

Thomas S. Bremer

Department of Religious Studies

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EDUCATION

- **Ph.D., Princeton University**, Department of Religion, 2001.
- **M.A., Princeton University**, Department of Religion, 1999.
- **B.A., The Ohio State University**, Division of Comparative Studies, 1996
(*Summa cum laude* with Honors in the Liberal Arts and Distinction in Religious Studies).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee, 2007-Present.
- Director of Teaching and Learning Initiatives, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee, 2014-2016
- Faculty Fellow for Teaching Mentorship, responsible for administration of the Teaching Mentors Program and Teaching and Learning Seminar at Rhodes College, 2009-2014.
- Co-Director of The Memphis Music and Religion Archive of the Mike Curb Institute for Music, Rhodes College, 2008-2013.
- Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee, 2001-2007.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Sacred Wonderland: The Story of Religion in Yellowstone*, a monograph on the history of religions in Yellowstone National Park under contract with the University of Nebraska Press.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- *Formed From This Soil: An Introduction to the Diverse History of Religion in America*, Wiley Blackwell Publishing (2014).
- *Blessed with Tourists: The Borderlands of Religion and Tourism in San Antonio*, University of North Carolina Press (2004).

Articles:

- "Acadia National Park: A Soul and Spirit Stretching Place," in *Chebacco: the Magazine of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society* volume XX (expected 2019).
- "Consider the Tourist," in *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Material Religion*, ed. Manuel A. Vásquez and Vasudha Narayanan, Wiley-Blackwell (expected publication 2019).

- “Worshipping at Nature’s Shrine,” in *Practical Matters Journal* (April 8, 2016), <http://wp.me/p6QAmj-Ci>.
- “The Modern Religiosity of the Newark Earthworks,” in *The Newark Earthworks: Enduring Monuments, Contested Meanings*, ed. Lindsay Jones and Richard D. Shiels, University of Virginia Press (2016): 198-212.
- “A Touristic Angle of Vision: Tourist Studies as a Methodological Approach for the Study of Religions,” in *Religion Compass* volume 8, issue 12 (December 2014): 371-379.
- “Evangelical Park: Railroads, Profit, and Religion at Yellowstone,” in *Ranger Magazine* volume 30, number 2 (Spring 2014): 8-9.
- “Tourism and Pilgrimage,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, ed. Charles Lippy and Peter Williams, CQ Press (2010).
- “The Brother of Jesus in Toronto,” in *Resurrecting the Brother of Jesus: The Rise, Fall and Religion of the James Ossuary*, ed. Bernadette McNary-Zak and Ryan Byrne, University of North Carolina Press (2009): 31-58.
- “A Touristic Spirit in Places of Religion,” in *Faith in America: Changes, Challenges, New Directions, Volume 2: Religious Issues Today*, ed. Charles H. Lippy, Greenwood (2006): 37-57.
- “Lorraine Motel,” in *American Icons: An Encyclopedia of the People, Places, and Things that have Shaped Our Culture*, ed. Dennis R. Hall and Susan Grove Hall, Greenwood (2006): 419-424.
- “Sacred Spaces and Tourist Places,” in *Tourism, Religion, and Spiritual Journeys*, ed. Dallen Timothy and Daniel Olsen, Routledge (2006): 25-35.
- “Tourism and Religion,” in *The Encyclopedia of Religion, Second Edition*, vol. 13, Editor in Chief Lindsay Jones, Macmillan Reference (2005): 9260-64.
- “Reading the Sahagún Dialogues,” in *Sahagún at 500: Essays on the Quincentenary of the Birth of Fr. Bernardino de Sahagún*, ed. John Frederick Schwaller, Academy of American Franciscan History (2003): 11-29.
- “Il Genius Loci Ignotus di Eranos e la Creazione di un Luogo Sacro,” in *Eranos, Monte Verità, Ascona*, ed. E. Barone, M. Riedl, and A. Tischel, Edizioni ETS, Pisa, Italy (2003): 71-76.
- “Tourists and Religion at Temple Square and Mission San Juan Capistrano,” in *Journal of American Folklore* volume 113, issue 450 (Fall, 2000): 422-35.
- “Pilgrimage,” “San Juan de los Lagos, Nuestra Señora de,” “Talpa, Nuestra Señora del Rosario de,” and “Zapopan, Nuestra Señora de,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures*, ed. David Carrasco, Oxford University Press (2000).
- “Sacrificial Slaughter and Dressing Up: Gender Articulations in Muslim Rituals,” in *Religious Studies Review* volume 22 (July, 1996): 209-13.

Reviews:

- *The Healing Power of the Santuario de Chimayó: America’s Miraculous Church* by Brett Hendrickson, in *New Mexico Historical Review* (expected 2019).
- *Religion and Tourism: Crossroads, Destinations, and Encounters* by Michael Stausberg, in *Religion*, volume 43, issue 1 (2013).

