

Michael Baysa

Department of Religion
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05401
mbaysa@uvm.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Vermont

Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, 2026 – present

Henderson-Harris Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Religion, 2024-2026

Washington University in St. Louis

Postdoctoral Research Associate, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. 2023-2024

New York University

Adjunct Professor, Department of Religious Studies, 2022-2023

EDUCATION

2023	Ph.D., Religious Studies, Religion in the Americas, Princeton University
2017	S.T.M., Boston University School of Theology
2016	M.Div., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Honors: <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
2012	B.S.B.A., Boston University, Questrom School of Management

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Sacred Words, Printed Silence: The Struggle Against Protestant Dominance in Early American Publishing, North American Religions Series, New York University Press, (forthcoming April 2027)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Phillis’ Attestors: The Religious Worlds of Boston’s Ministers and Magistrates” (preparing for submission)

“Protestant Hebrew: How Eighteenth-Century Language Production Performed Anglo-Protestant Authority,” *Religion and American Culture*, 34 no. 2 (2025): 1-39.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/rac.2025.10054>.

"Printing, Publics, and Pudding: Charles Chauncy's Universal Salvation and the Material Transformation of New England Orthodoxy," *Church History*, 92, no. 2 (2023): 291-311.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0009640723001403>.

- Winner of the 2022 Sidney E Mead Prize with *Church History: Studies in Christianity in Culture*

Peer-Reviewed Chapters in Edited Volumes, State-of-the-Field Essays, and Special Edition Journals

"Religion in Early America," *Oxford Bibliographies in American History*, ed. Todd Moyer, (forthcoming December 2026)

"Disrupting Religion: Universalist Print Networks and the American Revolution," *Revolutionary Turns: Religion and America's Founding*, ed. Kate Carté (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2026).

"Materializing the Public Sphere in American Religious History," *Religion Compass*. 18 no. 5. (2024)
<https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12493>.

"Managing Revival: Print Publications as Religious Authority in Colonial New England," in *American Examples 2022, Volume 3* ed. Michael Altman, Erik Kline, Dana Lloyd, and Cody Musselman, pp 213-234. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2024.

Non-Peer Reviewed Textbooks and Special Edition Journals

Chapter Editor and Contributor, Chapter 3 "Awakenings," in *The Palace of Thundering Gods*, ed. Ben Wright, online publication, (Stanford University Press, July 2026).

"Reflections: Intermediaries in our Media Technologies," in *Media, Religion, and Culture: An Introduction 2nd edition*, ed. Jeffrey Mahan and James Thrall. (London: Routledge, September 2025).

"Experiencing Heathen and its Publics," Book Forum on Kathryn Gin Lum, *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History* (2025) *Church History*, ed. Jon Butler. February 2025, 1-3.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S000964072400146X>.

Book Reviews

Sonia Hazard, *Empire of Print: Evangelical Power in an Age of Mass Media*, (Oxford University Press, 2025), *Religious Studies Review*, submitted June 2026.

Kirsten MacFarlane, *Lay Learning and the Bible in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World*, (Oxford University Press, 2025), *Early American Literature*, submitted May 2026.

John Dorsey, *Murder in a Mill Town: Sex, Faith, and the Crime that Captivated A Nation*, (Oxford University Press, 2023), *Reading Religion*, January 2025.
<https://readingreligion.org/9780197633090/murder-in-a-mill-town/>

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.
<https://faithandhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/TOC-for-Fides-56.1.pdf>

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.
<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/56/article/915186>

Kate Carté, *Religion and the American Revolution: An Imperial History*, (Omohundro Institute and University of North Carolina Press: 2021), *American Religion*, Spring 2022.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.2979/amerreli.3.2.15>

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.
<https://readingreligion.org/9780300225501/they-knew-they-were-pilgrims/>

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.
<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/56/article/783838>

Online Essays

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

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Vermont

Bible, Bibles, Biblical
Blood, Heathens, and Pagan Lands
Introducing Christianity
Religion and Media Technology

Washington University in St. Louis

American Religion and Media Technologies

New York University

American Religion

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2026	Lattie F. Coor Project Award, Humanities Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, MA
2025	Reese Short-Term Research Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA.
2022	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	Princeton/Community College Teaching Fellow, Rowan College South Jersey, Gloucester, NJ.
2021	E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Fellow in Early American Religious Studies, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
2021	American Examples Cohort, Henry Luce Foundation-Funded American Examples, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.
2021	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Short-Term Fellow, Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.
2016	Athanasian Scholar, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Campus for Ministerial Education, Boston, MA.
2015	Byington Scholar, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Campus for Ministerial Education, Boston, MA.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 2026	Paper, "Critiquing AI from a Religious History of the Printing Press," <i>American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting</i> , Denver, CO.
Nov. 2026	Respondent, "Author Meets Critics: Sonia Hazard's <i>Empire of Print</i> ," <i>American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting</i> , Denver, CO.
Oct. 2026	Roundtable, "Palace of Thundering Gods," Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.
Jun. 2026	Paper, "Unpublishing Religion during the Revolution," <i>Religions and Freedom in America, c. 1776</i> , John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, RI.
Apr. 2026	Chair, "New Source Readings for Early New England History," <i>New England Historical Association</i> , Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.
Oct. 2025	Colloquium Talk, "Treading the Public/Private Divide," <i>Faculty Colloquium Series</i> , Humanities Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.
May 2025	Chair and Respondent, "Early America in Religious Studies," <i>Where is Early America Conference</i> , McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
Oct. 2024	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," <i>American Historical Association</i> , 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.
- Nov. 2021** Paper, "Anxious Texts: Printing Heterodoxy in Eighteenth-Century Colonial America," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX.
- Jul. 2021** Respondent, "Race and Religion in the Early American Republic," *Society for the History of the Early American Republic*, Philadelphia, PA.
- Jun. 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.
- Apr. 2020** Paper, "Liberal Religion's International Networks and the Tensions of a Globally Conscious American Exceptionalism," *Organization of American Historians*.
- 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.
- Mar. 2019** Respondent, "Religion and New Voices in American Intellectual History," Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- Sep. 2018** Paper, "Contested 'Religion': Democratized Authority in YouTube's Comment Sections," 2018 BU Graduate Conference on *Religion and Technology*, Boston University, Boston, MA.

COMMITTEE WORK AND OTHER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

- 2026-Present** Humanities Center Advisory Board, *Humanities Center, University of Vermont*, Burlington, VT
- 2025-Present** Provost's AI Fellow, *College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont*, Burlington, VT.

- 2025-2026** SESP Volunteer, *Mosaic Center, University of Vermont*, Burlington, VT.
- 2025** Assessment Committee, *Department of Religion, University of Vermont*, Burlington, VT.
- 2025** Moderator, “Ancient Faiths and Earthkeeping: Is religion bad for the environment?”, *Veritas Forum*, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

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.*