

Curriculum Vitae
BRENDAN JAMAL THORNTON, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
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EDUCATION

2011 University of California, San Diego, Ph.D., Anthropology
2005 University of California, San Diego, M.A., Anthropology
2002 Michigan State University, B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science:
International Studies (additional major in Anthropology)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019 – Present Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UNC
2013 – 2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UNC
2011 – 2013 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, UNC
2009 – 2010 Instructor of Record, Department of Anthropology, UCSD

ongoing Faculty Affiliate *Institute of African American Research*, UNC
ongoing Faculty Affiliate *Institute for the Study of the Americas*, UNC

FELLOWSHIPS and HONORS

2017 Barbara T. Christian Literary Award (Book Award)
2011 – 2013 Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity (Postdoc Fellowship)
2011 National Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (Grad Honor Society)
2009 Summer Graduate Teaching Fellows Program (Teaching Fellowship)
2007 F.G. Bailey Fellowship (Dissertation Research Fellowship)
2003 – 2007 San Diego Fellows Program (Graduate Studies Fellowship)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2016 *Negotiating Respect: Pentecostalism, Masculinity, and the Politics of Spiritual Authority in the Dominican Republic*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida (Paperback edition, February 4th 2020).

*Winner of the 2017 *Barbara T. Christian Literary Award* presented by the Caribbean Studies Association for the Best Book in the Humanities*

Refereed Articles

In progress “There’s no such thing as ‘Agnostic’: Fairies, Blue Aliens, the Eucharist, and the ‘Really Real’ Problem of Belief,” in preparation for submission to *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

- In progress* “Intimate Spirits: Men, Sex, and the Anthropology of Supernatural Seduction,” in preparation for submission to *American Anthropologist*.
- Forthcoming* “Refiguring Christianity and Black Atlantic Religion: Representation, Essentialism, and Christian Variation in the Southern Caribbean,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, accepted for publication July 14th 2020.
- 2019 “Caribbean Exceptions: The Problem of Race and Nation in Dominican Studies,” with Diego Ubiera, *Latin American Research Review* 54(2): 413-428.
- 2018 “New Directions in the Anthropology of Religion and Gender: Faith and Emergent Masculinities,” with William Dawley, *Anthropological Quarterly* 91(1): 5-24.
- 2018 “Victims of Illicit Desire: Pentecostal Men of God and the Specter of Sexual Temptation,” *Anthropological Quarterly* 91(1): 133-172.
- 2018 “Ties that Bind: Pentecostal Churches, Youth Gangs, and the Management of Everyday Life in the Urban Barrio,” *Religion* 48(4): 616-641.

Refereed Book Chapters

- Forthcoming* “Conjugal Conundrums: Conversion and Marriage Delay in the Contemporary Caribbean,” in *Waithood: Gender, Education, and Global Delays in Marriage and Childbearing*, edited by Marcia Inhorn and Nancy Smith-Hefner. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Forthcoming* “Mapping the Spiritual Baptist Universe: Black Atlantic Cosmography and the Spatiality of Spirit in Trinidad and Tobago,” in *Oxford Handbook of Religious Space*, edited by Jeanne Halgren Kilde et al. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 “Residual Masculinity and the Cultivation of Negative-Charisma in a Caribbean Pentecostal Community,” in *The Anthropology of Religious Charisma: Ecstasies and Institutions*, edited by Charles Lindholm, pp. 117-143. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Other

- 2018 “Changing Landscapes of Faith: Latin American Religions in the Twenty-First Century,” *Latin American Research Review* 53(4): 857-862.
- 2012 “Fostering Communities of Critical Pedagogy,” with Joseph Hankins, Esin Duzel, and Raquel Pacheco, in *Teaching Diversity Conference Proceedings*. January 27, 2011, edited by James Lin and Carrie Wastal, pp. 61-65. San Diego, CA: University Readers Inc.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Review of *Biblical Porn: Affect, Labor, and Pastor Mark Driscoll’s Evangelical Empire*, by Jessica Johnson, *AnthroCyBib: The Anthropology of Christianity Bibliography Blog*, The University of Edinburgh, July 11, 2019 <https://www.blogs.hss.ed.ac.uk/anthrocybib/2019/07/11/biblical-porn-book-review/>.

