

PAUL CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

716 Granger Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(734) 761-5319
paulcjoh@umich.edu

Employment

- 2005 (beg. Fall) **Associate Professor**, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), and History
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- 2004 **Visiting Associate Professor**, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS)
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- 2003 **Research Fellow**, Center for the Study of Religion
Princeton University
(Program on Women and Religions of the African Diaspora)
- 2003 **Associate Professor**, Department of Religious Studies
University of Missouri
- 1997-2002 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Religious Studies
University of Missouri
- 1999-2003 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Anthropology
University of Missouri
- 1996-1997 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of Religious Studies
University of Missouri

EDUCATION

- 1997 **Ph.D. History of Religions** (Awarded with Distinction)
University of Chicago
- 1990 **M.A. Religious Studies**
University of Chicago
- 1986 **B.A. Religion, Psychology, German** (Phi Beta Kappa)
Hope College

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2002 *Secrets, Gossip and Gods: The Transformation of Brazilian Candomblé*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- **Awarded “Best Book” (Analytical-Descriptive) by the *American Academy of Religion*, 2003.
- In process *Theorizing Diasporic Religion: The Garifuna in the Caribbean and the United States*.

Articles

- In Process Guest editor of special issue of *Culture and Religion*, “Comparative Studies of Spirit Possession.”
- In Press Invited encyclopedia article, “Religion and Transculturation: The Caribbean.” *Encyclopedia of Religion, 2nd Edition* (New York: Macmillan).
- In Press Invited encyclopedia article, “Garifuna Religion.” *Encyclopedia of Religion, 2nd Edition* (New York: Macmillan).
- In Press “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” In *Women and Religions of the African Diaspora*. R. Marie Griffith and Barbara D. Savage (eds.). Johns Hopkins Press.
- Forthcoming “Vodou Purchase: The Louisiana Purchase in a Caribbean Perspective.” In *Moving Boundaries: American Religion(s) through the Louisiana Purchase*. Ed. Richard Callahan.
- Forthcoming “The Apotheosis of Duvalier, Loa Os-22.” In *Religions, Secrecy and Security: Religious Privacy in a Global Context*, a special issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- Forthcoming “After 9-11, Savage Civil Religion.” In *Underlying Terror: Religious Studies Perspectives on the War on Terrorism* Bryan Rennie and Philip L. Tite. (eds.), State University of New York (SUNY) Press.
- *2005 “Three Paths to Legitimacy: African Diaspora Religions and the State.” *Culture and Religion* (special issue on Religion, Law and Human Rights).

- 2003 “Misrecognition and Rituals.” In *Encyclopedia of Religious Rituals*. New York: Routledge, pp. 249-52.
- *2002 “Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of ‘Indigenous Religions,’” *History of Religions* 41 (4): 301-27.
- *2002 “Models of the Body in the Ethnographic Study of Religion: The Cases of Brazilian Candomblé and the Garífuna of the Caribbean,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 14:170-95.
- 2002 “Death and Memory at Ground Zero: A Historian of Religion’s Report,” *Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 31 (1): 3-7.
- *2001 “Law, Religion and ‘Public Health’ in the Republic of Brazil,” *Law and Social Inquiry* 26 (1): 9-33.
- *1999 “The Fetish and McGwire’s Balls,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 68 (2): 243-264. Reprinted in *From Season to Season: Sports as American Religion*, ed. Joseph L. Price, 2001, pp. 77-99.
- *1998 “Naming and ‘African-ness’ in Brazilian Umbanda,” *Palara: Publication of the Afro-Latin Research Association* 3: 47-64.
- 1998 “The Knife,” *Anthropology and Humanism*, 23 (2):1-5.
(awarded honorable mention in the 1997 fiction competition)
- 1997 “The ‘Rationality’ of a Buddhist King: Mongkut, King of Siam, 1852-1868,” in *Sacred Biography in South and Southeastern Asian Buddhism* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, pp. 232-259.)
- *1997 “Kicking, Stripping and Re-dressing a Saint in Black: Visions of Public Space in Brazil’s Recent Holy War,” *History of Religions* 37 (2): 122-141.
- *1996 “Notes (and Problems) on ‘Participant-Observation’ from Urban Brazil,” *Religion* 26 (2): 183-196.
- *1995 “Shamanism From Ecuador to Oak Park: A Case Study in New Age Ritual Appropriation,” *Religion* 25 (2): 163-178.

