

JOSHUA B. KULAK

Houston, TX

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy – Theology and Religious Studies **2019**

Andrew F. Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity

Liverpool Hope University – Liverpool, United Kingdom

Research Foci: Christian Witness, Theology of Religions, Christian-Hindu Dialogue, World Christianity, Intercultural Theology

Doctoral Thesis: “The *Sannyāsi* and the Bishop: A Comparative Study of Bede Griffiths and Lesslie Newbigin’s Approaches to Hinduism Based on Their Theology of Religions and Christian Witness”

Supervisors: Prof. Daniel Jeyaraj, Dr. Peter McGrail

Examiners: Dr. Anderson Jeremiah (*external*, Lancaster University), Dr. Andrew Cheadle

Master of Divinity – Theology: Mission and World Christianity **2012**

George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Baylor University – Waco, Texas

Bachelor of Arts – Christian Studies: Christian Theology **2007**

Ouachita Baptist University – Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Cum Laude

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship

Liverpool Hope University, 2016 – 2019

Full funding for three years research related to Christianity in South Asia

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Part-time Lecturer in World Christianity and Witness **Jan 2021 – Present**

George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Houston, TX

Postgraduate Research Student – Teaching Assistant **2016 – 2019**

Andrew F. Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity

Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, United Kingdom

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Covenant Group Mentor

2015 – 2016

George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Waco, TX

RESEARCH INTERESTS

World Christianity, Intercultural Theology, Global Anglicanism, Theology of Religions, Indian Christianity, Hinduisms, Interreligious Dialogue, Christian Witness, World Religions

COURSES TAUGHT/ASSISTED

Introduction to Christian Witness and Mission (*Truett Seminary, Baylor University*)

Explorations in Christian Theology: World Christianity (*Liverpool Hope University*)

Advanced Studies in Christian Theology: World Christianity (*Liverpool Hope University*)

Introduction in Religion: Indic Religious Traditions (Hinduism and Buddhism) (*Liverpool Hope University*)

Explorations in World Religions: Hinduism (*Liverpool Hope University*)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

American Academy of Religion

American Society of Missiology

Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement & World Christianity

PUBLICATIONS

- “Lesslie Newbigin: An Intercultural Theologian?” *Dharma Deepika: A South Asian Journal of Missiological Research*. Forthcoming.

- *The Sannyāsi and the Bishop: Bede Griffiths and Lesslie Newbigin - Approaching Hinduism in Light of Theology of Religions*. Contracted with Pickwick Publications.

- “The Strengths and Limitations of Bede Griffith’s Christian *advaita* in Tamil Nadu.” *Nidān: International Journal for Indian Studies* 4, no. 2 (December 2019): 43-60.

<http://nidan.ukzn.ac.za/files/Nidan-Vol-4-No-2-December-2019.pdf>

- “Forward in Interfaith Witness.” In *Challenged by Ecumenism: Documentation of the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute – Berlin 2017*, edited by Uta Andrée, Anna-Katharina Diehl, and Benjamin Simon, 189-197. Hamburg: Missionshilfe Verlag, 2018.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS

- “Meeting Our Hindu Neighbors,” presented at The Brook Church, Tomball, TX, November 20, 2019.

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- “Andrew Walls’ Twin Principles as an Investigative Tool for Theology of Religions,” presented at the Department of Theology, Philosophy, and Religious Studies Postgraduate Student Day, Liverpool Hope University, May 17, 2018.
- “Reflections from an Outsider,” presented at Hope-MCC Seminar on The Role of Indian Christian Women to Indian Christianity, Madras Christian College, January 6, 2018.
- “The Bishop and the *Sannyāsi*: A Comparative Study of Lesslie Newbigin and Bede Griffiths on Theology of Religions and Christian Witness,” presented at Confirmation of Registration Event, Liverpool Hope University, October 25, 2017.
- “Review of ‘Translating God(s): From World Mission to Interreligious Witness’ by Norbert Hintersteiner,” presented at Global Ecumenical Theological Institute, May 26, 2017.
- “The Bishop and the Sannyasi: Lesslie Newbigin and Bede Griffiths in Dialogue on Theology of Religions and Christian Mission,” presented at Andrew Walls Centre Summer School, July 2, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| Resource and Program Development Director | Dec 2020 – Present |
| Resource and Program Development Manager | Oct 2019 – Dec 2020 |
| Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries (ACAM), Houston, TX | |
| General Manager | 2012 – 2015 |
| Common Grounds Coffee Shop, Waco, TX | |
| Ministry Associate for International Student Engagement / Resident Chaplain | |
| Baylor University Spiritual Life, Waco, TX | 2010 – 2012 |

