

PAUL DAVID NUMRICH, PH.D.

Professor in the Snowden Chair for the Study of Religion and Interreligious Relations
Methodist Theological School in Ohio

2004-present
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EDUCATION

Northwestern University: Ph.D. Religion (1992), dissertation titled “Americanization in Immigrant Theravada Buddhist Temples”

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary: M.Div. (1984)

Aurora College: B.A. Religion (1979)

COURSES

Abrahamic Faiths
Christian-Muslim Relations
Comparative Study of Religious Ethics
Cross-Cultural Immersion: Korea
Interreligious Relations
Introduction to World Religions
Methods in the Study of Religion
Multi-Religious America
Perspectives on Buddhism
Perspectives on Islam

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2023. *The Religious Dimensions of Shared Spaces: When and How Religion Matters in Space-Sharing Arrangements*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
2016. (Co-editor with Mazhar Jalil and Norman Hosansky, contributor.) *The Abrahamic Encounter: Local Initiatives, Large Implications*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock.
2015. (Co-author with Elfriede Wedam.) *Religion and Community in the New Urban America*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2009. *The Faith Next Door: American Christians and Their New Religious Neighbors*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2008. (Editor and contributor.) *The Boundaries of Knowledge in Buddhism, Christianity, and Science*. Religion, Theology, and Natural Science band 15. Gottingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht.
2008. (Co-author with Gurinder Singh Mann and Raymond Williams.) *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America: A Short History*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2008. (Editor and contributor.) *North American Buddhists in Social Context*. Religion and the Social Order vol. 15. Leiden: Brill and the Association for the Sociology of Religion.
2007. (Co-author with Fred Kniss.) *Sacred Assemblies and Civic Engagement: How Religion Matters for America's Newest Immigrants*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
2001. *The Buddhist Tradition: Religious Beliefs and Healthcare Decisions*. Religious Traditions and Healthcare Decisions handbook series. Chicago: Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics.
2001. (Co-author with Gurinder Singh Mann and Raymond B. Williams.) *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America*. Religion in American Life Series. New York: Oxford University Press. My sections on Buddhism translated into Japanese for the DVD *Textbooks on Religions from Around the World* (Tokyo: Taisho University Press, 2008).
2001. (Co-author with M. Christian Green.) *Religious Perspectives on Sexuality: A Resource Guide*. Chicago: Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics.
1996. *Old Wisdom in the New World: Americanization in Two Immigrant Theravada Buddhist Temples*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. Recipient of 1997 Distinguished Book Award, Sociology of Religion Section, American Sociological Association; named a recent book "making a difference in the study of Buddhism," *Religious Studies News* (May 1997).

Book Contributions

- "The Organizational Networks of Immigrant Congregations in the United States." In *The Role of Religion under the Era of Contested Immigration*, edited by Cezara O. Crisan. Accepted by editor for proposed volume.
2019. "Epilogue: Understanding a Decentralised Social Movement." In *The Interfaith Movement: Mobilising Religious Diversity in the 21st Century*, edited by John Fahy and Jan-Jonathan Bock, 219-28. London: Routledge.
2012. "The North American Buddhist Experience." In *Buddhism in the Modern World*, edited by David L. McMahan, 137-56. London: Routledge.

2010. "American Lessons about Religious and Racial Liberties, with Special Reference to Asian-American Buddhists." In *Religious Pluralism in Democratic Societies: Challenges and Prospects for Southeast Asia, Europe, and the United States in the New Millennium*, edited by K. S. Nathan, 91-106. Singapore: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Association for American Studies. Second printing.
2009. "Immigrant Parochial Schools: Religion, Morality, Citizenship." In *Children and Childhood in American Religions*, edited by Don S. Browning and Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, 194-209. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
2008. "North American Buddhists: A Field of Study?" In *North American Buddhists in Social Context*, Religion and the Social Order vol. 15, edited by Paul David Numrich, 1-17. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers and the Association for the Sociology of Religion.
2008. "Reality and Knowledge." In *The Boundaries of Knowledge in Buddhism, Christianity, and Science*, edited by Paul D. Numrich, 9-21. Gottingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht.
2007. "American Lessons about Religious and Racial Liberties, with Special Reference to Asian-American Buddhists." In *Religious Pluralism in Democratic Societies: Challenges and Prospects for Southeast Asia, Europe, and the United States in the New Millennium*, edited by K. S. Nathan, 91-106. Singapore: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Association for American Studies.
2007. "Immigrant American Religions and the Family: New Diversity and Conservatism." In *American Religions and the Family: How Faith Traditions Cope with Modernization and Democracy*, edited by Don S. Browning and David A. Clairmont, 20-34. New York: Columbia University Press.
2006. "Two Buddhisms Further Considered." In *Buddhist Studies from India to America: Essays in Honor of Charles S. Prebish*, edited by Damien Keown, 207-33. New York: Routledge. Reprint of 2003 *Contemporary Buddhism* article.
2005. "Complementary and Alternative Medicine in America's 'Two Buddhisms'." In *Religion and Healing in America*, edited by Linda L. Barnes and Susan S. Sered, 343-57. New York: Oxford University Press.
2004. "Schism in the Sinhalese Buddhist Community of Los Angeles." In *The Comity and Grace of Method: Essays in Honor of Edmund F. Perry*, edited by Thomas Ryba, George D. Bond, and Herman Tull, 304-18. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press.
2002. "Marriage, Family, and Health in Selected World Religions: Different Perspectives in an Increasingly Pluralist America." In *Marriage, Health, and the Professions: If Marriage Is Good for You, What Does This Mean for Law, Medicine, Ministry, Therapy, and Business?* edited by John Wall, Don Browning, William J. Doherty, and Steven Post, 305-23. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

