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CURRICULUM VITAE
John Gordon Melton

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Personal

Born: September 19, 1942

Address: Institute for Studies of Religion
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Education

Birmingham-Southern College (1964--A.B.) in geology; minor in philosophy/religion

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary (1968--M.Div.) with concentration in ancient Church history

While at Garrett named:

Howes Memorial Scholar -- 1964-65
Bloomquist Memorial Scholar -- 1965-66
Honors Scholar -- 1966-67
Highest Honor's Scholar -- 1967-69
Graduated in 1968 with Distinction in Honors at the head of the M.Div. class

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern University (1975--Ph.D.) in the history and literature of religion with a concentration in American Church history and minors in American intellectual history and American Protestant theology.

While in the Ph.D. program, named:

John H. Morava Scholar -- 1968-69

Professional Career

2011-present	Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Baylor University
2009-2011	Distinguished Senior Fellow at Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University, Waco, Texas
1980-present	Director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion, Waco, TX
1990-2011	Research Specialist, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara
1989-1990	Senior Research Associate, Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, Santa Barbara, California
1985-1990	Visiting Scholar, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara

- 1971-80 Various pastoral and administrative positions, part-time student and part-time Director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion
- 1968-1971 Student, full-time
- 1968 Ordained elder in the United Methodist Church
 Founded the Institute for the Study of American Religion, Evanston Illinois

American Academy of Religion. Member 1977-present.
 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Member 1975-present.
 Society for Pentecostal Studies, 2013-present
 Advisory Board of *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*. Member 2013-present.
 Board of International Society for the Study of New Religions. Member 2013-present.
 East Asian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Member 2018-present

Teaching Experience:

- 2011-present Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Baylor University
 2008-present Visiting Scholar, People's Public Security University of China, Beijing, China
 1990-2010 Research Specialist, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara
 1985-1990 Visiting Scholar, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara
 1986-1989 Lecturer, Ernest Holmes College, Los Angeles
 1982- Visiting lecturer, winter session, Loyola University, Chicago
 1981- Visiting lecturer, summer session, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
 1971- Visiting lecturer, summer session, University of San Francisco
 1968-70 Graduate teaching assistant, Garrett Theological Seminary

Publications and Papers

Books:

The Churches of McLennan County, Texas: A 2015 Snapshot. With Todd Ferguson. Waco, TX: Institute for Studies of Religion, 2018. 549 pp.

Faiths across Time: 5,000 Years of Religious History. 4 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2014.

African American Methodists in the Antebellum and Reconstruction Periods: A Timetable, 1760-1876. 2013. Posted at: <http://www.historicstgeorges.org/african-american-methodists>.

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Nelson's Handbook of Denominations. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007. 620 pp.

A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Methodism. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. 315 pp.

