

Michael J. McVicar

Assistant Professor
Department of Religion
Florida State University
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Tallahassee, FL 32306-1520
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Comparative Studies** 2010
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
• Dissertation: “Reconstructing America: Religion, Conservatism, and the Political Theology of R. J. Rushdoony”
• Committee: Dr. Hugh B. Urban (advisor), Dr. Tanya Erzen, Dr. Philip Armstrong
- MA in Comparative Studies** 2004
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- BA in History** 2002
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
• Magna Cum Laude, with Distinction in History and Honors in the Liberal Arts
- BA in Political Science** 2001
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
• Summa Cum Laude, with Distinction in Political Science and Honors in the Liberal Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor, American Religious History, Department of Religion** 2013-Present
The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- Lecturer, Department of Comparative Studies** 2011-2013
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- Adjunct Professor, Department of Religion** 2010
Ashland University, Ashland, OH
- Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of Comparative Studies** 2003-2010
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

PUBLICATIONS

Book Projects

Research in progress: God’s Watchers: Domestic Surveillance and Religious Activism from the Civil War to the War on Terror. Under contract with the University of North Carolina Press.

Christian Reconstruction: R. J. Rushdoony and American Religious Conservatism. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

- Reviewed in *American Historical Review*, *Books & Culture*, *Church History*, *Church History & Religious Culture*, *Faith For All of Life*, *First Things*, *H-Net*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Church & State*, *Journal of Religion*, *Political Science Quarterly*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

In progress: “Surveilling the Superchurch: Political Surveillance and the Creation of ‘Subversive’ Protestantism in the United States”

Under Review: “Provident Living: Latter-day Saint Self-Reliance Discourse, Freeze-Dried Food, and the Consumer Culture of Disaster Preparedness.”

[“Take Away the Serpents from Us: The Sign of Serpent Handling in the Development of Southern Pentecostalism,”](#) *Journal of Southern Religion*, 15 (2013).

[“Let Them have Dominion: ‘Dominion Theology’ and the Construction of Religious Extremism in the U.S. Media,”](#) *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, 25 (Spring 2013): 120-145.

[“Aggressive Philanthropy: Progressivism, Conservatism, and the William Volker Charities Fund,”](#) *Missouri Historical Review* 105 (July 2011): 191–212. Awarded the Missouri Conference on History Lawrence O. Christensen Article Award, 2012.

Book Chapters

Refereed Chapters

“Apostles of Deceit: Ecumenism, Fundamentalism, Surveillance, and the Contested Loyalties of Protestant Clergy During the Cold War.” In *The FBI and Religion: Faith and National Security before and after 9/11*, edited Sylvester A. Johnson and Steven Weitzman (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017), 85–107.

[“The Religious Right in America.”](#) In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by John Barton. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Invited Chapters

In press: “Christian Reconstruction and the Austrian School of Economics.” In *Hayek: a Collaborative Biography, Part IX: The Divine Right of the ‘Free’ Market*, edited by Robert Leeson. Archival Insights into the Evolution of Economics. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2017.

Encyclopedia Articles

Invited Entries

In progress: “Rushdoony, R. J.” In *American National Biography*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

“The Chalcedon Foundation;” “Christian Reconstruction;” “North, Gary;” and “Rushdoony, Rousas John;” In *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport. Lanham, MA: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Refereed Entries

“Alien Abduction Stories and UFOs (Conspiracy Theories);” “Bilderbergers (Conspiracy Theories);” and, “Conspiracy Theories”. In *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore*, edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016.

Reviews

In press: Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Millennialism*, edited by Catherine Wessinger. For “The Oxford Handbook Review Series,” in *Religious Studies Review*.

In press: Review of *Surge of Piety: Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life*, by Christopher Lane. For *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*.

In press: Review of *Building God’s Kingdom: Inside the World of Christian Reconstruction*, by Julie J. Ingersoll. For *The Journal of Religion* (January 2018).

[Review of *We Gather Together: The Religious Right and the Problem of Interfaith Politics*, by Neil J. Young.](#) In *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 85 (December 2016): 883-885.

[Review of *God Hates: Westboro Baptist Church, American Nationalism, and the Religious Right*, by Rebecca Barrett-Fox.](#) In *Journal of Church and State* 59 (February 2017): 130-132.

[Review of *Righteous Rhetoric: Sex, Speech, and the Politics of Concerned Women for America*, by Leslie Dorrough Smith.](#) In *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 84 (December 2015): 924-926.

