

BENJAMIN J. WETZEL

Curriculum Vitae

253 Reade Center, Taylor University
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2023-Present, Associate Professor of History, Taylor University
2018-2023, Assistant Professor of History, Taylor University

2017-2018 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame

2016-2017 Postdoctoral Teaching Scholar, History Department, University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D. in History, University of Notre Dame

2011 M.A. in History, Baylor University

2009 B.A. in History, *magna cum laude*, Grove City College

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Door of Hope: Theodore Roosevelt and the Black Freedom Struggle (tentative title, in progress).

2022 *American Crusade: Christianity, Warfare, and National Identity, 1860-1920*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

2021 *Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Winner of the Theodore Roosevelt Association Book Award

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2023 "Theodore Roosevelt and the Unionist Memory of the Civil War: Experience, History, and Politics, 1861-1918." *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 22, no. 2 (Apr.): 184-203.

2015 "A Church Divided: American Catholics Debate the Spanish-American War." *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 14, no. 3 (Jul.): 348-66.

2012 “Onward Christian Soldiers: Lyman Abbott’s Justification of the Spanish-American War.” *Journal of Church and State* 54, no. 3 (Summer): 406-25.

Book Chapters

2012 “Fundamentalists, Liberals, and a Mennonite Third Way: Reexamining the Career of Bishop Daniel Kauffman.” 104-28. In *The Activist Impulse: Exploring the Intersection of Evangelicalism and Anabaptism*. Edited by Jared S. Burkholder and David C. Cramer. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock.

Additional Academic Publications

2022 “Silas Swallow, Theodore Roosevelt, and the 1904 Presidential Election.” In *Taylor University: The First 175 Years*, edited by William C. Ringenberg, 81-84. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press.

2022 Email Interview about *Theodore Roosevelt: Preaching from the Bully Pulpit* published in *The Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal* 43, no. 4 (Fall 2022): 24-27.

2020 “The Spanish-American War.” In *American Religious History: Belief and Society Through Time*. 3 vols. 2:268-270. Edited by Gary Scott Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

2018 [with Kathryn Rose Sawyer] “Enduring Trends and New Directions: Assessing Mark Noll’s Place in American Historiography.” *American Catholic Studies Newsletter* 45:2 (Fall): 4-8.

2016 s.v. “Abbott, Lyman,” “Beecher, Henry Ward,” and “Strong, Josiah.” In *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*. Edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark Lamport. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

2013 “The Spanish-American War and its Aftermath.” Contribution to *The American Yawp*, a free, online U.S. history textbook. <http://www.americanyawp.com/>

2011 “‘This Sacred Warfare’: Northern Congregationalists Interpret the Civil War.” *Bulletin of the Congregational Library* 8:2 (Fall): 2-10.

2009 “A ‘Third Way’?: The Role of Daniel Kauffman in Mennonite Fundamentalism.” *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 32 (Jan.): 12-17.

Book Reviews

2023 Moran, Katherine D. *The Imperial Church: Catholic Founding Fathers and United States Empire*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2020. For H-SHGAPE, H-NET Reviews, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=58355>

2020 Dochuk, Darren. *Anointed with Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America*. New York: Basic Books, 2019. For *Fides et Historia* 52, no. 1 (Winter/Spring): 167-69.

- 2018 White, Richard. *The Republic for Which It Stands: The United States during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. For *American Catholic Studies Newsletter* 45, no. 1 (Spring): 40.
- 2017 Boles, John B. *Jefferson: Architect of American Liberty*. New York: Basic Books, 2017. For *Religion in American History Blog*, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2017/07/thomas-jefferson-slavery-and-religion.html>.
- 2017 Fitzgerald, Frances. *The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017. For *Fides et Historia* 49, no. 2 (Summer/Fall): 124-26.
- 2016 Ebel, Jonathan H. *G.I. Messiahs: Soldiering, War, and American Civil Religion*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015. For *Journal of Church and State* 58, no. 4 (Autumn): 790-92.
- 2016 Bush, Perry. *Peace, Progress, and the Professor: The Mennonite History of C. Henry Smith*. Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2015. For *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 90, no. 4 (Oct.): 571-73.
- 2015 Miller, Steven P. *The Age of Evangelicalism: America's Born-Again Years*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. For *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 89, no. 2 (Apr.): 323-25.
- 2014 Gundlach, Bradley J. *Process and Providence: The Evolution Question at Princeton, 1845-1929*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013. For *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 65, no. 4 (Oct.): 939-40.
- 2013 Gamble, Richard M. *In Search of the City on a Hill: The Making and Unmaking of an American Myth*. London: Continuum, 2012. For *Religion and American History Blog*, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2013/07/the-strange-career-of-city-on-hill.html>

