

# Hannah R. Waits

Committee on Degrees in History and Literature  
Harvard University

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2022-           Lecturer in History and Literature, Harvard University  
2021-2022    Postdoctoral Fellow in US Foreign Policy, Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College  
2019-2021    Postdoctoral Fellow in Global American Studies, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University

## EDUCATION

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- 2019   Ph.D. in American History  
        University of California, Berkeley, CA  
        Dissertation: "Missionary-Minded: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World, 1945-2000," directed by Bethany Moreton and Mark Peterson  
        • **Winner**, Obama Dissertation Prize in Transnational American Studies, 2020  
        Fields: American History, Latin American History, Anthropology of Religion  
2014   M.A. in American History  
        University of California, Berkeley, CA  
2012   Doctoral coursework and research, US and Latin American History (2007-2012)  
        University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
2006   B.A. in History, *summa cum laude*  
        University of Georgia, Athens, GA

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING SPECIALTIES

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US and the World	Modern Latin American History
Race and Ethnicity in US History	Immigration History
US Political and Cultural History	American Religious History

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Missionary Positions: How American Evangelicals Learned to Love Global AIDS Work, 1985-2005" *American Quarterly* 76, no. 4 (December 2024): 821-844.  
<https://doi.org/10.1353/aq.2024.a945172>  
• **Winner**, Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Article Prize, 2025  
"Putting an American God into Public Schools around the World: The Transnational 1990s History of an American Culture War," *Diplomatic History* 46, no. 4 (September 2022): 701-27. <https://doi.org/10.1093/dh/dhac040>

## **Book Manuscript**

*The Missionary Majority: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World* (in preparation)

## **Works in Progress**

“White Feelings, Black Lives: American Missionaries and the Global Revolution against White Supremacy,” (article manuscript, in preparation)

“Equal Pay for God’s Work: Women Missionaries and the Transnational Politics of Gendered Labor in the 1970s” (article manuscript, in preparation)

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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### **Fellowships**

- 2021 ACLS Luce Fellowship in Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs, American Council of Learned Societies and Henry Luce Foundation
- 2021 US Foreign Policy and International Security Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College Dickey Center for International Understanding
- 2019 Global American Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History
- 2017 Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion
- 2016 Doctoral Writing Fellowship, Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2015 Myrna Bernath Fellowship, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
- 2015 Research Year Fellowship, Berkeley History Department
- 2015 Harvey Fellowship, Mustard Seed Foundation
- 2015 Summer Research Fellowship, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion
- 2014 Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, Berkeley Graduate Division

### **Grants**

- 2022 Research Affiliate Grant, Tufts University Center for the Humanities
- 2022 Summer Research Grant, Harvard Warren Center for Studies in American History
- 2015 Constant Jacquet Research Grant, Religious Research Association
- 2015 Graduate Research Grant, Berkeley Center for Race and Gender
- 2014 Johnson Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives, Wheaton, Illinois
- 2013 Student Research Grant, Berkeley Center for Right Wing Studies
- 2013 Graduate Summer Research Grant, Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2013 Johnson Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives, Wheaton, Illinois
- 2012 May Research Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Archives, Nashville, Tennessee
- 2011 Graduate Research Grant, UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts

### **Honors and Awards**

- 2020 Obama Dissertation Prize in Transnational American Studies, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany
- 2019 Departmental Nominee, Society of American Historians' Nevins Prize for Best Dissertation in American History
- 2011 Dean's Award for Arts and Humanities, University of Georgia Graduate School
- 2011 Knight Research Award for Best Research Proposal, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia
- 2010 Vincent Sr. Award for Distinguished Research in Georgia History, History Department, University of Georgia
- 2006 Phi Beta Kappa

