

Alexander Nachaj

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Dynamic and versatile English first-language lecturer, researcher and academic. 3+ years' professional teaching and lecturing experience, in topics that include history of Christianity, religion and gender, and Asian religions. Industrious researcher, volunteer and participant in conference organization and departmental associations. Excels at working independently and meeting deadlines under pressure.

EDUCATION

2014- Present **Ph.D., Religions & Cultures**

Concordia University, Montreal

Focus: Intersections of religion, secularism, and masculinities in North American popular culture through the media of Fulton Sheen.

Supervisor: Dr. Donald Boisvert

2009- 2012 **M.A., History and Philosophy of Religion**

Concordia University, Montreal

Focus: Intersections of the Catholic Cult of the Saints with South Indian folklore as demonstrated through the hagiographies of St John de Britto.

Supervisor: Dr. Donald Boisvert

2004- 2007 **B.A., English and History Dual-Specialization**

Concordia University, Montreal

Interests: Post-colonial literature, American history, and history of South Asia.

2002- 2004 **D.E.C., Liberal Arts**

John Abbott College, Montreal

Interests: Research methodology, art history and American history.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Intersections of secularism, Christianity and religious masculinities in contemporary and 20th century North America.
- Intersections of Christianity and local traditions in South Asia, with a focus on constructions of masculinity.
- Hagiography and the construction of sanctity through written word, art and popular memory (Christianity, Hinduism).
- Masculinities and sexuality studies.
- History and historiography (Canada, USA, Western Europe, South Asia).
- Visual media and material culture.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016- 2018 **Part-time Faculty Lecturer**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
Teach semester-long courses; develop lecture plans, course syllabus and assignments; oversee, mentor and assign work to TAs; grade assignments.
- 2014- 2015 **Teaching Assistant**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
Prepare course material and assignments; grade assignments and provide grade feedback; hold office hours and lead writing seminars; minor lecturing duties.

COURSES TAUGHT

- 2017 **RELI 215 – Religions of Asia**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
A post-colonial reading of numerous traditions and problematize historical constructs of Asian religions.
- 2017 **RELI 382 – Women and Religion: Christianity**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
A Feminist historical overview of the role, status and practices of women in Christian traditions. (Hired as replacement lecturer two weeks prior to semester; prepared syllabus, and reading listing by course start date.)
- 2016 **RELI 223 – Introduction to Christianity**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
A broad historical survey focusing on the historical developments and ongoing issues in Christian traditions. Emphasis on Christianity as a “lived religion.”
- 2016 **RELI 210 – Religion in Practice**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
A cross cultural examination of religious practices and the methodologies employed by scholars to research them. Emphasis on Non-Western traditions and religious practices of minorities (women, diaspora, etc.).

GUEST LECTURES

- 2015 **RELI 223 – Introduction to Christianity**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
Prepare and deliver (4) lectures: The Papacy; Eastern Christianity; Roman Catholicism in America; Monks and Monasticism.

- 2015 **RELI 378 – Religion and the Body**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
 Prepare and deliver (2) lectures: Animal Bodies; Hindu Bodies.
- 2013 **RELI 215 – Religions of Asia**
Department of Religions & Cultures, Concordia University, Montreal
 Prepare and deliver (1) lecture: Shinto and History of Japan.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 **“Meaning, Presence and the Christian Cross: Conspicuous ambiguity during the 2013 Quebec Charter of Values Hearings.”**
CREOR 2017, McGill University, Montreal
 An examination of the changing semiotics surrounding the Christian cross and the hijab during the charter hearings, along with the implications of ambient presence and visibility on the meaning(s) attributed to them.
- 2017 **“Conspicuous Ambiguity: Meaning, Presence and a Battle of Visibility during the 2013 Quebec Charter of Values Hearings.”**
Intersections/Cross-Sections, York University, Toronto
 Ongoing research into the language, meaning and presence associated with Christian crosses in the province of Quebec; intersections of secularism and religion in contemporary society.
- 2013 **“Navigating the Margin and the Mainstream: A Village, a Saint and their Bodies.”**
Brave New World, Concordia University, Montreal
 Excerpts from thesis research on Roman Catholicism in Tamil Nadu, India, and intersections between popular piety, local folklore and gender constructions.

BOOK REVIEWS

- “Hagiography and Religious Truth: Case Studies in the Abrahamic and Dharmic Traditions.” *Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)*, Vol. 27. No. 2. 2017.
- “Key Terms in Material Religion.” *Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)*, Vol. 27. No. 2. 2017.
- “Does God Make the Man? Media Religion and the Crisis of Masculinity.” *Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)*, Vol. 27. No. 1. 2017.
- “Unmanly Men: Reconfigurations of Masculinity in Luke-Acts.” *Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)*, Vol. 26. No. 2. 2016.
- “Religious Men and Masculine Identity in the Middle Ages.” *Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)*, Vol. 26. No.1. 2016.
- “Dedicated to God: An Oral History of Cloistered Nuns.” *Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)*, Vol. 25. No. 1. 2015.

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2014- 2017 **Women, Gender and Sexuality Reading Group**
Concordia University & McGill University, Montreal
Voluntary research association and discussion group focusing on gender and sexuality; monthly meetings to discuss readings, propose new topics; meet with guest speakers.
- 2014- Present **Religion and Diversity Project**
ReligionandDiversity.ca
Student member in Canada-wide, government-funded research association; participate in workshops and career-development; networking.

INTERVIEWS & COMMENTS

- 2016 *The Concordian*, “Editorial: The Canonization of Mother Teresa.”
2016 *The Concordian*, “Calling for Modernity in Religion.”

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

- 2014- 2017 Merit Scholarship (Graduate), Religions and Cultures, Concordia University.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016- 2017 **Managing Editor**
Core – GetCore.com
Plan, compose and revise written content (external marketing, internal documents, product jargon, and product UI wording).
- 2015- 2016 **Technical Writer / Copy Writer**
Spree Commerce – SpreeCommerce.com
Revise all technical documents, draft content for company blog and marketing; prepare content outlines for design team (infographics, one-sheets, site redesigns); research market and competitors.
- 2014- 2015 **Neighbourhood Profiler & Photographer**
YellowPages – NextHomeYP.ca
Research and photograph Montreal-area neighbourhoods; recommend venues and hotspots; compose neighbourhood “guides” for prospective residents.

VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

- 2014- 2017 **Journal of Religion and Culture (JRC)**
Concordia University, Montreal
Coordinate and manage executive staff; compose and distribute call-for-papers; review and assign academic articles for editing; manage finances; fundraise.
- 2015- 2016 **Graduate Religion Student Association (GRSA)**
Concordia University, Montreal
Manage finances; fundraise; coordinate events.
- 2014- 2016 **Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (AGIC)**
Concordia University, Montreal
Conference executive committee; manage finances; fundraise; assist event coordinators; moderate conference panels and presentations.

LANGUAGES

- English: Fluent first-language speaker.
- French: Fluent reading/listening; intermediate written/spoken.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point): Advanced
- WordPress Publishing Platform and CMS: Intermediate
- Photo Editing Software (Gimp, Photoshop, PhotoScape): Intermediate
- HTML / JavaScript: Intermediate/Novice

OTHER INTERESTS

- Reading (40-80 books / year; 200+ short stories / articles)
- Giallo Cinema (1960s-1990s Italian thriller / horror movies)
- Photography and photo editing (Architecture, travel, rural Canada)

REFERENCES

Provided upon demand.