

Education

The Catholic University of America: Washington, D.C.
School of Theology and Religious Studies; Religion and Culture Concentration
Master of Arts (2005)
Doctor of Philosophy (2010)

Dordt College: Sioux Center, Iowa
History and English Literature Majors
Bachelor of Arts (2000)

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor of Mission, Evangelism and Culture: Memphis Theological Seminary (2015-present)
Associate Director: Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research (2013-2015)
Lecturer: Catholic University of America (2012)
Post-Doctoral Fellow: Candler School of Theology, Emory University (2010-2011)
Adjunct Instructor: Trinity University (2010)
Teaching Fellow: Catholic University of America (2006-2007)
Adjunct Instructor: Mount Saint Mary's University (2005)
Teaching Assistant: Catholic University of America (2003-2005)
Intern: Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, U.S. Department of Labor (2004-2005)
Upper School Teacher: Washington Christian Academy (2002-2003)

Publications

Book

Sister Churches: American Congregations and their Partners Abroad. New York: Oxford University Press (2014).

- Reviewed in *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, and *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*

Academic Articles and Book Chapters

"Bereavement and Religion Online: Stillbirth, Neonatal Loss, and Parental Religiosity." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52, no. 4 (2013): 657-674. Coauthored with Jenell Paris.

"Molding Mission: Collective Action Frames and Sister Church Participation." *Review of Faith and International Affairs* 9, no. 3 (2011): 11-20.

"The Sister Church Phenomenon: A Case Study of the Restructuring of American Protestantism Against the Backdrop of Globalization." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 36, no. 3 (2012): 129-134.

“Southern Saints and Their Northern Siblings: Christians Crossing Boundaries Through Sister Church Relationships.” In *Religions on the Move: New Dynamics of Religious Expansion in a Globalizing World*, ed. Afe Adogame and Shobana Shankar. Boston: Brill, 2012.

Book Reviews

Craddock, Fred, Dale Goldsmith, and Joy Goldsmith. *Speaking of Dying: Recovering the Church's Voice in the Face of Death*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2012. Reviewed with Jenell Paris in *Prism Magazine* (January/February 2013): 42, 47.

Giordan, Giuseppe, and William H. Swatos, Jr., eds. *Testing Pluralism: Globalizing Belief, Localizing Gods*. Boston: Brill Press, 2013. Reviewed in *Sociology of Religion* 75, no. 3 (Autumn 2014): 492-493.

Scheitle, Christopher P. *Beyond the Congregation: The World of Christian Nonprofits*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. Reviewed in *Sociology of Religion* 72, no. 2 (Summer 2011): 245-246.

Steensland, Brian, and Philip Goff, eds. *The New Evangelical Social Engagement*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Reviewed in *Review of Religious Research* 56, no. 4 (December 2014): 629-631.

Interviews

“Janel Kragt Bakker/Sister Churches.” Interview by Jonathan Armstrong. *God Talks*. Aqueduct Project. 2 July 2014. <http://aqueductproject.org/janel-kragt-bakker-sister-churches/>

“Christianity: Sister Churches Increasing Bonds Between Congregations in the West and Global South.” Interview by Richard Cimino. *Relioscope*. 17 December 2013. http://religion.info/english/interviews/article_634.shtml#.Vd9qEflViko

“Author Interview: Janel Kragt Bakker.” *Louisville Institute Connects*. 6 January 2015. <http://www.louisville-institute.org/News/AuthorInterviews/janel-bakker.aspx>

“Author Interview Webinar: Janel Kragt Bakker.” *Missio Nexus*. 14 May 2015.

Popular Articles

“Birthing a Dying Child.” *Catapult Magazine* 8, no. 25 (2009). <http://www.catapultmagazine.com/birth-stories/article/birthing-a-dying-child>

“Both Reasonable and Religious: An Interview with Robert Wuthnow.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Spring 2013): 4-8.

“Brokenhearted Online: Religious Dimensions of a Digital Community.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Autumn 2014): 18-20. Coauthored with Jenell Paris.

“Connection or Conflict? Global Christianity Reconsidered.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Autumn 2013): 4-6.

“Death by Ice or Fire.” *Catapult Magazine* 3, no. 1 (2004).

“Every Migrant a Missionary: Immigrant Christians in America.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Autumn 2013): 16-18.

“The Last Stop: An Interview with Gladys Ganiel and Gerardo Marti.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Autumn 2013): 9-14.

“Mothering in the Valley of the Shadow of Death.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Faith* (September/October 2015). Web Edition. Coauthored with Jenell Paris.
<http://perspectivesjournal.org/blog/2015/09/01/mothering-valley-shadow-death/>

“A New Take on the New Atheism.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Spring 2013): 10-12.

“Not an End but a Graduation: An Interview with Glen E. Miller.” *Bearings for the Life of Faith* (Spring 2014): 4-8.

