**CHRISTIAN VAN GORDER**

Department of Religion, Baylor University

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**Professional Experience and Education**

2004-Present – **Associate Professor, Islamic Studies, World Religions, and Global Christianity, Baylor University**

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| 1991 |  |
| 1989-1991 |  |
| 1981 |  |
| 1977 |  |
| 1976 |  |

Graduate Faculty: *Institute of Church and State Studies;* Undergraduate Faculty: *Department of Religion* Courses: REL3345 World Religions; REL4343 Topics in Islamic Stud­ies – Shi’a Islam; Islamic Fundamentalism; Issues in Contemporary Islam; Islam and Social Justice; History of Islam; Muslim and non-Muslim Relations; Islamic Philosophy; Islam in Africa and the African Diaspora; Islam in Central Asia; Contemporary Islamophobia; The Muslim Experience in North America; REL4345 – Modern Judaism; REL4346 Topics in Asian Studies – Buddhism; Buddhist-non-Buddhist Relations; Religions of India and Tibet; Religions of China, and Japan; Confucianism and Taoism; REL4300 Topics Religion (Directed Studies); FAS1308 – History of Christianity in Relation to Other Religions; Religion, Atrocity, and Violence.

2010-2011 **University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Distinguished Visiting Professor in Islamic Studies**

Graduate: Islamic Texts; World Religions. Undergraduate: Topics in Islam; Religious Texts; Introduction to Islam.

1 1997-2004 **Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Assistant Professor of Religious and Intercultural Studies**

Courses: Introduction to World Religions; Islam; Texts of the World’s Religions; Judaism; Religions of China and Japan; Religions of India and Persia; Religion, Atrocity and Genocide; World Christianity; African-American Christianity and Racism; Christianity in Asia; History of Pentecostalism; History of Anabaptism; Lib­eration Theology in South America; Cross-Cultural Studies: Peru; Malawi; India and Sri Lanka; Ireland and Northern Ireland; P.R. China and Tibet.

1 1995-1996; 1989-1991 **Yunnan University, Kunming, Yunnan, P.R. China, Intercultural Studies**

Courses: Ethnic Voices in American Literature; American Literature; English Litera­ture; European Literature in Translation; American History; Rhetoric; Introduction to Theater Arts.

1 1991 -1995 **Queen’s University of Belfast, Ireland, Ph.D., Study of Religion**

*Dissertation: “The Muslim Doctrine of God and Christian-Muslim Relations”*

Internal Examiners: Allen Russell, Morris Dowling, James MacCormack: Edgehill College.

External Examiner: Andrew Walls, New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Additional Courses: National University of Singapore – Chinese Language Immersion; Chinese History and Culture

1982 -1984 **Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY M.A., World Religions and World Christianity**

Concentration in World Religions, Islamic Studies, and Muslim-Christian Relations.

Additional Courses: Fuller Seminary – Folk Islam; Cultural Anthropology; University of Tulsa – Napoleonic Wars

1978-1981 **University of Pittsburgh; Oral Roberts University, B.A., English Literature and Drama**

Additional Courses Completed: Greek Drama and Classical Thought (1976)-American Hellenic University;

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| Trinity College, Dublin – Irish History and Literature (1977). |
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**Books**

*Christians and Jews in Conversation* (under review, 2016)

*Islam, Peace, and Social Justice* (London: James Brill, 2014)

*Violence in God’s Name: Christian and Muslim Relations in Nigeria.* (Baltimore: African Diaspora Press, 2012).

*The Thousand-Petaled Lotus: Buddhist and Christian Discussions.* (San Francisco: Jain Publishers, 2012).

*Christians in Persia and Muslim and non-Muslim Relations in Iran.* (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Press, 2009).

*Muslim and non-Muslim Relations in Central Asia.* (London: Routledge Press, 2008, reprinted, 2010).

*No God but God: A Path to Muslim-Christian Discussions about the Nature of God* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2003).

