

Matthew M. Harris

Curriculum Vitae

University of Chicago Divinity School
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APPOINTMENTS

- 2024— Assistant Professor of Religions in the Americas
University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2022-2024 Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow and 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

SCHOLARSHIP

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

Black Religion Under the Sign of Saturn
(under advance contract with the Class 200 series for University of Chicago Press)

Co-written introduction and single author contribution to a roundtable on Lucia Hulsether's *Capitalist Humanitarianism* for *Religious Studies Review* (expected submission August 2024)

"Stolen Legacy': Spirituality in the Black Metropolises of the Early Twentieth Century"
(expected submission September 2024)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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]

Review of Stephen Finley, *In and Out of This World: Material and Extraterrestrial Bodies in the Nation of Islam*, *Journal of Religion*, vol. 104, no. 3 (July 2024): 388-390.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2022-2023	Emerging Scholars in Political Theology Political Theology Network
2022-2025	[declined] Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship Dartmouth College
2022-2025	[declined] IDEAL Provostial Postdoctoral Fellowship [for scholars of race and ethnicity] Stanford University
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 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 Grant and 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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Not Nothing” is Something, So What Is It? Remarks on L. Hulsether’s *Capitalist Humanitarianism*
[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2023]

Solidarity is not Polarization: Remarks on C. Helmer’s and A. Carr’s *Ordinary Faith in Polarizing Times*
[American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2023]

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: Remarks on J. Tran’s *Asian Americans and the Spirit of 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 DISCUSSIONS

Space is a Place on the South Side of Chicago: Black Religion and the Great Migration
for Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Research Training Program
[University of Chicago, 2024]

Archives Unbound for the Truer Genius
for Archives Unbound: 50 years of Hope, Resistance, and Rebellion
Inaugural Conference in Celebration of the Cedric J. Robinson and Elizabeth P. Robinson Archive
[University of California, Santa Barbara, 2024]

The Future of the Study of Race and Religion
for a state of the field discussion with Faculty at College of the Holy Cross
 [College of the Holy Cross, 2023]

Race, Religion, and Resistance
for “Race and Racism” (undergraduate course)
 [Department of Theology, St. Mary’s University, 2022]

Black Religion Under the Sign of Saturn
for Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures (faculty and graduate student working group)
 [Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany, 2021]

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

TEACHING

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Black Gods of the Black Metropolis
 [University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2024]

Religion: Cosmos, Consciousness, and *Community* III
 [University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2024]

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 AND PRESENTATIONS

How Out There is Sun Ra?

for “Race, Religion, and the Idea of Emancipation” (undergraduate course)
[University of Chicago Divinity School, 2023]

Cedric Robinson, Racial Capitalism, and the Black Radical Tradition

for “Racial Capitalism” (graduate course)
[University of Chicago Divinity School, 2022]

“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 SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE

PUBLIC-FACING WORK

- 2023 “Love, Study, and Struggle: The Role of Activist Scholarship in Progressive Social Movements,” a public 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: Friendship and Study”
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.blackagenda.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

2022— American Academy of Religion Unit Steering Committees
Cultural History of the Study of Religion (2022-2027)
Religion and Economy (2024-2029)

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 and Convener
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

American Academy of Religion
American Studies Association