2000. "Change, Stress, and Congregations in an Edge-City Technoburb." In *Public Religion and Urban Transformation: Faith in the City*, edited by Lowell W. Livezey, 187-210. New York: New York University Press.
2000. "Recent Immigrant Religions and the Restructuring of Metropolitan Chicago." In *Public Religion and Urban Transformation: Faith in the City*, edited by Lowell W. Livezey, 239-67. New York: New York University Press.
1999. "Local Inter-Buddhist Associations in North America." In *American Buddhism: Methods and Findings in Recent Scholarship*, edited by Duncan Ryuken Williams and Christopher S. Queen, 117-42. London: Curzon Press.
1998. "A Pentecostal Megachurch on the Edge: Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois." In *Tending the Flock: Congregations and Family Ministry*, edited by K. Brynolf Lyon and Archie Smith, Jr., 78-97. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.
1998. "Theravada Buddhism in America: Prospects for the Sangha." In *The Faces of Buddhism in America*, edited by Charles S. Prebish and Kenneth K. Tanaka, 147-61. Berkeley: University of California Press.
1996. (Co-author with William Peterman.) "Rogers Park: Congregations in a Changing Community Area." In *Religious Organizations and Structural Change in Metropolitan Chicago: The Research Report of the Religion in Urban America Program*, edited by Lowell W. Livezey, 19-34. Chicago: University of Illinois.
1996. "Some Recent and Different Immigrant Religions of Chicago." In *Religious Organizations and Structural Change in Metropolitan Chicago: The Research Report of the Religion in Urban America Program*, edited by Lowell W. Livezey, 223-44. Chicago: University of Illinois.

Articles

2026. "Finding Good Things Among the Followers of Other Religions." *Dharma World: Buddhist Living and Interfaith Dialogue*, March 18, 2026. <https://dharmaworld.rk-world.org/articles/dialogue/finding-good-things-among-the-followers-of-other-religions/>.
2026. "Tolstoy's Christianity: A Cautionary Tale." *Messenger* (March 2026): 15-17. <https://www.brethren.org/messenger/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2026/02/march2026-2.pdf>.
2025. "When Congregations Share their Properties: 5 Principles for Good Decisions." *Messenger* (July/August 2025): 14-17. Reprint of 2018 Studying Congregations article.

2024. "When Congregations Share Space, It's Not All about the Money." Studying Congregations, July 12, 2024, <https://studyingcongregations.org/when-congregations-share-space-its-not-all-about-the-money/>.
2024. "Attending to Religion in Religiously Competent Health Care." *Bio Quarterly: A Publication of the Bioethics Network of Ohio* 34, no. 1 (2024): 1+.
2023. "Aging with the Buddha: Observations from a Christian Seminary Professor and Scholar of Buddhism." Four-part blog post series published online by Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies.
2023. "Selective Appeal to the Negus Narratives: A Case Study in Interreligious Relations." *Journal of Interreligious Studies* 38 (Rolling Submissions Issue): 44-61.
2019. "A Case for Closed Communion in Interfaith Contexts." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 46, no. 2 (April): 46-54.
2019. "How Important Is Religion in Interreligious Relationships? Interreligious Space-Sharing as a Case Study." *Journal of Interreligious Studies* 26 (March): 42-57.
2019. "The Rhetoric of American Exceptionalism in the Interfaith Movement in the United States." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 54, no. 1 (Winter): 74-106.
- 2018-2019. "Not Sure about Using Space in a Church or Synagogue? Three Things You Should Know about Congregations." *Sacred Places: The Magazine of Partners for Sacred Places* (Autumn/Winter): 8-9.
2018. "When Congregations Share Their Properties—5 Principles for Good Decisions." Studying Congregations, April 25, 2018. <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/when-congregations-share-their-properties-5-principles-for-good-decisions>.
2017. "We'll See." *Inclusive Pulpit Journal* (Summer): 83-89.
2017. "When a Shared Parking Lot Isn't Just about Parking." Studying Congregations, October 10, 2017. <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/when-a-shared-parking-lot-isnt-just-about-parking-by-paul-d-numrich>.
2016. "Space-Sharing by Religious Groups." *Practical Matters Journal* 9 (Spring): 1-23.
2016. "The Stick of Christian-Muslim Relations." *Inclusive Pulpit Journal* (Summer): 99-106.
2015. "The Problem with Sex according to Buddhism." *Fair Observer*, March 9. http://www.fairobserver.com/region/asia_pacific/the-problem-with-sex-according-to-buddhism-10289/. Edited version of 2009 *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* article.