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Articles Reprinted in Edited Volumes

- 2004 “Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of Indigenous Religions,” in *Indigenous Diasporas and Dislocations: Unsettling Western Fixations*, Graham Harvey and Charles D Thompson Jr. (eds.). London: Ashgate.
- 2002 “Shamanism from Ecuador to Oak Park: A Case Study in New Age Ritual Appropriation,” in *Shamanism: A Reader*, Graham Harvey (ed.). New York: Routledge.
- 2001 “The Fetish and McGwire’s Balls,” in *From Season to Season: Sports as American Religion*, ed. Joseph L. Price. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press.

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming Jacob K. Olupona, editor. Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- Forthcoming Patricia R. Pessar, From Fanatics to Folk: Brazilian Millenarianism and Popular Culture. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2004 Margarite Fernández Olmos and Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, Creole Religions of the Caribbean: An Introduction from Vodou and Santería to Obeah and Espiritismo. *Journal of Haitian Studies*.
- 2004 Neil L. Whitehead, Dark Shamans: Kanaimà and the Poetics of Violent Death. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2004 James V. Spickard, J. Shawn Landres and Meredith B. McGuire, Personal Knowledge and Beyond: Reshaping the Ethnography of Religion. *Journal of Religion*.
- 2002 Rachel E. Harding, A Refuge in Thunder: Candomblé and Alternative Spaces of Blackness, *History of Religions*.
- 2002 André Corten and Ruth Marshall-Fratani, eds. Between Babel and Pentecost: Transnational Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America. *American Journal of Sociology*.

- 2000 John Burdick, Blessed Anastácia: Women, Race and Popular Christianity in Brazil, *Journal of Religion* 80 (3): 109-10.
- 2000 Thomas M. Cohen, The Fire of Tongues: Antônio Vieira and the Missionary Church in Brazil and Portugal, *Journal of Religion* 80 (1): 170-171.
- 1999 Anthony Gill, Rendering Unto Caesar: The Catholic Church and the State in Latin America, *American Journal of Sociology* 105 (3): 853-854.
- 1995 Joseph M. Murphy, Working the Spirit: Ceremonies of the African Diaspora and Karen McCarthy Brown, Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn, *Journal of Religion* 75 (2).
- 1993 Todd A. Diacon, Millenarian Vision, Capitalist Reality: Brazil's Contestado Rebellion, 1912-1916, *Journal of Religion* 73 (4).
- 1993 David Parkin, Sacred Void, *Journal of Religion* 73 (2).
- 1993 David J. Hess, Spirits and Scientists: Ideology, Spiritism and Brazilian Culture, *Journal of Religion* 73 (2).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED RESPONSES & LECTURES

- 2005 Guest speaker, *American Society for the Study of Religion*. "Who Can Speak for 'Tradition'? Diasporic Religion and Dual Authorities." Atlanta, April 29-May 1.
- 2005 Invited paper: "Who Speaks for Tradition? Garifuna Ritual at Home and in Diaspora?" *Rhythms of the Atlantic World: Rituals and Remembrances, Conference of the Atlantic Studies Initiative*, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, March 16-19.
- 2005 Guest speaker, Bacardi Distinguished Speaker Series, *Program on Immigration, Politics, and Religion in a Hemispheric Perspective*. University of Florida-Gainesville, February 7-9.
- 2004 Invited paper: "Theorizing Diasporic Religion: Space, Memory, Transmission." *Anthropology and History Workshop*, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, December 17.
- 2004 Invited response paper to panel, "Selling the Law: Consultation on Religion and Law." *American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings*, San Antonio, Texas, November 20.

