

JONATHAN LEE WALTON
Wake Forest University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Dean of the School of Divinity, Dean of Wait Chapel, and Presidential Chair in Religion & Society, Wake Forest University, 2019-

Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 2012-2019

Professor of Religion and Society, Harvard Divinity School, 2012-2019

Assistant Professor of African American Religions, Harvard Divinity School, 2010-
Resident Scholar, Lowell House, Harvard College

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside, 2006-2010

Lecturer, Princeton University, Department of Religion and The Program in African American Studies, 2003-2006

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism, New York University Press, 2009.

Reviewed in *Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture*, *The Journal of Religion*, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, *Modern Theology*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

Special Issues:

Will the Revolution Be Televised? TV Preachers, Profits and the Prophetic, Special Issue of *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 33, number 2, 2011. Edited and Introduction by Jonathan L. Walton. Contributors: Jonathan L. Walton, Josef Sorett, Monique Moultrie, Debra J. Mumford, Darnell Moore and Anthea Butler.

Journal Articles:

“Stationed in the King’s Court: Evangelicals in the Age of Obama,” in *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 16, numbers 1-2, 2014, pp. 79-98.

“The Greening of the Gospel (and Black Body): Rev. Ike’s Gospel of Wealth and Post-Blackness Theology,” in *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 33, number 2, 2011, pp. 181-199.

“For Where Two or Three (Thousand) Are Gathered in My Name! A Cultural History and Ethical Analysis of African-American Megachurches” in *Journal of African American Studies*, Vol. 15, number 2, 2011, pp. 133-154.

“Preachers’ Blues: Religious Race Records and the Reclamation of Authority on Wax” in *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, Vol. 20, number 2, 2010, pp. 205-232.

“Black Theology and the Birmingham School: Revisiting a Conversation on Culture” *Black Theology: An International Journal*, Vol. 7, number 3, 2009, pp. 259-281.

Book Chapters:

“Have the Sons of Africa Have No Souls?: Manliness, Freedom, and Power in the Cultural Roots of Afro-Phallic Protestantism,” in *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches*, edited by Josef Sorett, The Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life Series, Columbia University Press, forthcoming, 2020.

“Luminous Darkness: Africanist Presence and the American Soul,” in *Goodness and the Literary Imagination: Harvard’s 95th Ingersoll Lecture with Essays on Morrison’s Moral and Religious Vision*, by Toni Morrison, edited by David Carrasco, Stephanie Paulsell, and Mara Willard, University of Virginia Press, 2019.

“Afterword: Dignity as a Weapon of Love,” in *To Shape a New World: Essays on the Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by Tommie Shelby and Brandon M. Terry, Harvard University Press, 2018, pp. 339-350.

“The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Consumerism, in *The Protestant Reformation of the Church and the World*, edited by John Witte Jr. and Amy Wheeler, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, pp. 240-253.

“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” in *What Did Jesus Ask? Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith*, edited by Elizabeth Dias, Time, 2015, pp. 4-44.

“Stop Worrying and Start Sowing! A Phenomenological Account of the Ethics of ‘Divine Investment’” in *Pentecostalism and Prosperity: The Socio-Economics of Global*

Charismatic Movements, edited by Amos Yong and Katy Attanasi, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 107-129.

“Onward, Christian Soldiers! Race, Religion and Nationalism in Post-Civil Rights America,” in *Ethics that Matters: Christian Social Ethics in the 21st Century*, edited by James Logan and Marcia Riggs, Fortress Press, 2011, pp. 139-158.

“TV’s Black Profits: The Impact of the Electronic Church Phenomenon on the Intellectual Activity of African American Religion” in *Creating Ourselves: African Americans and Hispanic Americans, Popular Culture and Religious Expression* edited by Anthony Pinn and Benjamin Valentin, Duke University Press, 2009, pp. 231-248.

Reference works:

“Eikerenkoetter II, Frederick J. (Rev. Ike),” in [*American National Biography*](#), Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Liberation and the Prosperity Gospel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*, edited by Anthony Pinn and Katie G. Cannon, Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 453-467.

