

# Michael Graziano

Curriculum Vitae | michael.graziano@uni.edu

## POSITIONS

2024- Associate Professor of Religion, University of Northern Iowa  
2019-2024 Assistant Professor of Religion, University of Northern Iowa  
2015-2019 Instructor, University of Northern Iowa  
2014-2016 Assistant to the Editors, *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*  
2011-2015 Graduate Instructor, Florida State University

## EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., Religion, Florida State University  
Degree Program: American Religious History  
Dissertation: "Religion and the Birth of the American Intelligence State"  
2011 M.A., Religion, Florida State University  
2010 B.S., History & Social Science, Florida State University, *Summa Cum Laude*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

2021 *Errand into the Wilderness of Mirrors: Religion and the History of the CIA* (University of Chicago Press, 2021).

### Peer-Reviewed Scholarship

2024 "Before Vietnam: Religion and National Security in the Early Cold War," in *The Routledge History of Religion and Politics in the United States Since 1775*, ed. Lauren Turek and Cara Burnidge (Routledge, 2024).  
2017 "Race, the Law, and Religion in America," in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. John Corrigan (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).  
2017 "America's 'Peculiar Children': Authority and Christian Nationalism at Antebellum West Point," *Religions* 8.1 (2017).  
2015 "William Donovan, the Office of Strategic Services, and Catholic Intelligence Sources during World War II," *U.S. Catholic Historian* 33.4 (Fall 2015): 79-103.

### Book Chapters and Essays

2025 "Religious Literacy in the Classroom: Approaches and Applications" in *Thinking with the Future in Mind: Transformative Comprehensive Literacy in Theory and Practice*, ed. Lori Norton-Meier (forthcoming)

- 2024 “The CIA and the American Religious Imagination,” in *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*, section ed. Mona Oraby (forthcoming).
- 2019 “White Nostalgia, American Religion, and U.S. National Security,” *Sociological Imagination* (2019).
- 2018 “American Catholicism and U.S. Intelligence During the Cold War,” in *North American Christian Community and the Cold War*, ed. Paul Mojzes (Eerdmans, 2018): 245-258.
- 2018 “Studying Religion with William Donovan and the Office of Strategic Services,” in *Spy Chiefs: Intelligence Leaders in the United States and United Kingdom*, ed. Ioanna Iordanou, Christopher Moran, Paul Maddrell, and Mark Stout (Georgetown University Press, 2018): 23-39.
- 2017 “Who are ‘the Nones?’” and “What ways can religion be legally discussed in public schools?,” in *Religion in 5 Minutes: Scholars Answer Your Questions*, ed. Russell T. McCutcheon and Aaron Hughes (Equinox, 2017): 96-99; 253-256.
- 2016 “Not a Task for Amateurs’: Graduate Instructors and Critical Theory in the World Religions Classroom”, co-authored with Brad Stoddard and Tara Baldrick-Morrone in *After ‘World Religions’: Reconstructing Religious Studies*, eds. Christopher R. Cotter and David G. Robertson (Routledge, 2016): 37-47.
- 2015 “High Stakes on the High Court,” in *Fabricating Origins*, ed. Russell T. McCutcheon (Equinox Publishers, 2015): 18-20.
- 2015 “Stories the State Tells Itself: the Supreme Court and ‘Religion’ since 1947,” in *Decentering Discussions on Religion and State: Emerging Narratives, Challenging Perspectives*, ed. Sargon George Donabed and Autumn Quezada-Grant (Lexington Books, 2015): 67-82.

### **Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles**

- 2025 Review of Silliman, *One Lost Soul: Richard Nixon’s Search for Salvation* (Eerdmans, 2024) in *Religious Studies Review* (forthcoming).
- 2024 Review of Lerone Martin, *The Gospel of J. Edgar Hoover: How the FBI Aided and Abetted the Rise of White Christian Nationalism* (Princeton University Press, 2023) in the *Journal of Church and State* (2024).
- 2018 Reviewer and organizer, review forum of Tisa Wenger, *Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal* (UNC, 2017), <https://goo.gl/tfXVcm>.
- 2017 Review of Seto, Brandon. “A Defense of Faith: SCAP and Japan’s Religious Rehabilitation in the Early Cold War” in *H-Diplo* No.705 (June 2017), <https://goo.gl/mRMcQx>.