2014. "Whose Buddhism? Whose Texts? Observations about Religious Conversations." Posted on the Public Square: 2014 Religious Trends series, "Expanding Leadership Opportunities for Buddhist Women—Which Way Forward?" August. www.patheos.com.
2013. "Human Subjects Research: Lessons about Interreligious Relations beyond the Research Thesis." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 16, no. 4 (October): 392.
2012. "Christian Sensitivity in Interreligious Relations." *Asbury Journal* 67, no. 2 (Fall): 51-83.
2012. "Emergence of the Rhetoric of a Unified *Ummah* among American Muslims: The Case of Metropolitan Chicago." *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 32, no. 4 (December): 450-66.
2011. (Editor and contributor to series of articles.) "The Boundaries of Knowledge in Buddhism, Christianity, and Science." *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 31: 161-212.
2011. "Leadership Issues in American Buddhism." *Dharma World* 38 (July-September): 22-25.
2011. "Mecca on the Plains: Chicago's Varied Mosques Reflect Changes on the Country's Religious Landscape." *Faith and Form: The Interfaith Journal on Religion, Art and Architecture* 44, no. 3: 17-21.
2011. "The Mosques of Metropolitan Chicago, 2010." Pluralism Project, Harvard University, April. <http://pluralism.org/affiliates/numrich/mosques/>.
2011. "Seminar Prayers for Courses on World Religions and Interreligious Dialogue." *Trinity Seminary Review* 32, no. 1 (Winter/Spring): 27-38.
2010. "The Monastic Path in North American Buddhism." Posted on the Public Square: Future of Religion series, July. www.patheos.com.
2009. "The Problem with Sex According to Buddhism." *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* 48, no. 1 (Spring/March): 62-73.
2008. "Plan B in the Pluralist-Dialogue Approach to Religious Diversity in America." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 43, no. 4 (Fall): 453-75.
2007. "Buddhists." In *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, edited by Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton, 736-37. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
2007. "Fundamentalisms and American Pluralism." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 42, no. 1 (Winter): 9-14.

2005. (Co-author with Fred Kniss.) "Immigrant Congregational Names in Chicago: Religious and Civic Considerations." *Names: A Journal of Onomastics* 53, no. 4 (December): 275-92.
2005. "A Topical Overview of Selected English Resources on Islam." *Journal of Religious and Theological Information* 7, no. 2: 11-28. Actual publication date July 2007.
2004. "Buddhists." In *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, 98-99. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2004. "Muslims." In *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, 556-57. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2004. "Sikhs." In *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, 753. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2004. "Thais," In *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, 814-15. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2004. "Zoroastrians," In *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, 908. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2003. "Theravada Religious Communities." In *Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions*, vol. 1, edited by Gary Laderman and Luis Leon, 63-65. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
2003. "Two Buddhisms Further Considered." *Contemporary Buddhism* 4, no. 1: 55-78.
2002. "Sex-Selective Abortion: Social, Cultural, and Religious Considerations." *e-Ethics* (May). Chicago: Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics.
2002. "Yes, Your Patient Is a Buddhist—But What Kind?" *e-Ethics* (March). Chicago: Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics.
2001. "Buddhism." In *Encyclopedia of American Immigration*, edited by James Ciment, 863-67. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe.
2001. "Culturally and Religiously Competent Health Care for America's Diverse Muslim Population." *e-Ethics*, Special Edition. Chicago: Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics.
2001. "Health, Faith, and Ethics at the State Department: The Park Ridge Center Consults on a Buddhism Roundtable." *Park Ridge Center Bulletin* (September/October): 13.

2001. "Religion at the United Nations: A Park Ridge Center Project." *Park Ridge Center Bulletin* (March/April): 13.
2001. "Review Essay: From Diversity to Pluralism: Is It a Requirement?" *Second Opinion* n.s. 8 (October): 69-76.
2001. "United Religions at the United Nations: Why Should Anyone Expect That?" *Second Opinion* n.s. 8 (October): 53-68.
2000. "The Fall of Falun Gong?" *Second Opinion* n.s. 2 (January): 90-92.
2000. "Health Care and the New Immigration." *Park Ridge Center Bulletin* (September/October): 3+.
2000. "How the Swans Came to Lake Michigan: The Social Organization of Buddhist Chicago." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 39, no. 2 (June): 189-203.
2000. "Religion and Sexuality in Local Context: Congregations Make a Difference in Sexual Matters." *Second Opinion* n.s. 2 (January): 53-66.
2000. "Superficial Ethics, Inspirational Morality." Review of Dalai Lama, *Ethics for the New Millennium*. In *Second Opinion* n.s. 2 (January): 76-78.
1999. "Posting Five Precepts: A Buddhist Perspective on Ethics in Health Care." *Park Ridge Center Bulletin* (November/December): 9-11.
1998. "History and Purposes of the Buddhist Council of the Midwest." August. www.bcmw.org.
1997. "Recent Immigrant Religions in a Restructuring Metropolis: New Religious Landscapes in Chicago." *Journal of Cultural Geography* 17, no. 1 (Fall/Winter): 55-76.
1994. "Vinaya in Theravada Temples in the United States." *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 1: 23-32.
1993. "The Baha'i Faith in World Religions Textbooks." *World Order* 25, no. 1 (Fall): 51-59.

Book Reviews

2015. Richard Alba and Nancy Foner, *Strangers No More: Immigration and the Challenges of Integration in North America and Western Europe*. In *Christian Century* 132, no. 22 (October 28): 42-43.
2014. Tariq Jalil, *Islam Plain and Simple: Women, Terrorism and Other Controversial Topics*. In *Interfaith Update* (Interfaith Association of Central Ohio), September 5.

