

PAUL EMORY PUTZ

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George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Baylor University
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EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. Degree in History, Baylor University**
Dissertation: "God, Country, and Big-Time Sports: American Protestants and the Creation of 'Sportianity,' 1920-1980."
Dissertation Committee: Barry Hankins, Elesha Coffman, Andrea Turpin, Thomas Kidd, John White, and Darren Dochuk.
Comprehensive exams: Post-1877 American history (major field), American religious history (major field), and modern Middle East (minor field).
- 2012 M.A. Degree in History, University of Nebraska-Omaha**
- 2009 B.S. Degree in Secondary Education (history endorsement), Grace University**

POSITIONS HELD

- 2019-** **Assistant Director of Sports Ministry Program, Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary**
- 2018-19** **Lecturer in History, Messiah College History Department**
Courses taught: The Meaning of Sports in American Life • United States History Survey Since 1865 • Sports, Race, and Politics in American History • Created and Called for Community
- 2013-18** **Graduate and Teaching Assistant, Baylor University History Department**
Courses assisted: History of the U.S. Since 1877 • History of Gender in Latin America • World History Since 1500 • Historiography
- 2010-13** **Social Studies Teacher, Millard North High School (Omaha, NE)**
Courses taught: American History • World Geography • World History • AP Human Geography

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

The Spirit of the Game: American Protestants, Big-Time Sports, and the Contest for National Identity (book manuscript under contract with Oxford University Press)

“Touchdown Jesus: The Midwest and the Integration of Religion and Sport.” Chapter under contract in *Oxford History of the Midwest*, edited by Jon Lauck (Oxford University Press).

“Fundamentalism and Sport.” Chapter under contract in *The Oxford Handbook of Christian Fundamentalism*, edited by Andrew Atherstone and David Ceri Jones (Oxford University Press).

Book Chapters

“The Homer of Middle-Western America: The Syndicated Poetry of Walt Mason,” in *The Midwestern Moment: The Ascendance of Midwestern Regionalism, 1880-1940*, edited by Jon Lauck (Hastings, NE: Hastings College Press, 2017), 113-128.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“For Race and Region: A Brief History of the Western Negro Press Association, 1896-1920,” *Great Plains Quarterly* 38.2 (Spring 2018): 175-198.

“Commercializing the Sacred Office: Sexual Revolution and the Scandal of the Modern Marrying Parson, 1895-1930,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 17.1 (January 2018): 56-76.

“Building A City on a Hill: Evangelical Protestant Men and Moral Reform under the Des Moines Plan, 1907-1916,” *The Annals of Iowa* 77.1 (Winter 2018): 1-40.

“Big-League Basketball Comes to Omaha: A History of the Omahawks,” *Nebraska History* 97.8 (Winter 2016): 185-198.

“From the Pulpit to the Press: Frank Crane’s Omaha, 1892-1896,” *Nebraska History* 96.3 (Fall 2015): 136-153.

“A Church for the People and a Priest for the Common Man: Charles W. Savidge, Omaha’s Eccentric Reformer,” *Nebraska History* 94.2 (Summer 2013): 54-73.

“Jesse ‘Cab’ Renick: In Search of an Indian Identity,” *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 89.1 (Spring 2011): 72-97.

Book Reviews (Academic Journals)

