

Ethan G. Quillen, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. Religious Studies**, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2015. Thesis: *Everything is Fiction: An Experimental Study in the Application of Ethnographic Criticism to Modern Atheist Identity*
- M.A. Church-State Studies**, The J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2011. Dissertation: *Rejecting the Definitive – A Contextual Examination of Three Historical Stages of Atheism and the Legality of an American Freedom from Religion*.
- M.A. American Studies**, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2010. Dissertation: *The Great American Disappointment – An Introduction to the Great Disappointment Theory as a way to Explain the Unique Evolutionary Processes of Socially-Guided Religion by Means of American Civil Religion*.
- M.A. Religious Studies**, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, California, 2008.
- B.A. Religious Studies**, University of California in Riverside, Riverside, California, 2007.

AREAS OF RESEARCH:

- Atheism/Secularism: Discourse Analysis and the Definition of Atheism; the history of Atheism, Humanism, and Secularism; New Atheism; Atheism in literature, art, and film.
- Ethnography and Fiction: The history of ethnography; the theoretical link between ethnography and fiction; the use of fiction as ethnography.
- Religious Method and Theory: Discourse Analysis; Phenomenology of religion.
- Western Religious History and Politics: 19th and 20th Century American religious history; New Religious Movements; Religion and Politics in American; American Civil Religion; Religion and the US Supreme Court.

PUBLICATIONS:

Monographs

Ethan G. Quillen, *Atheist Exceptionalism: Atheism, Religion, and the United States Supreme Court*. London: Routledge, 2018.

Book Chapters

“The Satirical Sacred: New Atheism, Parody Religion, and the Argument from Fictionalization,” in Philip Quadrio, Christopher R. Cotter, and Jonathan Tuckett, eds. *New Atheism: Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Debates*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2016.

“Ian McEwan, Atheist Narrative, and Ethnographic Criticism: *Black Dogs* as a Case-Study,” Miriam Diez Bosch and Jordi Sanchez Torrents, eds. *Atheism and Literature in Europe*. Barcelona: The Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion, and Culture, 2016.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Discourse Analysis and the Definition of Atheism.” *Science, Religion, and Culture*, Vol. 2, Issue 3, 2015.

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Book Reviews

Atheists: The Origin of the Species, by Nick Spencer, *Secularism and Nonreligion Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2015.

Other Publications & Writing Experience

Conference Report for the XXI Quinquennial Congress of the International Association of the History of Religions for the Bulletin of the British Association for the Study of Religions, November 2015. Co-contributed with Amy Whitehead, Dave Eaton, Rebecca Lynch, and Beth Singler.

“Discourse Analysis and the Study of Atheism: Definitions, Discourse, and Ethnographic Criticism,” *The Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network*, guest blog post, 2015.

“There be Spoilers Here: Durkheim, ‘Breaking Bad,’ and the Uncertainty of Religious Theory, by Ethan Gjerset Quillen” – A response to an interview with Ivan Strenski for the Religious Studies Project, 11 December 2013.

“Circular Academia: Navigating the Dangerous Waters of Term Re-Assignment” – A response to an interview with J. Demerath for the Religious Studies Project, 16 March 2012.

Rejecting the Definitive – A Contextual Examination of Three Historical Stages of Atheism and the Legality of an American Freedom from Religion, Master’s Thesis published through Baylor University, available at www.beardocs.baylor.edu, 2011.

The Great American Disappointment – An Introduction to the Great Disappointment Theory as a way to Explain the Unique Evolutionary Processes of Socially-Guided Religion by Means of American Civil Religion, Master’s Thesis published by Baylor University, available at www.beardocs.baylor.edu, 2010.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT & TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- **Lecturer, The Office of Lifelong Learning**, University of Edinburgh, Spring 2015
Duties: Designed curriculum and lectured on a five-week course on the history of Atheism with Christopher R. Cotter; create lesson plan, assign readings, give lectures.
- **Tutor in Religious Studies**, University of Edinburgh, New College – 2012-2015
Courses: “Atheism in Debate,” “Religion in Society,” “Religious and Ethical Debates in Contemporary Literature”
Duties: Conducted tutorials, attended lectures, engaged students in discussions on certain topics pertaining to the course, graded exams and papers, assisted lecturers in lectures and oversee reading for the course.
- **Graduate Assistant**, California State University, Long Beach – September-December 2008.
Duties: Assisted Professor Jon R. Stone with course in “American Religious Diversity,” marked essays, proctored examinations.
- **Graduate Assistant**, California State University, Long Beach – September 2007-June 2008.
Duties: Assisted Dr. Bradley K. Hawkins with course in “American Religious Diversity,” marked essays, proctored examinations.
- **Graduate Assistant**, University of California in Riverside, June-July 2007.
Duties: Assisted Dr. Bradley K. Hawkins with course in “Introduction to Southeast Asian Religions,” marked exams.