- Os Meninos de Dios "A Familia."* Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2007. 130 pp.
- The Encyclopedia of Religious Phenomena.* Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 2007. 380 pp.
- Encyclopedia of Protestantism.* New York: Facts on File, 2005. 628 pp. Rpt.: New York: Checkmark Books, 2008. 628 pp.
- Reiki: tecnica o religione?* With Andrea Menegotto. Torino, Italy: Elledici, 2005. 120 pp.
- The Family/The Children of God.* Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books, 2004. 102 pp.
- L'Eglise de Scientologie.* Torino, Italy: Elledici, 2002. 102 pp.
- Cults, Religion and Violence.* With David G. Bromley. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002. 272 pp.
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- Protestant Faith in America.* New York: Facts on Files, 2002. 128 pp.
- The Church of Scientology.* Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books, 2000. 80 pp.
- American Religion: An Illustrated History.* Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2000. 316 pp.
- Gehirnwäsche und Secten. Interdisziplinäre Annäherungen.* Edited with Massimo Introvigne. Marburg, Germany: Dialogon-Verlag, 2000.
- Ninos de Dios. Secta o Movimento Religioso, "The Family"?* Bogota, Columbia: Paulinas, 1999. 104 pp.
- A Scuola di illuminazione, gli insegnamenti dell'accademia di scienze spirituali di Ramtha.* Cesena, Italy: Macro Edizioni, 1999. 257 pp.
- Finding Enlightenment: Ramtha's School of Ancient Wisdom.* Hillsboro, OR: Beyond Words, 1998. 216 pp. German edition as: *Erleuchtung finden: Ramthas alte Schule der Weisheit.* Peiting: In Der Tat Verlag, 1998. 272 pp.
- La Chiesa di Scientology [The Church of Scientology].* Torino: Editrice Elle di ci, 1998. 93 pp. (Reprinted in English and French editions)
- International Directory of the World's Religions: Canada.* Chicago: Institute for World Spirituality, 1998. 151 pp. With James Beverley.
- Prime-Time Religion.* Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1997. 413 pp. Co-authored with Phillip Charles Lucas and Jon R. Stone.
- Dai Bambino di Dio a The Family [The Children of God/The Family].* Torino: Editrice Elle di ci, 1997. 76 pp. (Reprinted in Spanish, English, Portuguese and Japanese editions)
- Pour en finir avec les sectes: Le débat sur le rapport de la commission parlementaire.* Turin: CESNUR/Milan: Giovanni, 1996. 355 pp. Second edition: Paris: Dervy, 1996. 355 pp. Third edition: Paris Éditions Dervy, 1996. 335 pp. Co-edited with Massimo Introvigne.
- Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology.* Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 4th ed., 1996. 1511 pp. 5th Edition. Detroit, MI: Gale Group, 2001. 2 vols. 1939 pp.
- Church Universal and Triumphant In Scholarly Perspective.* Stanford, CA: Center for Academic Publication, 1994. 160 pp. Co-edited with James R. Lewis.
- Politics of the Spirit: Religion and Multiethnicity in Los Angeles.* Los Angeles: University of Southern California, 1994. 42 pp. With John B. Orr, Donald E. Miller, and Wade Clark Roof.

Sex, Slander and Salvation: Investigating The Family/Children of God. Stanford, CA: Center for Academic Publication, 1994. 288 pp. Co-edited with James R. Lewis.

Encyclopedia of African American Religion. New York: Garland Publishing, 1993. 926 pp. Co-edited with Larry Murphy and Gary L. Ward.

National Directory of Churches, Synagogues, and Other Houses of Worship. 4 vols. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1993.

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"Tordre le cour à quelques idées reçues: et si le pluralisme et l'expansionnisme religieux étaient aussi forts en Europe qu'en Amérique du Nord? In Bernadette Rigal-Cellard, ed. *Sects, Églises, Mystiques: Échanges, conquêtes, métamorphoses*. Bordeaux, FR: CLAN-CEC/Pleine Page 'Editeur, 2004, pp. 39-53

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"Introduction" for John A. Saliba, *Understanding New Religious Movements*. Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2003, pp. xi-xvi.

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"A Contemporary Ordered Religious Community: The Sea Organization." In Derek H. Davis and Barry Hankins, eds. *New Religious Movements & Religious Liberty in America*. Waco, TX: J. M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, 2002, pp. 45-79. 2nd edition. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2003, 43-67.

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"The Modern Anti-Cult Movement in Historical Perspective." In Jeffrey Kaplan and Heléne Lööw, eds. *The Cultic Milieu*. Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2002, pp. 265-89.

"The Fate of NRMs and their Detractors in Twenty-First Century America." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 4, 2 (April 2001): 241-48.

"Religious Pluralism: Problems and Prospects." *Brigham Young University Law Review* 2001, 2 (2001): 619-629.

"Emerging Religious Movements in North America: Some Missiological Reflections." *Missiology: An International Review* 28, 1 (January 2000): 85-98.

"Anti-cultists in the United States." In Bryan Wilson and Jamie Cresswell, eds. *New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response*. London: Routledge, 1999, pp. 213-233.

"Recent Changes in the Family." In Bertrabd Ouellet and Richard Bergeron, eds. *Croyances et sociétés*. Montreal: Éditions Fides, 1998, pp. 233-45.

"The Emergence of New Religions in Eastern Europe Since 1989." In Eileen Barker & Margit Warburg, eds. *New Religions and New Religiosity*. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1997, pp. 45-65.

"The Future of the New Age Movement." In Eileen Barker & Margit Warburg, eds. *New Religions and New Religiosity*. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1997, pp. 133-49.

"European Receptivity to the New Religions." In Helle Meldgaard and Johannes Aagaard, eds. *New Religious Movements in Europe*. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1997, pp. 18-30.

"The Case of Edward J. Arens and the Distortion of the History of New Thought." *JSSMR: The Journal of the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion* 2, 1 (Spring 1996): 13-29.