- 2016 Reviewer and organizer, review forum of Finbarr Curtis, *The Production of American Religious Freedom* (NYU, 2016) in *Religion in American History*, <https://goo.gl/TbemcF>.
- 2016 “National Security Agency” and “Department of Homeland Security.” *Dictionary of American History, Supplement: America in the World, 1776 to the Present*, ed. Edward J. Blum (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2016).
- 2016 “First Amendment” and “Establishment Clause.” *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Phillip C. DiMare, ed. (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016).
- 2016 Reviewer and organizer, review forum of Anna Su, *Exporting Freedom: Religious Liberty and American Power* (Harvard, 2016) in *Religion in American History*, <https://goo.gl/O1F7yD>.
- 2015 “Fast Days” and “Clergy.” *The World of the Civil War: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, Lisa Tendrich Frank, ed. (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2015).
- 2015 Reviewer and organizer, review forum of Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, *Beyond Religious Freedom* (Princeton, 2015) in *Religion in American History*, <https://goo.gl/HwmzqV>.
- 2015 Review of Kevin Kruse, *One Nation Under God* (Basic Books, 2015) in *Religion in American History*, <http://goo.gl/gvE4Jf>.
- 2014 Review of Geraci, Robert M., *Apocalyptic AI: Visions of Heaven in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Virtual Reality* (Oxford University Press, 2010) in *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 26, no. 2 (Summer 2014): 267-268.
- 2013 Review of Brekus, Catherine A. *Sarah Osborn's World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America* (Yale University Press, 2013) in *Journal of American Culture* (June 2014): 248-249.
- 2012 Review of *Remixing the Civil War: Meditations on the Sesquicentennial*, Thomas J. Brown, ed. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011) in *Journal of American Culture* 35, no. 4 (December 2012): 378-379.

#### SELECTED DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

- 2022 "[The CIA and the Study of Religion: A Response](#)," part of the "[Operations of American Religion](#)" Supplement to *American Religion* (2022).
- 2022 "[Law and Order Catholicism in the Vietnam War](#)," *Political Theology Network*.
- 2017 "[The Steve Bannon School of American History](#)," *Religion in American History*.
- 2015 "[World Religions in American Religious History](#)," *Religion in American History*.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Presentations

- Nov 2024 Roundtable on “Religion and Politics” at the State Historical Society of Iowa (Des Moines, IA)
- Oct 2024 Roundtable on Sara B. Castro’s *Mission to Mao: US Intelligence and the Chinese Communists in World War II* (Georgetown UP 2024), Second World War North America Research Group Workshop
- Oct 2023 “Public Prayer for Public Schools: The Road to *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*,” Canterbury Forum (Cedar Falls, IA)
- June 2023 “Developing Religious Literacy in Iowa Schools,” Religion & Education Collaborative
- Mar 2023 “Studying Religion with the CIA,” University of Northern Iowa
- Feb 2022 “Religion, Intelligence, and War,” Second World War Research Group Workshop, Sam Houston State University
- Oct 2021 “Islam and Religious Literacy in the K-12 Classroom,” Upper Iowa University
- Aug 2021 “Religious Literacy in Public Schools,” Waterloo Community School District’s Summer Learning Academy 2021
- Jun 2021 “Religion and the History of the CIA,” North American Society for Intelligence History
- Oct 2018 “Religion, Law, and the Public School: Professional Strategies for Educators” Workshop, University of Northern Iowa
- Mar 2018 “Talking about Religion in Public Schools,” UNI College of Education Professional Readiness for Educators Series, University of Northern Iowa
- Feb 2018 “The Evolution of Religion in Public Schools,” Darwin Week Speaker Series, University of Northern Iowa
- Nov 2016 “Spying on the Pope: The Religious Roots of the CIA,” PWR Speaker Series, University of Northern Iowa
- Nov 2016 “How the CIA Found God: American Religion & National Security,” “Pint with a Prof” Speaker Series, University of Northern Iowa

