

# DAN WELLS

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Department of Religion  
The Florida State University  
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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Religion (American Religious History)** 2019  
*The Florida State University, Tallahassee FL*

- Dissertation, with Distinction: “Better Dead Than Red: A History of the Christian Crusade Aesthetic”
- Committee: Dr. John Corrigan (advisor), Dr. G. Kurt Piehler, Dr. Michael J. McVicar, Dr. Jamil Drake, Dr. Amanda Porterfield (retired before defense)
- Comprehensive Exam Areas: American Religious History; Twentieth Century American Protestantism; Method & Theory of Religion; Early Christianity

**Master of Divinity** 2013  
*Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY*

**BA in Christian Theology** 2009  
*Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, OH*

- Summa Cum Laude, with Distinction in Christian Theology

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Copy Editor** 2019-Present  
*Oxford University Press, New York, NY*

**Adjunct Professor, Humanities** 2019  
*Chipola College, Marianna, FL*

**Research Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program** 2017-Present  
*The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL*

**Instructor, Department of Religion** 2013-Present  
*The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL*

**Assistant to the Editors and Book Review Editor** 2013-2016  
*Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, Cambridge University Press*

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2009-2013  
*Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY*

**Academic Support Advisor** 2006-2009  
*Office of Academic Support, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, OH*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### ***Instructor***

REL3152: Religion, Race, and Ethnicity (5x)  
 REL2121: Religion in the U.S. (3x)  
 HUM1020: Introduction to Humanities with Writing I (Chipola College)  
 REL3505: The Christian Tradition (3x)  
 REL1300: Introduction to World Religions (3x)

## AWARDS & HONORS

Nominated, American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellowship	2020
Dissertation Distinction (FSU)	2019
Walter L. and Marian L. Moore Travel Award (FSU)	2018
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Mentor Grant (FSU)	2018
Nominated, University Excellence in Teaching Award (FSU)	2017-2018
The Bancroft Library Special Collections Research Grant	2016
Finalist, Leo F. Sandon Best Paper Award, FSU Graduate Symposium	2014
Graduate Assistantship (FSU)	2013-2019
A.T. Beasley Endowment Scholarship (ATS)	2011
J. Elsworth Kalas Presidential Scholarship (ATS)	2009-2013
Most Outstanding Graduating Senior (MVNU)	2009

## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Respondent, FSU Religion Undergraduate Research Symposium	2020
Co-Founder, Tallahassee Brew Theology, Tallahassee, FL	2018-Present
Internship Mentor, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO	2018-2019
Member, FSU Department of Religion World Religions Course Design Committee	2017
Member, Committee on Rural Action, Florida Annual Conference UMC	2015-Present
Director, Farm Share Food Distribution Program, Hosford, FL	2013-Present
Contributor and Respondent, FSU American Religious History Colloquium	2013-Present
Member, FSU Annual Graduate Symposium Organizing Committee	2013-Present
Editor/Reviewer, FSU Department of Religion faculty publications in progress	2013-Present
Moderator, FSU Annual Graduate Symposium	2013-2019
Research Participant, United Methodist Toward Vitality Research Program	2011-2012
President, Koinonia Club, Department of Religion and Philosophy (MVNU)	2008-2009

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Book Project**

Research in Progress: *Better Dead Than Red: Cold War Spirituality, Race, and the Aesthetics of American Conservatism*.

### **Journal Articles and Chapters**

“An Evangelical Black Panther: The Politics of Race and the Conversion of Eldridge Cleaver,” in Andrew Moore, ed., *The Year of the Evangelicals Revisited* (Baton Rouge, LA: LSU Press, 2020), forthcoming.

“Born Again Black Panther: Race, Respectability, and the Transformation of Eldridge Cleaver,” in *Religion & American Culture*, forthcoming.

“Decentering Graham: The Materiality of Billy Graham and the Construction of American Conservatism,” in *Material Religion*, 12:1 (2016).

### **Encyclopedia Articles:**

“COINTELPRO: Black Nationalist Hate,” in Douglas M. Charles, ed., *The Federal Bureau of Investigation: History, Powers, and Controversies of the FBI* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Publishers, 2021), forthcoming.

“Religion and Communism,” in Douglas M. Charles, ed., *The Federal Bureau of Investigation: History, Powers, and Controversies of the FBI* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Publishers, 2021), forthcoming.

“Historical Misuses of Luther,” in Mark A. Lampert, ed., *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017).

“Reformation in American Memory,” in Mark A. Lampert, ed., *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017).

“Why the Reformation Matters – To Anglicans,” in Mark A. Lampert, ed., *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017).

“Why the Reformation Matters – To Roman Catholics,” in Mark A. Lampert, ed., *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017).

“American Revolution,” in David Head, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Atlantic World, 1400-1900: Europe, Africa, and the Americas in An Age of Exploration, Trade, and Empires* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Publishers, 2017).

“Earl Arnett Seamands,” in George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lampert, eds. Martin E. Marty, forward, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016).