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The Catholic Pentecostal Movement. Evanston, IL: Garrett Theological Seminary Library, 1971. 20 pp.

Bibliography of Black Methodism. Evanston, IL: Institute for the Study of American Religion, 1970. 45 pp.

"An Annotated Bibliography of Publications about the Life and Work of John Wesley." *Methodist History* 7, 4 (July 1969). Pp. 29-46.

Microfilm Publications

"Introduction." *American Religions Collection - Series 2: Nontraditional American Religions: Eastern Religions: Buddhism, Shintoism and Japanese New Religions*. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2007. 47 reels.

"Introduction." *American Religions Collection - Series 3: Nontraditional American Religions-Eastern Religions: Hinduism, Hindu/Yoga, Jainism, Sikhism, and Sant Mat*. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2007. 52 reels.

"Introduction." *American Religions Collection - Series 1: Non-Traditional American Religions: Western Esotericism from Witchcraft to the New Age*. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2006. 85 reels.

Papers:

"Hidden in Plain Sight: Mapping the Growth of Pentecostal Christianity in America." A paper presented at the Annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 11-13, 2019 in New York, New York.

"What's in a Relic?: The Buddha's Tooth at Fo Guang Shan." A paper presented at the Annual Conference of the East Asian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion held at Hokkaido university, Sapporo Japan, July 27-28, 2019.

"Pioneering Hinduism in Canada: The Life and Work of Swami Sivananda Radha." A paper presented at 'Because of Her?': Women and the Shaping of Canada,' the International Conference/Congress of the French Association of Canadian Studies held at the university of Bordeaux, France, June 12-15, 2019.

“The Contemporary Use of *Xie jiao* in China and the Origins of the Church of Almighty God.” A paper presented at the Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion held at Bologna University, Bologna, Italy, March 4-7, 2019.

“Understanding Scientology as a Religion” A paper presented at the Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion held at Bologna University, Bologna, Italy, March 4-7, 2019.

“The New Post-World War II Movements in American Pentecostalism: The Texas Contribution.” A Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostals Studies held at William Seymour College, Lanham, Maryland, February 28-March 2, 2019.

"A Religious Researcher's Study of the Chinese in Diaspora--Singapore, Hong Kong and North America." A paper presented at the International Workshop for the Encyclopedia of Taiwanese Religion, Fo Guang University, Taiwan, December 8, 2018.

"On Building an Encyclopedia of Religious Groups in Taiwan." A paper presented at the International Workshop for the Encyclopedia of Taiwanese Religion, Fo Guang University, Taiwan, December 7, 2018.

“The Others: Hiding in Plain Sight, Finding and Counting America’s Invisible Churches.” With Holly Folk and David Bromley. A paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 26-28, 2018.

“I Visited Heaven”: The Future of Humanity among Pentecostal Christians.” A paper presented at the 2nd World SangSaeng Forum International Conference, “Towards an Earthly Paradise: The future of humanity in religions and Daesoon Thought,” held in Daejin University, Korea, October 20-24, 2018.

“China as a Religion Exporting Nation: Traditional Chinese Religion in North America” A paper presented at the Inaugural Conference of the East Asia Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Singapore Management University, Singapore, July 3-5, 2018.

“A New Religion for the Upwardly Mobile: The Prosperity Gospel Movement.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), Weixin College, Nantou County, Taiwan, June 17-23, 2018.

“The Development of the Vampire Metaphor in Western Esotericism.” A paper presented at the meeting of the Association for the Study of Esotericism held at Rice University, May 24-27, 2018.

"Revealing the Esoteric World: On Building an Occult and Paranormal Library." A paper presented at the Conference on Preserving the Historical Collections of Parapsychology held May 11 -13, 2018 at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

“A Religious Historian Looks at Modern Secularism.” A paper presented at the Emerging Religions Conference 2, held at Rice University, Houston, Texas,

“The Guan Yin Mega-statues of East Asia.” A paper presented at the 2018 Australian National University Religion Conference, “Sacred Sites/Sacred Stories: Global Perspectives,” April 5-7, 2018, Canberra, Australia.

“The Prosperity Gospel in Texas: The Case of Kenneth Copeland.” A paper presented at the Society for Pentecostal Studies, held at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, Tennessee, March 8-10, 2018.

