

Chad J. Pevateaux

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion
Texas Wesleyan University
1201 Wesleyan Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76105

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, Ethics, & Politics; Theory & Methods in Religious Studies; Religion & Science; Religion, Literature, & Culture; Gender & Race 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

"Mysticism Emergent: The Beginning of the Study of Mysticism in the Academy," chapter for *Secret Religion*, volume edited by April DeConick, *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Religion* series (*forthcoming*)

"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), 162-76

"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

"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(25)

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

Teaching Experience

Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, TX, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2015-present

- Introduction to Philosophy, Summer 2016 at Communication University, Beijing, China
 - A representative survey of some major problems and historical figures of philosophy, covering foundational texts of both Western and Eastern traditions
 - Emphasizing theories of self, embodied cognition, and comparative meditation
- The Human Experience, Fall 2015 in Fort Worth and Summer 2016 in Beijing, China
 - An interdisciplinary synthesis of selected events, ideas, and expressions of the oral, visual, and literary arts, both Western and Eastern, from the emergence of civilization through the mid-seventeenth century
 - Emphasizing analysis of values and concerns inherited from the past and encountered by students in their personal experiences and our contemporary cultures
- The Human Prospect, Spring 2016
 - An interdisciplinary synthesis of selected events, ideas, and expressions of the oral, visual, and literary arts, both Western and Eastern, from the shaping of the "modern" world in the seventeenth century through the present day
 - Emphasizing analysis of values and concerns that shape contemporary societies and are encountered by students in their personal experiences
- Contemporary Theological Issues, Spring 2016
 - Explores contemporary comparative theological questions in light of social and cultural conditions, with special attention given to social justice, gender, race, class, ecology, global contexts, pluralism, post-colonialism, militarism, peace and conflict
 - Selected for inclusion in Wesleyan's Quality Enhancement Plan, incorporating critical thinking skills in not only general education courses but also upper level classes
- Introduction to Christian Scriptures, Spring 2016
 - Survey of New Testament tradition, emphasizing its historical development and cultural setting, with writing assignments designed to enhance students' appreciation of religious values

- Introductory Studies in World Religions, Fall 2015 (two sections) and Spring 2016
 - Introduction to diverse religious traditions, with emphasis on comparative dynamics of embodiment, such as breathing, eating, sex, death, and altered states
 - 22 students per section
- Studies in Comparative Religions: Comparative Mystics, Fall 2015
 - Upper level critical exploration of comparative mystics, with emphasis on comparative theology and interreligious dialogue for peace building

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

- Modern Religious Thought, Spring 2015
 - Upper level critical exploration of modern and postmodern religious thought, with special emphasis on social justice, ecology, art, and science
 - Cross-listed as Philosophy
- Feminism and Religion, Spring 2015
 - Upper level introduction to feminist critiques and reclamations of religion, with emphasis on intersectionalities with race, class, species, and environment
 - Cross-listed as Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Introduction to Christianity, Spring 2013 and Spring 2015
 - History of Christian thought from the Bible to today, with focus on mystical theology from patristics to postmodern, and liberation, feminist, womanist, and eco-theologies
- Introduction to World Religions: Comparing Commonalities and Differences Across Time and Clime, Fall 2012 (2 sections), Spring 2013, Fall 2013 (2 sections), Spring 2014 (2 sections), and Fall 2014 (2 sections)
 - Introduction to diverse religious traditions, with emphasis on comparative dynamics of embodiment, such as breathing, eating, sex, death, and altered states
 - Approximately 25 students per section
 - Cross-listed as Asian Studies
- Ascetics, Saints, and Sinners: Western Religious Thought (From the Bible to Batman), Fall 2012, Fall 2013 and Fall 2014
 - Critical appraisal of selected religious thinkers, introducing students to theological, mystical, power & gender dynamics in the construction of Western religious identities
 - Upper level seminar of 12 students
 - Cross-listed as Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Approaches to the Study of Religion, Spring 2014
 - Introduction to theories and methods in the study of religion, especially comparativism, anthropology, neurophenomenology, and new materialisms
 - Upper level seminar of 11 Students
- Religion and Neuroscience, Spring 2013
 - Introduction to major issues of religion and science, with focus on evolutionary processes and quantum entanglements of consciousness and materiality
 - Upper level course of 21 students
 - Cross-listed as Neuroscience

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

- Philosophers Look At Religion: Skepticism, Faith, and the Good Life, Spring 2012
 - First-Year Seminar course on philosophy of religion with readings from the Buddha to Batman
 - Last taught by Edith Wyschogrod
 - Designed course, developed syllabus, taught all classes, managed students, maintained online education resources, and graded papers
 - 12 students

