

Caroline Matas
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Religion
Princeton University
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Education

Postgraduate Research Associate | Princeton University | Department of Religion | Spring 2023

Ph.D. Candidate | Princeton University | Department of Religion | (Expected January 2023)

Certificate Candidate | Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies | Princeton University

2022-2023 Dean's Completion Fellow

2021-2022 Dr. Janet L. Holmgren Graduate Fellow

Dissertation Title: "Splitting Sides: On Humor in 21st Century American Evangelical Media"

Advisor: Wallace Best

M.A., Princeton University, 2020

M.Div., Harvard Divinity School, 2017

Certificate, Religious Studies and Education, presented jointly by Harvard Divinity School and the Harvard Extension School, 2017

Master's Thesis Title: "Overcoming 'Us' and 'Them': LGBT Coverage in Evangelical Christian Publication *Relevant Magazine*"

Advisor: Jonathan Walton

B.A., Denison University, 2013

Teaching Competencies and Interests

Religion, Media, and Culture; Religion, Gender, and Sexuality; American Evangelicalism(s); Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion; Religious History of the Americas; Gender and Sexuality Studies

Teaching Experience

- ❖ Assistant Instructor | The United States Since 1974 | Professor Julian Zelizer | Department of History | Spring 2021 | Princeton University

- ❖ Assistant Instructor | Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies | Professor Brian Herrera | Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies | Spring 2021 | Princeton University
- ❖ Assistant Instructor | Christian Ethics and Modern Society | Professor Eric Gregory | Department of Religion | Fall 2019 | Princeton University
- ❖ Assistant Instructor | Religion, Conflict, and Peace in Contemporary Global Affairs | Professor Diane Moore | Extension School | Summer 2017 | Harvard University
- ❖ Teaching Assistant | Introduction to the Old Testament | Professor Harold Van Broekhoven | Department of Religion | Fall 2012 | Denison University

Selected Publications

- ❖ ["Gender and Sexuality in the Study of Religion." *Bloomsbury Religion in North America* \(Fall 2022\). <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350926882.002>.](https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350926882.002)
- ❖ ["Review: *American Creationism, Creation Science, and Intelligent Design in the Evangelical Marketplace* by Benjamin L. Huskinson." *American Religion* 3 no. 2 \(Spring 2022\).](#)
- ❖ ["Welcome to the War': What a Creationist Conference Can Teach Us about Evangelical Vaccine Resistance." *Religion Dispatches*. October 11, 2021.](#)
- ❖ ["New Patriarch, Same Patriarchy: Despite Glowing Praise for New SBC President, There's Just One Problem." *Religion Dispatches*. June 25, 2021.](#)
- ❖ ["Inside the Evangelical Beliefs and Practices that Facilitate Abuse in Families Like the Duggars'." *Religion Dispatches*, May 4, 2021.](#)
- ❖ ["Religious Education Through New Eyes." *Harvard Gazette*. July 30, 2018.](#)
- ❖ ["Tony Perkins Will Fit Right in at Religious Freedom Commission." *Religion Dispatches*. May 22, 2018.](#)
- ❖ ["How Men's Rights Activists are Finding Unlikely Allies in Atheism: #MeToo, the Manosphere, and the 'Church of Feminism.'" *Religion Dispatches*. February 1, 2018.](#)
- ❖ ["Articulating a Different Future: An Interview with Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza." *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* vol. 45, nos. 1 & 2. Spring/Summer 2017.](#)

- ❖ [“New Congress 91 Percent Christian Despite Shifts in American Religious Makeup.” *Harvard Divinity School*. January 9, 2017.](#)
- ❖ [“Music at the End of Life.” *Harvard Divinity School*. April 22, 2016.](#)
- ❖ [“At the Intersection of Sexuality and Spirituality.” *Harvard Gazette*. March 23, 2016.](#)
- ❖ [“Activism as Spiritual Practice.” *Harvard Divinity School*. February 18, 2016.](#)
- ❖ Regular contributor of 100+ news articles to Harvard Religious Literacy Project (now [Harvard Religion and Public Life](#)), 2015-2019.

