

Curriculum Vitae

Jeffrey Scholes

Department of Philosophy
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 255 8113
jscholes@uccs.edu

Education

Ph. D. University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology, Religious and Theological Studies, 2009
M. Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, 2000
B.A. Baylor University, Biology, 1993

Academic Appointments

Professor	2023-present
Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS)	
Associate Professor	2017-2023
Department of Philosophy, UCCS	
Assistant Professor	2012-2017
Department of Philosophy, UCCS	
Chair	2021-2025
Department of Philosophy, UCCS	
Founding Director, Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life, UCCS	2010-present
Founding Director, Center for the Study of Evangelicalism, UCCS	2024-present
Instructor	2008-2012
Department of Philosophy, UCCS	

Publications

Books

Religion and Sports Fandom, (forthcoming with UNC Press), 2027.
Religion and Sport in North America: Critical Essays for the 21st Century, co-edited with Randall Balmer. New York: Routledge, 2022.
Christianity, Race, and Sport. New York: Routledge, 2021.
Religion and Sports in American Culture, with Raphael Sassower. New York: Routledge, 2014.
Vocation and the Politics of Work: Popular Theology in a Consumer Culture. Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2013.

Refereed Journal Articles

“Sacred Shoes: Religion at the Sidelines,” *International Journal of Sport and Religion*, Spring 2025.

“Religion and Sport Scholarship: A Brief History,” *International Journal of Sport and Religion*, Fall 2023.

“We Will Not Shut Up and Dribble: LeBron James and the Tripartite Human Being,” *Special Issue Religions*, May 2022.

“Dabo Swinney, Universal Whiteness, and ‘a Sin Problem,’ ” *Special Issue Religions*, 11(4), April 2020.

“Pray the White Way: Religious Expression in the NFL in Black and White,” *Special Issue Religions*, 10(8), August 2019.

“Reaching the Kids: NFL Youth Marketing and Media,” with Jeffrey Montez de Oca and Brandon Meyer, in *Popular Communication: The International Journal of Media and Culture*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, February 2016, 3-11.

“Religion and Science from a Postsecular Perspective,” with Raphael Sassower, *Journal of Religion and Society*, vol. 17, October 2015, 1-14.

“Sports in Postsecular America: The ‘Tebow Phenomenon,’ ” in *Implicit Religion*, vol. 17.1, July 2014, 81-92.

“Vocation,” *Religion Compass*, Volume 4, Issue 4, April 2010, 211-220.

“Sacrifice of the Bartman Ball and Ambiguity in an American Ritual,” *Journal of Religion and Society*, vol. 7, 2005, 1-13.

“Professional Baseball and Fan Disillusionment: A Religious Ritual Analysis,” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, vol. VI, Summer 2004, 1-13.

Book Chapters

“Religion and Sports Fandom,” *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Sport* (New York: Routledge, 2026).

“Watching (and Tweeting and Arguing and Betting on) Sports,” in *Media, Religion and Culture: An Introduction*, 2nd ed., Jeffrey Mahan, (New York: Routledge, 2025).

“Chasing the Music: The Sacred and Profane in The Band’s Early Years,” in *Rags and Bones: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of The Band* (Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 2022).

“The Black Prophetic Fire of Colin Kaepernick,” in *SpringerBriefs in Religion and Sport Series: The Prophetic Pulpit of Sports* (Gewerbestrasse, Switzerland: Springer, 2018).

“Race, Religion and Sports,” *The Oxford Handbook of Race and Religion in American History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 304-318.

“Sports and the Bible,” *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 319-332.

“The Children Are Our Future: The NFL, Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Production of ‘Avid Fans,’ ” with Jeffrey Montez de Oca and

Brandon Meyer, *Child's Play: Sport in Kids' Worlds* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2015), pp. 102-124.

"Sport," in *Companion Volume to Religion and Popular Culture*, eds. John C. Lyden and Eric Michael Mazur (New York: Routledge, 2015), 356-377.

"Corporate Branding and Religion," in *Understanding Religion and Popular Culture*, eds. Terry Clark and Dan Clanton (New York: Routledge, 2012), 139-156.

Book Reviews

The Spirit of the Game: American Christianity and Big-Time Sports, Paul Emory Putz, *Journal of Religious History*, July 2025.

Dyed in Crimson: Football, Faith, and Remaking Harvard's America, Zac Eliff, *The International Journal of Sport and Religion*, Spring 2025.

Public Confessions: The Religious Conversions That Changed American Politics, Rebecca L. Davis, *Reading Religion*, May 2022.