*Three-Fifth’s Theology: American Christianity Confronts Racism.* With the Rev. Dr. Lewis T. Tait, Jr. (Tren­ton, N.J.: Africa World Press, 2002); revised/republished by Africa World Press, 2011 as *Red, White, Black and Blue: Black Anger and White Ignorance in Obama’s America*.

**Articles**

“Gulf to Bay Buddhism: Exploring the New Kadampa Tradition in Safety Harbor Florida” with John Strasser, under review, 2016.

“There is No Enemy – None is the Other: Promoting Christian and Sikh Mutuality.” *Interreligious Insight*, December 2011.

“Portraits of Islam in Christianity Today In the Six Months Following 9/11” with Heather M. Gor­man. *Journal of Religious Studies*, October 2011.

“The Interreligious and Intercultural Challenges facing the Germans of Kazakhstan.” *Orient*, V. Berlin, November 2010.

“Why Not Laugh with the Rose: The Spirituality of Laughter in the Poetry of Jalal al-din Rumi.” *Interreligious Insight: Journal of Dialogue and Engagement*, July, 2010.

“Pedagogy for the Children of the Oppressor: Paulo Freire’s Liberative Education for Social Justice in the Context of North American Faith-Based Higher Education.” *Journal of Transformative Educa­tion*, May 2007.

“Interreligious Challenges Facing the Muslims of Central Texas,” *Interreligious Insight: Journal of Di­alogue and Engagement*, October 2006,

“Armenian Christians and Turkish Muslims: Prospects for Reconciliation through Interfaith Dia­logue on the Events of History.” *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relation*s 17, no. 2 (April 2006): 173-194.

“Beyond the Rivers of Ethiopia: The Afrocentric Pentecostalism of Mensa Otabil” *Pneuma*, Spring 2008.

“Ethnogeriatrics and Comparative Religions Method for Gerentological Research into Topics of Is­lamic Religion and Spirituality,” with James Ellor. *Journal of Religion, Spirituality and Aging* 20, Nos. 1 & 2 (November, 2007).

**Book Chapters**

“Christian Responses to Persecution in Iran and Saudi Arabia,” in *Under Caesar’s Sword: Christian Responses to Persecution*, edited by Daniel Philpot and Timothy Shah (Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 2016).

“1917-1918: The Genocide of Persia’s Assyrian Christian Communities,” *Eastern Christian Encounters with Islam*, Adam DeVille, editor (New York: Routledge Press, forthcoming, 2016)

“Bubba’s Islam: Views of Muslims and Islam from a Waco, Texas Trailer-Park,” *Southerners and Southern Religion Today,* Theresa Booker, editor (under review, 2016)

“Extraversionary Inﬂuences in Northern Nigerian Muslim and Pentecostal Interactions.” *Issues in Global Pentecostal Studies*, Michael Newheart, editor (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

“Ethnogeriatrics and Comparative Religions Methods for Gerentological Research into Topics of Religion and Spirituality,” with James W. Ellor, 197-211, in *Methods in Religion, Spirituality, and Aging*. James W. Ellor, editor. (New York: Routledge Press, 2009).

“Salaam Aleykum Y’All”: Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Interfaith Relations in Central Texas,” in *Religion, Culture, Cur­riculum, and Diversity in 21st Century America*. Mary Alice Trent and Trevor Grizzle, et.al. (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2007).

“Social Justice Partnerships between Muslims and non-Muslims.” in *The Language of Diversity*, Mary Alice Trent, editor (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

**Professional Paper/Lecture Presentations**

“Christian Responses to Persecution and Issues of Religious Freedom in Saudi Arabia and Iran: A Comparative Study,” Center for Human Rights, *University of Notre Dame*, Conference: “Under Caesar’s Sword,” Pontifical Urban University (PUU), Vatican City and Rome, Italy, December 11, 2015.

“Pittsburgh Sports Pittsburgh Religion: Confluences between Faith and the Black and Gold,” Religion and Sports Symposium, Institute of Faith and Learning, *Baylor University*, Waco, Texas, November 5, 2015.

