

LAURA MCTIGHE

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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Religion, Columbia University.
- 2014 M.Phil., with Distinction, Religion, Columbia University.
- 2013 M.A., with Distinction, Religion, Columbia University.
- 2008 M.T.S., Islamic Studies, Harvard Divinity School.
- 2000 B.A., *magna cum laude*, Religion, High Honors, Haverford College.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025– Visiting Research Scholar, Program in Anthropology, The CUNY Graduate Center.
- 2024– Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019–2024 Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2017–2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016– Co-Founder and Associate Director, Front Porch Research Strategy, New Orleans, LA.
- 2009–2011 Co-Founder and Co-Director, Institute for Community Justice, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2008–2009 Director of Project UNSHACKLE, Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project, New York, NY.
- 2006–2007 Coordinator, Harvard Prison Education Project, Cambridge, MA.
- 2001–2006 Founding Director of Prison Services, Philadelphia FIGHT, Philadelphia, PA.
 - Co-Founder and Co-Instructor, TEACH Outside;
 - Co-Founder and Editor, Prison Health News; and
 - Co-Founder and Coordinator, Beyond the Walls: Prison Health Care Summit.
- 2000–2001 Student Organizer, Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against the Death Penalty, Philadelphia, PA.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022–2026 Principal Investigator, “The Callie House Project: Religion and Public Health in the Black Experience in the American South,” Henry Luce Foundation.
Award: \$250,000 for building a living archive on race, religion, and health with southern Black women reproductive justice activists and health practitioners. (collaboration with Jamil Drake, Yale Divinity School)
- 2022–2025 Co-Principal Investigator, “Creating the World Anew: Religion Economy, and Mutual Aid,” Henry Luce Foundation. **Award: \$250,000** for exploring the role of religion in building worlds and economies beyond the violence of racial capitalism. (collaboration with Elayne Oliphant, New York University and Daniel Vaca, Brown University)

- 2021 Principal Investigator, “Reimagining Black Women’s Carceral History in the South,” Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Grant, Florida State University. **Award: \$20,000** for summer funding to launch my second major research project.
- 2020 Co-Principal Investigator, “American Prison Newspapers Project,” Robert B. Bradley Library Research Grant. Florida State University. **Award: \$9,600** for digitizing prison newspapers nationwide, including those held in FSU collection.
- 2020 Principal Investigator, “Gendering Religion and Racializing Punishment in American History,” First Year Assistant Professor (FYAP) Grant, Florida State University. **Award: \$20,000** for summer funding to complete my first book project.
- 2019 Principal Investigator, “Making Abolition: The John Horace Bell Memorial Archive,” Robert B. Bradley Library Research Grant. Florida State University. **Award: \$2,000** for collection-building with original documents produced by queer and transgender organizers inside and outside of prison.
- 2018-2019 Co-Principal Investigator, “Method-Making in Concert: Toward an Enchanted Method of Flourishing,” Venture Funding, Dartmouth College. **Award: \$20,000** for experimental ethnographic fieldwork across fieldsites. (collaboration with Yana Stainova, McMaster University)
- 2016–2017 Newcombe Fellow, “Born in Flames: The Ethics of Survival, Struggle and Renewal among Black Women Activists in New Orleans,” Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Foundation. **Award: \$20,000** for dissertation completion.
- 2015–2016 Dissertation Fieldwork Grantee, “Born in Flames: Black Feminist Resistance in the Prison Capital of the World,” Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. **Award: \$15,000** to complete dissertation fieldwork.
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellow, Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life, Columbia University. **Award: \$5,000** to pilot dissertation fieldwork.
- 2009–2014 Co-Investigator of the NIH-funded research study, “Empowerment-Based Education for HIV Prevention In / Out of Jail.” (collaboration with Jeffrey Drain, University of Pennsylvania and Philippe Bourgois, University of Pennsylvania)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2024. McTighe, Laura, with Women With A Vision. *Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, March 2024. Foreword by Deon Haywood.

WINNER of the [2025 Edie Turner First Book Prize in Ethnographic Writing](#), presented by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology

In Preparation. *Abolition is Sacred Work*. (expected manuscript completion date June 2027)

Public Humanities Projects

In Preparation. “Abolition & Black Midwifery, a Tubmanland Living Archive.” Published in partnership with The Bloom Collective, Baltimore, Maryland.

2024. “[Born in Flames Living Archive](#).” Published in partnership with Women With A Vision, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Edited Collections

2020. McTighe, Laura, ed. “‘Religio-Racial Identity’ as Challenge and Critique.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88, no. 2 (2020). <https://academic.oup.com/jaar/issue/88/2>.
2019. McTighe, Laura, and Megan Raschig, eds. “An Otherwise Anthropology.” Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, July 31. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/an-otherwise-anthropology>.