- *Holy Hills of the Ozarks: Religion and Tourism in Branson, Missouri* by Aaron K. Ketchell, in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, volume 76, number 3 (September, 2008).
- *A Christian Theology of Place* by John Inge, in *Scottish Journal of Theology*, volume 61, issue 2 (May 2008).
- *Roadside Religion: In Search of the Sacred, the Strange, and the Substance of Faith* by Timothy K. Beal, a book note in *Religious Studies Review*, volume 32, number 1 (January 2006).
- *The Secret Life of Puppets* by Victoria Nelson, in *The Journal of Religion*, volume 84, number 1 (January, 2004).
- *Myths in Stone: Religious Dimensions of Washington, D.C.* by Jeffery F. Meyer, in *The Journal of Religion*, volume 82, number 4 (October, 2002).
- The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, in *The Journal of American History* volume 87, number 3 (December, 2000).
- *The Americanization of Religious Minorities: Confronting the Constitutional Order* by Eric Michael Mazur, in *Journal of Religion and Society* 2 (2000) [<http://www.Creighton.edu/JRS/>].
- *The Tourist: A New Theory of the Leisure Class* by Dean MacCannell (Third Edition), in *Journal of Religion and Society* 2 (2000) [<http://www.creighton.edu/JRS/>].
- *San Fernando Cathedral: Soul of the City* by Virgilio P. Elizondo and Timothy M. Matovina, in *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* XII.1 (Spring, 2000).
- *Twin City Tales: A Hermeneutical Reassessment of Tula and Chichén Itzá* by Lindsay Jones, in *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* XI.1 (Spring, 1999).

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- “San Antonio’s Historic Missions—Sacred or Secular?” Invited lecture presented at Trinity University, February 13, 2017, San Antonio, Texas.
- “An Ethereal Mountain Retreat.” Presented at the “Wonder and the Natural World” conference of the Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics and Society at Indiana University, June 20, 2016, Bloomington, Indiana.
- “The Evangelical Origins of National Parks.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, November 17, 2012, Chicago, Illinois.
- “National Parks in Nineteenth-Century Evangelical Imagination.” Presented at International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture conference “Nature and the Popular Imagination,” August 9, 2012, Malibu, California.
- “The Modern Religiosity of the Newark Earthworks.” Presented at “The Newark Earthworks and World Heritage: One Site, Many Contexts” symposium, May 3, 2011, Granville, Ohio.
- Chair and panelist, “Religion in the Parks: An Interdisciplinary Discussion.” George Wright Society biennial meeting, March 14, 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “Evangelizing in the Parks: Warren Ost and *A Christian Ministry in the National Parks*.” Presented at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting, March 7, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia.

- “American Journeys Toward Religious Freedom.” Keynote speech at the “Roger Williams and America's Journey Towards Religious Freedom” conference cosponsored by the John Nicholas Brown Center at Brown University, the Roger Williams National Memorial, and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Providence, Rhode Island, October 24, 2008.
- “‘All are of one army’: The Paradox of Pluralism in Postbellum America.” Presented at “Convivencia: Religious Identities in the New World,” a Lilly National Research Conference at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, March 29, 2008.
- “Building Identities: The Aesthetics of Race and Ethnicity in Restorations of Religious Architecture.” Presented at the conference “‘Through the Prism of Race and Ethnicity’: Re-imagining the Religious History of the American West” at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, March 4, 2006.
- “The National Park Service in San Antonio.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, November 22, 2004.
- “Religious and Touristic Identities at the San Antonio Missions.” Presented at the Popular Culture Association annual meeting, San Antonio, April 8, 2004.
- Panelist (with three Rhodes College colleagues and four student collaborators) on panel “Teaching and Learning through Collaborative Research: Faculty and Student Perspectives.” American Academy of Religion Midwest regional meeting, April 3, 2004, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Half a Pilgrim: Religion, Tourism, and Sacred Spaces.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, November 23, 2003.
- “Borderland Tourists: Making Identity at the San Antonio Missions.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion Midwest regional meeting, April 5, 2003, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Preserving a Precious Heritage.” Presented at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion annual meeting, March 16, 2003, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- “A Precious Heritage: Aestheticizing the Past at the San Antonio Missions.” Presented at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting, March 5, 2003, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “The *Genius loci ignotus* of Eranos and the Making of Sacred Place.” Presented at the Eranos—Monte Verità—Ascona Colloquium, September 29, 2000, Ascona, Switzerland.
- “Pilgrims’ Sacred Topography and Tourists’ Sacred Landscape.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 22, 1999, Boston, Massachusetts.
- “Sahagún and the Imagination of Inter-Religious Dialogue.” Presented at the Sahagún Quincentennial Symposium, October 16, 1999, The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Religious Travel In and Out of Mesoamerica.” Presented at The Moses Mesoamerican Archive and Research Project Fifteenth Anniversary Conference, April 10, 1999, Princeton, New Jersey.
- “Reading the Sahagún Dialogues.” Presented at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress, September 24, 1998, Chicago, Illinois.

- “Religion on Display: When Tourists Arrive at Sacred Places.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, March 13, 1998, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- “Experience, Authenticity, and Authority at Temple Square and Mission San Juan Capistrano.” Presented at the Conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display, Bowling Green State University, May 30, 1997, Bowling Green, Ohio.
- “Progressive and Objective Allegories in Chan Kom.” Presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Union College, April 21, 1995, Schenectady, New York.