

PAUL EMORY PUTZ

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Department of History
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Education

PhD Candidate in History, Baylor University, Expected 2018

Dissertation Adviser: Barry Hankins

Comprehensive exams: Post-1877 American history (major field), American religious history (major field), and modern Middle East (minor field)

M.A. Degree in History, University of Nebraska-Omaha, 2012

B.S. Degree in Secondary Education (history endorsement), Grace University, 2009

Research Interests

My dissertation is the first archival-based historical study of the ways in which American Protestantism became embedded in the world of commercialized, big-time sport in the twentieth-century United States. It explains how sports were used as a cultural site for the continuation of a Protestant-derived sense of religious nationalism even as twentieth-century American society supposedly became more secular. It also highlights the importance of mainline Protestantism and Cold War-era anticommunism in galvanizing the movement to bring religion more fully into the realm of athletic competition. Broadly, my research focuses on American history and the intersection of sports and religion. It also touches on themes of popular culture, gender, race, and region (particularly the Midwest).

Teaching Experience

Teacher of Record, Baylor University History Department, 2017

-Course taught: History of the United States Since 1877.

Graduate Assistant, Baylor University History Department, 2013-2018

-Worked with professors to develop course structure; Created and graded course content; Proctored exams; Delivered guest lectures.

-Courses assisted: History of the U.S. Since 1877; History of Gender in Latin America; World History Since 1500; Historiography.

Social Studies Teacher, Millard North High School (Omaha, NE), 2010-2013

-Taught courses in American History, World Geography, World History, and AP Human Geography (grades 9-12). Trained and certified to teach AP and IB courses.

Grants/Fellowships/Awards

Fellowships/Grants for Research

Evangelism Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives, 2016
Research Fellowship, Presbyterian Historical Society, 2016
University of Chicago Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship, 2016
Whayne Travel Grant, Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, 2015-2016
State Historical Society of Iowa Research Grant, 2015-2016
Nebraska State Historical Society Research Grant, 2012-2013

Other Fellowships/Awards

Graduate School Fellowship, Baylor University, 2013-2018
Guittard Fellowship, Baylor University, 2013-2014
Hudson Fellowship, University of Oklahoma, 2013-2017 (declined)
Bernie Kolasa Academic Memorial Scholarship, Nebraska-Omaha AAUP, 2012-2013
Outstanding History Graduate Student, University of Nebraska-Omaha, 2011-2012

Publications

Book Chapters:

“The Homer of Middle-Western America: The Syndicated Poetry of Walt Mason.” Published 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:

“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* (forthcoming, January 2018).

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

“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.

“‘Going Viral’: The Impact of Forced Crowdsourcing on Coaching Evaluation Procedures.” *International Sport Coaching Journal* 1.2 (2014): 103-108. Co-author with Jordan R. Bass and Mark Vermillion.

“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:

Murray Nelson, *Big Ten Basketball, 1943-1972* (McFarland, 2017). Reviewed for the *Journal of Sport History* (forthcoming, 2018).

Timothy B. Neary, *Crossing Parish Boundaries: Race, Sports, and Catholic Youth in Chicago, 1914-1954* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Reviewed for the *Journal of American Ethnic History* (forthcoming, 2018).

Willa Cather with an introduction from Susan Schiller, *Alexander’s Bridge* (Hastings College Press, 2016). Reviewed for *Middle West Review* (forthcoming, 2018).

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.

Public Engagement

Regular contributor to the academic group blog *Religion in American History* (<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/search/label/putz>).

Guest contributor to the academic group blog *Sport in American History* (<https://ussporthistory.com/category/paul-putz/>).

Founder of *Sportianity*, a blog that explores the historical and contemporary connections between sports and Christianity in the United States (<http://www.sportianity.com/>).

I have written three essays for *Religion & Politics*, an online journal run by the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics at Washington University in St. Louis (http://religionandpolitics.org/author/paul_putz/).

For *Slate*, I wrote an essay based on research related to basketball coach John Wooden (http://www.slate.com/articles/sports/sports_nut/2017/05/john_wooden_s_seven_point_creed_came_from_a_1931_magazine_article.html).

Twice I have been interviewed on National Public Radio's *Only A Game* program. I discussed research related to football coach Amos Alonzo Stagg and the origins of amateur sports (<http://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2017/02/17/amos-alonzo-stagg>) (<http://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2017/10/13/ncaa-amateurism-origins-history>).

On *The Bottom Line*, an Omaha-based sports talk show from the *Omaha World-Herald*, I discussed my *Nebraska History* article "Big-League Basketball Comes to Omaha: A History of the Omahawks" (http://owh.backbonebroadcast.com/owh_mp3/POD20161116172159.mp3).

In a video interview with *EthicsDaily.com*, a division of the Baptist Center for Ethics, I discussed my research on the blending of sports and Christianity in the United States (<http://www.ethicsdaily.com/phd-candidate-examines-intersection-of-sports-religion-cms-24270>).

Academic Papers and Presentations

"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." To be presented at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. January 2018.

"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. January 2017.

"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 annual winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. Atlanta, Georgia. January 2016.

“‘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.

“‘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.

“Jesse ‘Cab’ Renick: In Search of an Indian Identity.” Presented at the Missouri Valley History Conference. Omaha, Nebraska. March 2013.

“A Minor League Exercise in Preventative Diplomacy: The Kennedy Administration’s Use of the Civil War in Yemen.” Presented at the Missouri Valley History Conference. Omaha, Nebraska. March 2012.

Professional Service

- Associate Editor, *Studies in Midwestern History*, beginning March 2015
- Peer Reviewer for *Nebraska History* and *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies*
- Organizational assistant, Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States Program, 2013
- Twitter coordinator for the Baylor University History Department, @BaylorHistory

Other Service Experience

Associate Community Coordinator, Baylor Graduate Student Housing, 2014-present

-Responsible for fostering a sense of community, overseeing community-wide activities, working with a budget, and communicating with residents, Baylor graduate school representatives, and apartment management.

Student Council Faculty Sponsor, Millard North High School, 2012-2013

-Responsible for developing student leadership.

-Oversaw student efforts to foster school spirit through school-wide planned activities such as dances, food drives, assemblies, guest speakers, and more.

Professional Memberships

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

Language Skills

Reading proficiency in German