

Chad Pevateaux, PhD

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Specializing in Interfaith Leadership, Mindfulness Practice, and Eco-Social Justice Engagement
Empowering people to collaborate for the common good

Education

Rice University, Department of Religion, Houston, Texas

- PhD, 2006-2013
- Dissertation:
"What Mystics May Come: Forming More Perfect Unions from Pragmatism to Posthumanism"
- Doctoral Exams:
 - History and Methods of the Study of Religion
 - History of Christian Thought, emphasizing mystical and liberation theologies
 - Philosophy of Religion, emphasizing pragmatism and phenomenology
 - Comparing the Incomparable: Human and Nonhuman Rights
- Research Areas: Comparative Mystics; Religion, Gender, Race, and Animal Studies; Religion, Ethics, and Politics; Religion, Literature, and Culture; Theory & Method in Religious Studies

Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

- MDiv, 2005
- Thesis: "The Promise & the Problem of Presence: Dionysius, Derrida, & Marion Face the Impossible"
- Knowledge Areas: Philosophy of Religion; Christian History & Theology; Indian Philosophies; Buddhism; Gender Theory; Epistemology; Bible and Politics; Human Rights; Mystics

Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas

- BA, 1997
- Double Major: English and History
 - English Capstone: Feminist Literary Criticism
Thesis: "Whither William Blake?: Theorrhea, Aesthetics, and Social Justice"
 - History Capstone: Historiography, Modernity, and Postmodernity
Thesis: "Deconstructing Descartes' Dualisms: Rationalism, Romanticism, and (Post?)Modernism"
- Study Abroad Semester in Seville, Spain, Fall 1996

Publications

Book Chapters

- "Being Spiritual But Not Hierarchical," in *Being Spiritual But Not Religious: Past, Present, and Future(s)*, edited by William B. Parsons (New York: Routledge, 2018)
- "How the Story of Job May Help Us All Get Along," in *Intersections: Faith, Church, and the Academy*, edited by Mark E. Hanshaw and Timothy Moore (Nashville: Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church, 2018)
- "Mysticism Emergent: The Beginning of the Study of Mysticism in the Academy," in *Religion: Secret Religion*, volume edited by April DeConick, *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Religion* series (Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016)
- "Mystery Matters: Embodiment and African American Mystics," in *Esotericism in African American Religious Experience: "There is a Mystery" . . .*, edited by Stephen C. Finley, Margarita Simon Guillory, and Hugh R. Page, Jr., (Leiden: Brill, 2014)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- "Widened Awareness: Allen Ginsberg's Poetic Transmission of a Blakean Inflected Esoteric Dream-Insight," *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism*, Vol. 8, N. 1, 2008, 37-61

Book Reviews

- "Philosophical Explorations of New and Alternative Religious Movements," by Morgan Luck, ed., in *Religious Studies Review*, 40 (September 2014): 137
- "Comparing Religions: Coming to Terms," by Jeffrey J. Kripal, in *Religious Studies Review*, 40 (September 2014): 133-34

Other

- "Christianity," religious tradition summary for companion website to textbook *Comparing Religions: Coming to Terms*, by Jeffrey J. Kripal (Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014)
www.wiley.com/go/kripal

Teaching Experience

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, Instructor, Spring 2022

- The Art and Science of Human Flourishing

Texas Wesleyan University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Fall 2017-Summer 2021
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Fall 2015-Spring 2017

- Capstone: Saints, Sages, and Social Reformers
- Internship: Practicing Compassion
- Introduction to Interfaith Leadership
- Religion, Science, and the Environment
- Studies in Comparative Religions: Vulnerability
- Studies in Comparative Religions: Comparative Mystics
- Contemporary Theological Issues
- Studies in Philosophy: Religion and Race
- Introduction to Mediterranean Religions
- Introduction to Comparative Religions
- Introduction to Christian Scriptures
- The Human Experience (Humanities: Ancient to 17c)
- The Human Prospect (Humanities: 17c to Present)
- Introduction to Ethics
- Special Topics: Greece (Study Abroad May 2018)
- Introduction to Philosophy (taught in Beijing, China, Summer 2016)