“Contemporary Muslim-Christian Relations in Historic Perspective,” Oral Roberts University, School of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Academic Lectureship, Tulsa, OK, October 22, 2015.

“Daoist-Confucianist Resources for Developing a Reinvigorated Environmental Ethic to Face China’s Contemporary Environmental Crisis,” *University of International Business and Education*, Beijing, China, July 22, 2015.

“Muslim and Christian Interactions in Contemporary Iran/Saudi Arabia,” *University of Notre Dame*, Center for Civil and Religious Rights/Templeton Foundation Grant, South Bend, Indiana, September 18, 2014.

“Pentecostal and Islamist Extraversionary Influences - Religious Violence in Northern Nigeria,” Religion and Violence Discussion Group, *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, Illinois, November, 2013

“Confrontation and Disequilibrium: Pedagogical Insights from Shams al-Tabrizi -- Teaching the Mevlana,” *University of Denver Pedagogy of Privilege Conference*, Denver, Colorado, August 5, 2013.

“Muslim Texts as Context and Pretext: Derrida and the Scriptural Reasoning Movement,” *Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies: Texts and Contexts,* Nazareth College, Buffalo, New York, June 24, 2013.

“Freirean Insights for Muslim-non-Muslim Interactions,” *Postcolonialism and Religion Conference*, Grifﬁn University, Melbourne Australia, January 24, 2012.

“Zen Buddhist Stories and Koans in the Service of Teaching Social Justice,” *University of Denver Pedagogy of Privilege Conference*, Denver, Colorado, August 15, 2011.

“Armenian Christian and Turkish Muslim Relations: Prospects for Reconciliation through Interfaith Dialogue on the Events of History.” Haigazian University, Beirut Lebanon, October 11, 2009.

“Pedagogy for the Children of the Oppressors: Liberative Education for Social Justice.” *Univer­sity of Denver Pedagogy of Privilege Conference*, Denver, Colorado, June 1, 2009.

“Preferring Your Brother: The Writings of al-Ghazali as a Resource to Improve Muslim and Christian Interaction” *Baylor University Institute for Faith and Learning Conference on Friendship*, Waco, Texas, October 28, 2007.

“Muslim and non-Muslim Relations”; Director Seminar, Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria, January 2-7, 2007; West African Theological Seminary. Lagos, Nigeria, August 18-22, 2003; August 14-18, 2006, January 8-12, 2007; May 15-30, 2007.

“Pedagogy for the Children of the Oppressor: Paulo Freire’s Liberative Education for Social Justice” *The Spirituality, Pedagogy and Social Justice Conference*, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI: September 22, 2005. Second version of paper presented at the Federal University of Bahia, October 19, 2006, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

“The Steppe is Cruel and Heaven is Far: Muslim-non-Muslim Relations in Central Asia.” *Conference on Global Christianity*, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, November 10, 2005.

“Why Not Laugh With The Rose: The Spirituality of Laughter in the Poetry of Jalal al-din Rumi.” *Art and Soul Conference, Baylor University Institute of Faith and Learning*, Waco, Texas, April 8, 2005.

“Remembering Atrocity: Armenian Christian and Turkish Muslim Responses to Armenia, 1915.” *Christianity and Human Rights Conference*, Samford University, Birmingham, AL, November 11, 2004; seminar respondent: Interreligious Dialogue and Human Rights.

“Teaching Judaism at Messiah College: Issues and Opportunities,” Temple Beth Israel, Harrisburg, PA, October 18, 2002;

“Muslim-Christian Relations In Light of 9/11”; Islamic Society of Harrisburg, PA, September 6, 2002.

“Lakota Interaction with Christian Missionaries Immediately before Wounded Knee”; *Religion and Atrocity Sem­inar*, Whitworth College, Spokane, WA, June 24, 2002.

“Contemporary Islam: Tolerance or Militarism?” *Messiah Lecture Series*, Lancaster, PA, April 22. 2002.

