

Michael B. Amoruso
Occidental College
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Occidental College, August 2019 to present
Visiting Assistant Professor, Amherst College, July 2018 to June 2019
Visiting Assistant Professor, Oberlin College, July 2017 to June 2018

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
Ph.D., Religion in the Americas, December 2016
Dissertation: “Walking with the Dead: Transit, Transfer, and Transformation in São Paulo’s Devotion to Souls.” Supervisors: Thomas Tweed and Virginia Garrard. Readers: Jennifer Graber, Matthew Butler, John Burdick

M.A., Religion in the Americas, May 2013
Report: “A Transcendental Mission: Spiritism and the Revolutionary Politics of Mexico’s Francisco I. Madero, 1900–1911.” Supervisor: Thomas Tweed. Second Reader: Virginia Garrard

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
M.A., History of Religions, June 2011

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
B.A., Religion Studies, Psychology, summa cum laude, May 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Spaces of Suffering: Religious Transit in São Paulo’s Devotion to Souls.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 86, no. 4 (November 2018): 989–1013.

Encyclopedia Articles

“The Chapel of Our Lady of the Afflicted.” *World Religions and Spirituality Project*. Richmond: Virginia Commonwealth University, 2020.

“All Souls’ Day.” In *Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions*, edited by Henri Gooren. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2016.

“Novenas (Catholic Prayer Tradition).” In *Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions*, edited by Henri Gooren. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2016.

Book Reviews

Goddess in Motion: Visual Creativity in the Cult of María Lionza, by Roger Canals, *Nova Religio* 23, no. 4 (forthcoming May 2020)

Crescent Over Another Horizon: Islam in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Latino USA. Edited by Maria del Mar Logroño Narbona, Paulo G. Pinto, and John Tofik Karam, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 85, no. 4 (December 2017): 1163–66.

Religion in the Kitchen: Cooking, Talking, and the Making of Black Atlantic Traditions, by Elizabeth Pérez, *Nova Religio* 21, no. 2 (November 2017): 121–23.

Other Articles

“Saudade: the untranslatable word for the presence of absence.” *Aeon: A World of Ideas* (October 2018). Available at: <https://aeon.co/ideas/saudade-the-untranslatable-word-for-the-presence-of-absence>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Monographs

Moved by the Dead: Haunting, Devotion, and Cultural Heritage in Urban Brazil (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, under advance contract).

GRANTS, AWARDS, and FELLOWSHIPS

2018	Student Research Assistant Grant, Oberlin College
2017	H. H. Powers Travel Grant, Oberlin College
2016	Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
2015	Latin American Studies Association Travel Grant
2015	Professional Development Award, University of Texas at Austin
2015	Graduate Dean’s Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, University of Texas at Austin
2015	Graduate School Summer Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2014	Billy Bob Draeger Summer Research Fellowship in the Humanities, University of Texas at Austin
2014	Graduate Dean’s Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, University of Texas at Austin
2014	Fulbright IIE Fellowship
2013–14	Graduate School Continuing Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin

2013	Tinker Summer Travel Fellowship, LLILAS, University of Texas at Austin
2013	Professional Development Award, University of Texas at Austin
2012–13	Foreign Language Area Studies Grant, Academic Year (declined)
2012	Foreign Language Area Studies Grant, Summer
2012	Shive, Lindsay, Gray Summer Travel Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2012	Professional Development Award, University of Texas at Austin
2011	Graduate Recruitment Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin

TEACHING

Occidental College

Spring 2020	Introduction to American Religion
Spring 2020	Religion and Revolution
Fall 2019	Religion and Violence
Fall 2019	Race and Religion

Amherst College

Spring 2019	Ethnographic Methods
Spring 2019	Spirit Possession
Fall 2018	Religion in the United States
Fall 2018	Global Christianity

Oberlin College

Spring 2018	Introduction to the Study of Religion
Spring 2018	Spirit Possession
Spring 2018	Religion in the Contemporary Americas
Fall 2017	Introduction to the Study of Religion
Fall 2017	Religion in America to 1898

The University of Texas at Austin (Instructor of Record)

Spring 2017	History of Religion in the United States
Spring 2016	Introduction to the Study of Religion

The University of Texas at Austin (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2016	Introduction to the Study of Religion
Spring 2013	History of Religion in the United States
Fall 2012	Introduction to the Study of Religion
Spring 2012	Religion in America Since 1800
Fall 2011	Introduction to the Study of Religion