St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2012-2015

- Modern Religious Thought
- Feminism and Religion
- Ascetics, Saints, and Sinners: Western Religious Thought (From the Bible to Batman)

- Approaches to the Study of Religion
- Topics in Religion and Psychology: Religion and Neuroscience
- Introduction to World Religions: Comparing Commonalities and Differences
- Introduction to Christianity

Rice University, Houston, Texas, Sarofim Teaching Fellow, 2011-2012

- Philosophers Look at Religion: Skepticism, Faith, and the Good Life

Rice University Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, Houston, Texas, Instructor, Spring 2011

- The Mystical in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and America

University of Houston–Clear Lake, Houston, Texas, Adjunct Instructor, 2009-2010

- Comparative Mystics: Commonalities and Differences Across Time & Clime
- History of Christianity: From Jesus to Today
- The Good Life: Pursuing Happiness with Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion, Fall 2009
 - Basic texts course, Western Tradition II: Renaissance to Today

Université Rennes 2 Haute Bretagne, Rennes, France, *Lecteur d'Anglais*, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

- English Language, Literature, and Cultures

Other Professional Experience

Director of Liberal Studies and Chair of Interfaith Leadership, Texas Wesleyan, 2017-2021

- Supervised full-time academic advisor staff person and all aspects of liberal studies degree program with an average of over sixty majors
- Collaborated with colleagues and students to develop and implement curricular and co-curricular interfaith leadership programs, such as establishing an interfaith prayer room, bringing guest speakers, running meditation sessions, and creating a new minor

Contract Staffer, S Corp Temporary Agency, Washington, D.C., Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

- Positions held: Office Manager, Ovarian Cancer National Alliance; Executive Assistant to Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations, Asbury Communities Incorporated; Administrative Assistant, National Institutes of Health, Office of Strategic Management Planning

Consultant and Small Group Leader, St. John's Episcopal Church, Charlestown, MA, 2004-2005

- Consulted with leadership on evaluating youth programs, member retention, and publicity
- Led "Writing as a Spiritual Discipline" year-long small group

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Austin, TX, 1994–2002

- Responsible for all aspects of programs for junior high through college age students
- Designed and implemented curriculum, taught classes, ran seminars, crafted experiential learning activities, gave lectures, managed staff, orchestrated events and conferences, planned and led local and international service projects and trips

Academic Presentations

"Whence and Whither Sex and Gender?" Panel Moderator, American Academy of Religion–SW Region / Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Conference, March 2021

- "Religion and the Public Sphere through the Lens of Contemplative Practice," Presider and Panel Participant, American Academy of Religion–Southwest Region / Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Conference, March 2021
- "Celebrating International Women's Day," Panel Participant, discussion among Dallas-Fort Worth area scholars, health practitioners, and community leaders hosted by MTO Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism, March 2021
- "The Academy in Crisis," Panel Moderator, American Academy of Religion–Southwest Region / Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Conference, March 2021
- "Contemplating Vulnerability," invited presentation on my teaching, research, and personal practice as guest speaker for TCU's contemplative studies meditation group, December 2020
- "The Varieties of Vulnerable Experience: A Study in Human Nature, More or Less," research presentation for Religion, Gender and Sexuality Section, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas Texas, March 2020
- "Hidden Histories and Feminist Futures: Toward Gender Equity in Text, Ritual, and Practice," Panel Moderator, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 2020
- "Roundtable on Contemplative Studies in the Southwest," Panel Participant, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS, Dallas, Texas, February 2020
- "Contemplative Studies Programs in the Southwest," Panel Moderator, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS, Dallas, March 2019
- "Religion, Medicine, and Health," Roundtable Discussion Participant, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 2019
- "How the Story of Job May Help Us All Get Along," presentation for conference, "Intersections: Faith, Church, and the Academy," hosted by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, March 2018
- "On Jeffrey J. Kripal's *Comparing Religions: Coming to Terms*," Roundtable Discussion Participant on creative pedagogy for teaching introductory religion classes, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 2018
- "Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam," Panel Moderator, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 2018
- "On *Beyond Physicalism: Toward Reconciliation of Science and Spirituality*," Roundtable Discussion Participant, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 2017
- "How Mystical Eco-Ethics May Help Save the World (and Us)," Mitchell-Reed Lecture, Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas, November 2016
- "Whence and Whither Gender?," invited Presentation for the Gay-Straight Alliance at Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas, October 2016
- "On Evan Thompson's *Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy*," Roundtable Discussion Participant, Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, AAR-SW/SWCRS Annual Conference, Dallas, March 2016