2014. Amos Yong, *The Cosmic Breath: Spirit and Nature in the Christianity-Buddhism-Science Trialogue*. In *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 34: 230-34.
2012. Duncan S. Ferguson, *Exploring the Spirituality of the World Religions: The Quest for Personal, Spiritual and Social Transformation*. In *Theology Today* 68, no. 4 (January): 498-500.
2009. Mark Juergensmeyer, *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, from Christian Militias to al Qaeda*. In *Review of Religious Research* 50, no. 4 (June): 483-84.
2009. Peggy Levitt, *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*. In *Sociology of Religion* 70, no. 1 (Spring): 95-96.
2008. Prema A. Kurien, *A Place at the Multicultural Table: The Development of an American Hinduism*. In *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 47, no. 2 (June): 336-37.
2007. Paul O. Ingram, *Wrestling with God*. In *Trinity Seminary Review* 28, no. 2 (Summer/Fall): 132-33.
2006. Christopher Partridge, ed., *Introduction to World Religions*. In *Trinity Seminary Review* 27, no. 2 (Summer/Fall): 153-54.
2003. Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Jane I. Smith, and John L. Esposito, eds., *Religion and Immigration: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Experiences in the United States*. In *Journal of American Ethnic History* 23, no. 1 (Fall): 134-36.
2001. Fenggang Yang, *Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities*. In *Sociology of Religion* 62, no. 1 (Spring): 146-47.
2000. (Co-author with Robert W. Numrich.) John Polkinghorne, *Belief in God in an Age of Science*, Holmes Rolston, *Genes, Genesis and God: Values and their Origins in Natural and Human History*, and John C. Avise, *The Genetic Gods: Evolution and Belief in Human Affairs*. In *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 39, no. 2 (June): 247-49.
1997. Richard H. Jones, *Mysticism Examined: Philosophical Inquiries into Mysticism*. In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 65, no. 3 (Fall): 676-78.
1997. Gerd Nonneman, Tim Niblock, and Bogdan Szajkowski, eds., *Muslim Communities in the New Europe*. In *Sociology of Religion* 58, no. 4 (Winter): 399-400.
1996. Tessa J. Bartholomeusz, *Women under the Bo Tree: Buddhist Nuns in Sri Lanka*. In *Religion* 26, no. 4 (October): 390-92.
1995. Carl T. Jackson, *Vedanta for the West: The Ramakrishna Movement in the United States*. In *Review of Religious Research* 37, no. 2 (December): 168-69.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Conference Presentations and Other Activities

2024. Keynote speaker, McNamara Center Workshop, Loyola University Chicago.

2020. "The Organizational Networks of Immigrant Congregations in the United States," paper accepted for presentation at Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting (canceled due to pandemic).

2019. Invited participant, "A Convening on the Case Method," Pluralism Project conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

2018. "The Rhetoric of American Exceptionalism in Interfaith Initiatives in the United States," paper presented in the Religion and American Culture Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Muncie, IN.

2018. "A Social Exchange Theory Analysis of Religious Space-Sharing," paper presented in the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Muncie, IN.

2018. "Space-Sharing by Congregations," online forum,
<https://www.mtso.edu/academics/faculty/ongoing-faculty-projects/space-sharing-by-congregations/>.

2018. "Space-Sharing Principles for Religious Organizations and Groups," presentation for the Theological Commons, Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

2017. "Space-Sharing Principles for Religious Organizations and Groups," presentation at the Center for Interfaith Engagement, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA.

2017. "World Religions in Greater Indianapolis," led Buddhism Seminar Session for the NEH Seminar Program, Indianapolis.

2016. "Religion, Religions, and Religious Law," presentation for a panel discussion on "The Intersection of Religious and Civil Marriage: Dealing with Complex Cultural Issues in Domestic Relations Court" at the Domestic Relations Winter Conference of the Judicial College of The Supreme Court of Ohio, Columbus.

2015. "Mapping the Civic Engagement of Selected Immigrant Religious Groups in America," paper presented for a panel based on my 2007 co-authored book at the XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany.

2015. "Sacred Assemblies under the Same Roof: How Groups Share Common Space for Religious Purposes," paper presented in the Religion and the Social Sciences Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta.

2013. "The United Methodist Church's Struggle with Evangelism in Its Approach to Other Faith Communities," paper presented at the Thirteenth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Christ Church, Oxford, UK, archived at <http://oxford-institute.org/2013-thirteenth-institute/working-groups/>.

2013. "Worldview Competence in Health Care," Jim Barlow Memorial Lecture, 23rd Annual Bioethics Network of Ohio Conference, Dublin, OH.

2012. "The Scope of Buddhist Influence in American History and Culture," paper presented at the 26th General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, Yeosu, Republic of Korea.

2011. "Facing Northeast in a Midwestern Metropolis," featured presentation to 20th anniversary meeting of the Chicago Area Group for the Study of Religious Communities, Chicago.

2011. "Facing Northeast in a Midwestern Metropolis: The Challenges of Islamic Identity and Ummatic Unity in Chicago," paper presented at National Association of African American Studies and Affiliates conference, Baton Rouge.

2011. "Mosques on Chicago's Religious Landscape, paper presented at Inaugural Conference on Islam in America, DePaul University, Chicago.

2010. "Religion and Its Role in Human Tragedy," paper presented at 2010 Multi-State Conference (sponsored by US Department of Justice, US Attorneys' Offices of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance), Dubuque, IA.

2010. "Religious Specialists in North American Theravada Buddhism: Present Situation and Future Prospects," paper presented at Won Institute of Graduate Studies 2010 Forum on Roles and Practices in Ordained Buddhist Orders in America, Glenside, PA.

2009. "The Boundaries of Knowledge in Buddhism, Christianity, and Science," co-convener and presenter, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies annual meeting, Montreal.