“A New Religion’s Fight for Peace—the Case of the Quakers in Korea.” A paper presented at the Conference on “Peace and the Path of Mutual Beneficence in New Religions” sponsored by the Daesoon Academy of Sciences, and held at Daejin University in Seondan-dong, Pocheon City, Korea, October 13-18, 2017.

“Jerusalem. The Globalization of an Idea.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), held at the the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, July 2-6, 2017.

“NRMs in Post-Maoist China: The Case of the Church of Almighty God.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), held at the the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, July 2-6, 2017.

”The Fear of the Occult among Christian Evangelicals” A paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 18-22, 2016.

“Eastern Lightning (Church of Almighty God: The Place of a Controversial Group in the Spectrum of East Asian Religion.” A lecture delivered at the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, October 4, 2016.

“*MISA and the Esoteric Tradition of Sacred Sexuality.*” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), held at Daejin University, Pocheon City, Republic of Korea, July 5- 10, 2016.

“What are the implications of a 34% undercount in the 2010 U.S. "Religion Census?" With Todd Ferguson. A Paper presented at the Advancing the Demographic Study of Religion conference held at the Pew Research Center, Washington, DC, March 30, 2016.

“America’s Invisible Religion: The McLennan County Church Survey.” With Todd Ferguson. A paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture held at Chapman University, Orange California, March 18-19, 2016.

“Swimming in Other Streams: Alternative Currents in Dallas' Religious Traditions.” A paper presented at the 17th Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, January 30, 2016

“Cults and New Religions: Their History and Development in the New World.” A paper presented at the Chinese National Security University, Beijing, China, December 1, 2015.

“The Christian Church vs. New religions: Challenging Established Religion.” A paper presented at the Chinese National Security University, Beijing, China, December 2, 2015.

“Catholicism in the 21st century.” A paper presented at the Chinese National Security University, Beijing, China, December 3, 2015.

“Empirical Methods of Research on Religion.” A paper presented at the Chinese National Security University, Beijing, China, December 4, 2015.

“American Denominationalism.” A paper presented at the Chinese National Security University, Beijing, China, November 30, 2015.

“On Studying the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Directions for Future Research.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, November 20-23, 2015.

“Toward a Godless America? Paper presented at the program on The End of Religion?, Press Club, Washington, D.C, November 10, 2015.

“Religious Life in the Nineteenth Century: The Case of central Texas.” A paper presented at the Cleng Peerson Legacy Conference, Clifton Texas, October 13- 16, 2015

“Revisionism in the New Age Movement.” A paper presented at the XXI Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions held at the University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany, August 23-28, 2015.

“Whither New religions. A paper presented at the Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture held at the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 4-6, 2015.

“Toward a Godless America? A paper presented at the symposium, on “The End of Religion?” Paul Powell Chapel, Truett Seminary, Waco, Texas, May 5, 2015.

“Placing Eddy in the Historical Flow: The Role of the Key to the Scriptures.” A paper presented at the conference on The Evolutions of Christian Science in Scholarly Perspective, Faculty of Comparative Studies of Religions, Antwerp, Belgium, April 23-24, 2015.

“Financing New Religions.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, & Culture, Boston, Massachusetts, March 12-14, 2015.

“One Hundred Years of Texas Pentecostal History, 1914-2014.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Lakeland Florida, March 12-14, 2015.

“The Uniquely Texas Religions of the Lone Star State.” A paper presented at the Texas State Historical Association, meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, March 5-7, 2015.

“Getting the Big Picture of American Religion,” “The Unique Course of Texas Religion,” “African American Methodism,” and “Unbelief in American,” Lectures delivered at the annual Institute on American Society and Culture, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, December 7-13, 2014.

“American Religion: Getting the Big Picture.” Keynote address for the 11th annual American Studies Network Conference, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, December 5-6, 2014.

“Apparitions and the Rise of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 22-25, 2014.

“The ‘Nones’ Shall Always Be with Us: Towards a Historical Perspective on the Growth of Unbelief in America.” A paper presented at the 3rd International Conference of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network, Claremont, California, November 19-20, 2014.

“The Nones Shall Always Be with Us—Toward an Historical Perspective on Unbelief in America.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 31-November 2, 2014

“New Religions and the California Dream” A paper presented on the occasion of the Opening of the Spirit Lab, an exhibit on New Religious Thought in California, San Diego State University, October 22, 2014.

