

# Hannah R. Waits

Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History  
Harvard University

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021-2022 Dean of the Faculty Postdoctoral Fellow, Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College
- 2019-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow in Global American Studies, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University

## EDUCATION

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- 2019 Ph.D. in American History  
University of California, Berkeley, CA  
Dissertation: "Missionary-Minded: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World, 1945-2000," directed by Bethany Moreton and Mark Peterson  
• **Winner**, Obama Dissertation Prize in Transnational American Studies, 2020  
Fields: American History, Latin American History, Anthropology of Religion
- 2014 M.A. in American History  
University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 2012 Doctoral coursework and research, US and Latin American History (2007-2012)  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2006 B.A. in History, *summa cum laude*  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING SPECIALTIES

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| US and the World                  | Modern Latin American History |
| Race and Ethnicity in US History  | Immigration History           |
| US Political and Cultural History | American Religious History    |

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Putting God into Public Schools around the World: The 1990s Transnational History of an American Culture War," under revision with *Modern American History*

### Book Chapters

"Seizing the Moment: Post-Cold War Evangelical Missions in Russia and Eastern Europe," in Melani McAlister, John Corrigan, and Axel Schäfer, *Global Faith, Worldly Power: Evangelical Encounters with American Empire* (in development with University of North Carolina Press)

### **Book Manuscript**

*The Missionary Majority: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World* (in preparation, solicited by University of Pennsylvania Press, Culture and Politics in Modern America series)

### **Works in Progress**

“White Feelings, Black Lives: American Missionaries and the Global Revolution against White Supremacy,” (article manuscript, in preparation)

“Missionary Positions: How American Evangelicals Learned to Love Global AIDS Relief” (article manuscript, in preparation)

### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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#### **Fellowships**

- 2021 ACLS Luce Fellowship in Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs, American Council of Learned Societies and Henry Luce Foundation
- 2021 US Foreign Policy and International Security Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College Dickey Center for International Understanding
- 2019 Global American Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History
- 2017 Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion
- 2016 Doctoral Writing Fellowship, Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2015 Myrna Bernath Fellowship, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
- 2015 Research Year Fellowship, Berkeley History Department
- 2015 Harvey Fellowship, Mustard Seed Foundation
- 2015 Summer Research Fellowship, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion
- 2014 Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, Berkeley Graduate Division

#### **Grants**

- 2015 Constant Jacquet Research Grant, Religious Research Association
- 2015 Graduate Research Grant, Berkeley Center for Race and Gender
- 2014 Johnson Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives, Wheaton, Illinois
- 2013 Student Research Grant, Berkeley Center for Right Wing Studies
- 2013 Graduate Summer Research Grant, Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2013 Johnson Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives, Wheaton, Illinois
- 2012 May Research Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Archives, Nashville, Tennessee
- 2011 Graduate Research Grant, UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts

#### **Honors and Awards**

- 2020 Obama Dissertation Prize in Transnational American Studies, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany
- 2019 Departmental Dissertation Nominee, Society of American Historians’ Nevins Prize for Best Dissertation in American History

- 2011 Dean's Award for Arts and Humanities, University of Georgia Graduate School
- 2011 Knight Research Award for Best Research Proposal, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia
- 2010 Vincent Sr. Award for Distinguished Research in Georgia History, History Department, University of Georgia
- 2006 Phi Beta Kappa

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Invited Talks**

- 2021 "Protestant Hegemony in US Higher Education: Historical Battles over 'Rights' and 'Freedoms,'" Critical Religious Studies in Higher Education Network, May 10.
- 2020 "The Missionary Majority: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World," Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany, November 26.
- 2020 "The Transnational Politics of Sex: AIDS, Activism, and American Evangelicals," Newberry Library, Religion and Culture in the Americas Seminar, October 9.
- 2020 "No More Missionaries: Decolonization and the Struggle over Saving the World," Boston University, School of Theology, February 7.

### **Conference Papers Presented**

- 2021 "Global Politics of Sexual Purity: American Evangelicals' AIDS Activism," American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20-23.
- 2021 "Roundtable: Religious Pathways to/through Democracy," Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Chicago, IL, April 15-18. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 "Promoting AIDS Work in the US and Abroad: Evangelical Theological and Secularized Discourses of Development," American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 21-24. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 "Missionaries and Failed Missionaries: The Shifting Politics of American Evangelicals and Ex-vangelicals," American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 21-24. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 "Missionary Positions: How American Evangelicals Learned to Love Global AIDS Relief," Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2-4. (Online due to COVID-19)  
- Panel Organizer: "Sexual Healing? Race, Religion, and Purity in the 20th Century"
- 2019 "Saving Former Soviets: US Missionary Work in the Post-Cold War Era," American Historical Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 3-6.  
- Panel Organizer: "Salvation and Solidarity: Evangelical International Engagement"
- 2018 "Missionary, Go Home: Diversity and Power in the Global Christian Community," Harvard Divinity School "Ways of Knowing" conference, Cambridge, MA, October 26-27.
- 2018 "Decolonizing Mission: Challenging the Power of American Missionaries across the Global South," University of California, Davis "Historians without Borders" conference, Davis, CA May 4-6.