Faith and Struggle in the Lives of Four African Americans, Randal Maurice Jelks, *Reading Religion*, January 2019.

Religion in the Age of Obama, eds. Juan M. Floyd-Thomas and Anthony B. Pinn, *Reading Religion*, August 2018.

When Race, Religion, and Sport Collide: Black Athletes at BYU and Beyond, Darron T. Smith, *Sport in Society*, 21:3, Spring 2018, 580-582.

Dangerous Games: What the Moral Panic over Role-Playing Games Says about Play, Religion, and Imagined Worlds, Joseph P. Laycock, *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, Summer 2016.

Sport and the Christian Religion: A Systematic Review of Literature, Nick J. Watson and Andrew Parker, *Sport in Society*, vol. 18.3, March 2015, 386-389.

The Problem of Grace: Reconfiguring Political Theology, Vincent Lloyd, *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, 13.2, Summer 2014, 123-125.

Consuming Faith, Tom Beaudoin, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, vol. X, Summer 2005.

Academic Presentations

"Sports Gambling as a Form of Fandom? An Analysis of the Christian Response to Sports Betting," 4th Global Congress on Sport and Christianity, Baylor University, August 2025.

"The Secular in College Football, Faith, and Fandom," American Academy of Religion, San Diego; November 2024.

"The Role of Religion in Discourse about War and Peace in the United States," at the Concerned Philosophers for Peace Conference, Colorado Springs, CO; October 18, 2019.

"Religion, Race, and Sports in the United States," at the Center for the Study of Religion and Sport, University of Tennessee, October 3, 2019.

“From Morality Play to the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Conference, Tampa, FL; November 6, 2016.

“Fix a Park Bench or Sit on One? Apocalypticism and the World,” at the UCCS Symposium on the Apocalyptic, Heller Center, UCCS campus, Colorado Springs, April 5, 2016.

“‘Muscular’ without Christianity,” panel organizer and member, at The Spirit of Sports Conference, Baylor University, Waco, TX, Nov. 5-7, 2015.

“Political Theology, Materiality and the Radical,” at Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, Colorado Springs, CO; March 2015.

“Religion and Sports: History and Reality in American Culture,” with Raphael Sassower, at 1A FAR Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX, September 2014.

“Charity and the Hero-As-Giver,” at Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, Colorado Springs, CO; March 2014.

“Charity, Technology and Capitalism,” at the Humanities and Technology Conference, Miami, FL; November 2013.

“Makers vs. Takers: Political Discourse and the Theology of Charity,” at the American Society for Aesthetics, Santa Fe, NM; July 2013.

“Charity and an Ethos of Revenge: Hyperbole in American Christo-Capitalist Rhetoric,” with Josh Ritter at the Rocky Mountain Communication Association, Loveland, CO; April 2013.

“Politics in a Post-Secular Age,” with Raphael Sassower at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Washington D.C.; March 2013.

“Seeing Sports and Religion through a Post-secular Lens,” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Washington D.C.; March 2013.

“Relating Sports and Religion in a Post-secular World,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago; November 2012.

“Religion in Colorado Springs,” panel at the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO, August 19, 2012.

“Sports and Religious Images in American Culture,” at the American Society for Aesthetics, Santa Fe, NM; July 2012.

“Heroic Self-Sacrifice in the Works of George Gilder,” at Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, Colorado Springs, CO; March 2010.

“Rick Warren, Political Reconciliation and Spiritual Entrepreneurship,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago; November 2008.

“Sacrifice of the Bartman Ball and Ambiguity in an American Ritual,” at North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Conference, Tucson, AZ; November 2004.

“Professional Baseball and Fan Disillusionment: A Religious Ritual Analysis,” at Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Regional American Academy of Religion, Boulder, CO; April 2003.

Non-refereed Publications

“What’s in a Shoe?,” Patheos, June 6, 2019,
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionnow/2019/06/whats-in-a-shoe/>.

“Colin Kaepernick, Heretic of America’s Civil Religion,” Berkeley Forum, Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, September 10, 2018,
<https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/colin-kaepernick-heretic-of-america-s-civil-religion>.