- Steve Marantz, *Citizen Akoy: Basketball and the Making of a South Sudanese American* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019). Reviewed for *Nebraska History* (forthcoming).
- Michael Hurd, *Thursday Night Lights: The Story of Black High School Football in Texas* (University of Texas Press, 2017). Reviewed for *Great Plains Quarterly* 38.4 (Fall 2018): 440-441.
- Timothy B. Neary, *Crossing Parish Boundaries: Race, Sports, and Catholic Youth in Chicago, 1914-1954* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Reviewed for *Journal of American Ethnic History* 37.3 (Spring 2018): 134-136.
- Murry Nelson, *Big Ten Basketball, 1943-1972* (McFarland, 2017). Reviewed for *Journal of Sport History* 45.1 (Spring 2018). 121-122.
- Willa Cather with an introduction from Susan Schiller, *Alexander's Bridge* (Hastings College Press, 2016). Reviewed for *Middle West Review* 4.2 (Spring 2018): 90-92.
- Christopher D. Cantwell, Heath W. Carter, and Janine Giordano Drake, eds., *The Pew and the Picket Line: Christianity and the American Working Class* (University of Illinois Press, 2016). Reviewed for *Annals of Iowa* 76.1 (Winter 2017): 145-146.
- Brent M.S. Campney, *This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927* (University of Illinois Press, 2015). Reviewed for *Great Plains Quarterly* 37.1 (Winter 2017): 66-67.
- David N. Wetzel, *Vanishing Messiah: The Life and Resurrections of Francis Schlatter* (University of Iowa Press). Reviewed for *Nebraska History* 97.8 (Winter 2016): 218-219.
- William A. Mirola, *Redeeming Time: Protestantism and Chicago's Eight-Hour Movement, 1866-1912* (University of Illinois Press, 2015). Reviewed for *Fides et Historia* 47.2 (Summer/Fall 2015): 201-203.
- Tekla Agbala Ali Johnson, *Free Radical: Ernest Chambers, Black Power, and the Politics of Race* (Texas Tech University Press, 2012). Reviewed for *Middle West Review* 2.1 (Fall 2015): 107-109.

Online and General Interest Publications

Books & Culture

- ["A Working-Class Gospel: Christianity and the Labor Movement in Chicago."](#) (July/August 2016).

Christ and Pop Culture

- ["The Narrow Vision of Our Great Big American God."](#) October 6, 2014.

Christianity Today

- ["The Philadelphia Eagles Get the 'God Squad' Treatment."](#) September 6, 2018.
- ["The Anti-Racism Activist That History Forgot."](#) June 5, 2018.
- ["God and the Gridiron Game."](#) September 6, 2017.
- ["Finally, Jackie Robinson's Faith is Getting the Attention It Deserves."](#) June 29, 2017.
- ["Ten Christian Athletes Who Were Tebowing Before Tebow."](#) September 28, 2016.

The Gospel Coalition

- ["7, Maybe 8, Books to Read on Football and American Culture."](#) August 27, 2018.
- ["The Untold Story of Olympic Champion Eric Liddell."](#) May 6, 2016.
- ["One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America."](#) July 3, 2015.

Religion & Politics

- ["Football and the Political Act of Prayer."](#) August 28, 2018.
- ["The Role of Sports Ministries in the NFL Protests."](#) October 17, 2017.
- ["Nebraska: A Cornhusker Prays with FCA."](#) March 17, 2015.

Religion in American History (academic group blog)

- Various posts as a guest contributor:
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/search/label/putz>.

Religion News Service

- ["Patriots 'Character Coach' Jack Easterby Joins Long Tradition of Chaplains."](#) February 1, 2019.

Slate

- ["John Wooden's Homespun Creed Was Not So Homespun."](#) May 17, 2017.

Sport in American History (academic group blog)

- Various posts as a guest contributor: <https://ussporthistory.com/category/paul-putz/>.

Sportianity (personal blog)

- ["Hugh Freeze, Liberty University, and the Past and Future of Jerry Falwell's Football Dreams."](#) December 28, 2018.
- ["The Fundamentalist Frank Merriwell."](#) July 3, 2018.
- ["How Billy Graham Made Peace With Sunday Sports."](#) March 9, 2018.
- ["Last Chance U: About Those Praying Football Teams From the South."](#) July 25, 2017.

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

Fellowships/Grants for Research

2016	Research Fellowship, Presbyterian Historical Society
2016	Evangelism Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives
2016	University of Chicago Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship
2015-16	Wayne Travel Grant, Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas
2015-16	State Historical Society of Iowa Research Grant
2012-13	Nebraska State Historical Society Research Grant

Other Fellowships/Awards

2013-18	Graduate School Fellowship, Baylor University, 2013-2018
2013-14	Guittard Fellowship, Baylor University, 2013-2014
2012-13	Bernie Kolasa Academic Memorial Scholarship, Nebraska-Omaha AAUP
2011-12	Outstanding History Graduate Student, University of Nebraska-Omaha

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

2019

"Christian Athletes and the Revolt of the Black Athlete." Paper to be presented at the Second Global Congress on Sport and Christianity. Grand Rapids, Michigan. October 2019.