2008. "Asian American Religions," convener, Association for the Sociology of Religion Session, ASR annual meeting, Boston.

2008. "Religious/Spiritual CAM in the Foreign-Born Population of the United States," co-presenter with Christine Numrich, poster presented at First Annual Meeting of the Society for Spirituality, Theology, and Health, Duke University, Durham, NC.

2007. Abrahamic Faiths workshop leader, National Society of Black Engineers Annual Conference, Columbus, OH.

2006. "Dharma Crossing Boundaries: Buddhist Culture in the New World," organizer, convener, and discussant, Association for the Sociology of Religion and American Sociological Association Joint Thematic Session, ASR/ASA annual meetings, Montreal.

2006. "Fundamentalisms and American Pluralism," paper presented at symposium on Fundamentalism: Race, Truth, and Democracy in a Global World, sponsored by Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

2005. "How Christian Congregations with Mixed Immigrant/Non-immigrant Memberships View Religious Diversity," presentation at Louisville Institute colloquy, Louisville.

2004. "Adopting and Adapting: Asian-Based Buddhist Groups Changing in Encounter with Non-Asian Americans," respondent, Additional Meeting session, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio.

2004. "The Ethnography of Identity and Boundary Negotiation: Case Studies of Hindu and Buddhist Communities in North America," respondent, Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio.

2003. "Get Thee to Ray Williams," presentation for Special Session in Honor of Raymond Brady Williams, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Chicago.

2003. "Immigrant American Religions and the Family," paper presented at American Religions and the Family Consultation, Emory University, Atlanta.

2003. "Post-1965 South and Southeast Asian Immigrants and Refugees," guest lecture for "Transnational Buddhisms in Asia and America" joint course, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

2002. "American Lessons about Religious and Racial Liberties, with Special Reference to Asian-American Buddhists," paper presented at Malaysian Association for American Studies International Conference on Religious Pluralism in Democratic Societies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2002. "Islam in the United States," presentation to Interdisciplinary Workshop on American Religion, Notre Dame University.

2002. "New Research on Religious Communities," discussant at Religious Pluralism in North America Conference, Toronto.

2002. "Two Buddhisms in Chicago," paper presented in Asian Religions in America Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Chicago.

2002. "The 'Two Buddhisms' Problematic in Contemporary Buddhist Studies, or Two Buddhisms Further Considered," paper presented at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City.

2002. "The View from Chicago," panel presentation at Religion and Immigrant Incorporation in New York conference, New York City.

2001. "Complementary and Alternative Medicine in America's 'Two Buddhisms'," paper presented at Religious Healing in Urban America Conference, Harvard University.

2001. "Ethnic Parallelism in American Religion, with Special Attention to Asian Religions," paper presented in Asian Religions in America Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Chicago.

2001. "New Immigrant Religions and US Health Care," panel convened at American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Nashville.

2001. "The New Religious Diversity and Health Care: The Buddhist Case," organized one-day conference, Chicago.

2001. "Religion at the United Nations," presentation at European Parliament, Brussels.

2001. "Who Speaks for Religion(s) in Bioethics?" panel convened at American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Nashville.

2000. "Korean Immigrant Churches," respondent, Chicago Area Group for the Study of Religious Communities, Loyola University Chicago.

2000. "The Numbers Question: Thoughts Prepared for Pew's Religion and the New Immigrants Research Initiative," September.

2000. "Religion and the Civic Incorporation of Recent Immigrants," paper presented in Asian Religions in America Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Chicago.

1999. "Buddhist Participation in American Civil Society," presentation for panel on "Religious Participation in Civil Society: The View from the Academy," Pluralism Project Symposium on Civil Society and Multireligious America, Harvard University.

1999. "Consultation on Religious Discrimination and Accommodation," panelist, Pluralism Project, Harvard University.

1999. "Ethnic-Asian Buddhists in America: Strangers from a Different Shore Practicing a Different Religion," presentation for seminar on "American Buddhism: The Changing Face," Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

1999. Section on Religion, Ethnicity, and Race, panelist, Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago.

1999. "A Socio-Ecological Analysis of Buddhist Groups in Metropolitan Chicago," paper presented in Asian Religions in America Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, St. Louis.

1998. "Facing Northeast in a Midwestern Metropolis: The Growth of Islam and the Challenge of the Ummatic Ideal in Chicago," paper presented in Study of Islam Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Orlando.

1998. "Inter-Religious Family Issues," presentation to Religion, Culture, and Family Project, University of Chicago, Chicago.

1997. "Congregations on the Edge: Religion in Exurban Chicago," paper presented in Religion and Culture in the Post-Industrial Metropolis section, Religious Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego.

1997. "Covering the Increasing Diversity of Religion," panel presentation at "Covering Religion in the 21st Century" conference, Center for Religion and the News Media, Evanston, IL.

1995. "A Topology of Recent Immigrant Religions in Metropolitan Chicago," paper presented at Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

1994. "Old Wisdom in the New World: Immigrant Theravada Buddhism in America," presentation for Numata Graduate Lecture Series on "Buddhisms in America: An Expanding Frontier," Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley.

1993. "Immigrant Theravada Buddhist Temples in the United States," paper presented in (1) Scientific Study of Religion in Non-Western Traditions Section, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC, and (2) Comparative Studies in Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC; also submitted upon request to 12th Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science and the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY.

1993. "Religion and Ethnicity in Chicago," conference panelist, Chicago.