- 2004 Invited paper: “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” *Anthropology Colloquium Series*, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, November 5.
- 2004 Invited paper: “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” *Women and Religions of the African Diaspora*, Princeton University, April 22-4.
- 2004 Invited paper: “The Apotheosis of Duvalier, Loa Os-22.” *Religion, Secrecy and Security: Religious Privacy in a Global Context*, Ohio State, April 16-18.
- 2004 Invited paper: “Vodou Purchase: The Louisiana Purchase in Caribbean Perspective.” *Moving Boundaries: American Religion(s) through the Louisiana Purchase*, University of Missouri-Columbia, February 19-21.
- 2004 Invited paper: “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” *Center for Afroamerican and African Studies*, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, February 6.
- 2004 Invited paper: “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” Department of Religious Studies, DePaul University, February 13-14.
- 2004 Invited paper: “Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion.” Department of African-American Studies, Northwestern University, January 16.
- 2003 Invited paper: “The Migrations of Garifuna Religion and the Problem of ‘Authenticity’.” *The African Americas*, Conference organized by Latin American and Latino Studies Programs, co-sponsored with the Center of African Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Feb 27-28.
- 2002 “Diaspora versus Homeland Versions of Authenticity and the Question of ‘Ritual Failure,’” *American Academy of Religion National Conference*, Toronto (November).
- 2002 Invited Response to a Panel on “Pedagogy and Critical Theory in the Study of Religion.” *North American Association for the Study of Religion*, Toronto (November).
- 2002 “Teaching Globalization and Religion,” Invited lecture at the Lilly Foundation’s Religion and Transnationalism Conference, *Washington and Lee University*, Lexington, VA (July).

- 2001 “The Indigenized Migrations of ‘Time/Space Compression’: The Garífuna of Honduras and the Bronx,” *American Academy of Religion National Conference*, Denver (November).
- 2001 “Migrating Bodies, Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomblé, the Garífuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of ‘Indigenous Religions’.” Invited lecture given in the honor of Professor Frank E. Reynolds’ retirement, *University of Chicago* (May).
- 2001 “Thinking Differently with Comparative Categories: ‘Indigenous Religions,’ Brazilian Candomblé, and the Garífuna of the Caribbean.” Invited lecture at the *Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara* (March).
- 2000 “Ethnic Reconstructions, Migration and Indigenous Versions of ‘Globalization’.” Invited lecture at the Religion and Transnationalism Conference, *Washington and Lee University*, Lexington, VA (April).
- 1999 “Past the Gods Terminus: The Necessary Risks of Theoretical Fixation,” *American Academy of Religion National Conference*, Boston (November).
- 1999 “The Garifuna of Honduras and Article 107: Belief and Practice, Utopia and Location,” *Law and Society Association National Meeting*, Chicago (May).
- 1999 “The Fetish and McGwire’s Balls,” *Missouri Society for the Study of Religion*, November.
- 1998 “Law, Religion and ‘Public Health’ in the Republic of Brazil,” at the annual *Law and Society Association National Meeting*, Aspen, CO (May).
- 1998 “Garífuna Religion and the ‘Feel’ of the Field,” *American Academy of Religion National Conference*, Orlando (November).
- 1997 “Shamanism from Ecuador to Chicago: The Routes of ‘New Age’ Ritual Appropriation,” *Missouri Society for the Study of Religion*, November.
- 1996 “The Secret and the Scholar’s Whisper: Making ‘Tradition’ in Brazilian Candomblé,” *American Academy of Religion National Conference*, New Orleans (November).

- 1994 “The Names of Umbanda: Naming and Social Location in an Urban Brazilian Religion,” *American Academy of Religion National Conference*, Chicago (November).

