

JAKE WUMKES

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religion (A.B.D.)

Temple University | Philadelphia, PA | Expected Fall 2026

Ph.D. Dissertation (expected completion by July 2026): “Decolonizing ‘Religion’: Race, Secularity, and Embodied Disavowal”

Committee: Dr. Khalid Blankinship (Primary Advisor), Dr. Terry Rey, and Dr. Laura Levitt

Exam Areas (completed Spring 2024): Theory and Methodology in Religion and Secularism; Religion, Race, Coloniality, and Imperialism; Africana Religions; Religion, Feminist, and Queer Theory

Graduate Certificate, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

Temple University | Philadelphia, PA | 2025

M.A., Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies

University of South Florida | Tampa, FL | 2020

M.A. Thesis (2020): “[Mystic Medicine: Afro-Jamaican Religio-Cultural Epistemology and the Decolonization of Health](#)”

Advisor: Dr. Bernd Reiter

B.A., Spanish

University of Northern Iowa | Cedar Falls, Iowa | 2018

RESEARCH AREAS

- Theory and Methodology in Religion and Secularism
- Political Theology
- Race and Religion
- Religion and Politics
- Islam
- Islamophobia
- Coloniality and Decolonization
- Comparative Philosophy
- African Diaspora Religion
- Religion and the Body
- Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Wumkes, J. (2024). The Spirit of the Pluriverse: Africana Spirit-Based Epistemologies and Interepistemic Thinking. [Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 91\(4\), 737-756.](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfae028>

Wumkes, J. (Fall 2024). [Review of the book *The Coloniality of the Secular: Race, Religion, and Poetics of World-Making*, by An Yountae]. *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, 59(4), 605-607.

<https://doi.org/10.1353/ecu.2024.a943899>

(Forthcoming) Wumkes, J. (Expected Spring 2026). [Review of the book *The Inner Life of Race: Souls, Bodies, and the History of Racial Power*, by Leerom Medovoi]. *Body and Religion*.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Temple University

- Summer 2024 Research assistantship
 - Assisted Dr. Khalid Blankinship in research for his *Murshid al-Qari: A Reader's Guide to Classical Muslim Religious Literature in English, Vol. 2: The Hadith and Commentary* (publication in view)
- Summer 2023 research assistantship
 - Assisted Dr. Khalid Blankinship in research for his *Murshid al-Qari: A Reader's Guide to Classical Muslim Religious Literature in English, Vol. 2: The Hadith and Commentary* (publication in view)

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“Secularism as Hegemonic Incorporation: Toward a Critique of Heresy,” presented at the *Political Theology Network Conference*, Nashville, TN, October 2025

FELLOWSHIPS

Future Faculty Fellowship, Temple University, 2020-2025

TEACHING AREAS

- Religion in America
- Race and Inequality
- Race and Religion
- Islam in the United States
- Islamophobia
- Religion and Politics
- Religion and Political Theory
- Colonialism and Imperialism

- Comparative Philosophy
- Global Capitalism and Development
- Theory and Methodology in Religion and Secularism
- African Diaspora Religion

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Temple University

August 2020 – Present

- Instructor of Record
 - Spring 2026
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas (REL)
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Fall 2025
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Summer 2025
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Spring 2025
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Fall 2024
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas (ANTH)
 - Spring 2024
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Fall 2023
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Fall 2022
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Fall 2021
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
- Graduate Teaching Assistant
 - Fall 2022
 - Religion in Philadelphia
 - Spring 2022
 - Theories of Justice (REL)
 - Earth Ethics (REL)
 - Fall 2021
 - Earth Ethics

- Spring 2021
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Earth Ethics
- Fall 2020
 - Race and Poverty in the Americas
 - Earth Ethics

University of South Florida

August 2018 – May 2020

- Graduate Teaching Assistant
 - Spring 2020
 - Urban Politics (POL)
 - American National Government (POL)
 - Fall 2019
 - American National Government
 - Public Policy (POL)
 - Spring 2019
 - Beginner Spanish
 - Fall 2018
 - Beginner Spanish

Oviedo, Asturias, Spain

September 2016 – December 2016

- Teaching Assistant (elementary – volunteer)
 - English as a Second Language

Janesville Consolidated School District, Janesville, Iowa

January 2016 – May 2016

- Teaching assistant (high school – undergraduate teaching practicum)
 - Intermediate Spanish

SUPPLEMENTAL TEACHING TRAINING

-
- Teaching in Higher Education Certificate – Temple University (2025)
 - Teaching in Higher Education Seminar (2021)
 - Teaching in Higher Education Practicum (2025)
 - Effective Design for Hybrid Instruction – Temple University (2025)
 - Preventing Sexual Harassment on Campus – University of South Florida (2019)
 - Classroom Management – University of South Florida (2018)
 - Discussions and Active Learning Strategies – University of South Florida (2018)

SCHOLARLY AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion | Student Member

Political Theology Network | Student Member

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Professor Khalid Blankinship
Department of Religion, Temple University
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Philadelphia, PA 19122
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Professor Laura Levitt
Department of Religion, Temple University
1114 Polett Walk, Mazur Hall 641
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Professor Terry Rey
Department of Religion, Temple University
1114 Polett Walk, Mazur Hall 629
Philadelphia, PA 19122
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Professor Bernd Reiter
Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures, Texas Tech University
2906 18th St., CMLL 276
Lubbock, TX 79409
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Professor Juris Milestone
Anthropology Department, Temple University
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