Journal Articles

- In Preparation. “Moral Medicine: Racialized Gender Violence and the Nineteenth Century Carceral State.” (to submit to *Religion & American Culture*)
2021. McTighe, Laura, Catherine Haywood, Deon Haywood, and Danita Muse, Women With A Vision. “Keep the South Dirty and Our Needles Clean.” *Southern Cultures* 27(3): 120-129. <http://doi.org/10.1353/scu.2021.0048>.
2021. McTighe, Laura. “Seeing in the Dark.” Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, September 30. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/seeing-in-the-dark-we-are-already-creating-joyful-futures-in-real-time>
2021. McTighe, Laura. “Our Relationships Carry the Movement.” *Radical History Review* 2021(140): 186–196. <https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-8841778>.
2020. Burns, Devin, Lauren Dominguez, Rebekah Gordon, Laura McTighe, Lydia Moss, and Gabriela Rosario. “The Ground on Which We Stand: Making Abolition.” *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* 23(2): 98–120. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nad.12136>.
2020. McTighe, Laura, with Women With A Vision. “Theory on the Ground: Ethnography, Religio-Racial Study, and the Spiritual Work of Building Otherwise.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88(2): 407-439. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfaa014>.
2020. McTighe, Laura. “Introduction: Religio-Racial Identity’ as Challenge and Critique.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88(2): 299–303. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfaa015>.
2019. McTighe, Laura. “Insurgent Cartography.” Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, July 31. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/insurgent-cartography>.
2019. McTighe, Laura, and Megan Raschig. “Introduction: An Otherwise Anthropology.” Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, July 31. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/introduction-an-otherwise-anthropology>.
2019. McTighe, Laura, with Reverend Doris Green. “‘To Instill Love for My People’: Reassembling the Social in a Time of Mass Criminalization.” *CrossCurrents* 68(1): 179-200. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cros.12306>
2018. McTighe, Laura, with Deon Haywood. “Front Porch Revolution: Resilience Space, Demonic Grounds, and the Horizons of a Black Feminist Otherwise.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 44(1): 25-52. <https://doi.org/10.1086/698276>.
2017. McTighe, Laura, with Deon Haywood. “‘There is NO Justice in Louisiana’: Crimes Against Nature and the Spirit of Black Feminist Resistance.” *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Culture, Politics and Society* 19(3): 261-285. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10999949.2017.1389584>.

2011. Draine, Jeffrey, Laura McTighe, and Philippe Bourgois “Education, Empowerment and Community Based Structural Reinforcement: An HIV prevention response to mass incarceration and removal.” *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 34(4): 295-302. <https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.ijlp.2011.07.009>.

Chapters

- In Preparation. “Abolition Feminist Praxis.” In *Abolition, Everywhere?*, edited by Sara Clarke Kaplan, Kirstie Dorr, Lily Wong. University of Washington Press.
2020. Wennerstrom, Ashley, Catherine Haywood, and Laura McTighe. “You have to build a relationship”: Reflections on a career of elevating the role of outreach in communities of color. In *Promoting the Health of the Community: Community Health Workers Describing their Roles, Competencies and Practice*, edited by St. John J, et al. Springer.
2018. McTighe, Laura. “‘And Still We Rise’: Moral Panics, Dark Sousveillance, and Politics Otherwise in the new New Orleans.” In *Panic, Transnational Cultural Studies, and the Affective Contours of Power*, edited by Micol Seigel. Routledge.
2012. McTighe, Laura. “The War on Drugs is a War on Relationships: Crossing the Borders of Fear, Silence and HIV Vulnerability in the Prison-Created Diaspora.” In *Beyond Walls and Cages: Bridging Prison Abolition and Immigrant Justice Movements*, edited by Jenna Loyd, et al. University of Georgia Press.
2009. McTighe, Laura. “HIV, Addiction, and Justice: Toward a Qur’anic Theology of Liberation.” In *Islam and AIDS: Between Scorn, Pity, and Justice*, edited by Farid Esack and Sarah Chiddy. Oneworld Publications.

Book Reviews

2020. McTighe, Laura. “Mary Frances Berry, *Five Dollars and a Pork Chop Sandwich: Vote Buying and the Corruption of Democracy*.” *Journal of African American History* 105(1): 188-190.
2017. McTighe, Laura. “On Moments, Movements, and Women’s Work.” *Syndicate*, April 3. <https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/the-new-abolition/>

Encyclopedia Entries

2010. McTighe, Laura. “HIV/AIDS.” In *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV. Facts on File.
2010. McTighe, Laura. “Contraception.” In *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV. Facts on File.

Public Writing

2024. Kitana Ananda, Deon Haywood, Laura McTighe, and Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson. “[Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South: A conversation with Deon Haywood, Laura McTighe, and Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson.](#)” In *The Public Eye*, October 30, 2024, interview with Kitana Ananda.
2024. Deon Haywood, Laura McTighe, and Camille Roane. “[Building the world that must be.](#)” In *The Immanent Frame*, August 28, 2024, contribution to forum on “Ruinations: Violence in these times,” co-curated and co-edited by Mona Oraby and Suzanne van Geuns.