1992. "The Baha'i Faith in World Religions Textbooks," paper presented in Baha'i Studies Colloquy, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco.

1992. "Parallel Congregations in Immigrant Theravada Buddhist Temples," paper presented in History of Religions Section, American Academy of Religion Southeast Region Annual Meeting, Atlanta.

1992. "Schism in the Sinhalese Buddhist Community of Los Angeles," paper presented at Fourth International Buddhist-Christian Dialog Conference, Boston.

1992. "Theravada Buddhist Monks in American Temples: Case Studies from Los Angeles and Chicago," paper presented in Religion and American Culture Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Terre Haute, IN.

1991. Baha'i Studies Seminar, respondent, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.

1991. "Insiders versus Outsiders vis-a-vis Outsiders: The Thai Buddhist Temples of Chicago," paper presented in Religion and American Culture Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Dayton, OH.

Grants, Awards, Recognition

2019. Commendation for *The Abrahamic Encounter* by Columbus (Ohio) City Council President.

2017. Space-Sharing Principles for Religious Organizations and Groups, Louisville Institute, 18 months, \$17,635.

2011. Religion in the New Urban Era, Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, co-recipient, 2 years, \$1,700.

2010. Methodist Theological School in Ohio named one of America's top 20 seminaries in multifaith education by the Center for Multifaith Education at Auburn Theological Seminary. <https://www.mtso.edu/about-mtso/news-publications/mtso-news-archive/mtso-named-to-top-20-list-for-multifaith-education/>.

2009. Scioto Educational Foundation Excellence in Dialogue Award, Academic Institutions Category.

2005. Comparative Religious Perspectives on Science: Buddhism and Christianity, principal investigator, funded by John Templeton Foundation, 2 years, \$43,230.10.

2003. The New Urban Buddhists, Senior Fellowship award, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, academic year 2003-2004, \$4,000 (declined for financial reasons).

2002. The Church Next Door: Christian Congregations Face America's New Religious Diversity, principal investigator, funded by Louisville Institute, 18 months, \$29,453; supplemental funding from Pluralism Project, Harvard University, and Center for the Advanced Study of Christianity and Culture, Loyola University Chicago, summer, \$3,000.

2002. Enhancing Access to Culturally Competent Health Care for Buddhist and Hindu Patients, principal investigator, funded by Fund for Immigrants and Refugees, Donors Forum of Chicago, 1 year, \$24,200.

2000. Religion, Immigration and Civil Society in Chicago Project, co-principal investigator, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, 3 years, \$600,000.

1998. Buddhist Chicago Project, principal investigator, funded by American Academy of Religion and Pluralism Project, Harvard University, 1 year, \$2,000.

Advisory and Consulting Work

Archiv Orientalni: reviewer.

Asbury Journal: editorial advisory panel member, 2005-present.

Associated Press: Buddhism in America.

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education: peer review.

Beacon News (Aurora, IL): world religions.

Bolingbrook Sun (Bolingbrook, IL): prayer.

Boston Healing Landscape Project: executive committee member, 2001-2004.

Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Berkeley: immigrant Buddhism.

Center for Religion and the News Media, Garrett Seminary and Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University: world religions, religious diversity in Chicago.

Center for Religion and the News Media and the Metropolitan Chicago Interreligious Initiative: task force member, pilot project "Getting the Story Right: Media and the Coverage of Religion."

Center for the Study of Religion, Ohio State University: outside faculty affiliate, 2008-present.

Chicago History Museum: Chicago Sacred Project.

Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues: immigrant congregations.

Chicago Lawyer Magazine: Muslims in Chicago.

Chicago News Cooperative: immigrant congregations.

Chicago Public Media: Chicago mosques.

Chicago Sun-Times: Sikhs.

Chicago Tribune: religion in America, Buddhism in America, Buddhist holy days, Lao Buddhism, culturally competent health care, legal disputes in immigrant Buddhist temples, mosques in metropolitan Chicago.

Christianity Today: urban vs. suburban religious trends.

City 2000: religious diversity in Chicago.

Civilization magazine: Buddhism in America.

CNN.com: December dilemma for non-Christians.

Columbia University Press: reviewer.

Columbus Dispatch: religious groups and practices generally, Sikhs, interfaith associations, interfaith marriages, Op Ed contributor to Faith and Values section, space-sharing by congregations.

Courier News (Elgin, IL): Buddhist converts.

Daily Herald (suburban Chicago): megachurches, religious diversity in Chicago.

Daily Southtown (suburban Chicago): megachurches.

Engaging for the Common Good in Italy: Studying the Effects of Public Funding of Buddhist Organisations on Initiating Civic Engagement Activities: Project Partner, 2020-present.

Faith and Leadership, Duke Divinity School: African immigrant churches.

Fox 32-TV, Chicago: arranged marriages.

“Frontline,” PBS: religion and sexuality.

Grady Memorial Hospital (Delaware, OH) Ethics Advisory Committee: community representative, 2014-present.

Humanities: The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities: Buddhism in America.

Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute: Buddhist practice of releasing animals for merit.

Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion: reviewer.

International Migration Review: reviewer.

International Visitors Center of Chicago (US State Department): session host for “Diverse Traditions, Common Ideals” series on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio and National Council of Churches: consultant on interfaith dialogue workshop.

The Islamic Monthly: Chicago mosques.

Journal of Ecumenical Studies: reviewer.

Journal of Global Buddhism: reviewer, editorial board member (2009-2020).

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion: reviewer.

