Jonathan H. Ebel

Department of Religion

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

FLB 3080, MC-166, 707 S. Mathews

Urbana, Illinois 61801

217-244-4507; jebel@uiuc.edu

***Academic Appointments***

**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

Head, Department of Religion, 2019 - present

Professor, Department of Religion, 2017-present

Associate Professor, Department of Religion, 2012-2017

Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, 2005-2012

**Texas Christian University**

Lecturer, Religion Department, 2004-2005

***Education***

**University of Chicago**. Ph.D. History of Christianity, 2004

M.A. Study of Religion, 1999

**Harvard College**. A.B. *Cum Laude*, Comparative Study of Religion, 1993

***FeLLowships and Academic Awards***

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2017-2018)

Conrad Humanities Scholar, University of Illinois (2015-2020)

Sabbatical Grant for Researchers, Louisville Institute (2014-2015)

Arnold O. Beckman Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois (2014-2015)

Helen Corley Petit Scholar, University of Illinois (2012-2013)

Individual Research Grant, American Academy of Religion (2011-2012)

Beckman Fellow, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois (2009-2010)

Fellow, Young Scholars in American Religion Program, IUPUI (2009-2011)

William and Flora Hewlett International Research Travel Grant (2009-2010)

Faculty Fellow, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (2007-2008)

***Publications***

**Books**

G.I.Messiahs: Soldiering, War, and American Civil Religion – Yale University Press, 2015.

From Jeremiad to Jihad: Religion, Violence and America –University of California Press, 2012. (co-edited with John Carlson)

Faith in the Fight: Religion and the American Soldier in the Great War – Princeton University Press, 2010. Republished in paperback, 2014.

Reforming Religion: New Deal California and the Redemption of America – in progress

A Religious History of American Warfare, Told in Five Weapons – in progress

**Articles**

“Poetry as Piety: Father Thomas Coakley and the Cult of the American Soldier in the Great War,” Edizioni Di Storia E Letteratura: Archivo itanliano per la storia della pieta (forthcoming)

“Civil Religion in America” in Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation, Vol 29, Number 1, Winter 2019

“Thou Shalt Kill: A Religious History of the Rifle and the Grenade in America’s Great War” in Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal (University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, Vol 101, Number 3, Fall 2018)

“American Judaism, Jewish Piety, and the Great War,” Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Religions- und Kunstgeschichte, Volume 108, 2014; 87-103.

“The Wreckage and all the Glory: Protestant America and the Legacy of the Great War,” The Journal of Presbyterian History, v. 92, no. 1, Spring/Summer 2014, pp. 4-25.

“American Literatures / American Religions,” American Literary History, Volume 26, Number 1, Spring 2014; 1-5. (co-authored with Prof. Justine Murison, University of Illinois)

“Undersold and Oversold: Reinhold Niebuhr and Economic Justice,” Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal, Volume 95, Number 4, 2013; 411-419.

“Reforming Faith: John Steinbeck, the New Deal, and the Religion of the Wandering Oklahoman,” The Journal of Religion, Volume 92, Number 4, October 2012; 527-535.

“Overseas Military Cemeteries as American Sacred Space: Mine Eyes Have Seen *La Gloire*.” Material Religion: A Journal of Art, Objects and Belief, Volume 8, Issue 2, 2012; 184-215.

“Of the Lost and the Fallen: Soldiering, Ritual, and American Civil Religion.” The Journal of Religion, Volume 92, Number 2, April 2012, 224-250.

“‘In Every Cup of Bitterness, Sweetness’: California Christianity and the Great Depression,” Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, Volume 80, Number 3, September 2011, 590-599.

“Jesus Freak and the Junkyard Prophet: The School Assembly as Evangelical Revival,” Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Volume 77, Number 1, March 2009, 16-54.

“The Great War, Religious Authority, and the American Fighting Man,” Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, Volume 78, Number 1, March 2009, 99-133.

“Tourism, Faith and Politics in the Holy Land: An Ideological Analysis of Evangelical Pilgrimage,” Current Issues in Tourism, Volume 12, Number 4, July 2009, 359-378. (co-authored with Prof. Yaniv Belhassen, Ben Gurion University)

“A Response to Thomas Allen,” American Literary History, Volume 20, Number 4, Winter 2008; 788-793.