[Review of *The Cross and Reaganomics: Conservative Christians Defending Ronald Reagan*, by Eric R. Crouse.](#) In *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 83 (September 2014): 805-807.

Other publications

[“*The Libertarian Theocrats: The Long, Strange History of R.J. Rushdoony and Christian Reconstructionism*,”](#) *The Public Eye Magazine* (Fall 2007), 3-10.

CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIA, & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

“Surveillance and the Creation of Religious Difference in Twentieth Century U.S. Culture,” Skype presentation presented at the Religions Consuming Surveillance Workshop, University of St Andrews, Edinburgh, Scotland, March 2017

“Surveillance—Dossier—Exposé: The Infrastructure and Technique of the Anti-Communist Blacklist,” presented as part of the panel entitled, “Supplying Conservatism: Media Infrastructure and the Rise of the New Right,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, January 2017

“Prepare Every Needful Thing’: Latter-day Saints Self-Reliance Discourse and the Commercial Culture of Food Storage,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2016

“Works of Darkness, Armor of Light: The Fundamentalist-Modernist Split and the Origins of Religious Espionage in the United States,” presented at the Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Minneapolis, MN, April 2015

“Worldview Warriors: Christian Reconstructionism in Los Angeles and Beyond,” presented as part of the panel entitled, “Religion in Los Angeles in the 1980s,” General Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2014

“Worldview Warriors: Christian Reconstructionism in California and Beyond,” presented at the symposium, “Religion in California,” University of California, Berkeley, CA, April 2014

“The World is on Fire: Conspiracies of Islam, Humanism, and Post-colonialism in Conservative Political Discourse,” presented as part of the panel entitled, “Transnational Theories of Conspiracy: Between the Secular and the Religious,” General Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November 2013

“Provident Living: Latter-day Saint Self-Reliance Discourse, Consumer Culture, and the Business of Preparedness,” presented as part of the conference, “Risk and Rapture: Apocalyptic Imagination in Late Modernity,” Centre for Faiths and Public Policy, University of Chester, Chester, UK, September 2013

“Provident Living: Consumer Culture and Latter-day Saint Preparedness Discourse,” presented as part of the panel entitled, “Cultural Shifts in Evangelical and Mormon America,” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 2013

“God Will Triumph Mightily: Post-Millennialism and the Business of Preparedness,” presented as part of the panel entitled, “To What End?: Apocalyptic Imaginings in Twentieth- and Twenty First-Century Consumer Cultures,” American Studies General Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012

“Religion and American Conservatism,” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, March 2010

“To a Thousand Generations: Family, Dominion, and the State,” presented as part of the panel entitled, “Ordering the American Family: Past, Present, Future and Eternity,” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, March 2010

“Epistemology as Practice: Christian Reconstruction and the Resistance of the Secular,” Religion Matters: Material Effects of Religion on Bodies, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, February 2009

“Anti-Babel: R. J. Rushdoony, Theocracy, and Christian Libertarianism,” Indiana University Religious Studies Graduate Conference: Religion and the State, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, October 2008

“Christian Reconstruction, Secularization, and the Interdisciplinary World of Religious Studies,” Disciplining Interdisciplinarity: A Conference on Performance Between Disciplines, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, March 2008

“Christian Exodus.org, Secession, and the ‘Stealth Theology’ of Christian Reconstructionism,” 5th Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Religious Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, March 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Florida State University 2013-Present

- REL3128: New Religious Movements and Violence
- REL3145: Gender and Religion
- REL4044: What is Religion? What is Religious Studies?
- REL4359/RLG5354: Topics in the Study of Religion - Apocalypse and Disaster in American Religious History
- REL4190/RLG 5195: Religion and Culture - Religion and Media
- RLG5035: Introduction to the Study of Religion
- RLG6498: 20th Century American Religious Thought - Conservatism and the Religious Right
- RLG6596: Religious Movements and Institutions - New Religious Movements

The Ohio State University 2003-2013

- CS100: Introduction to the Humanities, Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- CS270/CS2370: Introduction to Comparative Religion
- CS367.01/CSCS2367.08: Second Writing Course - American Identity
- CS367.03: Second Writing Course - Religious Diversity In America
- CS4871: Religion and American Politics
- CS515/CS4875: Gender, Sexuality, and Religion
- CS520: Theory and Method in the Study of Religion

- CS651: Topics In Comparative Studies - American Conservatism in the Twentieth Century
- CS651: Topics In Comparative Studies - Religion and Media