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

- The Mystical in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and America
 - Explored the mystical in Abrahamic, African American and Emersonian traditions
 - Conceived of and created course, developed syllabus, & taught all classes of 36

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

- Comparative Mystics: Commonalities and Differences Across Time & Clime, Fall 2010
 - Taught Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and African American mystics
 - Conceived of and created course, developed syllabus, taught all classes, managed students, maintained webpage, and graded papers for class of 17 students
 - Course cross-listed as humanities, history, philosophy, and women’s studies
- History of Christianity: From Jesus to Today, Spring 2010
 - Taught introduction to Christian Testament and Gospel of Mary, Trinitarian and Christological controversies from Nicaea to Chalcedon, and theologies of Gregory of Nyssa, Pseudo-Dionysius, Augustine, Aquinas, Eckhart, Luther, Teresa of Avila, Kant, Schleiermacher, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Niebuhr, Cone, Whitehead and Keller
 - Created course, developed syllabus, taught all classes, managed students, maintained webpage, and graded papers for class of 16 students
 - Course cross-listed as humanities and history
- The Good Life: Pursuing Happiness with Philosophy, Psychology & Religion, Fall 2009
 - A basic texts course, Western Tradition II: Renaissance to Today
 - Taught: Descartes, Voltaire, Rousseau, Kant, Freud, James, Buber, De Beauvoir, Truth, Hughes, Thurman, Orwell, Haraway, and Derrida
 - Chose theme and texts, developed syllabus, taught all classes, managed attendance, maintained webpage, and graded papers for course of 28 students

Université Rennes 2 Haute Bretagne, Rennes, France, *Lecteur d’anglais*, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

- English
 - Taught English courses for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as taught advanced discussion classes on theme “Why Democracy?”
 - Executed all aspects of a full load of courses, developed syllabi, managed students, tracked attendance, taught classes, crafted and graded exams for classes of 20-35 students

Rice University, Houston, Texas, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2007 and Fall 2008

- Craft of Religious Studies, Fall 2008
 - Course description: Method of religious studies, especially social science approaches
 - William B. Parsons, Professor
 - Participated in syllabus development, lectured on philosophy and psychology of religion and mysticism, managed students, and co-graded papers for course of 22 students; co-led experiential learning class visit to Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church
- God, Time, and History, Spring 2007
 - Course description: Historiography in the ancient world, cross-listed as History
 - Matthias Henze and Michael Maas, Professors
 - Contributed to development of exams, graded exams, managed attendance, and compiled grades for class of approximately 65 students

Academic Presentations

"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, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, 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 for the Study of Religion / Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 2010

"How To Speak With Ghosts: Marx, Derrida, and the Scholar of the Future," for Philosophy of Religion and Theology section, Southwest Commission for the Study of Religion / Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 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 for the Study of Religion / Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 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

Other Professional Experience

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

Director, www.TeachingMysticism.com, hosted by Rice University, Fall 2011-present

- Curating website linked to the American Academy of Religion's Teaching Religious Studies Series volume *Teaching Mysticism* (Oxford University Press, 2011), aimed at promoting dialogue among scholars and providing resources for enhanced teaching and research

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

- Applied and was one of three graduate students chosen to receive training in the following:
 - Learning Styles and Teaching Styles
 - Giving a Dynamite Lecture
 - Adding Interactivity to Your Teaching
 - Designing Learning Sessions
 - Classroom Assessment
 - Developing and Maintaining a Teaching Portfolio
 - Dealing w/Difficult Learners & Learners in Difficulty
 - Success Strategies for New Faculty

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

- Wrote index and formatted text for *Teaching Mysticism*, William B. Parsons ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- Wrote index and formatted text for *Disciplining Freud on Religion: Perspectives from the Humanities and Sciences*, Gregory Kaplan and William B. Parsons eds. (Lanham: Lexington, 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

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 & Young Adult Ministries, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas, 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

Select Volunteer Service

Guest Speaker, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ivy, Virginia, October 2014

- Gave talk titled, "Everyday Mystics: Embracing Unknowing," at adult Sunday forum

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

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

Member, Seminary of the Southwest Lay School of Theology Steering Committee, 2002

- Assisted with planning, promotion, and evaluation of the Lay School's offerings

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, managed, and led all aspects of an 8 church, 65 person service trip to Juarez, Mexico, during which we built two houses, poured a 3,000 square foot church floor, & staffed an orphanage for a week

Director, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Retreat for Inner-City & 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

Honors

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 Merit Scholarship, 1992-1996

Roy Scholarship of Academic Excellence, 1992

Kiwanis Club Service Scholarship, 1992

Languages

English, fluent

French, reading and translation, basic spoken

Spanish, reading and translation, basic spoken

German, reading and translation

Ancient Greek, reading and translation

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion