

## Jeffrey Scholes

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
(719) 255-8113  
[jscholes@uccs.edu](mailto:jscholes@uccs.edu)

### Education

- Ph. D. University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology, Religious and Theological Studies; Theology, Philosophy and Cultural Theory concentration, 2009
- M. Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, 2000
- B.A. Baylor University, Biology, 1993

### Employment

- Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS)
- Founding Director, Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life, UCCS

### Publications

#### Books

- Religion and Sport in North America*, co-edited with Randall Balmer, New York: Routledge, 2020 (under contract).
- Race, Religion, and Sport*, New York: Routledge, 2020 (under contract).
- 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 Articles

- "Praying the White Way," *Religions*, Fall 2020 (forthcoming).
- "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

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

"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, 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

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

*Religion in the Age of Obama*, eds. Juan M. Floyd-Thomas and Anthony B. Pinn *Reading Religion*, March 13, 2019.

*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.

#### 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 Center*, Georgetown University, September 10, 2018,  
<https://berkeleycenter.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://religiondispatches.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.religiondispatches.org/books/culture/7220/reza\\_aslan\\_s\\_viral\\_fox\\_news\\_interview\\_reveals\\_more\\_than\\_just\\_christian\\_privilege](http://www.religiondispatches.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.religiondispatches.org/archive/culture/6222/neither\\_the\\_joker\\_nor\\_godlessness\\_drove\\_batman\\_shooting](http://www.religiondispatches.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>

#### Academic Presentations

- "From Morality Play to Spectacle: Super Bowl Halftime Shows and the Religion They Express," at 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 Second Annual 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 Regional American Academy of Religion, Boulder, CO; April 2003.

#### Campus Talks

- "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, Nov. 2014.
- "Science and Religion: Friends or Enemies?," Café Scientifique, UCCS campus, with Mary Ann Cutter and Raphael Sassower, April 2013.

#### Community Talks

- "A Primer on 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 (Skyped 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.

## Courses Taught

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs [2007-present]

[all are in the Philosophy department unless noted otherwise]

Introduction to Religious Studies

World Religions

Introduction to Philosophy

Religion and Sports

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)

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)

## Honors and Awards

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, Iliff School of Theology, 2001-2004

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

## Service

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

Organizes annual public lectures (~10 per AY)

Weekly lunches with students (2011-present)

Outreach to young professionals (bi-monthly meetings, 2013-present)

Regular participant, "In Good Faith," in the *Independent*, Colorado Springs, CO

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

GLINT, UCCS: Faculty Affiliate (2016-present)

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

MLK Jr. Breakfast Planning Committee (2013-2014)

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 to present)

Search committee, UCCS Chancellor, (2017)

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

Section Editor, Christianity, *Religion Compass* (2017-2019)