“The End of Religion in America?” Presented as the 21st Annual John R. Adams Lecture in the Humanities, San Diego State University, October 21, 2014.

“Financing New Religions in Contemporary America.” A paper presented at the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture European workshop, St Chad’s College, University of Durham, Durham, England, September 5-6, 2014.

“The Uniquely Texan Religions of the Lone Star State.” A presentation at the 2014 CESNUR Conference, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, June 4, 2014.

“The Injection of Pentecostalism into China, 1907-1917.” A paper presented at the conference on The Globalisation of Christianity in China held at the Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Manchester, Manchester, England, May 15-16, 2014.

“New Religions and Sects: the Supermarket of Religion.” A paper presented at the International Congress on “Listening to America: Encounter among Peoples, Cultures, and Religions. Pathways to the future, held at the Pontificia Università Urbaniana, Rome, Italy, April 7-9, 2014.

“The Threat of Atheism” A lecture presented at Chapman University, Orange, California, March 20, 2014.

“Texas as Pentecostalism’s Second Birthplace.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri, March 6-8, 2014.

“On Doing Research on Scientology: Prospects and Pitfalls,” A paper presented at “Scientology in Scholarly Perspective,” an International Conference on the Study of Scientology, held at the Faculty of Comparative Studies of Religions, Antwerpen, Belgium, January 24-25, 2014.

“New Religions in the 21st Century: Where have all the cults gone?” Keynote address at the conference on “New Religions in the 21st Century: Where have all the ‘cults’ gone?” University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, May 10, 2013.

“The Liberal Catholics: The Western Ecclesial Branch of Blavatsky’s Children.” A paper presented at the 45th Congress of the l’ Association Française d’Etudes Américaines, Angers, France, May 22-25, 2013.

“Texas Pentecostalism: A Test Case for the Definition of New Religions.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies of New Religions (CESNUR), Solna, Sweden, June 21-24, 2013.

“Today’s NRM—Tomorrow’s Religions.” A paper presented at the International Society for Sociology of Religion, Turku University, Turku, Finland, June 27-30, 2013.

“Reflections on Forty-five Years of Methodist Research.” A paper for the 2013 meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, September 13, 2013.

“There’s Something Different about Texas Religion: Religious Diversity in the Lone Star State.” A paper for the “Faith and Freedom in the Lone State Program, Waco, Texas, September 19, 2013.

“Chinese Pentecostalism: The Birth and Growth of a Uniquely Chinese Version of Christianity.” A paper presented at the Global Reorient: Chinese Pentecostal/Charismatic Movements in the Global East Symposium, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, October 30-31, 2013.

“If There Had Been no INFORM: Imagining a Tragedy.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, November 8-10, 2013.

“Reflections on American Religious Demography.” A presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland, November 23-26, 2013.

“When Science Intervenes-Revising Claims in the New Age.” Paper presented at the INFORM Seminar: Changing Beliefs and Schisms in New Religious Movements, London School of Economics, December 1, 2012.

“Spiritualism in the Twentieth Century: The Changing Face of a Nineteenth-century New Religion. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 17-20, 2012. With Constance Jones.

“What the Emancipation Proclamation Means to African American Methodists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the United Methodist African American Archives, Los Angeles, November 12-13, 2012.

“Chinese Pentecostalism: The Birth and Growth of a Uniquely Chinese Version of Christianity.” Paper presented at the Beijing Forum, Peking University, Beijing, China, November 2-4, 2012.

“Rome, Hong Kong and Tampa Bay—New Religions in Time and Space.” Keynote address for the Conference on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on new Religions: Globalization and Sustainability, University of South Florida, March 1, 2012.

“Creating a Pluralistic Religious Culture—the Role of Popular New Religion.” Keynote address at the annual Religions in Conversation Conference, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA, February 24, 2012

“Reflections on American Buddhist Demographics from the 2010 Buddhist Census.” With Constance A. Jones. A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2011.

“Counting Your Blessings: Healings, Miracles, and the Empirical Study of the True Jesus Church Movement in East Asia.” Co-authored with Elisa Zhai Autry. Paper presented at the annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October 28-30, 2011.