Ashland University**2010**

- REL107: Exploring World Religions

SERVICE

Florida State University

- Member, Website and Technology Committee, Department of Religion 2016-Present
- Member, Executive Committee, Department of Religion 2017-Present
- Member, Chairperson Search Advisory Committee 2017-Present
- Member, Stephen Risley Family Fellowship Selection Committee 2017
- Faculty Roundtables for FSU Honor's Presidential Scholars Program 2017
- Council on Research and Creativity, COFRS Grant Reviewer 2017
- Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Religion 2015-2016
- Chair, Search Committee, Timothy Gannon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Religion 2015-2016
- Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Religion 2013-2015
- Member, Executive Committee, Department of Religion 2014-2015
- Undergraduate Student Advisor, Department of Religion 2015-2015

The Ohio State University

- Advisor, Undergraduate Religious Studies Club 2012-2013
- Treasurer, Religious Studies Roundtable 2008-2010
- Research Associate, Center for the Study of Religion 2006
- Research Associate, Religion, Secrecy, and Security Working Group 2004

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Doctoral Dissertations

As Committee Member:

Florida State University

- Adam Brasich, "A Mighty Fortress: American Religion and the Construction of Confessional Lutheranism," 2017 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Adam Park, "Savage Saints: Muscular Christianity, Human Nature, And Fighting In America," 2017 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Jacob E. Hicks, "John Leland, Baptists, And The Politics Of Religious Freedom In New England: 1740-1833," 2017 (Religion; American Religious History)
- John Crow, "Occult Bodies: The Corporal Construction of the Theosophical Society, 1875-1935," 2017 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Michael Graziano, "Religion and the Birth of the American Intelligence State," 2016 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Brad Stoddard, "The New Prison Reformers: Florida's Faith-Based Prisons and the Politics of Religious Pluralism," 2015 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Daniel C. Dillard, "Environmental Religion and the American Transcendentalist Legacy," 2015 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Lauren Davis Gray, "Birthing Bodies And Doctrine: The Natural Philosophy Of Generation And The Evangelical Theology Of Regeneration In The Early Modern Atlantic World," 2014 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Christopher James Blythe, "Vernacular Mormonism: The Development of Latter-Day Saint Apocalyptic (1830-1930)," 2014 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Adam Ware, "Dreaming of a Hillbilly Heaven: Religion, Emotion, and American Country Music, 1925-1954," 2014 (Religion; American Religious History)

- Jonathan Olson, “Apostles of Commerce: The Fur Trade in the Colonial Northwest and the Formation of a Hemispheric Religious Economy, 1807-1859,” 2014 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Emily Clark, “A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans,” 2014 (Religion; American Religious History)

Comprehensive Exams

As Committee Member:

Florida State University

- Megan Leverage (Ph.D. Candidate), 2016
- Sher Afgan Tareen (Ph.D. Candidate), 2016
- Daniel Roeber (Ph.D. Candidate), 2015
- Meredith Ross (Ph.D. Candidate), 2015
- Daniel Wells (Ph.D. Candidate), 2015
- Adam Brasich (Ph.D. Candidate), 2014
- Jacob Hicks (Ph.D. Candidate), 2014
- Charlie McCrary (Ph.D. Candidate), 2014

Masters Theses

As Committee Member:

Florida State University

- Tucker Frederick Adkins, “A Pillar Pluckt”: The Body in Funeral Sermons of Colonial New England,” 2017 (Religion, American Religious History)
- Adam K. Sweatman, “Derridoxology: The Emerging Church Movement in the United States,” 2016 (Religion, American Religious History)
- Matthew Coston, “Beyond the Lecture Hall: Physical Phenomena in Nineteenth-Century Mediumship,” 2015 (Religion; American Religious History)
- Katelyn Medic, “City Church, Tallahassee: Blurring the Lines of Sacred and Secular,” 2014 (Ethnomusicology)

Undergraduate Honors Theses

As Advisor:

Florida State University

- Timothy Burnside, “Choosing My Religion: Performing ‘Spiritual, but Not Religious’ in Contemporary America,” spring 2016 (Religion; defended with distinction)

As Committee Member:

Florida State University

- Nicole MacMillan, “The Exclusivity of Freedom: Strategic Use of Precedent in Religious Freedom Law,” 2017 (Religion)
- Blaise Denton, “Romantic and Physical Metaphor in the Jesus Movement,” 2016 (English)
- Amanda Piazza, “A Non-Peculiar People: Reimagining the 20th Century American Family within the Latter-Day Saint Context,” 2016 (Religion)
- Jacqueline N. Porter, “Establishing the Boundaries of a Church Community: An Ethnography of a Brazilian Church,” 2015 (Religion)