- 2018 "Embracing Diversity: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World," American Academy of Religion Western Region annual meeting, Berkeley, CA, March 23-25.
- 2018 "The Missionary Majority: How American Evangelicals Engaged a Postcolonial World," Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion winter seminar, Louisville, KY, January 24-26.
- 2016 "White Feelings, Black Lives: US Missionaries and Racial Justice at Home and Abroad," American Studies Association meeting, Denver, CO, November 17-20.
- 2013 "To the Ends of the Earth: The Politics of American Evangelical Missionaries," American Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November 21-24.
- 2013 "Democracy and the Great Commission: American Global Missions and Postwar Foreign Relations," Harvard University "New Histories of Transnational Christianity" conference, Cambridge, MA, February 7.
- 2012 "'They've Come for the True Gospel': Southern Baptists and Latino Immigrants in the American South," American Society of Church History annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 5-8.
- 2012 "'We Pray Our Lady Will Bring Us Together': The Atlanta Archdiocese and Latino Immigrants, 1980-2000," American Historical Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 5-8.

### **Discussant**

- 2012 Chair and Comment, "Ministry, Missionaries, and Empire," American Studies Association annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18.

### **Campus Talks**

- 2020 "The Missionary Majority: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World," Harvard Warren Center for Studies in American History, October 23.
- 2020 "Putting God into Public Schools around the World: An American Culture War's Transnational History," Harvard North American Religion Colloquium, September 8.
- 2019 "'Across the Street or around the World, the Mission's Still the Same': The Transnational History of the American Culture Wars," Harvard Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, October 18.
- 2019 "Missionary, Go Home: Contesting the Global Activism of American Evangelicals in the Postcolonial Era," Berkeley Center for Race and Gender, April 18.
- 2018 "Seizing the Moment: American Missionary Campaigns in Post-Cold War Russia," Berkeley Russian History *Kruzhok*, September 20.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Harvard University, Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights** (ethnic studies program)  
**Lecturer**, 2019-2021  
Race, Gender, and American Empire (2 courses, 2019-2020)

**University of California, Berkeley, Department of History**  
**Teaching Assistant**, 2013-2015

Civil Rights and Social Movements in the United States (Spring 2015)  
The United States from Civil War to Present (Spring 2014)  
The United States from Settlement to Civil War (Fall 2013)

**University of Georgia, Department of History**

**Instructor**, 2011

American History since 1865 (Summer 2011)

**University of Georgia, Department of History**

**Teaching Assistant**, 2007-2011

Latin America since 1800 (2 courses, 2010-2011)

American History since 1865 (4 courses, 2008-2010)

American History to 1865 (2 courses, 2007-2008)

**TEACHING AWARDS**

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- 2021 Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University  
2020 Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University  
2011 Vipperman Teaching Assistant Award, Department of History, University of Georgia  
2009 University-wide Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Georgia

**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

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- 2019-2021 Reviewer, Undergraduate Thesis Prize Committee, Program in Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights, Harvard University  
2014-2015 Organizer and Co-Founder, Global Christianities Working Group, UC Berkeley  
2012-2013 Program Committee Member, Berkeley International and Global History Conference  
2011-2012 Academic Advisor for Undergraduate History Majors, University of Georgia  
2011-2012 Mentor, History Graduate Student Mentoring Program, University of Georgia  
2011-2012 Coordinator and Co-Founder, Latin American History Reading Group, University of Georgia  
2010-2012 Mediator and Co-Founder, The Cultural History of Capitalism Reading Group, University of Georgia  
2010-2011 President, History Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia  
2010-2011 Organizer, Professional Development Workshop Series, History Department, University of Georgia

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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- 2021 Consultant for New York Historical Society exhibit "Acts of Faith: Religion in the American West"  
2019 Chair and Comment, "Is Your Costume Racist? Cultural Appropriation on Halloween," Roundtable Event Sponsored by Native Americans at Harvard College, October 23.

2010 Panelist, "Stereotypes in the Latino Community," Roundtable Event Sponsored by the University of Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, November 17.

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## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

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Spanish

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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
American Studies Association  
American Academy of Religion  
American Society of Church History  
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

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## REFERENCES

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Bethany Moreton  
Professor of History, Dartmouth College  
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bethany.e.moreton@dartmouth.edu

Mark Peterson  
Professor of History, Yale University  
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Professor of American Studies and International Affairs, George Washington University  
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