

# Hannah R. Waits

Committee on Degrees in History and Literature  
Harvard University

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2022- Lecturer in History and Literature, Harvard University  
2021-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow in US Foreign Policy, 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 an American God into Public Schools around the World: The Transnational 1990s History of an American Culture War," *Diplomatic History* (Forthcoming in Nov 2022, available as Advance Article) = <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/dh/dhac040>
- "Missionary Positions: How American Evangelicals Learned to Love Global AIDS Relief," under review with *American Quarterly*

### **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)

“Equal Pay for God’s Work: US Women Missionaries and Gendered Labor Politics in the 1970s” (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**

- 2022 Research Affiliate Grant, Tufts University Center for the Humanities
- 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**

- 2022 "Missionary, Go Home: Contesting the Global Activism of American Evangelicals in the Postcolonial Era," Tufts University, Center for the Humanities, October 19.
- 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**

- 2023 "Transnational Sexual Politics: American Evangelicals and Global AIDS Work," American Historical Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8.
- 2022 "Roundtable: Philanthropy and the Public Good," Society for U.S. Intellectual History annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 3-5.
- 2022 "Sexual Abuse on the Mission Field: Enabling Structures and Ideologies of U.S. Evangelical Missionary Work," Religion and Sexual Abuse Conference, University of California, Riverside, March 4-6.
- 2021 "Global Politics of Sexual Purity: American Evangelicals' AIDS Activism," American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20-23.  
• Panel Organizer: "Un/Compromised Subjects: Religion, Race, and Purity in the US"
- 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.  
• Panel Organizer: "From Tourists to Pilgrims: Transnational Travel, Religious Longing, and the Forging of Imperial Intimacies"
- 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**

- 2021 "Putting an American God into Public Schools around the World," Dartmouth International Relations Seminar, November 12.
- 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 History & Literature (Humanities Program)**

**Lecturer**, 2022-  
Race and Empire in the Americas  
Research Seminar in US History

### **Harvard University, Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights (Ethnic Studies Program)**

**Lecturer**, 2019-2021  
Race, Gender, and American Empire (2 courses)

### **University of California, Berkeley, Department of History**

**Teaching Assistant**, 2013-2015  
Civil Rights and Social Movements in the United States  
The United States from Civil War to Present  
The United States from Settlement to Civil War

### **University of Georgia, Department of History**

**Instructor**, 2011  
American History since 1865  
**Teaching Assistant**, 2007-2011  
Latin America since 1800 (2 courses)  
American History since 1865 (4 courses)  
American History to 1865 (2 courses)

## **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 AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

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- 2022- Consultant for The Religious Exemption Accountability Project (supporting LGBTQ+ student activism at conservative religious universities)
- 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.

### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

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Spanish

### **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

### **REFERENCES**

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

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Professor of History, Yale University  
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