**Book Chapters**

“The Great War, the United States, and Just War Thought” in America’s Wars: A Just War Perspective (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, forthcoming)

“G.I. Judas: The Soldier-Traitor in American Civil Religion,” in ed. Heike Bungert and Jana Weiss, Civil Religion in the United States, (Muenster, Germany: Campus Publishing, forthcoming)

“The Great War and American Foreign Missions: From Metaphoric Victory to Symbolic Loss” in ed. Edith Blumhofer and Larry Eskridge, Saving the World?: The Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions, 1910 to the Present, accepted, awaiting publisher information.

“Onward, Christian Soldiers: Imagining the Religion of the American Soldier,” in ed. Xavier Boniface, Foi, religions et sacré dans la Grande Guerre, (Arras, France: Artois University Press, 2014)

“At Home at War for Christ: Domesticity and American Christianity in Europe’s Great War” in ed. Patrick Pasture and Tine van Osselaer, Christian Homes: Religion and Domesticity in Twentieth-Century Europe, (Leuven, Belgium: KU Leuven Press, 2014)

“From Covenant to Crusade and Back: American Christianity and the Late, Great War” in ed. John D. Carlson and Jonathan Ebel, From Jeremiad to Jihad: Religion, Violence, and America, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2012), 62-77.

“John Brown, Jeremiad, and Jihad: Thinking about Religion, Violence, and America” (with John D. Carlson) in ed. John D. Carlson and Jonathan Ebel, From Jeremiad to Jihad: Religion, Violence, and America, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2012), 1-25.

“Christianity and Violence” in ed. Andrew Murphy, A Companion to Religion and Violence, (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2011), 149-162.

**Encyclopedia Articles**

“War and Religion in American History,” Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion in America,

(Published online, December 2017)

“Religion (USA),” 1914-1918 Online, International Encyclopedia of the First World War, (2013)

“World War One,” peer-reviewed article in ed. Phillip Goff. The Encyclopedia of Religion in America, (CQ Press, 2010)

“War,” peer-reviewed article in The Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries, ed. Jonathan Bonk (Routledge, 2007)

“The Salvation Army,” invited article in Janice Reiff, Anne Durkin Keating, and James R. Grossman, eds. Encyclopedia of Chicago, (Chicago: Newberry Library, 2005)

**Book Reviews (invited)**

Jeffrey Einboden, The Islamic Lineage of American Literary Culture: Muslim Sources

from the Revolution to Reconstruction. Early American Literature (forthcoming)

Michael Kazin, War Against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918, Commentary (forthcoming)

Michael Snape and Edward Madigan, The Clergy in Khaki: New Perspectives on *British Army Chaplains in the First World War*, Church History (forthcoming)

Kelly J. Baker, Gospel According to the Klan: The KKK’s Appeal to Protestant America, 1915-1930, Journal of Religion (forthcoming)

Philip Jenkins, The Great and Holy War: How the First World War Became a Religious Crusade, Christian Century, May 2014.

Olivier Wieviorka, Divided Memory: French Recollections of World War II from the Liberation to the Present, French Forum, Winter 2014; 162-163

Raymond Haberski, God and War: American Civil Religion Since 1945, Politics and Religion, May 2013; 222.

Kelly Denton-Borhaug, U.S. War-culture, Sacrifice and Salvation, Journal of Church and State, March 2013; 172-174

Sean A. Scott, A Visitation of God: Northern Civilians Interpret the Civil War, Journal of Church and State, December 2012; 675-678

Roger A Johnson, Peacemaking and Religious Violence: From Thomas Aquinas to Thomas Jefferson, Journal of Religion, April 2012; 328-329.

Kenneth A. Steuer, Pursuit of an “Unparalleled Opportunity”: The American YMCA and Prisoner-of-War Diplomacy Among the Central Power Nations During World War I, 1914-1923, American Historical Review. October 2011; 1091-1092.

George C. Rable, God’s Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil War, Journal of Southern Religion, Volume 13, 2011.

John Pahl, Empire of Sacrifice: The Religious Origins of American Violence, Journal of American History, June 2011; 172-173.