“Edwin Lewis,” in George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lampert, eds. Martin E. Marty, forward, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016).

“Restrictive Rules of 1808 (Methodist),” in George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lampert, eds. Martin E. Marty, forward, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016).

“Richard Harvey Cain,” in George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, eds. Martin E. Marty, forward, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016).

“Thomas Vasey,” in George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, eds. Martin E. Marty, forward, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016).

## Reviews

Review of Nathan G. Alexander, *Race in a Godless World: Atheism, Race, and Civilization, 1850-1914* (New York: New York University Press, 2019), in *Religious Studies Review*, forthcoming.

Review of Terry Lindvall, *God on the Big Screen: A History of Hollywood Prayer from the Silent Era to Today* (New York: New York University Press, 2019), in *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 24: Iss. 1, Article 50 (2020).

Review of Anthony Hatcher, *Religion and Media in America* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018), in *Journal of Southern Religion*, forthcoming.

Review of Lon Allison, *Billy Graham: An Ordinary Man and His Extraordinary God* (Orleans, MA: Paraclete Press, 2018), in *Reading Religion* (February 19, 2019).

Review of John Bartram and William Bartram, *Travels on the St. Johns River* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2017), in H-Net-Florida (March 2018).

Review of Gilbert L. Voss. *A Pioneer Son at Sea: Fishing Tales of Old Florida* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2016), in H-Net-Florida (February, 2017).

Review of Lydia Bean, *The Politics of Evangelical Identity: Local Churches and Partisan Divides in the United States and Canada* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014), in *Religious Studies Review* (2017), forthcoming.

Review of Thomas E. Buckley, *Establishing Religious Freedom: Jefferson's Statute in Virginia* (Charlottesville, VA: Virginia University Press, 2015), in *The History Teacher* (Volume 50, Number 1, 2016).

Review of Vincent L. Bush, ed. *MisReading America: Scriptures and Difference* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), in *Journal of Religious History* (January, 2017).

Review of Grant Wacker. *America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2014), in *Material Religion* 12:1 (2016).

Review of Brantley W. Gasaway. *Progressive Evangelicals and the Pursuit of Social Justice* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2014), in *Journal of Southern Religion* (2015).

## Digital Projects

“Mrs. America: Phyllis Schlafly and American Culture Podcast Series,” a three part podcast series produced and researched as a part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, (2019-2020).

“Mapping ‘Operation: Midnight Ride,’ an interactive map prepared as a part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, (2018).

“History of Blue Creek Methodist Society – Blue Creek Cemetery Map-Based Internment Database,” prepared for Grace United Methodist Church, Hosford, Florida (2015).

## CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIA, & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

“Reframing the Christian History Course Through Religio-racial Identity and the Digital Humanities,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Boston, MA. November 2020.

“‘Civil Rights, Tool of Communist Deception’: Ezra Taft Benson, the FBI, and American Security,” Mormon History Association Annual Conference. Rochester, NY. June 2020.

“Expose, Disrupt, Discredit: The FBI, Ezra Taft Benson, and a Crusade Against Civil Rights,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Athens, GA. February 2020.

“Black Power, Red Subversion: Race, Anticommunism, and the Contested History of Defining Evangelicalism,” American Society of Church History Winter Meeting. Chicago, IL. January 2019.

“Strange Bedfellows: The Religio-Racial Dynamics of the Christian Crusade Aesthetic,” Florida State University American Religious History Colloquium. Tallahassee, FL. February, 2018.

“I just wish I could be born again everyday’: Eldridge Cleaver and the Evangelical Mentality of Displacement,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Boston, MA. November 2017.

“Separated and Shut Out: The 1970 Asbury Revival, American Nationalism, and the Evangelical Persecution Complex.” Wilmore, KY. August 2017.

“I just wish I could be born again everyday’: Eldridge Cleaver and the Evangelical Mentality of Displacement,” New Hampshire Institute of Politics, Saint Anselm College. Manchester, NH. April 2017.

“I just wish I could be born again everyday’: Eldridge Cleaver and the Evangelical Mentality of Displacement,” Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Symposium. Tallahassee FL. February 2017.

“We Are The Remnant”: Prophecy Conferences and Self-Displacement,” Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Symposium. Tallahassee, FL. February 2016.

“This is God’s Country: Early Florida Methodism and the Construction of Sacred Spaces,” Communal Studies Association Annual Conference. Pleasant Hill, KY. October 2015.

“Beating a Dead Horse: The Scopes Trial, William Jennings Bryan, and the Dramatic Enactment of Power and Identity,” Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Symposium. Tallahassee, FL. February 2015.

“Billy Graham and the Crusade Against Communism: The Role of Billy Graham Crusades in the Propagation of Conservative Thought,” Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Symposium. Tallahassee, FL. February 2014.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Twentieth Century American Conservatism  
Religion, Race, and Ethnicity  
Religion and Political Radicalism  
Theory and Method in the Study of Religion

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
American Society of Church History  
American Historical Association

### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

French  
German  
Hebrew  
Koine Greek  
Spanish