”
Christian Century “Then & Now” blog, Nov. 12, 2014
- “Before There Was Billy Graham, There Was ...” (interview with Thomas Kidd, author of *George Whitefield: America’s Spiritual Founding Father*)
Christianity Today online, Nov. 12, 2014

“When Pulpit and Pew Disagree”

Faith & Leadership, Oct. 20, 2014

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/content/elesha-coffman-when-pulpit-and-pew-disagree>

“Mainline Protestantism: Numbers Count, but Prestige Matters More”

Huffington Post, April 8, 2013

“The Forgotten Woman of Evangelical History” (review of Catherine A. Brekus, *Sarah Osborn’s World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America*)

Christianity Today online, March 14, 2013

INVITED LECTURES AND SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

“The Puzzling Faith of Margaret Mead”

Ecumenical Protestantism and Post-Protestantism in the United States, 1917-2017,
Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, Oct. 12-15, 2017

“The Significance of Preaching in Mainline Protestantism”

God’s Word and Our Words: The Significance of Preaching from the Prophets to the Present, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Waco, TX, Sept. 11-12, 2017

“Marketing the Mainline: Circulation, Advertising, Design, and Identity in *The Christian Century*”

Religious Press and Print Culture conference, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, Nov. 19-22, 2014

“Postwar Protestantism: The Contested Center”

Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, February 17, 2014

“‘You Cannot Fool the Electronic Eye’: Billy Graham and Media”

Worlds of Billy Graham Conference, Wheaton College, September 27, 2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

“Roundtable: Timothy Larsen’s *John Stuart Mill: A Secular Life* and OUP’s Spiritual Lives Series,” panel presentation

American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2019

“The Religion and Politics of Earth Day(s)”

Society for U.S. Intellectual History annual meeting, November 2018

- “To Believe or Not to Believe: A Roundtable on Religious Sources,” roundtable presentation
Conference on Faith and History Biennial Meeting, October 2018
- “Christian Scholarship for Such a Time as This: A Reassessment,” panel presentation
Conference on Faith and History Biennial Meeting, October 2018
- “The Academy and the Art of Religious Biography,” panel presentation
Festival of Faith and Writing, Calvin College, April 2018
- Remarks on Erin A. Smith, *What Would Jesus Read?: Popular Religious Books and Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century America*, for panel discussion
Southwest Commission on Religious Studies annual meeting, March 2018
- “The Maternalist Theology of Margaret Mead”
American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2018
- “Margaret Mead, Betty Friedan, and the Boundaries of Feminism”
Society for U.S. Intellectual History annual meeting, October 2017
- “Gender and the New Hagiography,” panel presentation
American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2017
- Remarks on Jay D. Green, *Christian Historiography: Five Rival Versions*, for roundtable discussion
Conference on Faith and History Biennial Meeting, October 2016
- Roundtable presentation, “Strategies for Success in Today’s Academic Job Market: A Roundtable Discussion”
Conference on Faith and History Biennial Meeting, October 2016
- “Mainline” contribution to the panel “What’s in a Name? Debating Keywords in the Study of American Protestantism”
American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2016
- “Sixty Years of Religious Decline? An Interdisciplinary Conversation” panel presentation
American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2015
- “‘I had not yet learned to read books’: The role of texts in liberal Protestant conversion narratives”
American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2014
- “Beyond the Protestant Establishment?” panel presentation
American Society of Church History Winter Meeting, January 2013

“‘You Can’t Enlist the Laymen’: *The Christian Century* and the Logic of Mainline Churchliness”
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2012

ADDITIONAL MEDIA

Podcast interview, “Elesha Coffman on Religion,” *Trotsky & the Wild Orchids*, Nov. 7, 2018
<https://wildorchids.libsyn.com/ep-nineteen-elesha-coffman-on-religion>

Podcast interview, “Remembering the Legacy of Rev. Billy Graham,” Fox News radio, Feb. 22, 2018
<https://radio.foxnews.com/2018/02/22/remembering-the-legacy-of-rev-billy-graham/>

Podcast interview, “Does America’s History Justify Rigged Election Fears?” *Christianity Today* “Quick to Listen,” Oct. 27, 2016
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/october-web-only/does-americas-history-justify-rigged-election-fears.html>

Podcast interview, “Reading and ‘Riting and Heretic,” *Priest Pulse*, Sept. 19, 2016
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/priest-pulse/id925044272?mt=2>

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Baylor University Rising Stars Fellowship, 2017-2018

Baylor University Research Committee Small Grant, 2017

Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, 2013-

Visiting fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2011-2012

Communitas Fellowship, Calvin College, 2010

Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship, 2007-2008

Gurney Harris Kearns Fellowship, Duke University, 2002-2007

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Society of Church History delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, 2018-

Book review editorial team, Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2018-

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Seminars and Institutes review panel, April 2018

American Society of Church History Council, 2015-2017

Manuscript reviews for *Annals of Iowa*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Journal of Religion*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Religion and American Culture*, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, University of Virginia Press

Paper session responses at conferences of the American Society of Church History (Winter 2018, Winter 2017, Spring 2016), Society for U.S. Intellectual History (Fall 2018, Fall 2017), and the Conference on Faith and History (Fall 2016, Fall 2014)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

American Society of Church History

Conference on Faith and History

Society for U.S. Intellectual History

SERVICE TO BAYLOR AND WACO

History department Speakers Committee, 2016-

History department Graduate Studies Committee, 2017-

Women in the Academy mentoring program, 2017-2018

Board Member, Heart of Texas Regional History Fair, 2017-
Vice president, 2018-

Member, First Presbyterian Church, Waco, 2016-

Updated January 9, 2020