

# Michael Baysa

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## TEACHING POSITIONS

### University of Vermont, Henderson-Harris Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Religion Department

Spring 2025     *Religion and Media Technology*

Fall 2024     *Blood, Heathens, and Pagan Lands*

### Washington University, St. Louis, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Religion and Politics

Spring 2024     *American Religion and Media Technologies*

### New York University, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2022     *American Religion*

### Princeton University, Assistant in Instruction in the Department of Religion

Fall 2020     *American Scriptures* with Seth Perry

Spring 2020     *"Cult" Controversies in America* with Judith Weisenfeld

Spring 2019     *Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought* with David Miller

## EDUCATION

- 2023**     Princeton University  
Ph.D. Religious Studies  
*Field:* Religion in America, American Religious History  
*Dissertation:* Unpublishing Religion: How Anglo-Protestant Printing Constrained Public Speech in Early America  
*Advisor:* Seth Perry
- 2020**     Princeton University  
Master of Arts, Religious Studies
- 2017**     Boston University School of Theology  
Master of Sacred Theology, Church History
- 2016**     Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Master of Divinity
- 2012**     Boston University, Questrom School of Management  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Finance

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"A Puritan Catholic: John Thayer and the Instability of Religious Identity in Early Republic Boston," (preparing for submission)

"Protestant Hebrew: How Eighteenth-Century Language Production Performed Anglo-Protestant Authority," (accepted pending revisions with *Religion and American Culture*)

"Materializing the Public Sphere in American Religious History" *Religion Compass*, May 2024.

"Printing, Publics, and Pudding: Charles Chauncy's Universal Salvation and the Material Transformation of New England Orthodoxy," *Church History*, June 2023.

- Winner of the 2022 Sidney E Mead Prize with *Church History: Studies in Christianity in Culture*, for the best unpublished article stemming from dissertation research that contributes significantly to its field and to the history of Christianity more broadly.

### Chapters in Edited Volumes and Special Edition Journals

"Experiencing Heathen and its Publics," Book Forum on Kathryn Gin Lum, *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History* (2025) in *Church History*, ed. Jon Butler (*forthcoming*)

"Disrupting Religion: Universalist Print Networks and the American Revolution," invited chapter contribution for *Religion and the American Revolution*, ed. Kate Carté (*revisions under review*)

"Managing Revival: Print Publications as Religious Authority in Colonial New England," chapter for *American Examples 2022, Volume 3* ed. Michael Altman, Erik Kline, Dana Lloyd, and Cody Musselman, (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2024)

### Book Reviews

John Dorsey, *Murder in a Mill Town: Sex, Faith, and the Crime that Captivated A Nation*, (Oxford University Press, 2023), *Reading Religion*, forthcoming 2025.

John Dyer, *People of the Screen: How Evangelicals Created the Digital Bible and How it Shapes Their Reading of Scripture*, (Oxford University Press, 2023), *Fides et Historia*, Summer 2024.

Paul Gutacker, *The Old Faith in a New Nation: American Protestants and the Christian Past*, (Oxford University Press, 2023), *Journal of the Early American Republic*, Winter 2023.

Kate Carté, *Religion and the American Revolution: An Imperial History*, (Omohundro Institute and University of North Carolina Press: 2021), *American Religion*, Spring 2022.

John G. Turner, *They Knew They Were Pilgrims: Plymouth Colony and the Contest for American Liberty* (University of Missouri Press: 2020). *Reading Religion*, June 2021.

Carl H. Esbeck and Jonathan J. Den Hartog, eds., *Disestablishment and Religious Dissent: Church-State Relations in the New American States 1776-1833* (University of Missouri Press: 2019), *Journal of the Early American Republic*, Spring 2021.

### Textbooks, Encyclopedia Entries, and Public Databases

"Reflections: Intermediaries in our Media Technologies," invited piece for *Media, Religion, and Culture: An Introduction*, ed. Jeffrey Mahan and James Thrall (*submission under review*)

“Religious Printing in Eighteenth-Century British North America,” in *The Palace of Thundering Gods*, ed. Ben Wright (*submission under review*)

### Online Essays

[“Authorizing and Authenticating Revival”](#) Symposium on the Asbury Outpouring, *Political Theology Network*, forthcoming, June 2024.