2024. Kali Handelman, [Laura McTighe](#), and Deon Haywood. “[The Fire to Create the World Anew.](#)” In *The Revealer*, April 4, 2024, interview with Kali Handelman.
2024. [Laura McTighe](#) and Women With A Vision. “[How We Rode the Storm.](#)” In *Inquest: A Decarceral Brainstorm*, March 19, 2024.
2021. McTighe, Laura. “[Abolition is sacred work.](#)” In *The Immanent Frame*, January 28, 2021, contribution to forum on “Antiblackness as religion: Black living, Black dying, and Covid-19,” co-edited by Mona Oraby and Ahmad Greene-Hayes.
2020. McTighe, Laura. “[How To Make a Mutual Aid Map.](#)” May 2020. (shared and adapted by thousands nationwide, reproduced in “Towards an Abolitionist Horizon: A Guidebook for Young Organizers,” by Project NIA)
2020. Hobson, Emily, and [Laura McTighe](#). “[HIV Prison Activists Are Leading a Freedom Movement in the Face of COVID-19.](#)” In *Truthout*, April 14, 2020.
2018. McTighe, Laura. “[Many Hands Make Light Work.](#)” In *The Immanent Frame*, “Is This All There Is?” edited by Courtney Bender and Nancy Levine, March 9, 2018.
2017. [McTighe, Laura](#), with Waheedah Shabazz-El and Faghmeda Miller. “[Refusing to Vanish: Muslim Women’s AIDS Activism.](#)” In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, December 1, 2017.
2016. McTighe, Laura. “[Front Porch Strategy: Sacred Space and Demonic Grounds.](#)” In *Religion in American History*, July 31, 2016.
2015. McTighe, Laura. “[Trust Black Women: God is Change.](#)” In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, June 24, 2015.
2015. [McTighe, Laura](#), with Hakim Ali. “[Making Time: Religion & Black Prison Organizing, an Interview with Hakim ‘Ali.](#)” In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, March 27, 2015.
2015. McTighe, Laura. “[Haunted Passages: On Carrying the Past and Envisioning Justice.](#)” In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, February 24, 2015.
2014. McTighe, Laura. “[To Take Place and Have a Place: On Religion, White Supremacy & the People’s Movement in Ferguson.](#)” In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, September 14, 2014.

Community Publications

2019. [McTighe, Laura](#), and Andrea Ritchie. “[Our Existence is Political: 30 Years of Black Feminist Struggle.](#)” *Women With A Vision*, December 2019.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2025 Winner of the 2025 Edie Turner First Book Prize in Ethnographic Writing, presented by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology
- 2024 *Inquest* honors *Fire Dreams* in their 2024 “Year in Books” of publications that moved audiences to continue working toward a world without mass incarceration.
- 2022–2024 Fellow, Young Scholars in American Religion, Center for the Study of Religion & American Culture, Indiana University–Perdue University Indianapolis.
- 2022 Recipient, University Award for Community Engaged Teaching, Florida State University.

- 2022 Provost Travel Grant, Florida State University.
- 2022 Junior Faculty Leave, Spring 2022, Religion Department, Florida State University.
- 2021 Featured by Mariame Kaba during a more than 1,000-person [webinar](#) on transformative pedagogy for my use of mutual aid research “pods” (start at 37:22).
- 2021 Dean’s Travel Grant, Florida State University.
- 2019 Provost Travel Grant, Florida State University.
- 2019 Emerging Scholar, Center for the Study of the American South and the Department of American Studies at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2017 Nominated for the Bancroft Award for best dissertation in American history, diplomacy, or international affairs, Columbia University.
- 2016–2017 Fellow, Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence, Columbia University.
- 2016 Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion.
- 2015 Conference Travel Grant, Columbia University.
- 2014–2015 Teaching Scholar, Columbia University.
- 2014 Conference Travel Grant, Columbia University.
- 2013–2014 Klingstein Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University.
- 2012–2016 Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University.
- 2011–2015 Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University.
- 2006–2008 Presidential Scholarship, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University.
- 2000 Religion Department Prize for the senior major who presented the best thesis.
- 2000 Martin Foss Award for the Haverford student whose life speaks directly to the lives of others by the powerful harmony of intellect, compassion, and courage.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Florida State University, Department of Religion, Tallahassee, FL

Courses Taught

REL 3128: *Religion, Prisons, & Abolition*

REL 3145: *Gender and Religion*

REL 4491: *Hope is a Discipline: The Scholarship and Practice of Abolition*

RLG 5135: *Abolition & Criminalization*

RLG 5195: *Moving with Callie House: Race, Religion, Health, & Community-Driven Research*

RLG 5305: *Collaborative Ethnography*

RLG 5305: *Religion in the South*

Directed Individual Studies

Imagining Religion Otherwise

Abolitionist Research Methods

Prison Chaplaincy

New Course Development

Developed a graduate-level methods course, “Moving with Callie House: Race, Religion, Health, & Community-Driven Research,” on the southern Black Radical Tradition (2022)

Developed a three-course series on the intersections of religion and abolition at the undergraduate-level, advanced undergraduate-level, and graduate-level, “Religion, Prisons, & Abolition,” “Hope is a Discipline,” and “Abolition & Criminalization.” (2019-2021)