“Cults in China: Genuine Threat or Classification of Convenience?” A paper presented at the conference on “Religion in the Social Transition of Contemporary China” Sino-American Perspectives” held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., October 13-14, 2011.

“Emergent Atheism in Twentieth-Century North America.” With James A. Beverley. A paper presented at the Toward a Reasonable World Conference, an International Conference in Honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of Michael Servetus, San Diego State University, September 16-18, 2011.

“New New Religions in North America: The Swaminarayan Family of Religions.” Paper for International Conference of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) meeting at Aletheia University, Danshui, Taiwan, June 21-23, 2011.

“Reflections on Hindu Demographics in America: An Initial Report on the First American Hindu Census.” With Constance A. Jones. A paper presented at the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics & Culture meeting in Washington, D.C., April 7-10, 2011.

“Religious Outsiders: Looking Beyond Conventional Christian Figures Like George MacKay for Insight into Taiwanese National Identity.” Presented at the International Conference—Tamsui, Bridge Between and Beyond Origins, Inheritance, and Legacy of George Leslie Mackay, held at Aletheia University, Danshui, Taipei, Taiwan, June 9-10, 2010.

“Reflections on Buddhist Demographics in America: An Initial Report on the First American Buddhist Census.” With Constance A. Jones. A paper presented at the meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Washington, D.C., April 2-4, 2009.

“Forty Years of the Institute for the Study of American Religion.” A paper presented at the International Conference of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) and the Information Network Focus on Religious Movements, London School of Economics, April 16-20, 2008.

“Black Participation in the Antebellum Church: The Case of African American Methodists.” A paper presented at the meeting of the United Methodist African American Archives, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 19-20, 2008.

“History as a Factor in the Social Scientific Study of Chinese Religion” A paper presented at the Beijing Summit on Chinese Spirituality and Society, Peking University, Beijing, Peoples Republic of China, Oct. 9-10, 2008.

"From the Occult to Western Esotericism: Catching up with Changes in the New Age Movement." A paper presented at the Trinity Conference on Post Christendom Spiritualities held at Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois, Oct. 17-19, 2008.

“On Reconceptualizing Types of Religious Groups: Churches, Sects, Cults, Ethnic Churches” with David G. Bromley. A paper presented at the meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, July 30-August 2, 2008.

“ISAR and the Study of New Religions” A paper presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 1-3, 2008

“The Rise of African American Methodism, 1800-1880: An Initial Demographic Exploration.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, July 20-22, 2007, held at the National 4-H Conference Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

“Approaches to Biblical Truth: Emanuel Swedenborg, Biblical Allegory, and the New Thought Movement at the End of the Nineteenth Century.” A paper presented as the annual Urbana University Swedenborg Lecture, Urbana University, Urbana, Ohio, February 17, 2007.

“The Affirmation of Charismatic Authority: the Case of the True Buddha School.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, June 7, 2007.

“The Secret: the Largest Neo-New Age Phenomenon.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, June 7, 2007.

“A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Christianity.” A paper presented as the Mary Olive Woods Lecture, Western Illinois University, MaComb, Illinois, September 19, 2007.

“Pentecostalism in China: The Case of the True Jesus Church.” A paper presented at the Charles Jones Celebration held at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, February 10-11, 2006.

“An Assessment of Problems & Prospect in Understanding Violence Involving New Religious Movements.” A paper presented at a conference on Dying for Faith: Religiously Motivated Violence in the Contemporary World, held at King’s College, London, September 11-12, 2006. Co-authored with David Bromley.

“Art in Vajrayana: Some Basic Issues.” A paper presented at the conference on "Art in the Vajrayana Tradition," Taipei, Taiwan, October 23, 2005.

"Zoar United Methodist Church: The Other African Methodist Church in Antebellum Philadelphia." A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 19-22, 2005.

"Some Indigenous Chinese Religions in the West: Case of the Local Church and the True Jesus Church." With Constance Jones. A paper presented at “Chinese Christianity on the Mainland and in Diaspora Communities” A Mini-Conference Hosted by the Institute of Comparative Culture, Sophia University, Ichigaya Campus, Tokyo, March 22-23, 2005.

"The Emergence of the Vajrayana Tradition." Presented at the Conference on the Vajrayana Tradition, Taipei, Taiwan, November 15, 2004.

"African American Methodism in the M. E. Tradition: The Case of Sharp Street (Baltimore)." Presented at the American Academy of Religion meeting in San Antonio Texas, November 20-23, 2004.