Michael Snape, The Royal Army Chaplains’ Department: 1796-1953, Church History, Church History, December 2009; 911-913.

Dan Philpott, ed. The Politics of Past Evil: Religion. Reconciliation, and the Dilemmas of Transitional Justice, Journal of Church and State, September 2007; 561-562.

David W. Wills, Christianity in the United States: A Historical Survey and Interpretation, Journal of Religion, July 2006; 463-464.

Doris L. Bergen, ed. The Sword of the Lord: Military Chaplains from the First to the Twenty-First Century, Journal of Religion, October 2005; 668-669.

Richard M. Budd, Serving Two Masters: The Development of American Military Chaplaincy, 1860-1930, Journal of Religion, July 2003, 439-440.

Diane Winston, Red Hot and Righteous: The Urban Religion of the Salvation Army, Journal of Religion, July 2002, 458-459.

**Editorials and Opinion Pieces**

“Of Patriots and Saints,” Criterion, February 2008. (Reprinted from *Sightings*)

“Rush to Judgment: Limbaugh as Liberal Theologian,” The Revealer, November 9, 2006

Columns for Sightings (the electronic newsletter of The Martin Marty Center): “Christianity Past, Present, and Next” (25 September 2002); “The Nature and Destiny of Inglis” (14 February 2002); “Of Patriots and Saints” (7 February 2002); “Territory is Not Mind” (15 November 2001); “Giving Christians Credit” (29 August 2001); “Two Pictures of American Religion” (25 July 2001).

***Academic Presentations***

**Invited Talks**

“Fire from Heaven: Napalm, the Drone, and the Evolution of an Evangelical Empire,” Global Faith and Worldly Power: A Conference on Evangelical Encounters with American Empire; Obama Institute, University of Mainz, 13 October 2018.

“Doughboy Religion and the American Imagination,” Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Mass., 28 March 2018.

“Southern Civil Religion and the Great War,” Dixie’s Great War, A Symposium on the Great War and the American South, University of Alabama, 6 October 2017.

“Thou Shalt Kill: European Weapons, American Soldiers, and the Religious History of the Great War,” Baylor University, 6 April 2017.

“A Religious History of America and the Great War: A Grenade’s Perspective,” Florida State University, Symposium on Religion and World War I, 8 December 2017.

“The Craft and the Kraft: State Universities and the Teaching of Religion,” Divinity School of the University of Chicago, Craft of Teaching Symposium, 1 June 2016

“A Catholic President, a Protestant Pope, and a World at War: Reflections on Leadership and Religion in the Great War,” Rockhurst University, 5 April 2016.

“Faith in Place: Religion, the Migrant, and California Agriculture in the Great Depression,” Stanford University, 12 May 2015.

“Safety, Solider, Scapegoat: Pat Tillman and American Civil Religion,” Arizona State University, 9 April 2014.

“Forward Through the Ages: On Studying Religion, War, and America,” Illinois Wesleyan University, 21 February 2014.

“‘This is My Body’: Soldiering, Salvation, and American Civil Religion,” Historians Among Us, History Department, University of Illinois, 17 April 2013.

“Onward, Christian Soldiers: Imagining the Religion of the American Soldier,” International Conference on Faith, the Sacred, and the Soldier in the Great War, Verdun, France, 8-9 Nov. 2012.

“Of Filth, Lucre, and Faith: Evangelizing the Wandering Oklahoman in Depression-Era California,” American Religious History Colloquium, Princeton University, 18 Oct. 2012.

Roundtable on Religion in the United States Military, The Boisi Center for Religion and Public Life, Boston College, September 2011.

“Re-Forming Faith: John Steinbeck, the New Deal, and the Religion of the Wandering Oklahoman,” The Divinity School of the University of Chicago, May 20, 2011.

“The Role of Religion in Military Memorial Practices,” Virginia Wesleyan University, March 2, 2011.

“The Things They Buried: The Religious Dynamics of Remembering and Forgetting America’s War Dead,” United States Naval Academy, February 23, 2011.

“Christian Imagery, American Identity, and Memories of War,” Religion, War, America, Calvin College Seminar, July 2010.