Developed the undergraduate-level course, “Gender & Religion,” as a flipped-classroom learning experience focused on the histories of religion and gender in Tallahassee. (2021)

Developed a graduate-level methods course, “Collaborative Ethnographies,” taught in partnership with Yana Stainova, Department of Anthropology, McMaster University. (2021)

Developed a graduate-level American Religious History course, “Religion in the South,” including six primary source modules designed with FSU Special Collections. (2020)

Doctoral Committee Co-Chair

Davis, Sam, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]

Doctoral Committee Member

Anthony, Paul, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]

Bartholomew, Nicole, doctoral candidate. [Ethnomusicology]

Beauchamp, Adam, doctoral candidate. [History]

Burns, Devin, graduate (2024). [Religion, American Religious History]

Gordon, Rebekah, graduate (2025). [Religion, Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy]

Hunter, Darryl, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]

Lovestone, Lauren, doctoral candidate. [Religion, Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy]

Perez, Humberto, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]

Shaeffer, Peregrin, doctoral student. [Ethnomusicology]

Wolff, America, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]

Masters Committee Member

McLoughlin, Samantha, graduate (2023). “I Have Enough Civil Rights!”: Black Activists, Anti-Communism, and the Defeat of the Equal Rights Amendments” [Religion, American Religious History]

Rye, Nik, graduate (2023). [Fine Arts, Multimedia Art]

Wrobel, Nico, graduate (2020). *Creating Sacred Spaces: An Observance of American Protestant Chaplains in Hospitals and Prisons*. [Religion, American Religious History]

Undergraduate Committee Member

Burgin, Simone, student (2021). *The Prison, the Prophet, and the People: (In)Justice in Senegal*. [International Affairs]

Jimenez, Alec, student (2021). *Cultural Capital, Social Capital, and Horizontal Stratification among University Undergraduates*. [Sociology]

Portuallo, Christina, student (2021). *Daily Life and Conditions at Lowell Correctional Institution, 1956 to Present*. [History]

New York University (NYU), Religious Studies Program, New York, NY

Spring 2017 *Religion, Gender, & Punishment in the USA* (undergraduate)

Columbia University, Department of Religion, New York, NY

Fall 2014 *Religion on the Move: People, Passages, & Possibilities in America* (undergraduate)

2012-2014 Teaching Assistant

Muslims in Diaspora (with Katherine Ewing)

Religions in America (with Gale Kenny)

Religion in the City (with Courtney Bender).

Religions of Harlem (with Josef Sorett and Obery Hendricks)

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING

Leon County Detention Facility, Tallahassee, FL

Spring 2020 *What is Justice?* (pilot) Co-Founder and Co-Professor

An independent, collaborative educational venture to bring Liberal Arts Education to people awaiting trial in the Leon Country Detention Facility. ***paused due to COVID-19*

Project TEACH (Treatment Education Activists Combatting HIV), Philadelphia, PA

2008-2010 *TEACH Inside / TEACH Outside* Co-Founder

Expansion of TEACH Outside model to inside/outside education on the Intake Housing Units of the Philadelphia jails, reaching 100 students annually.

2001-2006 *TEACH Outside* Co-Founder

An independent educational program to address the barriers to information, support, and activism in communities impacted by HIV and mass incarceration. As Co-Instructor and Program Director, graduated more than 400 students.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Symposia

2026 “Working with Fire: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South.” University Lecture, “On Fire” 2025–2026 Public Event Series, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 2026.

2025 “Theory on the Ground: The Responsibility of Intellectuals in These Times.” Invited Lecture, University of Chicago Divinity School, September 2025.

2025 “Community Safety and Abolition Convening: Connecting Struggles across the Urban-Rural, University-Community Divides.” Invited Participant, The Highlander Center, hosted by the Appalachian Justice Research Center (AJRC) at the University of Tennessee, May 2025.

2025 “The Praxis of Abolition.” Invited Panelist, “Abolition Everywhere” Conference, American University, April 2025.

2025 “Women With A Vision’s *Fire Dreams* — A Conversation about Black Feminism in the South.” Invited Lecture, Tulane University, March 2025.

2025 “Building the World that Must Be.” Invited Lecture, University of Texas, Austin, Department of American Studies, February 2025.

