

Eric M. Stephen

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO August 2023-Present

- Postdoctoral Fellow
- John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA August 2023

- PhD, Committee on the Study of Religion
- Qualifying Examinations: Passed with Distinction, *April 2019*
- Dissertation: “Conceiving an American ‘Secularism’: A Contested Category and the Remaking of US Law, Religion, and Civic Life, 1851-1914”
- Advisors: David Holland, Amy Hollywood, Tisa Wenger

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT May 2023

- Juris Doctor, Class of 2023

Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA May 2016

- Master of Theological Studies
- Area of Focus: Religion, Ethics, and Politics

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT May 2014

- Master of Arts, Department of Psychology
- Thesis: “Shamanic Rituals as Sites of Religio-Cultural Revival: A Statistical Analysis of the Demographic and Cultural Differences at Shamanic Ceremonies in Buryatia”
- Advisors: Justine Quijada, Lisa Dierker

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT May 2013

- Bachelor of Arts

HONORS AND AWARDS

Yale Law School Legal History Fellowship	2021-2022
Loeb Summer Research Fellowship	2021
William R. Hutchison American Religions Fellowship	2016-2018
Stendahl Symposium on Interreligious Dialogue Award	2016
Harvard Divinity School Dean’s Scholarship	2014-2016
Rhodes Scholarship Finalist, District IV	2013
Phi Beta Kappa	2013
Holzberg Fellowship for Applied Research in Psychology	2013
William A. Spurrier Ethics Award	2013
Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society	2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis

Postdoctoral Fellow

POL312: Religion, Law, and Sexual Politics in Contemporary America Spring 2024

Yale Law School

Teaching Fellow

REL781: Readings in US Law and Religion Spring 2023

PLSC257: Bioethics and the Law Spring 2022

LAW50100-07: Outside the Law: Legal Questions through a Humanities Lens Spring 2022

LAW21310-01: Employment Discrimination Law Spring 2021

Harvard University

Teaching Fellow

RELI S-1510: How & Why Americans Bring their Scripture into Politics Summer 2020

GEN1062: How & Why Americans Bring their Scripture into Politics (*Head TF*) Spring 2020

HDS4515: Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion Fall 2018; Fall 2019

HDS2045: Confronting Religious Difference in Modern America Spring 2019

HDS2140: Reconfiguring Paradise: Utopian Dreams and Social Possibility Spring 2019

HDS2318: The Niebuhr Brothers, Past and Present Spring 2019

Harvard Extension School

Teaching Assistant

RELI S-1505: Religion, Education, and Democracy Summer 2015

Harvard Prison Education Program

Education Mentor

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Wesleyan University

Visiting Lecturer in Psychology

QAC201: Applied Data Analysis Fall 2013-Spring 2014

PUBLICATIONS

In Review: E. Stephen, "Nineteenth Century American Freethinkers," in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. John Barton (Forthcoming, 2024).

C. Musselman, F. Klose, E. Bain-Selbo, & E. Stephen, "Sports and Religion in the Supreme Court: *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*," *International Journal of Sport and Religion* 1, no. 1 (2023): 49-65. Available at <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/16/article/892485/pdf>.

E. Stephen, "Bringing Reflexive Religious Studies into Historical Scholarship on American Religion," *American Religion Journal*, "American Religion, Inside Out" (2021). Available at <https://www.american-religion.org/inside-out/stephen>.

D.L. Moore & E. Stephen, "From *Smith* to *Hobby Lobby*: The Transformation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act," in *Law, Religion, and Health in the United States*, eds. Holly Lynch, *et al.* Cambridge University Press (2017): 34-46.

- A.S. Selya, E. Engel-Rebitzer, L. Dierker, E. Stephen, J. Rose, D.L. Coffman, & M. Otis, "The Causal Effect of Student Mobility on Standardized Test Performance: A Case Study with Possible Implications for Accountability Mandates within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act." *Frontiers in Psychology* 7 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01096>.
- J.B. Quijada & E. Stephen. "Performing 'Culture': Diverse Audiences at the International Shaman's Conference and *Tailgan* on Ol'Khon Island." *Études Mongoles et Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques et Tibétaines* 46 (2015): 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.4000/emscat.2589>.
- J.B. Quijada, K.E. Graber, & E. Stephen, "Finding 'Their Own': Revitalizing Buryat Culture Through Shamanic Practices in Ulan-Ude," *Problems of Post-Communism* 62, no. 5 (2015): 258-272. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10758216.2015.1057040>.
- E. Stephen, J. Rose, L. Kenney, F. Rosselli, & R. Striegel. "Prevalence and Correlates of Unhealthy Weight Control Behaviors: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health," *Journal of Eating Disorders* 2, no. 16 (2014). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4060847/>.
- E. Stephen, J. Rose, L. Kenney, F. Rosselli, & R. Striegel. "Risk Factors for Purging in Young Women: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health." *Journal of Eating Disorders* 2, no. 1 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1186/2050-2974-2-1>. **Highly Accessed.**

PRESENTATIONS

- E. Stephen, Invited Speaker. "Neo-Gelasian Free Exercise and the Problem of *Sherbert* for the Roberts Court." *Presented at The Origins and Afterlives of the American Founding: A Conference in Honor of Jack Rakove*, Stanford University, 25 February 2023.
- E. Stephen, Panelist. "Roundtable: Leigh Schmidt's *The Church of Saint Thomas Paine: A Religious History of American Secularism*." *Presented at the American Society of Church History*, 7 January 2023.
- E. Stephen. "Claiming 'Religion' in the Age of COVID-19: An Examination into how Conservative Legal and Religious Groups Translate Political Objections to COVID-19 Policies into Free Exercise Arguments." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 19 November 2022.
- E. Stephen, Panelist. "Secular Ambivalence and Secular Misfits: A Roundtable on Joseph Blankholm's *The Secular Paradox* (2022)." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 20 November 2022.
- E. Stephen. "Judicializing Secularism in the American Gilded Age: How the Cincinnati Bible War Reshaped the Concept of 'Secularism' into a Contested Legal Principle." *Presented at the American Society for Legal History*, 5 November 2021.
- E. Stephen. "'To Excite Agreeable Sensations': The Knowlton Affair, the Victorian-Era Secularist Movement, and the Shaping of Sexual Subjectivities Within Modern Secularity." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 30 November 2020.