2015 Review of *God's Gangs: Barrio Ministry, Masculinity, and Gang Recovery*, by Edward Orozco Flores, *Religion and Society: Advances in Research* 6(1): 187-188.

KEYNOTES, COLLOQUIA, and INVITED TALKS

- 2019 *Keynote Lecture* *The Inaugural William Peace University Interdisciplinary Conference*, October 17th 2019, William Peace University, Raleigh, NC
- 2019 Duke University, *Duke on Gender Colloquium*, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, January 25th 2019, Durham, NC
- 2017 Yale University, MacMillan Center and the Council for Latin American and Iberian Studies Speaker Series, April 13th 2017, New Haven, CT
- 2017 University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), April 5th 2017, Trinidad, West Indies
- 2016 *Keynote Lecture* *North Central Council of Latin Americanists Annual Conference*, November 4th 2016, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI
- 2016 University of Wisconsin, Madison, Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, November 1st 2016, Madison, WI
- 2016 University of California, San Diego, Department of Anthropology, Colloquium Series, October 24th 2016, La Jolla, CA
- 2015 Duke University, "Gender and Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean," (three lectures) *Global Men and Masculinities*, Department of Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies, September 21st-25th, Durham, NC
- 2015 University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Department of Religious Studies, Colloquium Series, February 2nd 2015, Charlotte, NC
- 2014 University of North Carolina, Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies, Faculty Forum Colloquium Series, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2012 University of North Carolina, Institute for the Study of the Americas Speaker Series, Chapel Hill, NC

INVITED WORKSHOPS and CONFERENCES

- 2018 *New Directions in the Study of Black Atlantic Religions*, University of California, Los Angeles, Conference-Workshop, October 27th 2018, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Waihood: Gender, Education, and Global Delays in Marriage*, Yale University, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Conference-Workshop, September 27th-30th 2018, New Haven, CT
- 2016 4th Annual Global Africana Conference, *Christianity, Politics, and Social Activism in the African Diaspora*, March 4th-5th 2016, Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC

CONFERENCE PAPERS, SESSIONS, and LECTURES

- 2020 Roundtable chair/discussant/organizer for “Critical Terms for the Ethnography of Religion,” to be convened at American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, November 21st-24th 2020, Boston, MA
- 2019 Panel chair for “Black Evangelical Studies: Reframing the Evangelical Movement in Latin America and the United States,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, November 23rd 2019, San Diego, CA
- 2019 Panel chair for “Moving Forward, Looking Back: Promising New Directions in Hispaniola Studies,” 37th Annual International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, May 24th 2019, Boston, MA
- 2018 Book panel discussant for *Masculinity and the Making of American Judaism*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, November 18th 2018, Denver, CO
- 2018 Roundtable discussant for “Re-Thinking the Teaching of Theories and Methods,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, November 17th 2018, Denver, CO
- 2018 Panel discussant for “Negotiating Authority: Women and Men in Christianity,” 117th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 14th-18th 2018, San Jose, CA
- 2018 “What is a Christian? Race, Essentialism, and Christian Variation in the Southern Caribbean,” presented at the 43rd Caribbean Studies Association Conference, June 8th, Havana, Cuba
- 2016 *Trends in Contemporary Scholarship on the Dominican Republic*, Roundtable organized for the 41st Caribbean Studies Association Conference, June 10th 2016, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- 2016 “The Pentecostal Factor: Evangelical Christianity and the Study of Religion in the Contemporary Caribbean,” presented at the 41st Caribbean Studies Association Conference, June 9th 2016, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- 2016 “Searching for Respect: Christian Identity Politics in the Hispanic Caribbean,” presented at the 63rd Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, March 12th 2016, Cartagena, Colombia
- 2015 “Pentecostal Men of God and the Specter of Illicit Desire,” presented at the 114th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 21st 2015, Denver, CO
- 2015 “Searching for Respect: the Cultural Politics of Evangelical Christianity in the Dominican Republic,” *Faculty Micro Talks*, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2015 “Anthropological Method and Research Design in Religious Studies,” Office of Undergraduate Research, *Modes of Inquiry*, January 20th 2015, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC

- 2013 “Male Testimonies of Fantastic Sin and Miraculous Redemption: Cultivating Charisma in a Caribbean Pentecostal Community” presented at the 112th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 20th 2013, Chicago, IL
- 2013 “Residual Masculinity and the Cultivation of Negative-Charisma in a Caribbean Pentecostal Community,” public lecture, Department of Religious Studies, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2012 “Evangelical Masculinity? Respect, Seriousness, and Fidelity Among Pentecostal Christians in the Dominican Republic” presented at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 14th 2012, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *Religion and Masculinity: Cultural Transformations and Gendered Realities*, panel organized for the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 14th 2012, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 “Public Participation in an Urban Barrio: Collective Social Action from the Streets to the Pulpit” presented at the 37th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, May 28th 2012, Le Gosier, Guadeloupe
- 2012 “Reading Pentecostal Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean,” guest lecture, Department of Religious Studies, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2012 University of North Carolina, Department of Anthropology, *Brown Bag Series*, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2011 *Fostering Communities of Critical Pedagogy*, panel organized for the Teaching Diversity Conference, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
- 2010 “Talking Data: Strategies for Qualitative Data Analysis,” guest lecture, Department of Human Development, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- 2016 – Present *Heterogeneity and Power: Spiritual Baptist Religious Culture in the Southern Caribbean*, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English
Spanish

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- ongoing* American Anthropological Association
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- ongoing* American Academy of Religion
- ongoing* Caribbean Studies Association

ongoing Latin American Studies Association

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

2016 *Habits and Spirits: Sound, Place, Technology*, May 3rd 2016, Kings College London, London, UK

GRANTS

2019 *Schwab Academic Excellence Award*
2017 *Junior Faculty Development Award*
2015 *King's College London Fund*
2015 *University Research Council Publication Award*

COURSES DEVELOPED and TAUGHT

Christianity and Cultural Change RELI 721
Theory and Method in the Study of Religion RELI 700
Dimensions of Evil RELI 526
Spirit Possession and Mediumship RELI 427
Anthropology of Christianity RELI 352
Theories of Religion RELI 322
Uncertain Truths: Conspiracy Theories, Aliens, and Secret Societies in America RELI 247 (Fall 2020)
Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas RELI 246
Christian Cultures RELI 225
African American Religions RELI 141
Religion in America RELI 140
Debating Multiculturalism: Race, Ethnicity, Class in American Societies ANTH 23
Introduction to Culture ANTH 1

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS, OUTREACH, and SERVICE

2019 – Present Diversity Liaison, Department of Religious Studies, UNC
2019 – Present Faculty Advisor, Pagans and Witches of UNC-CH Student Group
2018 – Present Steering Committee, Anthropology of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion
2015 – Present Graduate Studies Committee (Department of Religious Studies)
2019 Barbara Christian Book Award Committee, Caribbean Studies Association
2018 Geertz Prize Book Award Committee, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association
2016 – 2018 Board Member (elected) Society for the Anthropology of Religion, a section of the American Anthropological Association
2018 Faculty Consultant, “Voodoo and Fauna” exhibit, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, February 9th 2018, Raleigh, NC
2017 Society for the Anthropology of Religion 2017 Biennial Conference, Program Committee, New Orleans, LA

- 2017 Guest Speaker for Black History Month, Treadwell Elementary School, February 17th 2017, Memphis, TN
- 2015 – 2017 Duke/UNC *Anthropology of Religion* reading group, co-convener
- 2016 Faculty Advisory Board, *Internationalist*, undergraduate research journal
- 2013 – 2014 Advisory Board, *Institute of African American Research* (IAAR)
- 2013 – 2014 Undergraduate Studies Committee (Department of Religious Studies)
- 2014 – 2015 Faculty Advisor, Minority Male Engagement and Mentoring strategic planning group, Center for Student Success and Academic Counseling
- 2014 Royster Society of Fellows career development roundtable, February 5th
- 2012 Graduate School Preparation Workshop for McNair Scholars. Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (TRiO), July 25th 2012
- 2012 “Engaged Scholars: Teaching, Research and Public Engagement,” Graduate and Professional Development Workshop, Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP), July 11th 2012

REFERENCES

Upon Request