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Invited Talks**

- 2023 "Missionary Positions: How American Evangelicals Learned to Love Global AIDS Work," Boston University, American Political History Institute, History Department, September 20.
- 2023 "'The Greatest Gift You Can Give': Sacralizing U.S. Evangelicals' Financing of Global Missionary Work," Dartmouth College, History Department, March 3.
- 2022 "Missionary, Go Home: Contesting the Global Activism of American Evangelicals in the Postcolonial Era," Tufts University, Center for the Humanities, October 12.
- 2021 "Protestant Hegemony in US Higher Education: Historical Battles over 'Rights' and 'Freedoms,'" Critical Religious Studies in Higher Education Network, May 10.
- 2020 "The Missionary Majority: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World," Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany, November 26.
- 2020 "The Transnational Politics of Sex: AIDS, Activism, and American Evangelicals," Newberry Library, Religion and Culture in the Americas Seminar, October 9.
- 2020 "No More Missionaries: Decolonization and the Struggle over Saving the World," Boston University, School of Theology, February 7.

### **Conference Papers Presented**

- 2024 "Saving the World in a Week: The Rise of the Short-Term Mission Trip," Society for U.S. Intellectual History annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 14-16.
- 2023 "Transnational Sexual Politics: American Evangelicals and Global AIDS Work," American Historical Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8.
- 2022 "Roundtable: Philanthropy and the Public Good," Society for U.S. Intellectual History annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 3-5.
- 2022 "Sexual Abuse on the Mission Field: Enabling Structures and Ideologies of U.S. Evangelical Missionary Work," Religion and Sexual Abuse Conference, University of California, Riverside, March 4-6.
- 2021 "Global Politics of Sexual Purity: American Evangelicals' AIDS Activism," American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20-23.

- Panel Organizer: “Un/Compromised Subjects: Religion, Race, and Purity in the US”
- 2021 “Roundtable: Religious Pathways to/through Democracy,” Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Chicago, IL, April 15-18. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 “Promoting AIDS Work in the US and Abroad: Evangelical Theological and Secularized Discourses of Development,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 21-24. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 “Missionaries and Failed Missionaries: The Shifting Politics of American Evangelicals and Ex-vangelicals,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 21-24. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 “Missionary Positions: How American Evangelicals Learned to Love Global AIDS Relief,” Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2-4. (Online due to COVID-19)
- Panel Organizer: “Sexual Healing? Race, Religion, and Purity in the 20th Century”
- 2019 “Saving Former Soviets: US Missionary Work in the Post-Cold War Era,” American Historical Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 3-6.
- Panel Organizer: “Salvation and Solidarity: Evangelical International Engagement”
- 2018 “Missionary, Go Home: Diversity and Power in the Global Christian Community,” Harvard Divinity School “Ways of Knowing” conference, Cambridge, MA, October 26-27.
- 2018 “Decolonizing Mission: Challenging the Power of American Missionaries across the Global South,” University of California, Davis “Historians without Borders” conference, Davis, CA May 4-6.
- 2018 “Embracing Diversity: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World,” American Academy of Religion Western Region annual meeting, Berkeley, CA, March 23-25.
- 2018 “The Missionary Majority: How American Evangelicals Engaged a Postcolonial World,” Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion winter seminar, Louisville, KY, January 24-26.
- 2016 “White Feelings, Black Lives: US Missionaries and Racial Justice at Home and Abroad,” American Studies Association meeting, Denver, CO, November 17-20.
- Panel Organizer: “From Tourists to Pilgrims: Transnational Travel, Religious Longing, and the Forging of Imperial Intimacies”
- 2013 “To the Ends of the Earth: The Politics of American Evangelical Missionaries,” American Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November 21-24.
- 2013 “Democracy and the Great Commission: American Global Missions and Postwar Foreign Relations,” Harvard University “New Histories of Transnational Christianity” conference, Cambridge, MA, February 7.
- 2012 “‘They’ve Come for the True Gospel’: Southern Baptists and Latino Immigrants in the American South,” American Society of Church History annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 5-8.
- 2012 “‘We Pray Our Lady Will Bring Us Together’: The Atlanta Archdiocese and Latino Immigrants, 1980-2000,” American Historical Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 5-8.