The Ohio State University

- Tamira Beth Stephens, “The Problem of Hell: Historical Revisionism in the Evangelical Christian Movement,” 2013 (Comparative Studies; Religious Studies)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend	2017
Dean’s Faculty Travel Grant (FSU)	2017
Provost’s Faculty Travel Grant (FSU)	2016
Stephen Risley Family Fellow in the College of Arts & Sciences (FSU)	2016-2017

New York University Center for the United States and the Cold War Travel Grant	2015-2016
CRC COFRS Grant (FSU)	2015
Provost's Faculty Travel Grant (FSU)	2014
Columbia University Libraries Library Research Awards	2014-2015
CRC Planning Grant (FSU)	2014-2015
Hagley Museum and Library Exploratory Grant	2014-2015
CRC First Year Assistant Professor Award (FSU)	2014
Provost's Faculty Travel Grant (FSU)	2013
Comparative Studies Fund for the Study of Religion, Research Grant (OSU)	2007
University Fellow (OSU)	2002-2003
Undergraduate Research Scholarship (OSU)	2002
Undergraduate Research Scholarship (OSU)	2001

AWARDS & HONORS

Nominated, University Excellence in Teaching Award (FSU)	2015-2016
Nominated, University Excellence in Teaching Award (FSU)*	2014-2015
Comparative Studies Teaching Award for Lecturers (OSU)	2012-2013
Missouri Conference on History Article Award	2012
Comparative Studies Teaching Award for Lecturers (OSU)	2010-2011
Richard Bjornson Award for best graduate student paper in Comparative Studies	2003

OTHER SERVICE

Advisor, Undergraduate Religious Studies Club (OSU)	2012-2013
Religious Studies Roundtable, Treasurer (OSU)	2008-2010
Center for the Study of Religion, Graduate Research Associate (OSU)	2006
Religion, Secrecy, and Security Working Group, Graduate Research Associate (OSU)	2004
Manuscript Reviewer for <i>The Alabama Review</i> , Bloomsbury Publishing, <i>Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture</i> , McGraw-Hill Publishing, <i>Religion & American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation</i> , and <i>Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal</i>	

Media Interviews, Pod Casts, And Blog Posts

Marcia Clemmitt, "[Future of the Christian Right](#)," *CQ Researcher*, vol. 27, no. 23, June 23, 2017, 533-556.

Andrew Brown, "[Two South Carolina lawmakers prepping survivalist communities to 'restore the fabric of America'](#)," *The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier*, March 17, 2017.

Phillip Luke Sinitiere, "Christian Reconstruction: An Interview with Michael J. McVicar, [Parts 1](#) and [2](#)," (blog interview) *Religion in American History*, July 10 and 11, 2015.

Phillip Adams, "[Rise and Fall of the Christian State: The Life and Times of R. J. Rushdoony](#)," (radio interview) *Late Night Live*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, June 29, 2015.

Brad Stoddard, "[Christian Reconstruction](#)," (podcast interview) *The Religious Studies Project*, June 8, 2015.

John Fea, "[The Author's Corner with Michael J. McVicar](#)," (blog interview) *The Way of Improvement Leads Home*, June 4, 2015.

Art Remillard, "[First Impressions # 34: Michael McVicar](#)," (podcast interview) *The Marginalia Review of Books*, May 5, 2015.

* Nominated, but ineligible to stand for the award. Eligible instructors must complete two full years of teaching at FSU.

Steve Malzberg, "[Biographer: Conservative Christianity Indebted to R.J. Rushdoony](#)," *The Steve Malzberg Show*, Newsmax TV, April 29, 2015.

Ariana Tobin, "[Demystified: What Is Up With Abortion This Summer?](#)" *Bustle*, July 23, 2013.

Joseph L. Conn, "[Ron Paul's Appalling Pal: 'Stoner' Gary North Gets New Soapbox](#)," *Church & State*, 66 (June 2013), 4-6.

Chris Smith, "[His Truth Is Marching On: Rousas John Rushdoony and the Rise of Christian Conservatives](#)," *California Magazine* (Fall 2012).

Mark Oppenheimer, "[Voice of Gary North Heard in Anti-Union Movement](#)," *The New York Times*, April 29, 2011, sec. U.S.

Kathryn Joyce, "[Victory Through Daughters](#)," *Killing the Buddha*, March 9, 2009.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Society of Church History