“Safety, Soldier, Scapegoat: The Life and Death of Pat Tillman,” Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 2009.

“Conversion and the *Corpus Permixtum*: A Response to Thomas Allen’s “Before the Cultural Turn,” Symposium Celebrating Twenty Years of American Literary History, March 2008.

“Of Covenants and Crusades,” *From Jeremiad to Jihad: Religion, Violence and America*, A Conference of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, October 2007.

“Sparta and the New Jerusalem: Religion, Violence and American Redemption,” Symposium on Religion in America, Rocky Mountain College, February 2007

“Religious Visions of America, 1960 – 2006,” Freeman Fellows Seminar, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2006, April 2008, January 2009

“'Dominies and Doughboys': Masculinity, Religious Authority, and the Great War in America.” Newberry Seminar in U.S. Religious History, February 2004

**Conference Papers**

“‘We the People of the Brawley Migratory Farm Labor Camp,’ Re-Constituting American Religions on the Margins of the Nation” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, 7 January 2018.

“Swift and Terrible Judgment: Drone Warfare and the Problem of American Omniscience,” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, 5 January 2018

“Reforming Religion, Reconstituting Empire”: Christmas, Capitalism, and the Dust Bowl Migrants, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Mass., 18 November 2017

“Race, Religion, and Sanitation in Depression-Era California,” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, New York, January 2015.

“The Gospel of Mork: The Moral Landscapes of Migratory Labor Camps in Depression-era California,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2014.

“Of Mowers and Morality: The Catechesis of a New Deal Mission,” Conference on

Religion in California, University of California, Berkeley, April 25, 2014.

“A Religious History of Napalm,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“The Gospel of Mork: Mowers and Morality at a New Deal Mission,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Association, Banff, Alberta, June 2013.

“Soldiering and the Practice of American Civil Religion,” Conference on Religion and American Life, King’s College, London, UK, 21-23 February 2013.

“Religion and Violence and the Ethics of American History,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics / Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, Chicago, IL, 4 January 2013.

“G.I. Judas: Soldiering, Betrayal, and American Civil Religion." Un-Americans and the Un-American from 1776 to 9/11, Centre for American Studies, University of Leicester, September 2011.

“Sacred Flesh, Sacred Nation, Sacred Soil: Suresnes American Cemetery and American Messianism.” Annual Meeting of the British Association of American Studies, University of Central Lancashire, April 2011.

“The Great War and American Foreign Missions: From Metaphoric Victory to Symbolic Loss.” Saving the World?: A Conference on the Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions, 1910 to the present, Duke Divinity School, March 2011.

“Sacred Flesh in a Soil Once Alien: Soldiering and the Sanctification of America.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 2011.

“In Every Cup of Bitterness, Sweetness: California Christianity and the Great Depression.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 2011.

“Perpetually Felicita: American Overseas Military Cemeteries and Their Place in American Civil Religion, or How to Forget While Remembering.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2009.

“Saint Charles the Lost: The Great War, Civil Religion, and the Suicide of Major Charles Whittlesey.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 2009

“The Martyrdom of Pat Tillman and the Battle for His Civil Religious Meaning.”

Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, October 2008.

“At Home at War in France: American Christian Domesticity in the Great War.” Households of Faith, A Conference on Religion and Domesticity, Catholic University of Leuven, September 2008.

“Filling Voids with Ruptures: Soldiers and the ‘Great Silence’ in American Religious History.” Annual Conference of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, March 2008.

“From Jeremiad to Crusade, and Back: American Christianity and the Late, Great War.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2007.

“Souls Beyond Beautiful: Ideal Women in an Ideal War, 1917-1918.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 2007

“Jeremiad, Gender, Geronimo, Jihad: Classroom Approaches to Religion, Violence, and American Culture.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Region of the American Academy of Religion, March 2006

“All Quiet on the Western Frontier: Christian Soldiers, Savage War, and the Frontier Myth, 1917-1918.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History. January 2005

“Dying the Gospel: Imitatio Christi and the American Fighting Man, 1917-1918.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2004

“'And for what?': The Religious Meaning of the Great War in America.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2003

“'Now we are names that once were young': Death and the Afterlife Among American Soldiers of the First World War.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 2003

**Conference Sessions Chaired**

“"Religious Politics in an Age of Consumerism and Commercial Media: Competing Discourses," Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, November 2009.