Journal of Urban History: reviewer.

KUOW-Radio, Seattle: religious diversity in America.

Lao Community Health Task Force, Elgin, IL: task force member.

Local Resources Committee, Office of Social Science Research, University of Illinois at Chicago: Chicago-area religions.

“The Lotus Beat,” WNUR-Radio, Northwestern University: Buddhism.

Loyola Magazine: religion and immigration.

Lutheran University Press: reviewer.

Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University: Jews and Hispanics.

“Morning Edition,” NPR: new mosques in Chicago.

National Science Foundation: reviewer.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital: local diversity and health care.

Newcity Magazine: Buddhist temples and Catholic monasteries.

Newsweek: Buddhism in America, African American Islam.

New York Times Sunday Review Opinion Pages: Buddhists in America.

New York Times stylebook: religion, immigrant health care.

New York University Press: reviewer.

NPR: local mosques.

Omnigraphics: Life Events Advisory Board member.

“The Oprah Winfrey Show”: Buddhism.

“Osgood File,” CBS-Radio: Buddhism in America.

Oxford University Press: reviewer, book blurb.

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life: ecclesial law in America.

Pluralism Project, Harvard University: advisory board member, 1998-present.

Religion: reviewer.

Religion, Culture, and Family Project, University of Chicago: religious diversity.

Religion News Service: Buddhism and politics.

Religion Newswriters Association (ReligionLink: Resources for Reporters): interfaith marriages, Buddhist life in America.

Religions for Peace - USA: advisor for *InterActive Faith: A Guide to Building Interreligious Community*.

Review of Religious Research: reviewer.

Routledge: reviewer.

San Jose Mercury News: immigrant Buddhism.

Seattle Times: Buddhism in America.

Social Forces: reviewer.

Sociological Focus: reviewer.

Sociology of Religion: reviewer.

Space and Culture: reviewer.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Buddhist monasticism in America, Buddhist art in America.

Tango magazine: interfaith marriage and relationships.

Teaching Theology and Religion: reviewer.

Temple University Press: reviewer.

Tricycle: The Buddhist Review: immigrant Buddhism.

United States Institute of Peace: reviewer.

University of California Press: reviewer, book blurb.

University of North Carolina Press: reviewer.

USA Today: Buddhist views on death and dying.

US State Department, Washington, DC: Buddhist Roundtable participant, 2001-present.

Voice of America Radio: ethnic Buddhists in America.

Wall Street Journal: Baha'i.

Washington Post: immigrant churches.

WBBM-TV, Chicago: Sikhism.

WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio: immigrant religions (twice), South Africans in Chicago, religious diversity in America, sexuality in Hinduism.

WCRX, Bexley Public Radio, Bexley, OH: interreligious relations.

Wellington School, Columbus, OH: multi-faith calendar and curriculum.

WGN-TV, Chicago: religion in America, Buddhism in America.

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada: external referee for research project.

WOSU-Radio: forgiveness in world religions.

Other Scholarly Activities

American Academy of Religion Midwest Region, Vice-President and Program Chair (2003-2005), President (2005-2007).

Asian Religions in America Section, coordinator and presider, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting (1994-2004).

“Temple and Mosque: New Religious Diversity in America's Cities,” tour designer, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago (1999).

Spiritually Vital Episcopal Congregations Project, Hartford Seminary, case study researcher (1996).

Roundtable organizer and presider, “American Buddhism since the World's Parliament of Religions, 1893-1993,” American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Kalamazoo, MI (1993).

“What Is Sikhism?” student-produced video, production advisor, Aurora University (1990).

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Midwest Sociological Society
Religious Research Association
Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES (listed alphabetically by topic)

Ahimsa Day speaker, Jain Center of Central Ohio, Lewis Center, OH (2015, 2016, 2018).

“Buddhism,” presentations to Bethany Lutheran Church adult study group, Batavia, IL (2000); First Community Church forum, Columbus, OH (2016).

“Buddhism” (and other topics), presentations to honors social studies class, Olentangy Liberty High School, Liberty, OH (2004-2007, 2010).

“Buddhism in America,” presentations to Unitarian Universalist Church adult study group, Geneva, IL (2001); Delaware Cosmopolitan Club, Delaware, OH (2007).

“Buddhism and Science,” led two workshops at Ohio Ministries Convocation, Columbus, OH (2007).

“Buddhist Spirituality,” presentation to Spirituality class, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH (2004).

“Buddhists in America,” presentation to the Introduction to Buddhism class, Northwestern University (2011).

“Called to Be Neighbors and Witnesses: Guidelines for Interreligious Relationships,” presentation to Ohio Course of Study, The United Methodist Church (2016).

Certified Lay Ministers Academy, West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, facilitator (2011, 2013).

“Christians Face the Religions of the World,” adult study series at Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville, IL (1998).

“Christians in a Multi-Religious America”: kick-off for adult education series, “Introducing World Religions,” Trinity United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH (2004); Ohio Council of Churches annual meeting, Delaware, OH (2005); Delaware Ministerial Association meeting, Delaware, OH (2005); adult forum, Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH (2006); adult study group, First Presbyterian Church, Westerville, OH (2006); Retired Ministers Day, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH (2006); adult forum, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Worthington, OH (2006); adult forum, Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH (2007); two-part adult forum series, North Community Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH (2007); adult forum, North Broadway United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH (2007, 2011); adult forum, Worthington Presbyterian Church, Worthington, OH (2007-2008); Equipping the Saints, United Church of Christ Conference, Columbus, OH (2008); adult class and sermon, Trinity United Church of Christ, Thornville, OH (2008); two-part series, Westminster Thurber Retirement Community, Columbus, OH (2013); adult forum, First Community Church, Columbus, OH (2015); church cluster, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sandusky, OH (2016); adult forum, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC (2020).