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2003 **Best Book Award** for *Secrets, Gossip and Gods: The Transformation of Brazilian Candomblé*, (Oxford University Press, 2002), *American Academy of Religion*. Analytic-descriptive category.
- 2003 **Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship**, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. *Women and Religions of the African Diaspora*.
- 2003 **NEH Fellowship Award**—full-year fellowship (deferred to 2004) *National Endowment for the Humanities*
- 2001 **NEH Fellowship Award**—full-year fellowship
- 2001 **Faculty Incentive Award for Outstanding Research** *University of Missouri*
- 2001 **Summer Research Grant** *University of Missouri Research Council*
- 2000 **Individual Research Assistance Grant** *American Academy of Religion*
- 1999 **Summer Research Grant** *University of Missouri Research Board*
- 1998 **Summer Research Grant** *University of Missouri Research Council*
- 1998 **Summer Research Grant** *University of Missouri Faculty Alumni Research Grant*
- 1998 **Susan Colver Rosenberger Dissertation Prize** *University of Chicago*
(Awarded to best dissertation on religion over a three-year period)
- 1998 **Honorable Mention for “The Knife”** *Anthropology and Humanism*
(Competition for best short story)

- 1997 **Ph.D. Awarded with Distinction**
University of Chicago
- 1995 **Dissertation Fellowship**
Fulbright-Hays
- 1991-1993 **Junior Fellow**
Divinity School, The University of Chicago
- 1992 **Latin American Studies Travel Grant**
University of Chicago
- 1991 **FLAS Grant, Brazil**
- 1986 **Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board**
Hope College

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Pedagogical and administrative service

- 2001-2003 **Director of Graduate Studies**
University of Missouri, Department of Religious Studies
- 1997-98 **Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee**
University of Missouri
- 1999 **Faculty Mentor for McNair Scholar**
Supervised Sonia Salazar, recipient of the Best Student Paper Award.
- 1998 **Faculty Mentor for McNair Scholar**
Supervised Antwaun Smith for the development of a new course on Religion and Film.
- 1998 **Honor's College New Course Development**
University of Missouri. Co-created the course *Emerging Canons in the Americas*, on under-represented fiction and the question of “the Western canon.”
- 1997-present **Graduate Thesis Committees, University of Missouri**
M.A. Thesis Director, Jon Lanman, Religious Studies
Ph.D. Thesis Committee, Kevin Butler, Black Studies
M.A. Thesis Committee, David Baker, Romance Languages
M.A. Thesis Committee, Heather Hignite, Religious Studies
M.A. Thesis Committee, Mark Clark, Religious Studies

M.A. Thesis Director, Rachel Haverstick, Religious Studies
Ph.D. Thesis Committee, Margaret Katherine Sinnett, Theatre
Ph.D. Thesis Committee, Brett Miller, Communications

1993-1994 **Coordinator**, “Religion, Society and Social Theory Workshop”
University of Chicago

Editorial contributions

2002-present **Editorial Board Member**, *Culture and Religion* (Routledge)

2002 **Panel Organizer**
American Academy of Religion National Meeting
“Globalization, Religious Displacements and the Problem of
Authenticity.”

2000-present **Steering Committee for the Comparative Studies Section**
American Academy of Religion

1999-present **Referee**
New York University Press; Routledge Dissertation Series on
Religions of Latin America and the Caribbean; *American Journal of
Sociology*; *Palara: Afro-Hispanic Review*; *Journal of American
Folklore*.

1992-1994 **Editorial Assistant and Manuscript Reviewer**
History of Religions Journal

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Religions of the African Diaspora
- Brazil, Caribbean societies
- Popular Religions of Latin America
- Comparative Studies in Spirit Possession
- Religion and Globalization
- Migration and Religious Diasporas
- Modern Theoretical Perspectives in the Study of Religion
- Comparative and Ethnographic Methods
- Studies in Ritual
- Religious Encounters and the “Contact Zone” in the Americas

LANGUAGES

- Portuguese, Spanish, French, German
- Limited listening comprehension of Garífuna.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion
- North American Association for the Study of Religion
- American Society for the Study of Religion
- American Anthropological Association
- Latin American Studies Association