

# Jesse J. Lee

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St. Louis, MO 63130

## Employment

2024 – Present Postdoctoral Research Associate  
John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics  
Washington University in St. Louis

## Education

2017 – 2024 Doctor of Philosophy, Religion  
Florida State University – Tallahassee, FL  
Dissertation: “American Amida: The Buddhist Churches of America,  
Religious Incorporation, and Translation”  
Advisor: John Corrigan

2013 – 2017 Master of Divinity  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary – Austin, TX

2009 – 2013 Bachelor of Science  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI

## Journal Articles

“The Contentious Conferences of 1924: A Study on the Proceedings of the Anglo-Catholic Priests’ Convention and the 38<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Church Congress,” *Anglican & Episcopal History* 89, no. 3 (Sept 2020): 281-301.

“On Distracting and Disappearing Joy: An Exegetical Comparison of the Ethiopian Eunuch and the Slave-Girl Rhoda in Acts,” *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 40, no. 1 (2018): 65-77.

## Book Chapters

“Pure Land Buddhism in America,” in *The Oxford Handbook of American Buddhism*, edited by Ann Gleig and Scott A. Mitchell (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024): 129-143.

## Encyclopedia Entries

“Buddhism” (2,000 words), “Hsuan Hua” (1,000 words), and “Nation of Islam” (2,000 words), in *American Religious History: Belief and Society Through Time*, edited by Gary S. Smith (ABC-CLIO, Dec 2020).

## Book Reviews

Melissa Borja, *Follow the New Way: American Refugee Resettlement Policy and Hmong Religious Change*, *American Religion* (forthcoming)

David C. Kirkpatrick, *A Gospel for the Poor: Global Social Christianity and the Latin American Evangelical Left*, *Reading Religion* (July 29, 2020).

Helen Kiyong Kim and Noah Samuel Leavitt, *JewAsian: Race, Religion, and Identity for America’s Newest Jews*, *Reading Religion* (May 13, 2019).

Shari Rabin, *Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America*, *Reading Religion* (July 19, 2018).

## Conferences/Presentations

- Nov 23-26, 2024      “Translating Amida: Transpacific Japanese Pure Land Buddhism and Religio-Linguistic Translation”  
American Academy of Religion – San Diego, CA [accepted]
- April 25, 2024      “Alien Land Laws Then and Now: Contemporary Anti-Chinese Law Laws in Historical Perspective”  
Association for Asian American Studies – Seattle, WA
- June 22, 2023      “Sovereignty Over the Soil: On the Significance of Alien Land Laws and Japanese American Religious Incorporation”  
Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative – Berkeley, CA
- Sept 30, 2022      “Sovereignty Over the Soil: On the Significance of Alien Land Laws and Japanese American Religious Incorporation”  
Workshop on Asian American Religions, Religious Freedom, and the State – Ann Arbor, MI
- Nov 21, 2021      “*Blut und Boden, Chi to Tsuchi*: On Ethnological Agriculture, the American Alien Land Laws, and Competing Manifest Destinies”  
American Academy of Religion – Online

- Dec 7, 2020 “‘Power and Post-Colonial Realities’: Anglican Realignment and the Rhetoric of Reverse Colonialism”  
American Academy of Religion – Online
- Feb 29, 2020 “Sovereignty Over the Soil: On Manifest Destiny, Agriculture, and the Alien Land Law Cases”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion – Athens, GA
- Nov 24, 2019 “Recognizably Religious: On the Buddhist Churches of America, Citizenship, and Religious Translation”  
American Academy of Religion – San Diego, CA
- Sept 15, 2019 “A Qur’an By Any Other Name: Exploring the Various Readings of Sandow Birk’s *American Qur’an*”  
Boston University Graduate Program in Religion – Boston, MA
- Mar 10, 2019 “*Modernism, Fundamentalism, and Catholicism Revisited: Anglo-Catholicism, Free-Catholicism, and the Modernist-Fundamentalist Paradigm*”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion – Greenville, NC
- Mar 3, 2018 “Tax-Exempting Temples: A Study on the Influence of the IRS on American Buddhist Temple Communities”  
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion – Atlanta, GA
- Feb 20, 2016 “The Contentious Conferences of 1924: A Study on the Proceedings of the Anglo-Catholic Priests’ Convention and the 38<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Church Congress”  
Central Texas Colloquium on Religion – Austin, TX

### **Conference Panel Chair/Presider**

- March 2, 2024 “Contesting American Religious Identities”  
American Academy of Religion, Southeast – Charleston, SC
- Nov 19, 2023 “Buddhism, Race, Power and Solidarity in North America”  
American Academy of Religion – San Antonio, TX
- Nov 19, 2022 “Author-Meets-Critics: Roundtable on John Lardas Modern’s *Neuromatic; or, A Particular History of Religion and the Brain*”  
American Academy of Religion – Denver, CO
- Mar 13, 2022 “Religious Freedom and Global Politics On (and Under) the Ground”  
AAR/SBL Southeastern Region – Online

## **Service to Profession**

- 2021 – Present      American Academy of Religion  
Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit – Steering  
Committee Member
- 2021 – 2024      Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion  
Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics Unit – Co-Chair

## **Scholarships and Fellowships**

- 2017 – 2022      Legacy Fellowship  
Florida State University
- 2017 – 2019      Janie Maxwell-Morris Fellowship  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- 2013 – 2016      Presidential Scholarship  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

## **Teaching Record**

- Religion, Race, and Ethnicity  
Instructor of Record – Sum 2021, Fall 2022, Spr 2023; Spr 2024; Sum 2024
- Religion in the United States  
Instructor of Record – Fall 2018; Spr 2019; Sum 2019; Spr 2021; Fall 2021; Spr 2022  
Teaching Assistant – Spr 2018
- The Christian Tradition  
Instructor of Record – Fall 2019; Spr 2020; Fall 2020
- Religion and Law  
Teaching Assistant – Fall 2023
- Introduction to World Religions  
Teaching Assistant – Sum 2020
- Introduction to the New Testament  
Teaching Assistant – Fall 2017

## **Academic Associations**

American Academy of Religion  
Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative  
Association for Asian American Studies  
Historical Society of the Episcopal Church

## **Research Languages**

English (native)  
Japanese  
German  
Koine Greek