“Civility in an Era of Hostility: An Interfaith Perspective,” panel moderator, Interfaith Association of Central Ohio’s 27th Annual Interfaith Main Event Dinner, Columbus, OH (2019).

“The Constitution and People of Faith,” conference panelist, Aurora, IL (1987).

“Cultural and Religious Diversity in America,” presentation to Navigator Management Partners, Columbus, OH (2013).

ELCA Churchwide Office, participant in missiology and leadership conferences, Chicago (2005-2007).

“Ethnic-Asian Buddhism in America,” presentation at Dharma Forum on Buddhism in America, Zen Buddhist Temple, Chicago (1997).

“Faith among Faiths: Faithful Christian Living in Interreligious Contexts,” Great Lakes Theological Academy, Traverse City, MI (2016).

“The Faith Next Door,” two-part workshop for the Certified Lay Ministry Program, West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, Huber Heights, OH (2009).

“Faith, Race, and the Ballot Box,” presentation at University Baptist Church, Columbus, OH (2008).

“Fall Forum,” presentation at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Upper Arlington, OH (2008).

“Fasting,” panelist for interfaith Ramadan dinner/discussion, Brecksville, OH (2007).

“Fundamentalism,” panelist on “Open Line,” WOSU-Radio (2006).

“Hinduism,” presentation to Ecumenical Youth Group, Delaware, OH (2008).

“Hurricane Relief,” presentation at Trinity United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH (2005).

“Interreligious Relations,” presentation to the University Interfaith Association, Ohio State University (2013).

“Islam,” two-part series at Worthington Presbyterian Church men’s breakfast meetings, Worthington, OH (2005).

“Islam in Chicago,” presentation to Grace United Methodist Church adult study group, Naperville, IL (2001).

Keynote addresses: Religious Diversity in Contemporary America Week, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL (2003); Common Ground luncheon, Columbus, OH (2005); Tri-Village Sertoma Club luncheon, Columbus, OH (2005); Mayor’s Annual Prayer Breakfast, Worthington, OH (2005); Ohio State University Extension Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) workshop (2005); Young Presidents Organization alumni group meeting, Delaware, OH (2006); Kiwanis Club of Columbus luncheon (2006); Columbus Rotary Club luncheon (2006); Building a Better Community in America Conference, Columbus, OH (2006); Church of the Brethren Annual Conference luncheon (2007); Clergy Education Day, Grady Hospital, Delaware, OH (2007); Scioto Educational Foundation’s Community Fellowship Dinner (2008); Religious Emphasis Week, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH (2008).

“Loving Your Neighbor, Understanding Your Neighbor’s Faith,” presentation at Worthington United Methodist Church, Worthington, OH (2008).

“Mosques and Muslims in America,” presentation at First Community Church, Columbus, OH (2011).

“Multi-Religious America,” presentation at Larry Larson Middle School, Grandview Heights, OH (2013, 2014, 2015).

“Multi-Religious America: Facts and Implications for Health Care,” presentation to OhioHealth Ethics Advisory Committee, Columbus, OH (2014).

“Muslims in America,” series of three Sunday presentations, Trinity UMC, Columbus, OH (2012).

“New Religious Diversity, with Special Attention to Naperville,” presentation to Naperville Ministerium, Naperville, IL (2000).

“Out of Abraham’s Tent,” series at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Upper Arlington, OH (2007).

“Religion and the Meaning of Life, with Special Attention to Buddhism and Christianity,” presentation to Association of Chinese Scientists and Engineers, Chicago (2000).

“Religion in the Schools,” faculty and administration in-service at Columbus Academy, Columbus, OH (2005).

“Religious Competence in Health Care,” chaplain in-service at Mount Carmel Hospital, Columbus, OH (2006); ethics committee, medical directors, and medical residents in-services at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, OH (2007-2008).

“Religious Diversity in Metropolitan Chicago,” presentation to Metropolitan Planning Committee, Metropolitan Chicago Interreligious Initiative, Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago (1995).

“Religious Studies,” presentation to Denison University religion class, Granville, OH (2006).

“Theravada Buddhism,” presentation to Bright Dawn Institute class, Chicago (2007, 2008).

Toro Nagashi Interfaith Peace Prayer, presenter, Chicago (2023).

“Understanding Islam,” presentations to Ohio National Guard Chaplains Conference, Columbus, OH (2005); First Community Church, Dublin, OH (2010); St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Granville, OH (2012); Old Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH (2016).

“What I Have Learned from my Study of Buddhism,” sermon given at Buddhist Temple of Chicago (1997).

“What Kind of Christians Do We Need Today?” series of presentations as Interfaith Week Chaplain, Lakeside Association, Lakeside, OH (2010).

“What’s on your Mind?” Dharma talk given at Heartland Sangha, Evanston, IL (1998).

Working Session on Globality, Conference on Pluralism, moderator, Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago (1993).

“World Religions,” led confirmation class at Congregation Beth Shalom, Naperville, IL (1997, 1998).

“Worldview Competency in Health Care,” Spiritual Care Grand Rounds, Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH (2019).

(updated September 2026)