[“Are Religions Naturally Averse to Technology?”](#) *Anxious Bench*, February 2023.

[“Do you hate being Filipino? – Reflections on ‘Identity in Christ’ Rhetoric and its Material Consequences on Christian Belonging”](#) *Center for Asian American Christianity*, Princeton Theological Seminary, January 2023.

[“Evangelicals \(are\) Turning Red”](#) *Sightings*, University of Chicago Divinity School April 2022.

[“Godzilla: Humanity, Spectacle, or Religion?”](#) *Sightings*, University of Chicago Divinity School, July 8, 2019.

[“The Fyre Festival’s Spiritual Hype”](#) *Sightings*, University of Chicago Divinity School April 1, 2019.

[“Religion in Crazy Rich Asians?”](#) *Sightings*, University of Chicago Divinity School October 11, 2018.

### GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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| <b>2024</b> | Henderson-Harris Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Religion, University of Vermont  |
| <b>2023</b> | Postdoctoral Fellow, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University St. Louis, MO.  |
| <b>2022</b> | Sidney E. Mead Prize for “Printing, Publics, and Pudding: Charles Chauncy’s Universal Salvation and the Material Transformation of New England Orthodoxy,” American Society of Church History, 2022. |
| <b>2022</b> | Princeton/Community College Teaching Fellow, Rowan College South Jersey, Gloucester, NJ.   |
| <b>2021</b> | E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Fellow in Early American Religious Studies, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, PA.   |
| <b>2021</b> | American Examples Cohort, Henry Luce Foundation-Funded American Examples, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.   |
| <b>2021</b> | Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Short-Term Fellow, Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.   |

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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| <b>May 2025</b>  | Respondent, “Early America in Religious Studies,” <i>Where is Early America Conference</i> , McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. |
| <b>Oct. 2024</b> | Paper, “Perspectives on Historians, Technology, and Religion,” <i>Conference on Faith and History</i> , Samford University, Homewood, AL.  |

- Jan. 2024** Respondent, "Intersections on Religious Studies and Book History," *American Historical Association*, San Francisco, CA.
- Jan. 2024** Respondent, "Roundtable Discussion of Kathryn Gin Lum's *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History*," *American Society of Church History*, San Francisco, CA.
- Nov. 2023** Paper, "A Free 'Market'?: Santiago de Puglia and the Limits of Early American Publishing," *Society of U.S. Intellectual History*, Denver, CO.
- Jan. 2023** Paper, "Publishing Occom: Native American Christianity and the Printing Press's Anglo-Protestant Publics," *American Society of Church History*, Philadelphia, PA.
- Nov. 2022** Chair, "Material-Textual Approaches for the Study of U.S. Protestantism," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO.
- Jan. 2022** Organizer and Respondent, "Conversions as Crossing and Uncrossing," *American Society of Church History*, New Orleans, LA.
- Nov. 2021** Paper, "Constructing Space and Religion in Bong Joon-Ho's *Parasite* (2019)," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX
- July 2021** Respondent, "Race and Religion in the Early American Republic," *Society for the History of the Early American Republic*, Philadelphia, PA.
- June 2021** Paper, "Boiling Puddings: Charles Chauncy and Religious Print during the American Revolution," *Religion and American Revolution Conference*, Providence, RI.
- Nov. 2020** Interview, Derrick Spires, *The Practice of Citizenship: Black Politics and Print Culture in the Early United States*, "Religion and the Public Conversation," Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- Feb. 2020** Graduate Student Coordinator and Panel Chair, "Space Time, and Religion in Early America," Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- Nov. 2019** Paper, "Continuity and Rupture in the Great Awakening Revivals: Religious History as Political Commentary," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Diego, CA.
- March 2019** Respondent, "Religion and New Voices in American Intellectual History," Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- Sept. 2018** Paper, "Contested 'Religion': Democratized Authority in YouTube's Comment Sections," 2018 BU Graduate Conference on *Religion and Technology*, Boston University, Boston, MA.

#### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2021-2022** *Media Producer for Public-Facing Scholarship at the Center for Culture, Society, and Religion at Princeton University*, Princeton, NJ.
- 2012-2017** *Paralegal at Fidelity Investments*, Boston, MA.