

History of Christianity and the World Christian Movement

Historical Studies | Department of Religion | Baylor University

The Historical Studies Area in the Department of Religion examines and explores the rich expressions of Christianity across a wide variety of cultures. Our students and top-tier faculty engage in rigorous research on significant figures, institutions, and movements in the history of world Christianity in a collegial environment.

Primary Faculty

[Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi](#) | *Frederick E. Roach Professor of World Christianity*: Dr. Cardoza-Orlandi's area of research is the transmission, reception, and appropriation of the Christian faith with particular focus on the global south. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Missiology: An International Journal*.

[Elizabeth Flowers](#) | *Associate Professor of American Religion*: Dr. Flowers' research focuses on American religious history, the history of evangelicalism, and women and gender in the history of Christianity. She serves as the Director of the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor; Southwest Regional President of the American Academy of Religion; and on the Editorial Board of *Perspectives in Religious Studies*.

[Doug Weaver](#) | *Professor of Baptist Studies*: Dr. Weaver's research focuses on Baptist history and Pentecostalism. He serves as the Interim Chair of Baylor's Department of Religion; Coordinator of the Baptist Studies Center for Research; and President of the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

[David Whitford](#) | *Professor of Reformation Studies*: Dr. Whitford's research and writing explores the social, cultural, and political impact of the European Reformations of the sixteenth century. He serves as editor of *The Sixteenth Century Journal* and President of the Calvin Studies Society.

Affiliated Faculty

Beth Allison Barr (gender in medieval England), Brian Brewer (Anabaptists), Elesha J. Coffman (mainline Protestantism), Barry G. Hankins (American evangelicalism), Heidi J. Hornik (art history), Monique Ingalls (world church music), Philip Jenkins (global Christianity), Thomas S. Kidd (early American religion), and Andrea Turpin (US women and gender)

Recent Dissertation Topics

- Female Pentecostal missionaries in the Middle East
- Brownsville Revival in Pensacola, Florida
- Black Protestants and lynching resistance
- Chivalric discourses among Anabaptists
- Reformation interpretations of Isaiah
- Religion and the supernatural in Münster
- John Calvin and the beatific vision
- Latin American political theology
- Global representations of female saints
- Gender in early modern political theory
- Latin American Charismatic Christianity

Program Outline

Students take four semesters of coursework. In years three through five, students take preliminary exams, work on their dissertation, take part in a teaching colloquy, and have an opportunity to teach undergraduate classes. Students, along with all area faculty, participate in a weekly colloquium, discussing guided readings in classical and contemporary studies in the discipline as well as professional development.

Area Seminars

- World Christian Movement
- Christianity in Africa
- Christianity in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Medieval Christianity
- Continental Reformations
- The English Reformation
- The Radical Reformation
- Baptist History
- American Religion
- Race and American Religion
- Gender and American Religion
- Pentecostalism
- Women and Gender in American Evangelicalism

Recent colloquium readings concentrated on theories of religion and global Pentecostalism, and future readings will engage in women and gender studies and world religions.

Why the Department of Religion at Baylor University?

The doctoral program in religion is more than fifty years old and is well situated to embrace and support the lively Christian commitments of Baylor University, a nationally ranked research institution and home to [Institute for the Study of Religion](#) and the [Institute of Oral History](#). Baylor is located in Waco, Texas, an affordable, mid-sized city in the heart of Texas, with close proximity to Dallas and Austin.

The program ranks high in national assessments, especially in the research productivity of its faculty and its graduate students. The department offers competitive stipends, full tuition scholarships, and has seen good placement rates for PhD students. Small seminars and graduate assistantships with a variety of professors provide opportunities for valuable faculty-student mentorships. The Department of Religion also fosters a supportive environment where students can thrive and grow.

Funding

- Full tuition remission
- NO student fees
- Graduate assistantship stipend worth more than \$20,000/year for up to five years
- 80% subsidy for student health insurance
- Conference travel funding
- Parental leave for graduate students
- Dissertation funding from Glenn O. and Martell B. Hilburn Endowed Graduate Research Scholarship Fund
- [Robert L. Gilbert Scholar in Religion](#) Stipend for communities underrepresented in academia

Apply by December 15, 2021, at <https://grad.baylor.edu/apply/>

Questions? Contact Historical Studies Coordinator Dr. Elizabeth Flowers | Elizabeth.H.Flowers@Baylor.edu or Academic/Student Support Associate | (254) 710-3742 | Candice.H.Williams@Baylor.edu

Current Students

Joshua Caleb Smith came to Baylor from Calvin Theological Seminary, where he graduated with a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) and a ThM. He chose Baylor for his PhD because of the combination of its warm graduate community and the resources and support the university offers. His research focuses on various aspects of the supernatural in early modern Europe; specifically, his dissertation explores the use of supernatural explanations in sixteenth-century accounts of the Kingdom of Münster.

Scott Prather is from Alabama and New Mexico (it's an interesting story) and has earned degrees from the University of Oxford (MSt in Early Ecclesiastical History), Abilene Christian University (MDiv), and Lubbock Christian University (MA in Biblical Hermeneutics). He came to Baylor to specialize in the history of late-medieval and early modern European Christianity and to explore aspects of the American Stone-Campbell Movement. Scott appreciates the ways Baylor's Historical Studies program have helped him hone his abilities in the classroom and opened the door to opportunities outside the classroom.