“Islamic Paciﬁsm: Historic Responses to Religious Idealism”; Slate Hill Mennonite, Slate Hill, PA. November 11, 2001

“Pressing Issues in Global Education: China and the United States” *Asia Network Conference*, Chicago, April 27, 2000.

“Creating A Global Community of Scholars: Ernest Boyer’s Partnership Between the Carnegie Foun­dation for the Advancement of Teaching and China’s National Center for Education Development Research, 1988-1997”; *Presidential Scholars Lecture*; Messiah College and the Ernest Boyer Center, Grantham, Pennsylvania, April 6, 2000.

“Rivers of Ethiopia: The Afrocentric Pentecostalism of Mensa Otabil”; Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, July 9, 2000.

“Contemporary Issues in Environmental Ethics”; *Yunnan Governmental Provincial Symposium on In­ternational Education and Environmental Needs*; Kunming, Yunnan, PRC; July 18, 1999.

**Teaching Awards, Academic and Community Service**

Excellence in Teaching-Certiﬁcate of Appreciation (twice), Mortar Board Academic Honor Society, Baylor University Chapter, November 22, 2015 and November 24, 2006.

“Village Award for Community Service” and the “Celebration of Excellence in Ed­ucation Award,” presented by the Harrisburg Islamic Masjid; Harrisburg, PA, September 28, 2002.

NEH Grant reviews, University Service (Diversity Committee; Lecture Committee; Undergraduate Research Committee), Search committees, Book reviews, publication reviews, Curriculum reviews, Faculty co-sponsor – Baylor Chapter NAACP, Interna­tional Student Honor Society, African Student Association.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Baylor University Department of Religion (2005-2009)

Lecture and Academic Resources Committee, Baylor University Department of Religion (2010-present); Departmental Section Convener, World Religions and Global Christianity, Baylor University Department of Religion (2014-present).

Campus Diversity Committee, Baylor University (2008-present)

Faculty Advisor: African Student Association; Baylor Chapter of the NAACP (2006-present)

Faculty Coordinator for Student Programs, Project “Noor,” Indian-Student Diwali Program (2008­-present)

**Dissertation Committees**

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member: Jason A. Hines, “The Religious Right in Response to American Constitutional Arguments, 1981-2014,” Baylor University, J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, December 2014.

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member: John Mizuta, “Self-Violence in Muslim and Shinto Religio-Political Contexts,” Baylor University, J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, April 2013.

Master’s Dissertation Committee Member: Thomas DeShong, “Perceptions of Muslims and Islam among the American Maritime World, 1787-1856,” Baylor University History Department, March, 2012.

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member: Artyom Tonoyan, “Religion, National Identity and Eth­nic Conﬂict in the Southern Caucasus: The Case of Armenia and Azerbaijan.” Baylor University, J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, February, 2012.

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Chair: Oleg Zaonegin, “Islam in Post-Soviet Russia,” Baylor Uni­versity, J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, November 2011.

Master’s Dissertation Committee Member: Lydia Tonoyan, “Messianic Jewish Movements in the Ukraine.” Baylor University, J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, November 2011.

Faculty Supervisor, External Reviewer, Meghan Holder, “Healing and Protection Rituals in Contem­porary Islamic Social Practice, M.A., University of Texas, Austin, 2011.

**Professional Development**

2016- **Baylor University** – Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Christianity and Traditional Religions, Tonga and Samoa,” Apia, Samoa, and Nuku’alofa, Tonga, (forthcoming, February, 2016).

2015- **Pew Charitable Trust -** Research Travel Scholarship, Armenian and Assyrian Christian Responses to Persecution,

Baku, Azerbaijan, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and Tbilisi, Georgia.

2015- **Baylor University –** Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Confucian-Daoist Resources and an Environmental Ethic for China’s Contemporary Environmental Crisis,” Beijing, China (in conjunction with UIBE, Beijing Grant).

2014- **Baylor University** – Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Islam and Environmentalist Advocacy in Contemporary Saudi Arabia,” Dammam Saudi Arabia (in conjunction with Notre Dame/Georgetown Grant).