## Conference Presentations

- Nov 2024 Panelist, “Mapping the Field of Religious Literacy: A Work-in-Progress Roundtable,” American Academy of Religion 2024 Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)
- Nov 2024 Panelist, “Author Meets Critics: Leslie Ribovich, *Without a Prayer: Religion and Race in New York City Public Schools*,” American Academy of Religion 2024 Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)
- Jan 2022 Respondent, “Christianity, World Religions, and the CIA: A Conversation on Michael Graziano’s *Errand into the Wilderness of Mirrors*” panel co-sponsored with the American Society of Church History and the American Catholic Historical Association 2022 Annual Meetings (New Orleans, LA)
- Nov 2021 Roundtable participant, “Developing Religious Literacy in College and University Classrooms,” American Academy of Religion 2021 Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX)
- Nov 2021 Roundtable participant, “Law and Order Catholicism,” American Academy of Religion 2021 Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX)
- May 2021 Roundtable participant, “Public Humanities and Outreach,” Scholars of American Religion in Iowa 2021 Meeting
- Apr 2021 Invited roundtable participant, “Administrative and Institutional Roundtable on Religion and Public University,” Religion, Public Education, and Diversity: A Pre-Conference Colloquium (University of Minnesota) \*Virtual due to COVID
- Nov 2020 Invited roundtable participant, “Defining Religion at the CIA,” North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR) Annual Meeting (Boston, MA) \*Virtual due to COVID
- Jan 2019 “How the CIA Rewrote American Catholic History,” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)
- Nov 2018 “Religious Studies and the K-12 Classroom: How Religious Studies Departments Might Help Prepare Future Educators,” American Academy of Religion 2018 Annual Meeting (Denver, CO)
- Nov 2018 “The Spiritual Financing of Empire: U.S. Military Chaplains in the Vietnam War,” American Academy of Religion 2018 Annual Meeting (Denver, CO)
- Nov 2017 “True Religion and the Iranian Revolution: The View from Washington, D.C.,” American Academy of Religion 2017 Annual Meeting (Boston, MA)
- Nov 2017 “White Nostalgia, Religion, and U.S. National Security,” American Academy of Religion 2017 Annual Meeting (Boston, MA)

- Nov 2016 Organizer and Roundtable Discussant, "Religion and National Security," American Academy of Religion 2016 Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX)
- Feb 2016 "A History of Curious Things at the Central Intelligence Agency," 15th Annual Florida State University Religion Department Graduate Student Symposium (Tallahassee, FL)
- Jan 2016 "'Wild Bill' Donovan, American Espionage, and the Politics of Anticatholicism in World War II," American Catholic Historical Association 2016 Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- Nov 2015 Organizer and Panelist, "Regulating Religion in the Postcolonial Intelligence State: The CIA and World Religions," American Academy of Religion 2015 Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- Feb 2015 "Catholicism and American Spycraft, 1942-1945," 14th Annual Florida State University Religion Department Graduate Student Symposium (Tallahassee, FL)
- Nov 2014 "Teaching American Religious History through *Hobby Lobby*," American Academy of Religion 2014 Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)
- June 2014 "They Have Baptized Us American": American Catholicism and the CIA in Vietnam," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual 2014 Annual Meeting (Lexington, KY)
- May 2014 "When in Rome: William Donovan and the Vatican," Spy Chiefs: Intelligence Leaders in History, Culture, and International Relations Conference, Palazzo Pesaro Papafava (Venice, Italy)
- Apr 2014 "America's 'Peculiar Children': Religion, Education, and Nationalism at West Point in the 1820s," Organization of American Historians 2014 Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- Nov 2013 "Teaching 'Classification' in the World Religions Classroom," American Academy of Religion 2013 Annual Meeting (Baltimore, MD)
- Apr 2013 "Supreme Narrative: Stories the State Tells Itself," Fourth Annual Roger Williams University Conference on Religion and the State (Bristol, RI)
- Mar 2013 "The Many Uses of Mr. Madison: American Religious History in *Everson* and *Wallace*," Florida State University Conference on Religion and Law (Tallahassee, FL)
- Mar 2013 "The Supreme Court and Narratives of American Religious History," co-sponsored by Religions in America and Theory and Method Sections, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion 2013 Meeting (Greenville, SC)

- Feb 2013 "The Importance of "Classification" in Teaching World Religions; or, On Using Justin Bieber to Teach J.Z. Smith," 12th Annual Florida State University Religion Department Graduate Student Symposium, (Tallahassee, FL)
- Nov 2012 "Manufacturing Madison: Judicial Opinion as Historiographical Argument," Religion and Law Section, American Academy of Religion 2012 Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)
- Mar 2012 "The "Affirmative Apocalypse" of the Beat Generation Writers," Religion, Culture, & the Arts Section, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion 2012 Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- Feb 2012 "Federal Religion: Disestablishment at West Point in the Early Republic," 11th Annual Florida State University Religion Department Graduate Student Symposium, (Tallahassee, FL)