“Kneeling in Silence: Colin Kaepernick and the Religious Rejoinder to Trump,” Patheos, October 6, 2017,
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionnow/2017/10/kneeling-silence-colin-kaepernick>

“Judge Baylor: Football, Faith and the Price of Justice,” Patheos, June 6, 2016, <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionnow/2016/06/judge-baylor-football-faith-and-price-of-justice/>

“Is Pope Francis Too Political?” Lead Stories, February 12, 2016,
<http://opinion.leadstories.com/568122-is-the-pope-too-political.html>

“The Question Is: What Kind of Football Does God Fancy?,” Religion Dispatches, September 25, 2015, <http://religionondispatches.org/the-question-is-what-kind-of-football-does-god-fancy/>

“LeBron James, Prodigal Son?,” Religion in American History, July 17, 2014,
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2014/07/lebron-james-prodigal-son.html>

“A Super(natural) Bowl?,” Religion in American History, January 27, 2014,
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2014/01/a-supernatural-bowl.html>

“Reza Aslan’s Viral Fox News Interview Reveals More Than Just Christian Privilege,” Religion Dispatches, July 31, 2013,
http://www.religionondispatches.org/books/culture/7220/reza_aslan_s_viral_fox_news_interview_reveals_more_than_just_christian_privilege

“Neither the Joker nor Godlessness Drove Batman Shooting,” Religion Dispatches, July 26, 2012,
http://www.religionondispatches.org/archive/culture/6222/neither_the_joker_nor_godlessness_drove_batman_shooting

“Baseball, Heartbreak, and the Absurd,” Religion in American History, November 11, 2011, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2011/11/baseball-heartbreak-and-absurd.html>

“Facts, Fundamentals and Foreign Policy,” Religion in American History, January 29, 2009, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2009/01/facts-fundamentals-and-foreign-policy.html>

“Palin and Evangelical Politics,” Religion in American History, September 2, 2008, <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2008/09/palin-and-evangelical-politics.html>

Campus Talks

“The Specter of Hypocrisy: Clever Chameleons or Fiendish Fakers?,” panel member, Philosophy in the City, October 2, 2020.

“A Conversation at the Intersection of Race and Religion,” panel member, Philosophy in the City, September 4, 2020.

“Academic Freedom,” UCCS Diversity and Inclusion Summit, UCCS campus, panel member, April 3, 2018.

“Young Americans for Liberty’s 2018 Professor Debate,” UCCS campus, panel member, February 9, 2018.

“Pigskin, Patriarchy, and Patriotism: Athletic Protest in a Time of Nationalism,” UCCS campus, with Jeffrey Montez de Oca, November 8, 2017.

“Teaching Controversial Issues,” UCCS campus, panel member, February 15, 2017.

“Not in My House!: Outside Speakers on Campus and the Responsibility of the Public University,” UCCS campus, Organizer, moderator, participant, December 12, 2016.

“Christianity and Islamophobia,” Islamophobia conference, UCCS campus, September 19, 2016.

“In Good Faith: Religion in Colorado Springs,” panel at UCCS Diversity Summit, March 30, 2016.

“Academic Diversity,” panel at UCCS Diversity Summit, March 30, 2016.

“Religion and Moral Authority in Sports,” for the “Philosophy at the Library” series, Colorado Springs, November 3, 2015.

“Tunnel Vision: Overcoming Our Received Frameworks in the Classroom,” UCCS campus, November 2014.

“Religious Inclusivity in the Classroom,” CU Diversity Summit, Denver, CO, October 2014.

“Is Science Enough?,” debate with Dr. Josh Swamidass, UCCS campus, sponsored by Veritas, November 2014.

“Science and Religion: Friends or Enemies?,” Café Scientifique, UCCS campus, with Mary Ann Cutter and Raphael Sassower, April 2013.

Community Talks

“Christos and Oikos: Unwrapping the Real Meaning of Christmas,” The Forum, First Congregational Church, December 17, 2023.

“Race, Religion, and Sport,” Second Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque, NM, October 2, 2023.

“Race, Religion, and Sport,” All Souls Church, Colorado Springs, CO, January 22, 2023.

“On Christian Nationalism,” Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church, Parker, CO, August 7, 2022.

“Authenticity,” All Souls Church, Colorado Springs, CO, June 12, 2022.

“Race, Religion, and Sports,” The Wild Goose Meeting House, Colorado Springs, CO, June 24, 2020.

“A Primer on Miroslav Volf,” First Congregational Church, Colorado Springs, CO, April 29, 2018.

“Race and Religion,” First Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, CO, January 22, 2017.

“Religion and Presidential Politics,” for Curiosity Unlimited, UCCS campus, October 14, 2016.

“Facing Death for the Atheist,” for No One Dies Alone, Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs, October 3, 2016.

“Jesus,” Broadmoor Community Church, Colorado Springs, CO, February 22, 2016.

“Thomas Merton and Non-Christian Religions,” First Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, CO, February 7, 2016.