"AL-Qaeda as a New Religion." Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Ontario, November 20-23, 2002.

"Self-consciousness in the Study of New Religions." Presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Ministries to New Religions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky February 22-23, 2002.

"The Counter-Cult Monitoring Movement in Historical Perspective." CESNUR (Center for Studies in New Religions) Conference, Salt Lake City, June 20-22, 2002.

"Brainwashing and the Cults: The Rise and Fall of a Theory." English translation of Introduction to *Gehirnwäsche und Secten. Interdisziplinäre Annäherungen*. Edited with Massimo Introvigne. Marburg, Germany: Dialogonal-Verlag, 2000. Posted at <http://www.cesnur.org>.

"The Rise of New Religions Studies." CESNUR (Center for Studies in New Religions) Conference, Bryn Athym, Pennsylvania, June 2-5, 1999. Posted at <http://www.cesnur.org>.

"Emerging New Religions: Some Missiological Considerations." American Missiological Society, Techny, Illinois, June 18-20, 1999.

"Religious Pluralism—A Global Perspective." Presented at the conference on "Religious Liberty: International Perspectives," Brigham Young University School of Law, October 4-6, 1998, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Reiki: The International Spread of a New Age Healing Movement"

"The Modern Anti-Cult Movement in Historical Perspective." Presented at the Symposium on New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response, Institute of Oriental Philosophy European Centre, April 7-9, 1995.

"Child Abuse and the Cults" Presented at the American Psychological Association, Los Angeles, California, August 12-16, 1994.

"The Future of the New Age Movement." Presented at Rennord 94, the joint meeting of the Renner Conference on New Religions and New Religiosity and the Nordic Conference on the Sociology of Religion, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 22-25, 1994.

"The Emergence of New Religions in Eastern Europe Since 1989." Presented at Rennord 94, the joint meeting of the Renner Conference on New Religions and New Religiosity and the Nordic Conference on the Sociology of Religion, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 22-25, 1994.

"The Evangelical Thrust into Eastern Europe in the 1990s." Presented at the International Conference on "New Religions and the New Europe," London School of Economic, London, England, March 25-28, 1993.

"The Emergence of Astrology: The Case of North America." Presented at conference of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Budapest, Hungary, July 19-23, 1993.

"New Religious Movements and Interfaith Dialogue." Presented at the World's Parliament of Religions, August 31-September 4, 1993.

"On Doing Communal Studies in a Post-Marxist Era." Presented at the Communal Studies Society meeting at New Harmony Indiana, October 14-17, 1993.

"Child Abuse, Suicide, and the Branch Davidians." Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 20-23, 1993.

- "Toward a Spiritual Environmentalism." Presented at the conference on "Understanding and Appreciating Similarities and Differences in Religious and Spiritual Practice," Larkspur, California, February 7-8, 1992.
- "Paschal Beverly Randolph: America's Pioneer Occultist." Presented at the conference on "The Challenge of Magic, Spiritualism, Satanism, and Occultism in Contemporary Societies," Lyon, France, April 6-8, 1992.
- "The Rise of New Religious Movements in Europe" Presented at the Fifth Annual International Conference on New Religions, Santa Barbara, California, May 1991.
- "The Case of Edward J. Arens and the Distortion of the History of New Thought." Presented at the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion, Tampa, Florida, July 20, 1991.
- "But Is It Really Religion: New Religious Movements and the Problem of Religious Authenticity." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 10-12, 1991.
- "The Emergence of New Religions in Europe." With Gary L. Ward. Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 10-12, 1991.
- "What Is a 'Cult?': A Religious Studies Perspective." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, Massachusetts, August 10-14, 1990.
- "Kashi Ranch: The New Age Comes to Florida." Presented at the joint conference of the Sunstone Foundation and the Pacific Coast Chapter of the National Historical Communal Societies Association, Provo, Utah, May 4-5, 1990. Rpt. as: "Kashi: A Meeting of east and West in a 'New Age' Community." Rpt. in: James R. Lewis, ed. *The Encyclopedia Sourcebook of New Age Religions*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2004, 134-49.
- "New Religious Movements in America and Europe: An Overview." Presented at the International Seminar on New Religious Movements: The European Situation, Lugano, Switzerland, April 2-21, 1990.
- "Edgar Cayce and Reincarnation: Past Life Readings and Religious Symbolology." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, Virginia, November 9-11, 1990.
- "Research on New Religions: Needs and Prospects." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, Virginia, November 9-11, 1990.
- "New Census of Religious Groups: American Membership Trends in the Twentieth Century." With Philip Lucas. Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, November 9-11, 1990.
- "Prediction or Spirituality? How the New Age Has Transformed Astrology." With Shoshannah Feher. Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, Virginia, November 9-11, 1990.
- "Contemporary Satanic Practice." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 27-29, 1989.
- "New Thought and the New Age." Presented at the American Society of Church History, San Francisco, California, December 27-30, 1989.
- "Edward Bellamy, Universal Brotherhood and the Theosophical Society." Presented at the meeting of the Society of Utopian Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, September 29-October 2, 1988.
- "Testing the Truisms about the Cults." Presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 19-22, 1988.
- "The American Buddhist Apologetic against Christianity, 1880-1940." Presented at the conference on "Buddhism and Christianity: Towards the Human Future," Berkeley, California, August 10-15, 1987.
- "The Communal Thrust in American Theosophy." Presented at the meeting of the National Historical Communal Societies Association, Bishop Hill, Illinois, October 15-18, 1987.