- "Ethical and Spiritual, But Not Religious: How 'Nones' Are the Future, With a Long History," for Invitation-only special symposium conference on the Spiritual But Not Religious movements, Rice University, Houston, Texas, March 2016
- "More Radical: From Empiricism to Enactivism and Posthumanism in the Study of Mysticism," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2014
- "Mystery Matters: Howard Thurman's Pulse of Infinite Worth and Langston Hughes's Beat of the Earth," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2012
- "Postcolonial Commonality," Panel Moderator, for conference, "Commonalities: Imagining the Ordinary," Rice University, Houston, Texas, September 2011
- "Religion and Medicine," Panel Respondent, for Religion and Public Life Program at Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Houston, Texas, March 2011
- "More Perfect Unions: The Darkness of Unknowing, Desire, and Democracy," for conference, "Medieval Voices and Postmodern Theory," University of California, Santa Barbara, March 2011
- "Giving an Account of Sacred States: Positive Biopolitics and Negative Zootheology," for conference, "Biopolitics and the Humanities: States of Subjectivity," Rice University, Houston, Texas, September 2010
- "Subjectivity and Racialized Bodies," Panel Moderator, for conference, "Biopolitics and the Humanities: States of Subjectivity," Rice University, Houston, Texas, September 2010
- "Hidden Sacrifice: Women Mystics, Religion Without Religion, and God(s) Without God(s)," for Medieval Christianity section at Rockwell Symposium, "Hidden Histories, Hidden God," Rice University, Houston, Texas, April 2010
- "Unknowing Gender: Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and the Dionysian Heritage of Mystical Theology," for History of Christianity Section, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, March 2010
- "How To Speak With Ghosts: Marx, Derrida, and the Scholar of the Future," for Philosophy of Religion and Theology section, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, March 2010
- "Comparative Buddha Sightings: Eckel, Gimello, and French Theory on Presence/Absence, Idol/Icon, and Image/Text in Buddhist Meditation," for Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion section, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, March 2010
- "The World Is Upside Down and Our Backs Are Against the Wall: Race, Space, and a Theology of Flesh in Sojourner Truth, Howard Thurman, and Langston Hughes," for conference, "Shifting Spatialities: The Dynamic Boundaries of Place and Space," Rice University, Houston, Texas, October 2009
- "Black Bodies: Overthrowing Racial Boundaries," Panel Moderator, for conference, "Shifting Spatialities: The Dynamic Boundaries of Place and Space," Rice University, Houston, Texas, October 2009
- "The Altered States of Allen Ginsberg," for conference, "Secret States: Western Esotericism and Altered States of Consciousness," Esalen Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, California, May 2007

Additional Professional and Volunteer Experience

Past President, American Academy of Religion-Southwest Region, 2022-23

- Elected to leadership of the Southwest Region of the American Academy of Religion, the more than 8,000-member professional organization that fosters excellence in the academic study of religion & enhances the public understanding of religion
- Part of a leadership cycle in which I served as president 2021-22, president-elect 2020-21, and vice president 2019-20 (rotates after March annual conference)

