

Matthew M. Harris

Curriculum Vitae

University of Chicago Divinity School
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Chicago, IL 60637

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022— Instructor (tenure track)
University of Chicago Divinity School

EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Religious Studies
Dissertation Title: “Sun Ra, Metaphysical Religion, and the Black Radical Imagination”

2014 Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary

2010 B.A., Study of Religion, University of California, Los Angeles
Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

2022 **Harris, Matthew M.**, and J.T. Roane, “Introduction: ‘Out There: Perspectives on the Significance of Black Metaphysical Religion,’” for Exchanges on *The Immanent Frame*, March 25, 2022 [organized forum and co-wrote introduction]

2019 **Harris, Matthew M.**, and Tyler B. Davis, “‘In the Hope That They Can Make Their Own Future’: James H. Cone and the Third World.” *Journal of Africana Religions*, vol. 7, no. 2 (2019): 189–212

In progress “The Great Migration and the New Age of Black Religion” for *Religion Compass*

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2022-2024 Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of Chicago Divinity School

2022-2023 Emerging Scholars in Political Theology
Political Theology Network

2021-2022 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

- 2021-2022 [declined] The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
The Institute for Citizens and Scholars
(formerly The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation)
- 2020-2021 Research Grant
Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice
Columbia University
- 2020-2021 Dissertation Fellowship Quarter
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2020 Annual Meeting Travel Grant
American Academy of Religion
- 2020 Religion and the Public Sphere Summer 2020 Institute [moved to 2021 due to COVID]
Social Science Research Council
- 2019-2020 Research Fellow
Center for Black Studies Research, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2019 W. Richard Comstock Memorial Award for
Academic Achievement in the Study of Religion and Culture
Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2017-2018/
2015-2016 Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
[twice nominated]
- 2017 Research Fellow
The Consortium for Black Studies in California
University of California Office of the President
- 2014-2018 Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2014 Recruitment Fellowship
Graduate Center for Literary Research, University of California, Santa Barbara

PRESENTATIONS [SELECT]

❖ *Presentations of Scholarship*

On Joyful Militancy

[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2023, *accepted*]

Education as the Practice of Freedom in the Life and Thought of James Cone

[United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, “The Praxis of Faith: A Panel on the Life and Work of Rev. Dr. James Cone, 2023]

Beyond Racial Capitalism

[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2022]

The ‘Space Age Club’: Performance Space and the Place of Black Sacred Music in Postwar Chicago
[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2020]

‘What Seems to Be, Need Not Be’: Reflections on Utopianism, Religion, and Sacred Space
[UCSB’s Mormon Studies Initiative Symposium on David Walker’s *Railroading Religion*, 2020]

Rethinking How Space Became the Place
[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2019]

The Last Angel of History: Afrofuturism, Diaspora, and the Force of Black Disbelief
[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2018]

Noise From Nowhere: Utopian Disturbance in Saul Williams’s *MLK*
[Princeton University, 2017]

‘I Am A God’: Self-Deification, Blackness, and Fugitive Subjectivity
[University of California, Riverside, 2016]

‘Sing to the Moon and the Stars Will Shine’: Space Music and the Transmission of Another World
[Stanford University, 2015]

❖ *Invited Lectures, Presentations, and Panels*

How Out There is Sun Ra?
for Race, Religion, and the Idea of Emancipation
[University of Chicago Divinity School, 2023]

On the Study of Race and Religion
for a discussion with Faculty at College of the Holy Cross
[College of the Holy Cross, 2023]

Cedric Robinson, Racial Capitalism, and the Black Radical Tradition
for Racial Capitalism
[University of Chicago Divinity School, 2022]

Race, Religion, and Resistance
for Race and Racism
[Department of Theology, St. Mary’s University, 2022]

Black Religion Under the Sign of Saturn
for Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions
[Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany, 2021]

The Changing Same: Black Music and Black Movements in America
for Mass Movements and Mass Incarceration
[Department of African American Studies, University of Michigan, 2020]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

❖ *Instructor of Record*

UCSB Extension (PACE) X415: Introduction to Intersectional Justice
for Intersectional Justice Facilitator Certificate
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall 2020]

Religious Studies 7: Introduction to American Religion
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Summer 2019]

❖ *Teaching Assistant Appointments*

Religious Studies and Asian American Studies 71: Introduction to Asian American Religion
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Spring 2016; 2019; 2020; 2021]

Religious Studies 7: Introduction to American Religion
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Winter 2016; 2018; 2020]

Black Studies 7: Introduction to Caribbean Studies
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall 2018]

Religious Studies 62: Dark Goddesses and Black Madonnas
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall 2017]

Religious Studies 14: Introduction to Native American Religion and Philosophy
[University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall 2015]

❖ *Guest Lectures*

“The 1893 Columbian Exposition and the Routes of African American Islam”
for Introduction to the Study of American Religion
[University of California, Santa Barbara, 2016]

“Beyond the Black Church: Studying Black Religion in the 20th Century”
for American Religion after 1865
[University of California, Santa Barbara, 2016]

“Sylvester Graham and Racial Anxieties of Antebellum Health Reforms”
for American Religion before 1865
[University of California, Santa Barbara, 2015]

PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

❖ *Public-Facing Scholarship and Teaching*

2023 “Love, Study, Struggle: The Role of Activist Scholarship in Progressive Social Movements” a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Nyle Fort
University of Chicago Divinity School Black History Month Event Series
[February 22, 2023]

2021 Interview: “Ford Fellows Research Profile”
No Alibis, KCSB 91.9 FM
[Airdate, June 30, 2021]

2021 Invited Panelist, “Abolition and the UC: A Discussion with Organizers”
Conscious Conversation Series, MultiCultural Center
University of California, Santa Barbara
[April 27, 2021]

- 2020 Interview: “James Cone and the Third World”
Political Theology Network, *Assembly* podcast with Amaryah Armstrong
[Airdate, July 8, 2020: <https://politicaltheology.com/assembly-podcast/season-2-episode-6-james-cone-and-the-third-world/>]
- 2020 Interview: “Celebrating the ‘Father of Black Liberation Theology’”
Black Agenda Report with Glen Ford
[Airdate, July 6, 2020: <https://www.blackagendareport.com/celebrating-father-black-liberation-theology>]
- 2016-2017 Kern Valley State Prison Pedagogical Project in Social Justice
Correspondence Course in the Humanities
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- ❖ *Service Work*
- 2022— Steering Committee
Cultural History of the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion
- 2020— Referee
Journal of Africana Religions
- 2020-2021 Advisory Board
Intersectional Justice Facilitator Certificate, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2019-2020 Student Resource Building Governance Board
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2018-2019 Search Committee for Program Director
MultiCultural Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2015-2017 Organizer
Working Group on Hope and Pessimism in Black Studies and Jewish Thought
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2014-2017 Student Advisory Board
Graduate Center for Literary Research, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2013-2014 Research and Editorial Assistant
Mark Lewis Taylor, *The Executed God: The Way of the Cross in Lockdown American*, 2nd Edition (Fortress Press, 2015)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

African American Intellectual Historical Society
American Academy of Religion
American Studies Association

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

French (reading); German (reading)