Historical Writing at Popular Christian Outlets

- 2022 "Going Out Like Elijah: Remembering the Short, Passionate Lives of Keith Green and Rich Mullins." *The Taylor Magazine* 127 (Fall): 14-15
- 2019 "Lessons from the Faith of Theodore Roosevelt on the Centennial of His Death," <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/evangelical-history/lessons-faith-theodore-roosevelt-centennial-death/>
- 2016 "Liberals Against Abortion: The Untold Story of the Pro-Life Movement Before *Roe v. Wade*." Breakpoint.org. Jan., <https://breakpoint.org/liberals-against-abortion/>
- 2015 "Are Evangelicals Chicken Littles? A Review of Matthew Avery Sutton's *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicals*." Breakpoint.org. Mar.
- 2014 "Evangelicalism Embodied: A Review of Grant Wacker's *America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation*." Breakpoint.org. Dec.

- 2014 “America’s Spiritual Founding Father? A Review of Thomas Kidd’s *George Whitefield*.” Breakpoint.org. Oct.
- 2014 “Out of Islam: A Review of Lamin Sanneh’s *Summoned from the Margin*.” Breakpoint.org. Jul.
- 2014 “Pentecostals All? A Review of Todd Hartch’s *The Rebirth of Latin American Christianity*.” Breakpoint.org. May.
- 2014 “The Sword of the Lord: A Review of Philip Jenkins’s *The Great and Holy War*.” Breakpoint.org. May.
- 2014 “The Changing Place of Religion in Public Life: A Review of George Marsden’s *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment*.” Breakpoint.org. Apr.
- 2014 “The Twentieth-Century Evangelical Mind: A Review of Molly Worthen’s *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism*.” Breakpoint.org. Jan.
- 2013 “Gettysburg at 150: Remembering the Civil War Appropriately.” Breakpoint.org. Jul.
- 2013 “The Ambivalent Legacy of the Christian Right.” Breakpoint.org. Feb.
- 2012 “Reassessing the Reformation: A Review of *The Unintended Reformation*.” Breakpoint.org. Sep.
- 2012 “History is Complicated: A Review of *Was American Founded as a Christian Nation?*” Breakpoint.org. Apr.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

War in American History

Introduction to History

The Roosevelts

American Religious History

United States History To 1877

United States History Since 1877

The Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Independent Studies (various topics with various students)

Academic Advising

2019-Present [Most History Majors]

Practicum Supervision

2021-Present [Most History Majors]

Teaching Awards, Certifications, and Other Activities

2023 Dr. Joe Burnworth Teaching Award, Taylor University

2019 Learning Community Participant: "How Do I Emphasize Writing?" [2 sessions]

2017 Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame

2015 Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame

2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2023 BCTLE, Course Design Grant (HNR 264, with Carie King)

2021 BCTLE, Taylor University, Fund for Faculty Scholarship (Hiring a Student Indexer)

2021 BCTLE, Taylor University, Presenting a Paper Grant Request (Subvention Funds)

2020 BCTLE, Taylor University, Fund for Faculty Scholarship (Hiring a Student Indexer)

2019 BCTLE, Taylor University, Presenting a Paper Grant Request (Conference at Long Island University)

2015, 2014, 2012 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, research and conference travel grants [some declined]

2015, 2014, 2012 Union of Graduate Historians, University of Notre Dame, research and conference travel grants [some declined]

2012 Notebaert Professional Development Grant, University of Notre Dame

2009-2010 Guittard Fellowship, Baylor University History Department

PRESENTATIONS

External (invited)

2022 "The Evolving Faith of Theodore Roosevelt." Marion Public Library (Marion, IN), Aug. 26.

2021 “The Religious Life of Theodore Roosevelt.” Theodore Roosevelt Association (Indiana Chapter). Taylor University, Aug. 7.

2018 “Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and the Protestant Mainline: Religious Perspectives on World War I.” Center for Vision & Values, Grove City College, Apr. 12.