“Muscular without Christianity,” First Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, CO, January 3, 2016.

“Religion and Sports in America,” class at the University of Tennessee, January 28, 2016 (Skype'd in).

“Your Journey: Defining Calling,” Baylor University Student Life Luncheon (taped lecture), October 15, 2015.

“Death according to the World Religions,” at the Pikes Peak Writers Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, April 2015.

“Religion and Sports,” Rotary Club, Paris, TN, March 2015

“The Three Great Monotheisms,” PILLAR, Colorado Springs, CO, September 2014

“Atheism and Religious Studies: Are They Compatible?,” Atheist Community of Colorado Springs, June 2014.

“Grace, Its Effects, and the Needy,” First Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, CO, February 2014.

“Religion and Sports,” First Congregational Church, Colorado Springs, CO, January 2014.

“Religion and Presidential Politics,” First Congregational Church, Colorado Springs, CO, October 2012.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

\$10,000.00 grant received from the University of Colorado President’s Fund for the Humanities for the Center for the Study of Evangelicalism, 2026.

\$300,000 from Luce Foundation, co-PIs: Paul Harvey and George Bayuga, “Living Together,” January 2024.

Campus-wide Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity and Inclusiveness, 2014

\$10,000 on-going grant from Chancellor’s Office for Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life, 2014 to present

\$3000.00 grant received from the University of Colorado President's Fund for the Humanities for the Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life; 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

Accepted to participate in the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge through the White House, 2011, 2012, 2013.

Solo Flight Teaching Fellowship, Iliff School of Theology, 2007-2008

Gerald L. and Florence M. Schlessman Doctoral Fellowship, The Iliff School of Theology, 2001-2004

Religion and Society Masters Thesis Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2000

Service

Campus

Founding Director, Center for the Study of Evangelicalism, UCCS, 2024-present

Founding Director, Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life, UCCS, 2010-present

Organizes annual public lectures (~4 per AY)

Weekly lunches with students, 2011-2014

Organizer, Faculty Religious Sensitivity Luncheon/Workshop (February 2014)

Member, search committee, UCCS Chancellor, 2017

Chair, LAS Online Incentives Committee, UCCS, 2017 – 2019

Member, Curriculum and Requirements committee, UCCS, 2020-2021

GLINT, UCCS: Faculty Affiliate, 2016-2022

Research Fellow, Center for Critical Sport Studies, UCCS, 2015-present

Participant, Excellence in Leadership Program, University of Colorado system, 2022-2023

Professional

Co-chair, Religion, Sport, and Play session, American Academy of Religion, 2021 - present

President, Rocky Mountain/Great Plains American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature region, 2021- 2022

Vice President, Rocky Mountain/Great Plains American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature region, 2023- present

Organizer, Rocky Mountain/Great Plains American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature regional conference (March 2021)

Editorial Board, Reading Religion, American Academy of Religion, 2022– present

Reviewer, SAGE online publication, 2013

Reviewer, Humanity and Technology Review, 2013-present

Editorial Board, Springer Briefs, Religion and Sport, 2015-present

Organizer and Moderator, “Sports and Religion” session at North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Conference, 2015 – 2017

Section Editor, Christianity, Religion Compass, 2017-2019

Editorial Board, International Journal of Sport and Religion, 2022- Present

Community

President of board, Converge Lecture Series, 2021-2023

Outreach to young professionals, bi-monthly meetings, 2012-2015

Regular participant, “In Good Faith,” in the Independent, Colorado Springs, CO, 2014 – 2022

Member, board of directors, Greenberg Center for Learning and Tolerance, 2012-2014

MLK Jr. Breakfast Planning Committee, 2013-2014

Courses Taught

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs [2007-present]

[all are in the Philosophy department unless noted otherwise]

Introduction to Religious Studies (created)

World Religions

Introduction to Philosophy

Religion and Sports (created)

Critical Thinking (both lecture and online)

Philosophy of Religion

Religion in a Consumer Culture (created)

Religion and the Spirit of Capitalism (created)

Christian Thought (created)

Religion and Politics in America (created)

Religion and Popular Culture (created)

Religion and Race in American Culture (created)

Internship in Philosophy (created)

New Testament in its Social Context (created)

Gender and Race in Biblical Literature (created)

Religion and Politics in America (Humanities)

Digital Humanities (Humanities)

Religion and Popular Culture (Humanities)

Philosophical Filmmakers (Humanities)

Philosophy and Film through the Senses (Humanities)

Apocalypticism and Culture (Humanities)

Senior Thesis