

STEVEN M. HARRIS

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. (Candidate) in the Study of Religion, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Subfield: American Religious History, African and African American Studies

August 2017 – Present

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

M.A. in Religion, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

August 2017 – May 2021

Yale University, New Haven, CT

M.A. in Religion, Divinity School

Concentration: Black Religion in the African Diaspora

August 2013 – May 2015

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY

M.Div., School of Theology

Concentration: Pastoral Ministry

August 2008 – December 2011

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

B.S., College of Arts & Sciences

Majors: Religious Studies, Psychological Sciences

August 2003 – May 2007

CAMPAIGN, COALITION-BUILDING, AND PUBLIC POLICY EXPERIENCE

Joe Biden for President

Volunteer, Faith Engagement Workgroup

[Working directly with the campaign national faith engagement director and associated workgroups, helped develop faith outreach strategy to diverse faith communities, while also planning and participating in official virtual faith engagement campaign events. Events participated in include: “Young Believers for Biden w/ Pete Buttigieg” panel and “Evangelicals for Biden” panel]

July 2020 – November 2020

Faith 2020

Volunteer, Advisory Workgroup

[Working directly with the executive director and workgroup, helped develop faith outreach strategy in support of Biden-Harris ticket, and planned/participated in virtual events. Events participated in include: “Roundtable with Tom Steyer” on climate action and anti-racism; and “Voting Matters with Cornel West”]

August 2020 – November 2020

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) / ERLC

Lead, State-Level Criminal Justice Reform

[Helped procure CZI grant to expand faith-based engagement in criminal justice reform and racial reconciliation in Kentucky North Carolina, and West Virginia]

February 2020 – August 2020

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), Dr. Russell Moore (President)

Policy Director, Washington, D.C.

[Helped expand the organization’s advocacy range by establishing a justice portfolio and building multi-faith coalitions on policy related to the following issues: criminal justice, immigration, payday lending, domestic and international religious freedom, and domestic and international human rights. Worked daily with House and Senate congressional members and staffers to advance legislative priorities. Helped plan and execute briefings and national conferences. Drafted internal and external memos and articles on a range of topics from race in the U.S. to free thought in Sudan]

July 2015 – August 2020

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

Producer, Documentary Film *Humanity Denied*

[In March of 2019, traveled to South Korea to meet and interview North Korean defectors, as well as scout locations for filming at the DMZ and throughout Seoul. After overseeing filming, translation work, and editing, the brief documentary film was premiered at a public event on Capitol Hill on July 18, 2019]

March 2019 – July 2019

Congressional Testimony, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs

(Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations)

May 9, 2018

Hearing: "Protecting Civil Society, Faith-Based Actors, and Political Speech in Sub-Saharan Africa"
[Gave testimony on the theo-philosophical presuppositions of religious freedom in a global context, and its relationship to civil society development and broader global security interests. The testimony particularly focused on the constricting religious and civil society spaces in Sudan, Rwanda, and the DRC]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Fellow, HDS: "Relig. & Race in the US: Case Studies on Brutality, Resistance, Imagination" Fall 2020
Course Instructors: Dr. Diane Moore and Melissa Bartholomew

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Fellow, AFAM Studies: "Introduction to African American Studies" Spring 2020
Course Instructor: Dr. Cornel West

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Fellow, HDS/Religion: "Women, Religion, and Historical Agency" Spring 2020
Course Instructor: Dr. Catherine Brekus

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Fellow, HDS: Religious Literacy and the Professions: Gov't & Humanitarian Leadership Fall 2019
Course Instructor: Dr. Diane Moore

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Fellow, HDS/Religion: "Evangelicalism in America" Fall 2019
Course Instructor: Dr. Catherine Brekus

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Course Assistant & Researcher, Freshman Seminar: "Christianity and Slavery in America" Fall 2018
Course Instructor: Dr. Catherine Brekus

CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

American Historical Association, Annual Meeting, Jan. 3-6, New York, NY

"*Before* Ontological Blackness: Race, Afro-Pessimism, and Black Calvinist Theo-Logics" January 2020

Evangelical Theological Society, Annual Meeting, Nov. 20-22, San Diego, CA

The Democratization of American Christianity: A Thirty-Year Roundtable Retrospective (Paper and Panel) November 2019

BOOK CHAPTERS

"The Segregated States of America," in *For God So Loved the World: A Blueprint for Kingdom Diversity*, edited by Dayton Hartman and Walter R. Strickland, II (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2020).

"Religion and the Republic: An Eighteenth-Century Black Calvinist Perspective," in *The Oxford Handbook of Calvin and Calvinism*, edited by Bruce Gordon and Carl Trueman (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Historical Association

American Society of Church History

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

REFERENCES

Cornel R. West

Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy

Harvard Divinity School

cornelwest01@gmail.com

Travis Wussow

Vice President for Public Policy & General Counsel

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

twussow@erlc.com

Diane L. Moore

Faculty Director, Religion and Public Life

Lecturer in Religion, Conflict, and Peace

Harvard Divinity School

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