Chair, Religion, Gender & Sexuality section of the AAR-Southwest Region, 2019-present

- Wrote call for papers, selected and organized paper and panel presentations for annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion-Southwest Region

Collaborative Research, Texas Wesleyan's Annual Research Conference, April 2021

- "The Skills of an Interfaith Leader: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," panel presentation with four of my undergraduate students
- "The Skills of a Compassionately Critical Thinker: Doing Good for All," panel presentation with four of my undergraduate students

Collaborative Research, American Academy of Religion-Southwest Region / SWCRS March 2020

- "Relationality, Vulnerability, and Subjectification: A Call to Redefine Power and Listen to Seek Racial Harmony," paper presentation by my student Haley Arnsperger-Dierke
- "The Uniting Force of Vulnerability: A Comparative Study of the Role of Religion throughout Crises," paper presentation by my student Jacob Williams

Peer Reviewer, *Religion & Literature*, December 2019

- *Religion & Literature* (University of Notre Dame) is a scholarly journal providing a forum for discussion of the relations between two crucial human concerns, the religious impulse and the literary forms of any era, place, or language.
- Chosen to review article on religion and the poet Allen Ginsberg

Participant, *Quality Matters* training, Texas Wesleyan University, August 2019

- Attended full-day training in using Quality Matters rubric for excellence in online course design

Peer Reviewer, for *Religion*, April 2019

- *Religion* is an internationally recognized, Thomson Reuters-listed journal, publishing original scholarly research in the comparative and interdisciplinary study of religion
- Chosen to review article in my specialty of comparative mystics

Outside Reviewer, for Wiley-Blackwell, February 2019

- Chosen to review proposal for second edition of Jeffrey J. Kripal's textbook *Comparing Religions* (2014)

Collaborative Research, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Conference, March 2018

- "When We Are Weak: Finding the Strength for Racial Harmony in the Theology of John Wesley, James Cones, & Emilie Townes," paper by my student, Julian Hobdy, resulting from coursework and independent study, accepted to Ethics, Society, & Cultural Analysis section

Participant, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) training, San Antonio, Texas, July 2017

- Received week-long experiential training in pedagogical excellence, High Engagement in Higher Education track

Collaborative Research, Texas Wesleyan University School of Education, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

- Served as co-sponsor with Dr. Twyla Miranda, Director of Ed.D. Program, of research by education doctoral students in composing and conducting survey of Texas Wesleyan University learning community faith practices and views

Certified Online Instructor, Texas Wesleyan Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 2016

- Trained in effective methods for delivering excellence in online instruction during six-week online and face-to-face course with other faculty

Participant, Rice University Program in Writing & Communication Training Workshop, May 21-25, 2012

- Received expert training in how to effectively incorporate the teaching of written and oral communication into undergraduate education

Participant, Rice University New Faculty Teaching Workshop, Houston, Texas, August 16 & 18, 2011

- Applied and was one of three graduate students chosen to take part in Rice University's two-day intensive training in teaching excellence

Research Assistant for William B. Parsons, Rice University, Fall 2009-2012

- Wrote index and formatted text for *Teaching Mysticism* (2011) and *Disciplining Freud on Religion: Perspectives from the Humanities and Sciences* (2010)

Research Assistant for Jeffrey J. Kripal, Rice University, Spring 2009-2012

- Wrote index, proofread text, and checked footnotes for Jeffrey J. Kripal's book *Authors of the Impossible: The Paranormal and the Sacred* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010)

Board Secretary, The Rothko Chapel, Houston, Texas, Spring 2009–Fall 2011

- Recorded, edited, and distributed minutes for board meetings of The Rothko Chapel, a sacred space open to all, established to advance human rights, interfaith understanding, and justice

Alzheimer's Care Team Volunteer, Interfaith Care Partners, Houston, Texas, Spring 2009-2012