## Discussant

- 2024 Respondent, "Spirits of Fordlandia: US Corporate Personhood Abroad in Rubber, Oil, Fiction, and Code," Harvard University, Mahindra Humanities Center, May 2.
- 2023 Respondent, "Religion and US Empire: Critical New Histories," Tufts University, Center for the Humanities, March 15.
- 2012 Chair and Comment, "Ministry, Missionaries, and Empire," American Studies Association annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18.

## Campus Talks

- 2021 "Putting an American God into Public Schools around the World," Dartmouth International Relations Seminar, November 12.
- 2020 "The Missionary Majority: American Evangelicals and Power in a Postcolonial World," Harvard Warren Center for Studies in American History, October 23.
- 2020 "Putting God into Public Schools around the World: An American Culture War's Transnational History," Harvard North American Religion Colloquium, September 8.
- 2019 "'Across the Street or around the World, the Mission's Still the Same': The Transnational History of the American Culture Wars," Harvard Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, October 18.
- 2019 "Missionary, Go Home: Contesting the Global Activism of American Evangelicals in the Postcolonial Era," Berkeley Center for Race and Gender, April 18. ([Recorded](#))
- 2018 "Seizing the Moment: American Missionary Campaigns in Post-Cold War Russia," Berkeley Russian History *Kruzhok*, September 20.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Harvard University, Committee on History & Literature (Humanities Program)

#### Lecturer, 2022-

Race and Empire in the Americas  
Fighting Injustices in the US and Latin America  
Cultures of US Empire  
The Politics of Memory-Making in the US  
Research Seminar in US History

### Harvard University, Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights (Ethnic Studies Program)

#### Lecturer, 2019-2021

Race, Gender, and American Empire (2 courses)

### University of California, Berkeley, Department of History

#### Teaching Assistant, 2013-2015

Civil Rights and Social Movements in the United States  
The United States from Civil War to Present  
The United States from Settlement to Civil War

### University of Georgia, Department of History

#### Instructor, 2011

American History since 1865

**Teaching Assistant, 2007-2011**

Latin America since 1800 (2 courses)

American History since 1865 (4 courses)

American History to 1865 (2 courses)

**TEACHING AWARDS**

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2024 John Clive Teaching Prize, Committee on History and Literature, Harvard University

2021 Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University

2020 Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University

2011 Vipperman Teaching Assistant Award, Department of History, University of Georgia

2009 University-wide Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Georgia

**THESIS ADVISING**

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**Harvard University, B.A. Theses**

2025 Chinese Women's Activism in the 1982 Manhattan Garment Workers' Strike

2025 Representations of Vietnamese Boat Refugees in US Media and Research

2025 Gendered Narratives about Jewish Agricultural Colonies in Early-1900s Argentina

2024 1970s Social Activism against Forced Sterilizations of Mexican-American Women

2023 Media Representations of Masculinity and Popular Memory of the Vietnam War

2023 Third Parties and US Popular Culture in the 1948 Presidential Election

**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

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2023- Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Theology and Sexuality*

2023- Curriculum Committee Member, Program in History and Literature, Harvard University

2019-21 Reviewer, Undergraduate Thesis Prize Committee, Program in Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights, Harvard University

2014-15 Organizer and Co-Founder, Global Christianities Working Group, UC Berkeley

2012-13 Program Committee Member, Berkeley International and Global History Conference

2011-12 Academic Advisor for Undergraduate History Majors, University of Georgia

2011-12 Mentor, History Graduate Student Mentoring Program, University of Georgia

2011-12 Coordinator and Co-Founder, Latin American History Reading Group, University of Georgia

2010-12 Mediator and Co-Founder, The Cultural History of Capitalism Reading Group, University of Georgia

2010-11 President, History Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia

2010-11 Organizer, Professional Development Workshop Series, History Department, University of Georgia

## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

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Spanish

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
American Studies Association  
American Academy of Religion  
American Society of Church History  
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

## REFERENCES

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Bethany Moreton  
Professor of History, Dartmouth College  
411 Carson Hall, Hanover, NH 03755  
bethany.e.moreton@dartmouth.edu

Mark Peterson  
Professor of History, Yale University  
207 McClellan Hall, New Haven, CT 06520  
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