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Religions of the World  
 Religion and Law  
 Religion and Popular Culture  
 Religion and Public Schools  
 Religion and Race  
 Religious Literacy in Professional Life: From Theory to Practice  
 Religion in US History  
 Humanities III: The Age of Revolution to the Present

### **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS**

- 2022-24 Young Scholars of American Religion, The Center for the Study of Religion & American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
- 2024 Shortlisted finalist, AAR 2022 Best First Book in the History of Religions
- 2022 Richard O. Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy Fellow (Fall 2022)
- 2022 UNI Outstanding Teaching Award
- 2020 American Academy of Religion Regional Development Grant for "Scholars of American Religion in Iowa" (SOARIA)
- 2020 Whiting Foundation Seed Grant for the "Iowa Religious Literacy Project"
- 2019 Emerging Scholar, The Virginia Center for the Study of Religion, Summer Residency Workshop, "Speaking About—Not For—Religion" (University of Virginia)
- 2017 Fellow, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations 2017 Summer Institute (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom)
- 2017 Panther First Award for Service Excellence (UNI)
- 2015 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Nominee (FSU)
- 2014 Florida State University Dissertation Research Grant
- 2013 AAR Regional Best Graduate Paper Award (Greenville, SC)
- 2010 College Teaching Fellowship, Florida State University

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### *Service to the Field*

- 2023- Editorial Board, *Religion & Education*  
2023- Peer Reviewer, *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*  
2022- Peer Reviewer, *American Religion*  
2020- Peer Reviewer, *Religion & Education*  
2020- Peer Reviewer, *Religion and American Culture*  
2018- Peer Reviewer, *U.S. Catholic Historian*  
2018- Peer Reviewer, Oxford University Press  
2015-18 Organizer and Chair, "...But What Do You Study?" NAASR Job Market Workshop (NAASR 2015, Atlanta; NAASR 2016, San Antonio; NAASR 2017, Boston)  
2017 Co-Organizer and Chair, "Global Perspectives on Religion and National Security" Exploratory Session, American Academy of Religion 2017 Annual Meeting (Boston, MA)  
2016 Book Review Editor, *H-AmRel* Network  
2016 Peer Reviewer, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion in America*  
2014-16 Co-Chair, Religion & Law Section, AAR Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR)

### *University of Northern Iowa*

- 2023- Senator, CHAS Senate  
2023- CHAS Pre-Law Advisor  
2022 Organizer and Lead, Iowa Religious Literacy Project's 2022 Summer Workshop  
2020- Director, Institute for Religion and Education  
2020- Member, Educational Studies Advisory Committee  
2019-21 Member, UNI Intercollegiate Academics Travel, Research and Creative Activity Fund (IAF)  
2017- Faculty Advisor, Study of Religion Club  
2016-21 Faculty Advisor, Mock Trial  
2016-17 Pre-Law Advisor, College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences  
2016- Curriculum Committee, Department of Philosophy and World Religions  
2016- Recruitment Committee, Department of Philosophy and World Religions

### *Service to the Community*

- 2022- Member of the Cedar Falls Library Board of Trustees

### *Florida State University*

- 2013-14 Undergraduate Studies Committee, Religion Department  
2013-14 President, Religion and Law Group  
2012-14 Organizing Committee, Religion & Law Conference  
2012-13 Elected Member, Graduate Student Liaison Committee, Religion Department

## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

French  
German



## **AFFILIATIONS**

Member, American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
Member, North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR)  
Member, American Historical Association (AHA)  
Member, Organization of American Historians (OAH)  
Member, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)

## **REFERENCES**

Prof. Susan Hill  
*susan.hill@uni.edu*  
Head, Department of Philosophy and World Religions  
University of Northern Iowa

Prof. Matthew A. Sutton  
*sutton@wsu.edu*  
Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor  
Washington State University

Prof. Andrew Preston  
*amp33@cam.ac.uk*  
Professor of American History  
University of Cambridge

Prof. Amanda Porterfield  
*aporterf@fsu.edu*  
Robert A. Spivey Professor of Religion, Florida State University