Internal (Taylor)

2021 [with Jeff Aupperle] “Hope for African Americans in the Civil War Era.” Martin Luther King Day Workshop, Jan. 18.

2020 “The Religious Life of Theodore Roosevelt.” Taylor Talks, Jul. 23. [Presented in several other venues and forums through 2021 as well.]

2020 “Martin Luther King, Jr. in Historical Context.” Martin Luther King Day Workshop, Jan. 20.

2019 “The Protestant Work Ethic.” Sponsored by the Honors Guild, Apr. 4. (panelist)

2018 “American Christians Debate the Great War.” Socratic Lecture, Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends, Nov. 9.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

2023 Interview about *Theodore Roosevelt*. “State of Independence with Joe Watkins.” Lighthouse TV. Aired Feb. 17.

2023 Interview about *Theodore Roosevelt*. This American President Podcast. Feb. 14.

2022 Interview about *American Crusade*. The Gilded Age and Progressive Era Podcast. Jul. 27.

2022 Interview about *American Crusade*. Evangelical History Blog/The Gospel Coalition. July 7. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/evangelical-history/christianity-warfare-and-american-national-identity-an-interview-with-benjamin-wetzel/>

2022 “Theodore Roosevelt: A Gilded Age and Progressive Era Life” featured on C-SPAN’s “Lectures in History” Series. Aired Apr. 9.

2021 Interview about *Theodore Roosevelt*. The Gilded Age and Progressive Era Podcast. Dec. 29.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2019 Theodore Roosevelt Institute, Long Island University, Greenvale, NY: “The Religious Dimension of Theodore Roosevelt’s Support for World War I.”

2019 American Historical Association, Chicago IL: Book Roundtable on Jennifer Graber, *The Gods of Indian Country: Religion and the Struggle for the American West* (panelist) [sponsored by the Conference on Faith and History]

- 2018 Biennial Conference on Faith and History, Grand Rapids, MI: “Theodore Roosevelt, Christianity, and World War I.”
- 2018 Enduring Trends and New Directions: A Conference on the History of American Christianity in Honor of Mark Noll, Notre Dame, IN: “Theodore Roosevelt, Christianity, and World War I.”
- 2017 African American Intellectual History Society Annual Conference, Nashville, TN: “‘Heavy is the Guilt that Hangs Upon the Neck of This Nation’: The African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Civil War.”
- 2016 Boston College Biennial Conference on the History of Religion, Boston, MA: “‘There Will Be a Day of Reckoning for Our Country’: Missouri Synod Lutherans Face World War I.”
- 2015 Humanities and Divinity: Reckoning with Intellectual and Religious History Conference, Notre Dame, IN: “‘The Cause of God and Liberty’: The African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Civil War.”
- 2015 American Catholic Historical Association, Notre Dame, IN: “A Church Divided: American Catholics Debate the Spanish-American War.”
- 2014 American Historical Association, Washington, DC: “A Church Divided: American Catholics Debate the Spanish-American War.” [Sponsored by the American Society of Church History] [Paper accepted, but unable to attend due to inclement weather]
- 2013 American Historical Association, New Orleans, LA: “A Twentieth-Century Crusade: Lyman Abbott, Christian Nationalism, and World War I.” [Sponsored by the Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era]
- 2010 Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Conference, Houston, TX: “Occom vs. Occom: English Christianity and Indian Identity in the Late Eighteenth Century.”
- 2009 Mid-America Conference on History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK: “The Social Gospel and Racial Reform, 1865-1918.”

SERVICE

Editorial

2021-Present Associate Editor for History and Political Science, *Christian Scholar's Review*

Referee

Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

U.S. Catholic Historian

Christian Scholar's Review

Peter Lang Publishing

University

2022 Colleagues' College Planning Committee

2020-Present Foundational Core Committee

2022-Present, Chair

Fall 2019-Spring 2020 Enrollment and Athletic Committee

Department

2020-2023 Chapter Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta (national history honorary)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

Conference on Faith and History

Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Theodore Roosevelt Association

REFERENCES

Kevin Johnson

History, Global and Political Studies Department Chair

Taylor University

Mark A. Noll

Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History, Emeritus

University of Notre Dame

Michael Patrick Cullinane

Lowman Walton Chair of Theodore Roosevelt Studies

Dickinson State University

Margaret Diddams

Editor

Christian Scholar's Review

Timothy Larsen

McManis Professor of Christian Thought

Wheaton College