"Emma Curtis Hopkins: New Thought's Forgotten Founder." Presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, December 10-15, 1987.

"The Evidences of Satan in Contemporary America: A Survey." Presented at the meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, Los Angeles, California, March 27-29, 1986.

"Toward the Cooperation of the Academy and the Church in Facing the New Pluralism." Presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, November 22-24, 1986.

"A Survey of America's Second Burst of Communalism: The Post Civil War Growth of Communes." Presented at a meeting of the National Historic Communal Societies Association, Amana, Iowa, October 4-7, 1984.

"The History and Function of Communes in America." Presented at a meeting of the National Historic Communal Societies Association, New Harmony, Indiana, October 13-16, 1983.

"The Origins of Contemporary Neo-Paganism: A Report on Research in Progress." Presented at a meeting of the Popular Culture Association held at Detroit, Michigan, April 17, 1980.

"Neo-Paganism: Report on the Survey of an Alternative Religion." Presented at a meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 30-November 2, 1980.

"Deprogramming: A Response to the Rise of the Cults." Presented at a meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 30-November 2, 1980.

"The Neo-Pagans of America: An Alternative Religion." Presented at a meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, November 5-9, 1980.

"Jim Jones, Charles Manson and the Process of Religious Group Disintegration." Presented at the meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, October 28, 1979.

"Sources and Resources for Teaching the Occult." Presented at the meeting of the Midwest Popular Culture Association held at Bowling Green State University, October 1976.

Miscellaneous:

Besides the above-mentioned items, Dr. Melton was an Associate Editor of the *Encyclopedia of World Methodism* (Nashville, TN: Cokesbury, 1968) and contributed all the articles on sectarian Methodist groups in the United States and others on the Holiness Movement. He contributed the majority of the articles for the Department of the Army's two volumes on American religious groups prepared for their chaplains: *Religious Requirements and Practices for Certain Selected Groups, A Handbook for Chaplains* (Department of the Army, April 1978, No. 165-13, 266 pp.) and *Religious Requirements and Practices of Certain Selected Groups, A Handbook Supplement for Chaplains* (Department of the Army, April 1980, No. 165-13-1. 214 pp.). A new edition was completed in 1991.

Member of the Steering Committee of the Religion and Social Sciences of the American Academy of Religion, 1980-1981. Chairman and Respondent, session on "Religion and Social Movements," AAR, 1981. Chairman, Sessions on "New Religion" AAR, 1985. Member of the Steering Committee of the New Religions Section of the American Academy of Religion, 1986-2002, 2006-present.

Member of the National Advisory Council of the National Historical Communal Societies Association (now the Communal Studies Association), 1984-1995. President of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the National Historical Communal Societies Association, 1985-1989. Vice-president of the Communal Studies Association 1989-92. President of the Communal Studies Association, 1992-94.

Founding member of the International Board of the Center for Studies of New Religions (CESNUR), 1989-present.

Founding member of the board of the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion. Associate Editor of *Theosophical History* (1990-present).

In 2013, Dr. Melton was given the Distinguished Service Award by The General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church.