Advising

Secondary Reader, Carol Beckett, "The String of Deep Innen: Rites of Passage Events and Festivals in the Marking the Passage of Time and Creating Japanese American Buddhist Community in the Incarceration Camps." Senior Comprehensive Thesis, Occidental College, January 2020

Secondary Reader, Lewis Dayton, "Defining Institutional Ecological Responsibility at Two American Zen Monestaries." Senior Comprehensive Thesis, Occidental College, January 2020

Advisor, Frances Purcell, "Rethinking the Purpose of Religion Education: Toward the Sociological Study of Religion in Public Schools." Senior Capstone Project, Oberlin College, April 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and INVITED TALKS

- Nov 2019 "Absence and Activism: Death and the Afterlives of Francisco José das Chagas," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Religions in the Latina/o Americas, San Diego, CA
- May 2019 "History and Death: Popular Devotion and Cultural Patrimony in São Paulo," Latin American Studies Association Congress, Religion and Spiritualities Track, Boston, MA
- Nov 2018 "Magic Words: Leonard P. Howell, Rastafari, and the Occult Art of Sedition," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, African Diaspora Religions Unit, African Religions Unit, and Anthropology of Religions Unit, Denver, CO
- Jul 2018 Panelist and organizer, "Junto e Misturado: Genealogies and Legacies of Racial Mixture in Brazil," Brazilian Studies Association Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- May 2018 "Monday is the Day of the Souls." Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
- Nov 2017 "Because This is Where the Slaves Were Hanged: Haunting and Devotion in São Paulo," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Religion and Migration Unit and Religion, Memory, History Unit, Boston, MA
- Nov 2016 "Spiritual Transit: Rethinking Religious Hybridity via the Cult of the Souls," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, World Christianity Group, San Antonio, TX

- Nov 2016 “A Transcendental Mission: Spiritism and Francisco I. Madero’s Turn Toward Revolutionary Violence in San Antonio, Texas,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Latina/o Critical and Comparative Studies Group and Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group and Religion in Latin America and Caribbean Group, San Antonio, TX
- May 2016 “Mixture,” African Religions in the Americas Conference, Chicago, IL
- Mar 2016 “The Wandering Dead: Religious Movement and Syncretism in the Devotion to the Thirteen Souls,” Brazilian Studies Association Conference, Providence, RI
- Nov 2015 “The Life of Dead Souls: What Afterlife and the Dead Tell Us About Religious Consensus in Brazil,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Death, Dying, and Beyond Group and Religion and Popular Culture Group, Atlanta, GA
- Aug 2015 “Spiritual but Still Religious: Religious Affiliation and Movement in São Paulo’s Devotion to Souls,” International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany
- May 2015 “Mistura na cabeça: Religion, Spirituality, and Affiliation in São Paulo’s Devotion to Souls,” Religion and Spiritualities Track, Latin American Studies Association Congress, San Juan, PR
- Mar 2015 “Persecution and Possession: Santo Daime and Sacred Space in the United States and Brazil,” Southwest Regional American Academy of Religion Conference, Dallas, TX
- Mar 2013 “Adelante, Siempre Adelante!: Revolution and Spiritism in the Political Life of Francisco I. Madero,” Southwest Regional American Academy of Religion Conference, Dallas, TX
- Mar 2013 Respondent, “Experience,” Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion Student Conference, Austin, TX

SERVICE

Service

Black Studies Advisory Board (2020–present)

Affiliated Faculty, American Studies (2020–present)

Mentor, Religious Studies Student Advisory Board, Occidental College, Fall 2019–present

Manuscript Reviewer, *Religion* (2019), *The Americas* (2018), *Critical Research on Religion* (2017–18)

Member, Diversity and Pedagogy Working Group, Oberlin College, Fall 2017

Treasurer, Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion, UT Austin, 2015–16

Member, Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion, UT Austin, 2011–16

Planning Committee Member, GCSR Annual Conference, UT Austin, 2016

Graduate Student Representative, UT Austin, 2016

Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion

Latin American Studies Association

Brazilian Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (Fluent)

Spanish (Reading: Intermediate-Advanced; Writing: Intermediate; Speaking: Intermediate)

French (Reading: Intermediate; Writing: Beginner; Speaking: Beginner)

English (Native)