- 2025 “Forward Ever: the fire to create the world anew.” Invited lecture as part of the “Modern Day Abolitionism” Spring Colloquium, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania, February 2025.
- 2024 “Fall 2024 Research Celebration, Featuring: Laura McTighe and Deon Haywood, Women With A Vision.” Johns Hopkins University, Black Worlds + Life x Code, December 2024.
- 2024 “Abolition Feminism Today — *All Our Trials: Prisons, Policing, and the Feminist Fight to End Violence* and *Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South*.” Joint book talk, Red Emma’s Bookstore Coffeehouse, November 2024.
- 2024 “*Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South* — A Conversation with Drug Policy Alliance and the Authors.” Invited webinar, Drug Policy Alliance, May 2024.
- 2024 “*Fire Dreams: Reproductive Justice and Black Feminist in the South*.” Baltimore book talk for Black Maternal Health Week with Tanay Lynn Harris and Jessica Marie Johnson, Good Neighbor, Baltimore, MD, April 2024.
- 2024 “Building the Movement for Reproductive Justice in the South.” Invited talk and dinner, The Bloom Collective, Baltimore, MD, April 2024.
- 2024 “*Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South: A Charis Hybrid Event*.” Atlanta book talk, Charis Books & More, Co-organized with Access Reproductive Care-Southeast, Black Feminist Future, Feminist Women’s Health Center, The Georgia Harm Reduction Coalition, SisterLove, Inc., SisterSong WOC, and Project South, March 2024.
- 2024 “*Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South* Release Party.” New Orleans book launch, André Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice, March 2024.
- 2023 “Prescriptive Religion: Objectivity vs. Normativity.” Invited Lecture, Brown University, November 2023.
- 2023 “Abolition is Sacred Work: Race, Religion, and the Practice of New Worlds.” Invited Lecture, College of William & Mary, November 2023.
- 2023 “What is Grounded Knowledge? And Why Does It Matter?” Invited webinar, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, October 2023.
- 2023 “Funding and Sustaining Community Driven Drug Policy Research.” Invited webinar, Drug Policy Alliance, April 2023.
- 2022 “Subjugated Knowledges: Finding the Taboo, Suppressed, and Forgotten,” Guest Lecture, Religion, Stanford University, October 2022.
- 2022 “Expert Panel on Ambiguously Public Spaces,” Sociable Cities Project, University of Guelph, September 2022.
- 2022 “Looking Back / Looking Forward.” Panelist, Society of Fellows Conference, Dartmouth College, May 2022.
- 2022 “What Now?” Workshop Participant, University of California, Berkeley, May 2020.
- 2022 “Making the Case for Community Driven Research.” Invited webinar, Drug Policy Alliance, May 2022.
- 2022 “Abolition and Beyond: ‘Change Everything.’” Guest Lecture, Anthropology, Guttman Community College CUNY, April 2022.
- 2022 “Collaborative Ethnography.” Guest Lecture, Anthropology, McMaster University, January 2022.

- 2021 “Abolition is Sacred Work.” Keynote Speaker, SORCE Undergraduate Religion Symposium, Florida State University, November 2021.
- 2021 “We Spoke Our Truths: Refusing Gendered Criminalization, Making Abolition Feminism Geographies.” Distinguished Visitors Program, Guest Lecture and Senior Colloquium, Haverford College, October 2021.
- 2021 “Front Porch Revolution.” Guest Lecture, Black Geographies, University of Tennessee, October 2021.
- 2021 “HIV Is Not Over.” Invited Talk, PRIDE Programming, Oberland, June 2021.
- 2021 “Making Abolition: Principles for Liberatory Praxis.” Guest Lecture, Religion, Punishment, Restoration, Pomona College, April 2021.
- 2021 “Abolition is Sacred Work.” Sermon, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, March 2021.
- 2021 “Anti-Racism and BLM.” Panel, Graduate Researchers of Geography and the Tallahassee Community Action Committee, March 2021.
- 2021 “Abolition is Sacred Work.” Guest Lecture, Philosophy & Religious Studies student group, Ball State University, February 2021.
- 2021 “Making Abolition: The Ground on Which We Stand.” Keynote Speaker, Social Change Symposium, February 2021.
- 2021 “Addressing Racism in/and the Academic Study of Religion.” Panelist, Columbia University and Barnard College, Department of Religion, February 2021.
- 2020 “Abolitionist Theologies: Religious Resistance to Policing and Prisons.” Webinar Panelist, Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois, August 2020.
- 2020 “Past as Prologue: Storytelling about Resistance to the Brutality of Incarceration.” Webinar Panelist, Survived & Punished NY (S&P-NY) and the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW), May 2020.
- 2020 “Religious Studies and Mass Incarceration: Tips for Sharing Scholarship with the Public.” Webinar Panelist, Public Scholars Project, American Academy of Religion and Freedom Forum Institute, February 2020.
- 2020 “African American Religious Studies.” Workshop Participant, Princeton University, February 2020.
- 2019 “The Struggle Continues: Prisons, Religion, and Abolition.” University Lecture, MultiCultural Center, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2019.
- 2016 “‘The System was Designed to Fail Me’: Religion, Incarceration, and the Erasure of Black Women.” University Lecture, Religion Department, Bates College, April 2016.
- 2014 “Beyond the Walls: A Conversation on Gender, Race, Religion and Incarceration.” University Lecture, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Lehigh University, September 2014.

Conference Papers Presented

- 2025 “Moral Re-Imagination and Grassroots Practices of Re-Worlding: The Work of Religious Rebinding in the Age of ‘Post-Secular’ Capitalism.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2025.