“Images and Narratives of Violence,” Arts, Literature and Religion Section; Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2007

“The Bible and Public Education in America,” Law, Religion and Culture Group, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2006

***Teaching Experience***

**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

The History of Religion in America: Diversity, Discord, Dialogue

Religion and Violence in American Culture

Revivalism and Evangelicalism in America

Religion in Contemporary America

Religion, War, and American Cultural Memory

Religion and American Cinema (Online)

Introduction to World Religions

Introduction to World Religions (Online)

Faith and Self in Global Context

Religion in Twentieth-Century America, 1900-1941

Catholicism in North America

Graduate Introduction to the Study of Religion

Historiography of Religion in America

**Texas Christian University**

Introduction to Religion: World Religions

The History of Religion in America

**DePaul University**

The American Religious Experience: Patterns and Problems

The American Religious Experience: Multicultural Seminar

***Professional Service***

**University Service**

George A. Miller Selection Committee, Center for Advanced Study, 2019 –

Military Education Council, 2019 –

Public Engagement and the Humanities, Steering Committee, IPRH, 2019

Advisory Committee, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, 2015 – 2017

**College Service**

SLCL Executive Committee, 2018 -

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Awards Committee, 2014 – 2017

**Administrative Experience**

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Religion, University Of Illinois

2012-present

**Conferences Organized**

**American Literatures / American Religions**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, October 4-5, 2012

Participants: W. Clark Gilpin, Tracy Fessenden, Michael Warner, Gregory Jackson, Toni Jaudon, Cedrick May, Stephanie Kirk, Jennifer Graber, Elaine Pena, Sarah Imhoff

**Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on Violence, Faith, and America**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 20, 2007

Participants: Jean Bethke Elshtain, John Witte Jr., John Carlson, Ned O’Gorman

**Saving Faith / Killing Faith: A Religious History of Violence and Restraint**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, February 2, 2007.

Participants: Martin E. Marty, John Corrigan, Andrew Murphy, S. Brent Plate

**The Bible, Public Schools and American Identity,**

University of Illinois,Urbana-Champaign, April 24, 2006.

Participants: Winifred Sullivan, Mark Chancey, Erik Owens

**Review Panels**

**National Endowment for the Humanities**

Religious Studies, August 1, 2014

America’s Media Makers, March 31, 2011

**Public Talks And Community Education**

Invited presentation, “Religion and Violence” Wesley Foundation, Urbana, Illinois, October 2012

Invited presentation, “Mormonism, An American Original,” Temple Sinai “Sundays at Sinai” Lecture Series, February 24, 2008

Invited presentation, “Religion, Violence, and America,” Campus YMCA, Champaign, Illinois, February 2007

**Media Appearances**

Interview, “Religion, Violence and America,” Focus 580 with David Inge, WILL Radio, April 18, 2007

Interview, “Religion and Violence,” Agora Urbana with Justin Doran,

***Additional Professional Experience***

Candidate, U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois 13th Congressional District, Democratic Primary, 2017-2018

Managing Editor, Sightings*,* July 2001-August 2002. Responsibilities: soliciting, editing, and publishing articles for Sightings, an email column published by the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago.

Project Assistant, The Martin Marty Center, The University of Chicago, July 1999- July 2001. Responsibilities: conference organization, editing, public relations

Research Assistant, The Public Religion Project, April 1999 - September 1999. Responsibilities: media relations, archival research, conference organization

Intelligence Officer, Unites States Navy, Reserve, 1998 – 2005

Intelligence Officer, United States Navy, 1993 - 1997

***Languages***

German – High level of proficiency in reading, writing and speaking

French – Reading

***Professional Affiliations***

American Society of Church History

American Academy of Religion

American Studies Association

# *References*

Catherine Brekus, Harvard University

John Corrigan, Florida State University

Tracy Fessenden, Arizona State University

W. Clark Gilpin, University of Chicago

Martin Marty, University of Chicago

David Price, Vanderbilt University

Harry Stout, Yale University