- Assisted with monthly care program for people with Alzheimer's

Board & Faculty Member, Episcopal Diocese of Texas Center for Youth Ministry, 1998–2000 & –2002

- Collaborated on writing of curriculum for Center as chair of Curriculum Committee
- Chosen twice to chair Fall Youthworker's Conference, 1999 and 2000
 - Recruited and led design teams and faculty that executed 300-person conferences with training classes and nationally-known speakers
 - Taught well-attended, highly-rated classes

Board Member, Missionpalooza Service Projects, Episcopal Diocese of Texas, 2000-2002

- Collaborated on planning and execution of service projects and trips for the Diocese
- Planned and led all aspects of 8 church, 65 person service trip to Juarez, Mexico that built two houses, poured a 3,000 square foot church floor, and staffed an orphanage for a week

Director, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Retreat for At-Risk Boys, Camp Allen, TX, 2000, 2001

- Organized and led 100-person retreats that provided safe contexts for racially and socioeconomically diverse boys and men to gain skills in interpersonal communication and conflict resolution

Languages

English, fluent
French, reading and translation, basic spoken
Spanish, reading and translation, basic spoken
German, reading and translation
Ancient Greek, reading and translation

University Service

Texas Wesleyan University

Director of Liberal Studies, 2017-2020
Interfaith Leadership AdHoc Committee, Member Fall 2016-Summer 2021
Chair, Spring 2019-Summer 2021
School of Arts & Sciences Strategic Planning Group, Member 2020-2021
Tau Sigma National Honor Society for transfer students, Faculty Advisor, 2018-21
Blue + Gold = Green Faculty Committee on Environmentalism, Fall 2020-Summer 2021
Chair, 2020-21
Student Affairs Committee, Fall 2017-2020
Chair, 2019-2020
Committee for Faculty Recognition and Honorary Degrees, 2019-2020
Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT) 2+2 Online Program Planning
Committee, Academic Module Leader, Spring 2018-Summer 2018; Member Fall 2017-
Summer 2018
Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee, Fall 2016-Summer 2018
Chair, Fall 2017-Summer 2018
E-sports Program Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee, Spring 2018-Fall 2018
AVID Site Team Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2018
Student Success Collaborative Software Expert User Ad-Hoc Committee, 2017-2018
Global Leaders Certificate Program Planning Committee, 2017-2018
Wesleyan 5k Planning Committee, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018
Advising for Religion Majors, 2017-21
Advising for Interdisciplinary Studies, Applied Arts & Sciences Majors, 2017-21
Advising for Liberal Studies Majors, 2016-21

St. Mary's College of Maryland, the Public Honors College

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Faculty and Advisory Committee Member,
Fall 2012-Spring 2015

Honors

Awarded "Top Prof" Accolade by Mortar Board Honor Society, Texas Wesleyan University
for teaching excellence 2015-2016

Offered Instructor position at Rice University for 2012-13 to teach two sections of, "Mystery Matters:
The Quest for Uncertainty in Quantum Physics, Neuroscience, and Religion," a first-year,
writing-intensive seminar of my design for the Program in Writing and Communication.
Amicably declined in favor of visiting position at St. Mary's College of Maryland

Chosen for Rice University Humanities Research Center Sarofim Teaching Fellowship, 2011-2012, a highly competitive, full-funding award for humanities candidates to design and teach a course at Rice while participating in dissertation writing workshops with the other Fellows

Selected for competitive *lecteur* position for a year in France, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008, by Rice University Department of French Studies and Université Rennes 2 Haute Bretagne

Awarded Rice University Fellowship, full funding for five years of graduate work, 2006-2011

Awarded Southwestern University Academic Excellence Merit Scholarship, 1992-1996
Roy Scholarship of Academic Excellence, 1992
Kiwanis Club Outstanding Service Scholarship, 1992

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion, 2006-present