- 2025 “Foundations for Critical Carceral Studies and the Bible.” Paper presented at Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2025.
- 2022 “Family as Method: Power, Difference, and the Study of Religion Otherwise.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2022.
- 2021 “Corona Capitalism, or Another World Is Possible.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2021.
- 2021 “Seeing in the Dark.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2021.
- 2021 “Morality – Keywords for Medicine, Health & the Carceral State: Creative (Dis-)Connections for Healing & Liberation.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 2021.
- 2020 “Corona Capitalism, or Another World Is Possible.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, ***postponed due to COVID-19.*
- 2020 “Morality – Keywords for Medicine, Health & the Carceral State: Creative (Dis-)Connections for Healing & Liberation.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, ***postponed due to COVID-19.*
- 2019 “Theory on the Ground.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2019 “Where’s the Religion?: Decolonizing the Field, Becoming Subjects (Again).” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2018 “Moral Medicine: Treatment and Punishment in the Race to Incarcerate Women.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2018 “Front Porch Strategy: Sacred Space and Demonic Grounds.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2018 “Fire Dreams: Toward an Accomplice Anthropology.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2017 “‘There is NO Justice’: Dark Sousveillance and Politics Otherwise.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 2017.
- 2017 “Surveillance and Sabotage: Religio-Racial Identity in the Women’s Carceral Sphere.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2017.
- 2017 “Disrupting Narratives: Myths of the drug policy reform movement.” Panelist at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference, October 2017.
- 2016 “Resurrecting the Dead: Religion, Incarceration, and Revolutionary Love.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “‘Have Faith in Reproductive Justice’: Race, Reproduction, and American Religion.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “‘New Orleans is a Prison. OPP is a Time Out.’: Refusing Innocence.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “Front Porch Strategy: Repairing and Resurrecting a Post-Katrina Otherwise, a Love Song for New Orleans.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2016.

- 2015 “‘In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens’: The Spiritual Work of History-Making in New Orleans.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- 2015 “‘My Existence Is Political’: Black Feminist Freedom Dreams and the Brutal Magic of the State.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- 2015 “When Treatment is Punishment: The Medicalization of Morality in the New War on Sex Workers.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 2015.
- 2014 “Black Gods of the Gulag: Diasporic Religious Imaginaries in the Prison Capital of the World.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- 2014 “Like a Phoenix, We Rise: Relations of Resistance in the Prison Capital of the World.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- 2014 “Are the Gods Afraid?: Crimes Against Nature & the Spirit of Organized Resistance in New Orleans.” Paper presented at Symposium on Global Moral Panics, Indiana University, September 2014.
- 2014 “Born in Flames: Religion, Incarceration, and the Spirit of Grassroots Resistance in New Orleans.” Paper presented at Beyond the Culture Wars, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2014.
- 2013 “Theorizing Drugs: What Can Theory & Philosophy Teach Us About Drug Policy Reform?” Panelist at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference, October 2013.
- 2013 “‘To Instill Love for Our People’: Recovering Religion in Formerly Incarcerated People’s Movements.” Paper presented at Rethinking Prisons, Vanderbilt University, May 2013.
- 2012 “Chicago’s Transcendent Third: Lived Religion in a Time of Mass Incarceration.” Paper presented at Religion and the Trans..., Northwestern University, October 2012.
- 2010 “Women, Incarceration, and Islam: Towards a Theology of Resilience and Resistance.” Paper presented at Women, Incarceration and Human Rights Conference, Emory University, February 2009.

Conference Panels

- 2025 “Prison Abolition as Lived Religious Peacebuilding.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2025.
- 2025 “Religion in Place: Local Knowledge and Practice in Applied Religious Studies.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2025.
- 2025 “Abolition Everywhere? A Workshop.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2025.
- 2024 “Book Launch Roundtable for *Fire Dreams: Making Black Feminist Liberation in the South*,” with Beth Richie, Sarah Haley, Christina Hanhart, Savannah Shange, Jessica Marie Johnson, and Tanay Harris. Organized by Sarah Haley. American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2024.
- 2022 “Religion and Nation Beyond Nationalism.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2022. Session Chair.