2013- **Baylor University -** Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Jalal al-din al-Rumi and the Religious Other: An Exploration of The Themes of Interfaith Tolerance in the Mevlana’s Writings.” Mevlana University, Konya, Turkey.

2012- **Baylor University -** Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Social Cohesion and Interfaith Partnerships for Social Justice: Muslim and non-Muslim Relations in Fiji,” Suvla, and Nandi, Fiji.

2011- **Baylor University -** Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Markers of Remembrance and Resources for Healing and Reconciliation: The Role of Religion in the Aftermath of the Bosnian-Serbian War,” Srebrenica, Bosnia.

2010- **Baylor University -** Sponsored Lectures “Violence in God’s Name: Muslim and Christian Relations in Nigeria,” West Africa Theological Seminary, Lagos and Nigerian Theological Semi­nary, Ogbomisho, Nigeria.

2009- **Baylor University -** Departmental Research Grant, Research: “Embracing Atrocity: The Role of Christian and Muslim Clergy Advocacy in Generating a Sacred Memory of Suffering,” Yerevan, Armenia and Dakar, Senegal.

2008- **Baylor University -** University Research Grant, Research: “The History of Nestorian Christianity in Persia.” Mashhad, Qom, and Nishapur, Iran.

2007- **Baylor University -** Summer Sabbatical, Research: Incidents of Violence in Nigerian Muslim and Christian Relations.

2007- **Baylor University -** University Research Grant, Research: “In the Spark I See a Star”: The Uses of Religion for Nation-building and the Influence of Muhammad Iqbal’s Relationship with Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Lahore, Pakistan.

2006- **Baylor University -** Summer Sabbatical, Research: Islam, Peace and Social Justice.

2005- **College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA -** Lily Fellows Program in Humanities, Conference Participant, (also represented Baylor in September 2004 Conference).

2005- **Baylor University -** Arts and Humanities Faculty Development Program Award, Research Focus: Paulo Freire and Social Justice Pedagogy for American Higher Education, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

2005- **Baylor University -** Summer Teaching Institute, Research Focus: Islamic Funda­mentalism and Social Justice.

2004- **Parliament of the World’s Religions (Barcelona, Spain) –** funded by Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

2002- **Whitworth College (Spokane, Washington) -** Lily Scholars Seminar: “Religion, Atrocity, and Violence,” Directed by James Waller, Whitworth College

2000- **Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Michigan) -** Pew Scholars Seminar: “Christianity as a World Religion,” Directed by Lamin Sanneh, Yale University and Joel Carpenter, Calvin College.

2000- **Parliament of the World’s Religions (Cape Town, South Africa) -** funded, Messiah College, Grantham, PA.

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**Affiliations**

American Academy of Religion; Asia Network; NAACP, Waco and Baylor Chapters; Thoreau Society; Waco Community Race Relations Council; Waco Friends of Peace, Waco Arts Festival – Celebrate Africa Film Festival Coordinator.

**Languages**: Mandarin Chinese, German; Written: German, French; Studied: Classical Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic.

**Countries Visited:** Austria; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bahamas, Bahrain; Barbados; Belgium; Benin; Bosnia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei; Bulgaria; Burma; Cambodia; P.R. China; R.O. China; Cook Islands; Colombia; Croatia; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Easter Island; Egypt; Ethiopia; El Salvador; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; Gibraltar; Greece; Guatemala; Haiti; Honduras; Hong Kong; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Korea; Kuwait; Latvia; Lebanon, Luxembourg; Macao; Malawi; Malaysia; Mongolia;Morocco; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Nepal; Netherlands;New Zealand; Norway; Panama; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Poland, Romania; Russia; Rwanda; Samoa; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Singapore; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sweden; Switzerland; Tajikistan; Tahiti; Tanzania; Thailand; Tonga; Tibet; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; Uzbekistan; Vietnam; Zambia; Zimbabwe.