- E. Stephen. “The Neoliberal Turn in American Religious Liberty Jurisprudence: Intellectual Foundations and their Social, Political, and Legal Implications, 1990-Present.” *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 23 November 2019.
- E. Stephen. “Secularist Women, Agency, and the Fight for Gender Equality: Examining Katie Kehm Smith’s Campaign for Women’s Rights in the Late Nineteenth Century American Secularist Movement.” *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 18 November 2018.
- E. Stephen. “Unpacking the Theological Underpinnings of Hobby Lobby: An Intellectual History of the Idea of ‘Complicity’ in American Religion and Law.” *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 21 November 2017.
- E. Stephen. “‘Secularism is the Religion of Humanity’: Uncovering the Rise and Fall of the U.S.-American Secularist Movement and its Effect on Contemporary Understandings of Western ‘Secularism.’” *Presented at the Problematizing Religious Diversity in a Secular Age Conference*, McGill University, 16 September 2017.
- E. Stephen. “Proselytism and the Paradox of Tolerance: A Comparative Analysis of State Approaches to Proselytism and Related Religious Speech.” *Presented at The Stendahl Symposium*, Harvard University, 18 April 2016.
- E. Stephen. “Shamanic Rituals as Sites of Religio-Cultural Revival: A Statistical Analysis of the Demographic and Cultural Differences at Shamanic Ceremonies in Buryatia, Russia.” *Presented at the Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention*, 25 April 2014.

SELECT LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP, AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Dean’s Advisor, Yale Law School Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Served as mentor and resource for 16 first-year law students. Organized social, academic, and professionalization opportunities to support first-year students in feeling comfortable in law school. Led events particularly focused on first-generation professional students at YLS.

Legal History Fellow, Yale Law School Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Received prestigious research fellowship awarded to two students each academic year. Served as liaison and coordinator for legal history faculty. Organized and ran the YLS Legal History Forum, which brings legal historians globally to Yale to present on ongoing research projects related to legal history.

Vice President of Scholarship, YLS American Constitution Society Spring 2021-Spring 2022

Organized events relating to progressive scholarship and American constitutional law. Oversaw fall semester Faculty Scholarship Workshop and spring semester Progressive Scholarship Reading Group. Developed additional panel discussions and events relating to American legal scholarship, especially from humanities-based perspectives.

Director of Research, Religious Literacy Project Fall 2017-Summer 2019

Led two research projects:

- **Religion and Public Education Mapping Project**
Updated research methodology to help more effectively collect data, visually map, and statistically analyze the diverse ways religion is being taught in public K-12

schools. Supervised 32 students from Harvard Divinity School and elsewhere in data collection process. *Promoted from lead researcher, Spring 2015-Fall 2017.*

- **Religion and U.S. History (RUSH) Initiative**

Developed a series of online resources to allow public school educators to augment current U.S. history curricula to be more inclusive of American religious history.

Oversaw collation of primary and secondary source materials. Generated content and curricula proposals relevant to high school history teachers. Supervised 11 students from Harvard Divinity School and the Committee on the Study of Religion.

SELECT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Yale University

Fall 2021-Spring 2023

Advisor: Sally Promey, Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies

Served as research assistant on non-establishment case law associated with Professor Promey's manuscript, set for publication in 2024. Offered writing and editing support on manuscript chapter associated with legal issues and material displays of religion.

Research Assistant, Yale Law School

Spring 2021-Spring 2023

Advisors: Douglas NeJaime and Reva Siegel, Professors of Law

Provided research assistance on issues relating to religious liberty ahead of highly-anticipated Supreme Court decisions. Worked to integrate humanities-based scholarship into legal analysis. Collected and synthesized primary- and secondary-source scholarship relating to religion and the law to support advisors' upcoming research publications.

Research Assistant, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Spring 2019

Advisor: Cornell Brooks, Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership and Social Justice

Worked to provide summary information on voter suppression in the United States as part of a long-term research project led by Professor Brooks. Offered writing and preparation support for Professor Brooks' presentation at the Annual Greeley Lecture for Peace and Social Justice.

Research Assistant and Editor, Harvard Divinity School

Fall 2018

Advisor: K. Healan Gaston, Lecturer on American Religious History

Offered additional research on content related to First Amendment history for Professor Gaston's monograph *Imagining Judeo-Christian America: Religion, Secularism, and the Redefinition of Democracy* (Chicago University Press, 2019). Edited full manuscript and provided assistance for integrating reviewer comments into the text's final draft.

SKILLS AND BACKGROUND

- **Journals:** Founding Editor, *Yale Journal of Law and Liberation*, 2022-2023
Lead Submissions Editor, *Yale Journal of Law & Humanities*, 2021-2023
- **Committees:** AAR Secularism and Secularity Unit, Committee Member, 2019-Present
- **Computer:** Extensive use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, InDesign, PhotoShop, Stata, R Studio, SAS, SPSS; Some experience with WordPress, GIS
- **Language:** Spanish (conversational); German (research proficiency)
- **Clubs:** OutLaws (LGBT+ Law Student Association), American Constitution Society (ACS), YLS First Generation Professionals (FGP)