"God and the Gridiron Game: A Religious History of Football." Invited lectured delivered at Ye Olde Sulphur Spa Historical Society. York, Pennsylvania. May 2019.

"Black Athletes in American Society: History for our #TakeAKnee Moment." Invited lecture delivered at Saint Francis University. April 2019.

"The Rise of Sports Ministry." Invited lecture delivered to a class on sports and religion at Bucknell University. March 2019.

"Black Athletes in White Society." Invited lectured delivered to the Athletic Department at Messiah College. February 2019.

"God and the Gridiron Game: A Religious History of Football." Invited lecture delivered at Mechanicsburg (PA) Presbyterian Church. February 2019.

Participant in the "Five Slides in Five Minutes" Session for Early Career Scholars. Annual meeting of the American Historical Association. Chicago, Illinois. January 2019.

2018

“John Wooden, Jesus, and Me: Thinking Historically about the Intersection of Sports and Christianity.” Invited lecture delivered at Messiah College. November 2018.

“‘There is talk of Black Power...it is time somebody talked about God Power’: Evangelical Sports Ministries and the Black Athlete in the Long 1960s.” Presented at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. Washington, D.C. January 2018.

2017

“Protestant, Catholic, Mormon: Forging a Broad Christian Alliance through Sport in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 1954-1970.” Presented at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. Denver, Colorado. January 2017.

2016

“Women and the Early Development of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 1954-1976.” Presented at the Conference on Faith and History’s biennial meeting. Virginia Beach, Virginia. October 2016.

Roundtable on Ed Blum’s *Reforging the White Republic*. Presented at the Conference on Faith and History’s biennial meeting. Virginia Beach, Virginia. October 2016.

"The Possibilities, Perils, and Perimeters of Online Academic Communities: One Graduate Student's Perspective." Presented at Crossroads: The Future of Graduate History Education. Madison, New Jersey. March 2016.

“Whose Social Gospel? Contested Social Christianities in the Midwest.” Presented at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. Atlanta, Georgia. January 2016.

2015

“‘A wondrous compatibility of theological positions’: The Early Diversity of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 1954-1970.” Presented at The Spirit of Sports: Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture. Waco, Texas. November 2015.

“Reporting the Revival: Lena Mason’s Interracial Evangelistic Campaign in the Midwest, 1895-1905.” Presented at the annual spring meeting of the American Society of Church History. Minneapolis, Minnesota. April 2015.

2014

“Christian Historians and Social Media.” Roundtable discussion at the Conference on Faith and History’s biennial meeting. Malibu, California. September 2014.

“‘Endless miseries, ruined lives, and social disaster’: Marrying Parsons and Sexual Revolution in the Progressive Era.” Presented at the Religion and Sexual Revolutions Conference at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. St. Louis, Missouri. May 2014.

“‘First Pick the Mote From Thine Own Eye’: The Christian Rhetoric of Racial Equality in the African American Press of the Great Plains, 1895-1900.” Presented at the Missouri Valley History Conference. Omaha, Nebraska. March 2014.

PODCAST/RADIO INTERVIEWS

Interviewed on historian Chris Gehrz’s podcast, *The 252*, March 13, 2019.

<https://pietistschoolman.com/2019/03/13/wednesdays-podcast-sportianity/>

Interviewed on historian John Fea’s podcast, *The Way Of Improvement Leads Home*, October 7, 2018.

<https://thewayofimprovement.com/2018/10/07/episode-40-sportianity/>

"Tracing The Origins Of College Sports Amateurism." Audio interview appearance on NPR's *Only A Game* radio program, October 13, 2017.

<http://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2017/10/13/ncaa-amateurism-origins-history>

“The Complicated Legacy of Pioneering Football Coach Amos Alonzo Stagg.” Audio interview appearance on NPR’s *Only A Game* radio program, February 17, 2017.

<http://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2017/02/17/amos-alonzo-stagg>

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

2018-19 Advisory Board, Second Global Congress on Sport and Christianity

2014-18 Community Coordinator, Baylor Graduate Student Housing

2012-13 Student Council Faculty Sponsor, Millard North High School

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association | Conference on Faith and History | American Society of Church History | Organization of American Historians | Midwestern History Association | North American Society for Sport History | Nebraska State Historical Society