“Prosperity and Economic Empowerment Gospel and African American Churches” in *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, edited by Daniel Patte, Cambridge University Press, 2010, pp. 1014-1015.

“Megachurch Phenomenon” in *African American Religious Cultures*, Vol. 2. edited by Anthony Pinn, ABC-CLIO, 2009, pp. 463-476.

Magazine/Newspaper articles

Opinion: “Raphael Warnock’s Georgia Critics don’t understand Black churches,” in *The Washington Post*, December 30, 2020.

Opinion: “Hope in the absurd: Seeing ourselves in Sisyphus,” in *The Dallas Morning News*, November 29, 2020.

Opinion: “Split-Second Decisions that Leave Black and Brown People Dead,” in *The New York Times* (The Opinion Pages/On The Ground with Nicholas Kristof), July 11, 2016.

Opinion: “After Ferguson, When Will We Listen?” in *The New York Times* (The Opinion Pages/ On The Ground with Nicholas Kristof), November 26, 2014.

“Waking from a Dream,” in the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol. 41. Numbers 2 & 4, Summer/Autumn 2013, pp. 10-13.

“The Shame of Behavioral Health” in *The Harvard Crimson*, 9/13/2012

Op-Ed: Three Words of Caution in the Wake of Another Mass Killing, *The Huffington Post*, 12/16/2012

“Staying Human in a Media Age,” in the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol. 39. numbers 3 & 4, Summer/Autumn 2011, pp. 8-11.

“Tax Exempt?” Lifestyles of the Rich and Religious,” in *The Christian Century*, Vol. 125. Issue 2, 1/29/2008, p. 13.

“Empowered: The entrepreneurial ministry of T.D. Jakes,” in *The Christian Century*, Vol. 124. Issue 14, 7/10/2007, pp. 25-28.

Book reviews:

The Rise to Respectability: Race, Religion, and the Church of God in Christ. The Rise to Respectability: Race, Religion, and the Church of God in Christ, Calvin White, Jr, University of Arkansas Press, reviewed in *Journal of American History*, Vol. 100. Number 3, 2013.

The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America by Edward J. Blum and Paul Harvey in the *Christian Century*, vol. 129, no. 22, 2012, p. 34.

Darker Than Blue: On the Moral Economies of Black Atlantic Culture, Paul Gilroy, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, reviewed in *Black Theology: An International Journal*, Vol. 9. Issue 1, 2011, pp. 119-121.

Becoming King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Making of a National Leader. Troy Jackson. University Press of Kentucky, reviewed in *Journal of African American History*, Vol. 95. Issue 2, 2010, pp. 271-273.

The Fire Spreads: Holiness and Pentecostalism in the American South. Randall J. Stephens. Harvard University Press, reviewed in *Journal of American History*, Vol. 96. Issue 4, March 2010, pp. 1198-1199.

T.D. Jakes: America's New Preacher. Shayne Lee. New York University Press, reviewed in *Scottish Journal of Theology*. Vol. 62. Issue 2, 2009, pp. 253-255.

Shamanism, Racism, and Hip Hop Culture: Essays on White Supremacy and Black Subversion. James W. Perkinson. Palgrave MacMillan, reviewed in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, Vol. 13. number 1, 2009, pp. 115-117.

James Baldwin's God: Sex, Hope and Crisis in Black Holiness Culture. Clarence Hardy. University of Tennessee Press, reviewed in *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, Vol. 36. number 3, 2005, pp. 349-351.

Righteous Riches: The Word of Faith Movement in Contemporary African American

Religion. Milmon Harrison, Oxford University Press, reviewed in *The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Vol. 44. Issue 4, 2005, pp. 500-501.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Harvard University:

Sophomore Tutorial in the Study of Religion
 The Prophetic Pulpit: Preacher as Intellectual
 Power & Piety: Evangelicals and Politics in the Contemporary U.S.
 Martin, Malcolm and Masculinity
 Black Exodus: The Great Migration, Immigration and Religious Imagination
 Pentecost and Prosperity: The Ethics of Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements
 African American Religions: An Introduction

GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS

Benjamin Elijah Mays Distinguished Alumni Award in Religion, Morehouse College, 2016.

Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree, Wake Forest University, 2015.

Young Scholars in American Religion 2009-2011, Center for Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University

Resident Fellow, Center for Ideas and Society, UC Riverside, 2007.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Co-Chair, Wake Forest University Advisory Committee on Naming, 2020

Administrative Board, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2017-19

General Education Committee, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 2017-19

Harvard Faculty Committee on Athletics, 2016-19

Harvard University Task Force on Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging 2016-17

Harvard College Working Group on Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging 2015-16, (chair)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recent conferences, panels and invited lectures

Keynote Address: Wyatt Tee Walker Conference in Public Life, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 2/20/20

Vanguard Lectures, First Baptist Church of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 2/15/20

Keynote Address: Baltimore Presbytery, First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, MD, 11/16/19

Geddes W. Hanson Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 10/16/19

Keynote Address: "Pluralism and Constitutionalism: The Place of Law and Religion in an

Inclusive Society,” Emory University, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Atlanta, GA, 3/24/19

St. Anselm Lecture, Lambeth Palace, London, England, 3/19/19

Keynote Address, Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX, 2/28/19

Keynote Address: 50 Years Since MLK, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 4/19/18

Keynote Address: Next Church National Gathering, Baltimore, MD, 2/27/18

Lecturer: Yale Religion and Politics Colloquium, New Haven, CT, 2/25/18

Midwinter Lectures, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, 1/28-29/18

Alonzo McDonald Lecture in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Reformation, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 4/3/17

Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities, The Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA, 3/23/17

The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture, Adolphus Gustavus College, St. Peter, MN, 1/16/17

Distinguished Lecture Series, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL, 10/18-19/16

Baccalaureate Address, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA 5/14/16

Baccalaureate and Commencement Addresses: King University, Bristol, TN, 4/28-29/16

Thomas H. Lake Lecture of the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana University Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN, 3/30/16

The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture, Brown University, Providence, RI, 2/2/16

The Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, 5/19/15

Daryl Schmidt Lecture on Religion and Public Life, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, 9/29/15

Baccalaureate Address, Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, NC, 5/17/15

Keynote Address: Conference on the Professions, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, 4/17/15

Keynote Address: Netvue Conference, “Sustaining the Theological Exploration of

Vocation,” The Council of Independent Colleges, St. Louis, MO, 3/28/15

The Boardman Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 3/20/2015

“Are the Gods Afraid of Black Sexuality,” Religion and the Burden of Black Sexual Politics, Columbia University, New York, 10/24/2014

Keynote Address: *Pentecostal and Prosperous: Empowering Marginalized Protestant Bodies*,” International Society for Religion Media and Culture, Keynote Address, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, 8/4/2014

The Geddes W. Hanson Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, 10/21/2014

Baccalaureate Service, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, 5/17/2014

Princeton Doll Family Lecture on Religion and Money, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 4/24/2014

Kelly Miller Smith Institute Social Justice Forum, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, 4/12/14

The Carl Lecture Series, First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, New York, 3/30/2014

The Barbara Holmes Lecture Series in African American Studies, Memphis Theological Seminary, 2/24-25/2014

“Religious Diversity and the Common Good,” Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College, 11/13/2013

The Black Mega-Church: Theology, Gender, and the Politics of Public Engagement, Howard Divinity School, Washington, D.C., 97th Annual Alumni Convocation, 10/16-17/2013

“The Du Boisian Dilemma: Sacrificing the Faith in order to Save the Race,” Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, The C. Shelby Rooks Lecture, 10/10/13

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Board Member, Humanities Advancement Council, Morehouse College

Board Member, Atrium Health Enterprise

Board of Trustees, Princeton Theological Seminary

National Advisory Board, John C. Danforth, Center on Religion & Politics, Washington University in St. Louis

The American Academy of Religion

AAR Nominations Committee Member (Chair 2011-2012)

Religion, Media & Culture Group Steering Committee
Afro-American Religious History Group Steering Committee