- 2019 “Theory and Method 2.0: Decolonizing the Field.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019. Co-organized with Alexis S. Wells-Oghoghomeh.
- 2019 “Emergent Expertise: dialogue, radical acts of listening, and co-authorship with(in) grassroots activist and organizing communities.” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 2019. Co-organized with Keahnan Washington.
- 2018 “Governing Health: Race, Religion, Secularism, and the Healing State.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018. Co-organized with Jamil Drake.
- 2018 “Indigenous, Race-radical & Trans Feminist Responses to Mass Criminalization & the Transcarceral Continuum.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2018. Co-organized with Lena Palacios.
- 2018 “Polyphonies of Repair.” Canadian Anthropology Society CASCA-CUBA, May 2018. Co-organized with Megan Raschig.
- 2018 “Gulf South Geographies of Freedom: Rethinking the Politics and Practices of New Orleans Research in the Geographic Imagination.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 2018. Co-organized with Lydia Pelot-Hobbs.
- 2017 “Racialized Terror, Persistence and the Otherwise: Histories and Horizons of Struggle and Surveillance.” American Anthropological Association Meeting, December 2017. Co-organized with Megan Raschig.
- 2017 “‘Religio-Racial Identity’ as Challenge and Critique.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2017. Co-organized with Matthew Cressler, Jamil Drake, and Megan Goodwin.
- 2017 “ASA Critical Prison Studies Caucus: Abolitionist Feminisms.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2017. Co-organized with Sarah Haley and Stefanie Jones.
- 2016 “Horizons of an Otherwise: Engaging and ‘Evidencing’ the Politics of the Re*.” American Anthropological Association Meeting, November 2016. Co-organized with Megan Raschig.
- 2016 “Front Porch Strategy: Organizing for Black Women’s Lives at the Intersections of Service, Activism, and Research.” Know Her Truths Conference, Wake Forest University, April 2016. Co-organized with Women With A Vision (WWAV), New Orleans.
- 2015 “‘My Existence is Political’: Black Feminist Freedom Dreams in the Prison Capital of the World.” Re-Visioning Justice Conference, Vanderbilt University, April 2015. Co-organized with Women With A Vision (WWAV), New Orleans.
- 2014 “Pushing Public Health to the Margins: Aggressive Policing, Aging in Prison, & Gender-Based Criminalization.” American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2014. Co-organized with Jenna Loyd.
- 2014 “Freedom’s Movements, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Rock the Prison Empire.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2014. Co-organized with Jenna Loyd.
- 2014 “Community Organizing is a Reentry Program.” Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South Conference, University of Mississippi, April 2014. Co-organized with WWAV.
- 2013 “Break Every Yoke: Religion, Power and the Ends of Mass Incarceration.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2013. Co-organized with Vincent Lloyd and Joshua Dubler.

PUBLIC EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2025 “Zavobe Oyen’ike” (The Wise Womb Deserves Honor and Care).” Film Screening and Roundtable with Neith Sankofa, Wyoma, Keyanna Jones-Moore, and Jennifer Willsea for the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2025.
- 2024 “Community Safety from a Black Feminist Liberation Lens.” A *Fire Dreams* book talk and fireside chat with Deon Haywood and Portia Allen-Kyle for Color of Change’s convening on prosecutorial accountability. New Orleans, LA, September 2024.
- 2024 “A New Era of Reproductive Justice: Opening Night.” A *Fire Dreams* book talk and organizing event with Deon Haywood and Janette Robinson Flint for the Black Women for Wellness Annual Reproductive Justice Conference in Los Angeles, CA, August 2024.
- 2024 “Trust Black Women Pre-Essence Kick Off.” A *Fire Dreams* book talk with Deon Haywood, Monica Simpson, and Rhonda Broussard for ESSENCE Fest in New Orleans, LA, with appearance and performance by Trina, July 2024.
- 2024 “Organizing in the Deep South *Masterclass*.” A *Fire Dreams* book talk and organizing event with Deon Haywood, Dazon Dixon Diallo, and Marsha Jones for the Texas Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Summit in Dallas, TX, June 2024.
- 2023 “Art & Abolition: Collaborative Exhibition.” Co-organized with Hannah Schwadron and Yuki Colombo, with the generous support of the Roger Belman Fund, the Tallahassee Bail Fund, and the William Johnston Building Gallery, September 2023.
- 2022 “30+ Years of Black Feminist Struggle: A Central City Tour with Women With A Vision.” Co-organized with Shaquita Borden and Deon Haywood as part of the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, November 2022.
- 2019 “30 Years at the Intersections: Justice, Action, and Black Feminist Struggle” a week-long event series with WWAV’s Deon Haywood, hosted by the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth College, in partnership with eight academic departments and five student organizations. Co-organized with Yui Hashimoto, Pamela Voekel, and Bethany Moreton, April 2019.
- 2018 “Religious Freedom and US Empire,” a Guest Lecture with Tisa Wenger, hosted by the Society of Fellows and the Religion Department at Dartmouth College, October 2018.
- 2018 “Wounds and Worlds: Spiritual Healing as Politics Otherwise in California,” a Guest Lecture with Megan Raschig, hosted by the Society of Fellows and the Departments of Religion and Anthropology at Dartmouth College, May 2018.
- 2018 “Medicalizing the Souls of Black Folk: Public Health and the Governance of Black Religion in the American South,” a Guest Lecture with Jamil Drake, hosted by the Society of Fellows, the Department of Religion, and the Program in African and African American Studies at Dartmouth College, April 2018.
- 2015 “Theory on the Ground: Religion and Spirituality Repressing And Redeeming The Struggles For Justice,” co-organizer and moderator of a panel with Nyle Fort, Deon Haywood, and Josef Sorett, hosted by the Center for Religion and Media at New York University. Co-organized with Kali Handelman, November 2015.
- 2015 “Making Time: Discipline and Religion in America’s Prisons,” co-organizer and moderator of a panel with Hakim ‘Ali, Tanya Erzen, Robin McGinty, and Angela Zito, hosted by the Center for Religion and Media at New York University. Co-organized with Kali Handelman, April 2015.