“Sister Church Relationships and the Friendship Principle.” *Faith and Leadership* (June 2014).
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/janel-kragt-bakker-sister-church-relationships-and-friendship-principle>

Awards and Honors

- Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2011
- “Saving the World? The Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions” Research Grant, Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, 2009-2010
- “Religion and Globalization,” Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship participant, 2010 (Miroslav Volf, director)
- dissertation defense *with distinction*, 2009
- Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship, 2008-2009
- Hubbard Dissertation Fellowship: Catholic University of America, School of Theology and Religious Studies, 2008
- “Congregations and Religious Diversity in Contemporary America,” Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship participant, 2008 (R. Stephen Warner, director)
- John Quasten Doctoral Scholarship: Catholic University of America, School of Theology and Religious Studies, 2003-2006

Teaching Competencies

American Religious History
Comparative Religion/World Religions
History and Practice of Christian Mission
History of Religious Expansion
Missiology

Religion and American Culture
Religion and Globalization
Religion and Psychology
Sociology of Religion
World Christianity

Conference Presentations and Public Lectures

- Germantown Presbyterian Church: October 2015
 - Plenary Presentation on Congregational Partnerships
- Mano a Mano International: May 2015
 - Panelist: “Reframing Community Development: A Conversation Among People of Faith”
- Texas Mission Conference: March 2015
 - Keynote Presentation: “Promises and Perils of the Sister Church Model of Mission”
- Graduate and Faculty Division of Intersivity Christian Fellowship at Saint Cloud State University
 - Facilitator: “Engaging With Uncommon Decency” Series, November 2014 through January 2015
- Moody Bible Institute, Global Theology Course, Panelist on Mission, November 2014
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting: October 2014
 - “Between and Rock and a Hard Place: Navigating Economic Disparity in Mission-Based International Partnerships”
- American Society of Missiology Annual Meeting: June 2014
 - “Promise and Peril: Evaluating the Sister Church Model of Mission”
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting: November 2013
 - “Digital Church for the Brokenhearted: Baby Loss and Religion Online” (with Jenell Paris)
- Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research: September 2013
 - “Dark Night of the Soul: Tragedy and Suffering in the Life of Faith” (with Jenell Paris)
- International Conference on Perinatal and Infant Death: April 2013
 - Poster Presentation: “Religion Online and Bereavement: Stillbirth, Neonatal Loss, and Parent Religiosity” (with Jenell Paris)
- Saint John’s University School of Theology-Seminary/Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research: April 2013
 - Respondent to Lecture by Sally McGill: “Dual Belonging: Why Can’t I Be Both Catholic and Presbyterian?”
- Washington Community Fellowship: December 2012
 - Message Bearer: “God’s Gonna Trouble the Water”
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting: November 2012
 - “Blogging Baby Loss: Bereaved Parents, Religion, and Community” (with Jenell Paris)
- Messiah College Fall Lecture Series: October 2012
 - “Dark Night of the Soul: Tragedy and Suffering in the Life of Faith” (with Jenell Paris)
- Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, “Saving the World? The Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions” Conference: March 2011
 - “The Sister Church Phenomenon: A Case Study of the Restructuring of American Protestantism Against the Backdrop of Globalization”
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting: October 2010
 - “Molding Mission: Collective Action Frames and Sister Parish Participation
- Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals Missions Project Regional Symposium: September 2010
 - “Relationships Between Protestant Churches in the Global South and North America”

- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting: October 2009
 - “‘Sibling’ Encounters: Christians Crossing Hemispheres through Sister Church Relationships”
- Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting: August 2009
 - “The Sister Church Phenomenon: A Case Study of the Institutional Restructuring of North American Religion”
- Association for the Study of Religion, Economics and Culture Annual Meeting: November 2007
 - “Rational Choice and its Discontents: A Latin American Case Study”
- Church Twinning International Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Celebration: September 2007
 - Panelist: “Metro Atlanta’s Cross-Cultural Twinning Relationships”
- American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting: March 2007
 - “Revisiting Latin American Religious Ferment: A Multi-Pronged Approach.”
- University of Maryland History Graduate Students' Association Annual Conference: February 2007
 - Panel Chair and Commentator: “American Protestantism: Redefining Religious Identity”

Professional Society Memberships

American Academy of Religion
 American Society of Church History
 American Society of Missiology

Association for the Sociology of Religion
 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Professional and Community Service

- Board of Directors, Thistle and Bee Enterprises, 2016-present
- Peer Reviewer for *New Theology Review*, 2015
- Peer Reviewer for *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2015
- Peer Reviewer for *Review of Religious Research*, 2014-2015
- Peer Reviewer for *Religions*, 2014
- Alumni Participant, Wabash Center “Graduate Programs Teaching Initiative” Conference, The Catholic University of America, March 2012
- Senior High Sunday School Teacher, Washington Community Fellowship, 2012
- Guest Speaker, International Cesarean Awareness Network, Montgomery Chapter, 2012
- Member Care Team, Washington Community Fellowship, 2011-2012
- Volunteer, Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative CSA Program, 2011
- Peer Reviewer for *Journal of World Christianity*, 2011
- Board of Elders, Washington Community Fellowship, 2009
- Board of Directors, Urban Family Development, 2004-2008
- Women Graduate Students' Event Coordinator, Catholic University School of Theology and Religious Studies, 2006-2007
- Student Association (STRSSA) Representative, Catholic University School of Theology and Religious Studies, 2005-2006
- STORM Tutoring Program Director, Urban Family Development, 2006
- Tutor, Urban Family Development, 2001-2002