SEMINARY MENTORSHIP

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| First Baptist Church / City Light Community Ministries – Abilene, TX | 2011 |
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ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- “Can ‘White’ People Be Saved?,” recurring book study at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Houston, TX, June–July, 2020.
- Dinner Dialogues/Lunch & Learns, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, 2019-2020
Houston, TX
- Research proposal: “Contemporary Quantum Physics and Christian *Advaita*” for God and the Book of Nature: Building a Science-Engaged Theology of Nature, University of Edinburgh, June 2019
- Andrew Walls Centre Annual Conference, Liverpool, June 2019
Liverpool Hope University

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- Lesslie Newbigin Summer Institute, Cambridge, July 2018
Cambridge University
- Andrew Walls Centre Summer School, Liverpool, July 2018
Liverpool Hope University
- Andrew Walls Centre Annual Conference, Liverpool, July 2018
Liverpool Hope University
- International Thirukkural Conference, Liverpool, June 2018
Liverpool Hope University
- LHU/MCC Joint Seminar, Chennai, January 2018
Madras Christian College
- Lesslie Newbigin Summer Institute, Cambridge, July 2017
Cambridge University
- Andrew Walls Centre Summer School, Liverpool, June 2017
Liverpool Hope University
- Andrew Walls Centre Annual Conference, Liverpool, June 2017
Liverpool Hope University
- Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag, Berlin and Wittenberg, May 2017
- Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI), Berlin, May 2017
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, WCC, and CEC
- Andrew Walls Centre Summer School, Liverpool, June – July 2016
Liverpool Hope University
- Andrew Walls Centre Annual Conference, Liverpool, June 2016
Liverpool Hope University
- Course Audit: Early Christology with Dr. David Wilhite, Spring 2016
Truett Seminary, Baylor University
- Andrew Walls Centre Annual Conference, Liverpool, June – July 2015
Liverpool Hope University
- Andrew Walls Centre Summer School, Liverpool, June – July 2015
Liverpool Hope University
- Constantinople Colloquium, Istanbul, March 2013
Truett Seminary, Baylor University
- Baylor Spiritual Life Taizé Pilgrimage, March 2011 & March 2012
- Practicum Course, Morocco and Tunisia, May 2011
Truett Seminary, Baylor University
- Practicum Course, India, May 2010
Truett Seminary, Baylor University

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VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Invite–Welcome–Connect–Reconnect (IWCR) Committee

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church – Houston, TX **Present**

Altar Guild

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church – Houston, TX **Present**

Stewardship Committee, Co-Chair

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church – Houston, TX **2020**

Vincentian Service Member

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Anne’s Catholic Church – Houston, TX **2020**

Subdeacon / Altar Server

Church of St. Margaret of Antioch, Toxteth – Liverpool, UK **2017 – 2019**

Parochial Church Council

Church of St. Margaret of Antioch, Toxteth – Liverpool, UK **2017 – 2019**

Taizé Pilgrimage Leader

Church of St. Margaret of Antioch, Toxteth – Liverpool, UK **2018**

Truett Seminary Youth Ministry Mission Trip

Ostrava, Czech Republic **2009**

All Summer Staff

Radooga English Language Camps – Kyiv, Ukraine **2005 & 2006**

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Episcopal Church (Received – January 2020)

Church of England (Confirmed – 17 June 2018)

ORDINATION

Postulant for Holy Orders

Episcopal Diocese of Texas