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PRESENTATIONS:

Ways of Knowing: 4th Annual Graduate Conference on Religion at the Harvard Divinity School

Cambridge, Massachusetts: October 2015. Paper Title: "An Atheist Gospel: The Quest for the Fictional Jesus and the Gospel Novel as Atheist Discourse."

The British Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference

The University of Kent, Canterbury, England: September 2015. Panel Organizer & Presenter. Panel Title: "Fiction in the Study of Religion: Three Case Studies." Paper Title: "An Atheist Gospel: The Quest for the Fictional Jesus and the Gospel Novel as Atheist Discourse."

The XXI Quinquennial Congress of the International Association of the History of Religions

University of Erfurt: August 2015. Paper Title: "Doing Away With Theoretical Abstractions: A Discursive Analysis of the Definition of Atheism and Critical Analysis of the Positive vs. Negative Paradigm." Also: Paper Title: "Fictionalized Identity: Narrative Representations of Atheism as Ethnographic Source."

Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion, and Culture Workshop on Atheism and Literature

Barcelona, Spain: February 2015. Paper Title: "Atheist Narrative in Ian McEwan."

New College Post-Graduate Conference, University of Edinburgh

October 2014. Paper Title: "The Merits of Non-Tradition: Establishing an 'Ethnographic Understanding' of Late Twentieth-Century British Atheism through Amateur Textual Sources."

The British Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference

The Open University, Milton Keynes, England: September 2014. Panel Organizer and Chair. Panel Title: "Discursive and Material Approaches to the Study of Atheism and Non-Religion." Paper Title: "Atheist Aesthetics: Artistic Representations as Atheist Fields of Discourse."

The International Society for Heresy Studies Inaugural Conference

New York University: May 2014. Paper Title: "Ian McEwan and Atheist Ethnography: Testing the Ethnographic Value of Fiction in Defining Modern Atheism."

The 6th Israeli Conference for the Study of Contemporary Religion and Spirituality

University of Tel Aviv: April 2014. Paper Title: "Definitions and Discourse: The Normative Roots of Contemporary Atheism and the Limits of Ethnographic Fiction."

Religious Studies Seminar, New College, The University of Edinburgh

October 2013. Paper Title: "Manufactured Ethnography: Reading Fictional Texts for Literary Evidence of Historical Concepts of Atheism."

The British Society for the Philosophy of Religion Conference

Oxford University: September 2013. Paper Title: "Known Knowns and Misconceptions: A Discursive Analysis of Incorrect Conceptions and a Tautological Definition of Atheism."

European Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference & International Association for the History of Religions Special Conference

Liverpool Hope University: September 2013. Paper Title: "Beating Around the Bush: A Logorrhean Definition of Atheism Via Conspiratorial Logic."

Non-Religion and Secularity Research Network Annual Conference

Goldsmiths University, London, England: April 2012. Paper Title: "Closing the Umbrella: Furthering the Debate on General Term Assignment and an Argument for Staying Inside the Lines."

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BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group Conference

University of Chester, England: March 2012. Paper Title: "Rumsfeldian Atheism: Skepticism and the Wake of Religious Disappointment."

New College Postgraduate Conference, University of Edinburgh

December 2011. Chairperson: Chaired for papers presented by Liam Templeton Sutherland and Kevin Whitesides.

Southwestern Social Science Association

Houston, Texas, Spring 2010. Paper Title: "Guns and Bibles: An Analysis of Religion and Violence under an Obama Presidency."

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE:

- **Advisory Board Member and Post-Graduate Representative**, The International Society For Heresy Studies, 2013-2014. Duties: Attended Conferences, voted on bi-laws, oversaw communication between post-graduate students and the society in general, & assisted in advertising for memberships and upcoming events.
- **Convener, New College Post-Graduate Student Committee**, University of Edinburgh, New College. September 2012 to September 2013. Duties: Oversaw actions of New College Post-Graduate Student Committee, convened meetings, planned and organized events, oversaw Board of Studies as well as Post-Graduate studies meetings, acted as representative of New College Post-Graduate Committee to the University at large.
- **Postgraduate Representative for the Board of Studies Committee**, University of Edinburgh, New College. September 2011 to August 2012. Duties: Sat on Board of Studies committee to represent post-graduate students, offered suggestions for future courses, voted on business pertaining to the introduction and process of courses given at New College, the University of Edinburgh.

FUNDING AWARDS & ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

- Visiting Scholar, Dartmouth College, Academic Year 2016-2017.
- British Association for the Study of Religions bursary for the 2015 International Association for the History of Religions Conference in Erfurt, Germany.
- August 2013 & July 2014: Bursary from Fondation Catholique Ecosaise for French language study at Institut Catholique de Paris, France.
- October 2011-2013: Awarded a School of Divinity Scholarship toward tuition fees at the University of Edinburgh.
- American Heart Association Certification in CPR and First Aid, valid until 2018.
- Eagle Scout, 11 February 1996.