Conferences

- ❖ “Defending the Homefront: Sacred White Evangelical Motherhood and War Rhetoric” | Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion | Denver, CO | November 2022.
- ❖ “‘Cancel Culture’ and American Evangelicalism: Theoretical Frames for New Media” | Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion | San Antonio, TX | November 2021.
- ❖ “Laughing with God: American Evangelical Political Satire and the 2020 Election” | Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion | Boston, MA (virtual) | November 2020.
- ❖ “Against ‘The Church of Feminism’: Formations of Masculinity in the Overlapping Memberships of New Atheist and Red Pill Online Communities” | Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion | Denver, CO | November 2018.
- ❖ Finalist, Chandler Excellence in Student Reporting Award | Religion News Association Annual Conference | Columbus, OH | September, 2018.
- ❖ Finalist, Chandler Excellence in Student Reporting Award | Religion News Association Annual Conference | Nashville, TN | September, 2017.
- ❖ “A Student’s Reflection on University Reintegration After Abroad Experience in West Africa” | Africa Network Conference, “Africa in the Digital Age” | Grand Rapids, MI | November 2012.

Professional Service

- ❖ Member: Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Working Group | Princeton University | 2017-Present
- ❖ Member: Religion in the Americas Colloquium | Princeton University | 2017-Present
- ❖ Co-organizer: Conference, Religious Literacy and Business: Media & Entertainment | Religious Literacy and the Professions Initiative | Harvard Religious Literacy Project | Harvard University | September 2018.
 - Panels included: “Making Audiences: How What we Watch Shapes Who we are”; “Entertaining Religion: Themes, People, and Plots in Entertainment Media”; “From Script to Screen: How Content is Made and Why it Matters”; “Saving Stories: Religious Literacy as Social Responsibility”
- ❖ Co-organizer: Conference, Religious Literacy and Government: Refugees and Immigration | Religious Literacy and the Professions Initiative | Harvard Religious Literacy Project | Harvard University | December 2017.
- ❖ Co-organizer: Conference, Religious Literacy and Humanitarian Action | Religious Literacy and the Professions Initiative | Harvard Religious Literacy Project | Harvard University | January 2017.
- ❖ Co-organizer: Conference, Religious Literacy and Journalism | Religious Literacy and the Professions Initiative | Harvard Religious Literacy Project | Harvard University | December 2016.
 - Panels included: “Donald Trump and Evangelicals”; “Black Lives Matter”; “Refugees, Immigration, and National Security”
- ❖ Co-organizer: Diversity and Explorations Program | Harvard Divinity School | November 2015.

Additional Experience

2017-2021 <i>Volunteer</i>	Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Mercer County	Hamilton, NJ
2015-2019 <i>News Editor</i>	Harvard Religious Literacy Project	Cambridge, MA

- ❖ Wrote and published news articles every week on issues of religion, politics, and society, ranging from domestic to global concerns.
- ❖ Led experimental projects, including creating written and multimedia classroom resources.
- ❖ Researched and wrote educational content for the website, including religion profiles.

2015-2016 **Harvard Divinity School Office of Communications** Cambridge, MA
Intern, Staff Writer

- ❖ Conducted interviews and wrote articles featuring campus events and personnel, which were published on HDS sites and in the Harvard Gazette.
- ❖ Led research for potential partnerships with non-profit organizations

2009-2013 **America Reads Program** Newark, OH
Literacy Instructor

- ❖ Tutored kindergarten and first-grade students one-on-one in literacy, including sight words and number and letter recognition.
- ❖ Served as a mentor and advocate for students' needs to teachers and other intervention specialists.

Professional References

Wallace Best, Princeton University: wbest@princeton.edu

Judith Weisenfeld, Princeton University: jweisenf@princeton.edu

Seth Perry, Princeton University: sethp@princeton.edu