Jacob Randolph, a son of the Kansas plains, came to Baylor by way of Oklahoma Baptist University (BA, Religion) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MA in Church History; MA in New Testament). Jacob's research explores the intersection of religion and culture in the process of identity formation, especially during the European Reformation of the sixteenth century.

Erik Lundeen is originally from Wisconsin. He earned a BA in Music from the University of Southern California, as well as an MDiv and MA in Church History from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. His research interests center around the intersections between the history of biblical exegesis and Christian Hebraism in late medieval and early modern Europe. At Baylor, Erik has especially appreciated the collegial atmosphere among graduate students and the opportunities to pursue the research questions that interest him most.

Malcolm Foley holds a BA double major in Religious Studies and Finance and a minor in Classics from Washington University in St. Louis. He then completed an MDiv at Yale Divinity School, focusing on the theology of the early and medieval church. Foley's dissertation investigates African American Protestants responding to lynching from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. He is both the Director of Black Church Studies at Truett Theological Seminary and Special Advisor to the Baylor President for Equity and Campus Engagement. In this joint role, Foley facilitates engagement and interaction with and among the many diverse members of our community and works collaboratively to develop initiatives designed to foster a welcoming and inclusive campus for all.

Gerhard Stuebben earned his BA in Music and Church History from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and his MDiv in Biblical Studies and Languages from Truett Theological Seminary. Gerhard's broader research interest is on the economic dimension of the history of Christianity, and his work currently focuses on the changing use of Marx and formulations of economics in Latin American Liberation Theology. Though there is much about Baylor to love, Gerhard is especially grateful for the collegial atmosphere and spirit of cooperation in the Religion department.

Anna Wells is originally from Katy, TX, and she earned both her BA and MA in History from Baylor. Her research focuses on the intersection between religion, culture, and gender by examining representations of Christian female saints in the late medieval world, particularly in Europe and Ethiopia. Anna was drawn to Baylor's commitment to preeminent research within a Christian environment and the opportunities available to explore the integration between faith and learning. She especially appreciates the supportive and collegial atmosphere among both the students and faculty in the historical studies area.

Allison Brown hails from Oklahoma. She earned BA in History and Political Science from Oklahoma State University and her MA in History of Christianity (Reformation) from Wheaton College, Illinois. Her current research focuses on the intersection of biblical reception, gender, and political theory in the sixteenth century. Allison was drawn to Baylor because of its collegial atmosphere and opportunities to study under world-class faculty.

Ryan Ramsey is from Knoxville, TN. He holds a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies from Lee University and a MAR in Theology from Yale Divinity School. He studies the development of Pentecostal and charismatic expressions of World Christianity, focusing on the ways in which coloniality and other religions have shaped Pentecostal and charismatic theologies and practices, especially in Latin America. The best things about Baylor are the time and attention given to student by the historical studies faculty, as well as the graduate community within the Religion department. Baylor is a healthy and supportive place to learn and grow as a scholar.

Husezo Rhakho is from Nagaland, India. He holds a BA in History from Patkai Christian College, an MDiv from Kohima Bible College in Nagaland, India, and a ThM in Christian Thought (World Missions/Global Christianity), from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He studies World Christianity and History of Christian Mission, particularly in Asia. His research centers around the trends and growth of Christianity in the global south from an insider's perspective. He joined Baylor University because it provides a holistic academic program and the opportunity to study under the best scholars, especially in the areas of History of Christianity and World Christianity.

David Chrisna is originally from Indonesia. He holds a BA in Psychology from Maranatha Christian University and an MDiv from Southeast Asia Bible Seminary, Indonesia as well as a Graduate Certificate in Christian-Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary and a ThM in Christian Thought (Missiology/Global Christianity) from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. His current research interest focuses around the study of world Christianity, history of Christian mission, and history of Christian-Muslim relations. David chose to study at Baylor University because the institution provides a warm and supportive academic community both from the faculties and fellow students.

Nadia Andrienas comes from the beautiful Pacific Northwest, Seattle area. She has a BA in Anthropology and a MSW from University of Washington. She developed her research interests in women and global Christianity while completing a MAR at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. At Baylor, she's pursuing her research interests in the experience of women in the church especially in Asia and particularly in Vietnam. She chose Baylor for its faculty expertise in global Christianity and gender and the program's competitive stipend and supportive community.

Karen Hamilton Lucas is from North Carolina and has earned degrees from Emmanuel College (B.A. in Psychology), and Campbell University Divinity School (M.Div). She came to Baylor to specialize in Pentecostal-Charismatic worship history and its points of intersection with culture, politics, and global Christianity. Karen looks forward to being further equipped to serve both the academy and the Church while at Baylor.

Bobby Martinez is from Copperas Cove, Texas and holds a B.A. in Practical Theology from Howard Payne University and an M.Div. from George W. Truett Theological Seminary. The son of a Mexican immigrant, Bobby's research interests broadly consist of Postcolonial and Decolonial readings in Latin American religious histories. While there are many things about the Religion Department that Bobby is thankful for, he particularly appreciates the generous academic spirit embodied by students and faculty in the Historical Studies area.

Placement Record

Graduates from the historical studies area have been placed in traditional teaching and research positions as well as in variety leadership positions in a number of higher educational institutions such as Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, Baylor University, Baptist University of the Americas, Campbell Divinity School, Carson Newman University, Central Theological Seminary, East Texas Baptist University, Gardner-Webb University and Divinity School, Johnson University, Memphis Theological Seminary, Simpson University, Truett Theological Seminary, University of Mary Hardin Baylor, and others.