- 2014 “Graduate Student Workshop on Religion and Incarceration,” co-organizer and workshop participant, hosted by the Central New York Working Group on Religion and Mass Incarceration. Co-organized with Joshua Dubler, Chris Garces, and Vincent Lloyd, Syracuse University, October 2014.
- 2014 “Are the Gods Afraid of Black Sexuality?: Religion and the Burdens of Black Sexual Politics,” Graduate Coordinator for the annual Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS), organized by Josef Sorett, Columbia University, October 2014.
- 2013 “Religion on the Move: Movement, Migration, Missions and new Media across Religious Traditions,” co-organizer of the Columbia University Religion Graduate Students Association’s annual conference. Co-organized with Elizabeth Tinsley, April 2014.
- 2013 “Migrant Imaginaries: Religion on the Move in the African Diaspora,” co-organizer of panel with Randal Jelks, Lerone Martin, Frances Negrón-Muntaner, and Carla Shedd, hosted in partnership with the Religions of Harlem project at Columbia University. Co-organized with Josef Sorett, April 2014.
- 2013 “Fencing in God,” co-organizer of a semester-long series on religion, incarceration, and immigration, hosted by the Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life (IRCPL). Co-organized with Chelsea Ebin. Events included:
- “Guadalupean New York,” a talk by Alyshia Gálvez;
 - *Sin Nombre* and *Broken on All Sides* film screenings;
 - “Religion and Incarceration,” a conversation with Winnifred Sullivan and Julio Medina;
 - *Sentenced Home* film screening; and
 - “Immigration Detention,” a panel with Jordan Flaherty, Amy Gottlieb, Rosemary Hicks, and Douglas Thompson.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2025– Co-Convener, C.A.R.E. Gatherings (Community, Abolition, Religion, and Education),” Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD.
- 2024– Advisory Board Member, Center for Religion and Cities, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD.
- 2022– Working Group Member, The Grounded Knowledge Project, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, Austin, TX.
- 2022– Member, Toward a Common Public Life, United Lutheran Seminary and Vanderbilt Divinity School.
- 2022 Reviewer, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- 2022 Member, Program Committee, American Studies Association 2022 Annual Meeting, “[The Roof is on Fire](#),” November 3-6, 2022 – New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2021– Religion Selector, Preliminary Selection Committee, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, the Institute for Citizens & Scholars.
- 2021–2024 Steering Committee Member, *North American Religions Unit*, American Academy of Religion.

- 2020– Member, *Black Religious Studies Working Group*, The Crossroads Project, Princeton University.
- 2019–2024 Steering Committee Member, *Afro-American Religious History Unit*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2018– Editorial Board Member, *Reading Religion*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2018–2020 Member, *Catholicism Colonialism, and Race in America* working group.
- 2017–2022 Steering Committee Member, *Religions and Families in North America Seminar*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2014– Co-founder of *Religion and Abolition*, a collaborative forum for activists and academics to explore religion, power, and the ends of mass criminalization.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- 2024–2025 Member, Assessment Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020–2023 Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2021– Reviewer, Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Grant Program, Florida State University.
- 2020–2024 Faculty Advisor, LGBTheology, Florida State University.
- 2020– Member, Departmental Curriculum Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020–2021 Member, Chair Selection Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020–2021 Faculty Co-Advisor, Distance Learning Pedagogy Group, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020–2022 Member, Allison Elizabeth Overholt Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019– Member, Interdisciplinary Faculty Human Rights Seminar, Florida State University.
- 2019– Faculty Co-Founder and Advisor, Mentoring Group for Women, Trans and Gender Nonconforming Graduate Students, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019–2021 Faculty Advisor, Abolition Club, Florida State University.
- 2019–2020 Member, Executive Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019–2020 Advisor, Graduate Symposium, “Policing Identity, Surveilling Religion,” Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2011–2017 Member, University Seminar on Religion in America, Columbia University.

CONSULTANCIES AND ADVISORY BOARDS

- 2020– Advisor, The First Seven: Florida Prison Memory Project, Tallahassee, FL.
- 2020– Founding Member, Tallahassee Bail Fund, Tallahassee, FL.

- 2020– Founding Member, Free Them All Coalition, Tallahassee, FL.
- 2018–2020 Project Development Consultant and Evaluator, Photography in Collaboration: Migration and Religion, Magnum Foundation, New York, NY.
- 2015–2018 Advisor, ‘Prisoner to Patient’ Project, New Orleans, LA (a project of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute).
- 2015 Volunteer Coordinator, “Ecohybridity – Love Song for NOLA,” a Black feminist visual opera for the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, LA.
- 2010– Board Member, Transforming Reentry Services, Chicago, IL.
- 2010– Board Member, Reconstruction, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- 2010– Board Member, Women With A Vision, Inc., New Orleans, LA.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion.
- American Anthropological Association.
- American Association of Geographers.
- American Historical Association.
- American Studies Association.
- National Women’s Studies Association.
- Phi Beta Kappa.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (Conversational)