

Larry S. Perry, II, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Religious Studies and Africana Studies
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee
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Education:

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Ph.D. Religious Studies (American Religious History), Fall 2016

Dissertation Title: "The Undiscovered Thurman: the Early Howard Thurman and the Religious Left's Unfinished Business of Race Relations (1899 to 1949)"

Committee Members: Heather Warren (Dissertation Chair, University of Virginia, Department of Religion), Matthew Hedstrom (University of Virginia, Department of Religion), Paul Jones (University of Virginia, Department of Religion), Claudrena Harold (University of Virginia, Department of History), Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. (Princeton University, African American Studies and Religious Studies)

Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York

Master of Divinity (Theology), 2010

Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee

B.A. (History), 2007

Academic Appointments:

University of Tennessee

Departments of Religious Studies and Africana Studies
Knoxville, Tennessee

Assistant Professor

August 2020 – Present

Northwestern University

Department of Religious Studies
Evanston, Illinois

Visiting Assistant Professor

Sept. 2019 – August 2020

Academic Work:

American Academy of Religion
Liberal Theologies Group

Steering Committee
Member

Nov. 2018 – Jan. 2020

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, creating and shaping calls for papers and panels, as well as selecting papers for the Liberal Theologies Group of the American Academy of religion.

**Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
& Georgetown University, Department of African American Studies**
Washington, D.C.

Post-Doctoral Fellow
Aug. 2017- June 2019

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, giving two public lectures--one at Georgetown University and another at the National Museum of African American History--helping to organize the Smithsonian Institution's Center for the Study of African American Religion's conference on "African American Unbelief," producing two articles, and performing further research for my book project, *A Black Spiritual Leftist*.

Georgetown University, Department of Theology
Washington, D.C.

Visiting Researcher
Aug. 2017- June 2018

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, researching for current book project, producing an article and teaching a course on African American Religious Thought. Further duties also include mentoring graduate students in the Theology Department

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Teaching Assistant
Aug. 2010 - May 2012

Duties and responsibilities included, but were not limited to, teaching tutorial sections on African American Religious History, the History of Western Religions, and Religion, Race, and Film. Furthermore, teaching duties encompassed lecturing, grading students' exams, quizzes, and papers, as well as helping students refine their scholarly interests. By teaching these courses, I gained expertise in the history of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, African American Religion, Black Theology, Womanist Theology, and American Film Studies.

Coppin State University: SASA
Baltimore, Maryland

Teacher's Assistant
June 2010 - July 2010

Duties and responsibilities include, but were not limited to, teaching an introduction to creative writing, grading students' papers, teaching college writing skills, and coordinating tutorials for English tutors. By teaching these courses, I gained expertise in teaching grammar, sentence structure, and clear and effective essay writing.

New York Theological Seminary
New York, New York

Research Assistant
Jan. 2009 - April 2009

Duties and responsibilities included, but were not limited to, researching information on African American Religious Social Movements and the role of churches in policy making, identifying, reading, analyzing, and summarizing notable primary and secondary sources, and conducting comprehensive interviews. Furthermore, I assisted Professor Peter Heltzel in editing and organizing chapters of his book *Resurrection City: A Theology of Improvisation* published in 2012.

Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Summer Fellow
June 2006 – Aug. 2006

Duties and responsibilities included, but were not limited to, analyzing, writing, and presenting a comprehensive study on federal counterintelligence programs from 1966 to 1971. Also, I wrote a detailed thesis which examined counter-intelligence movements conducted under the auspice of the Federal Government. I defended the thesis before key scholars at Princeton University, Stanford University, and other leading universities.

Additional Professional Experience:

Associated Black Charities

Baltimore, Md.

Board Pipeline Fellow

Oct. 2018-Dec. 2018

Duties and Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, taking part in weekly professional development meetings at the offices of the Association of Black Charities during the month of October. These professional development meetings equip fellows with the skills and network necessary to serve on the board of a non-profit organization or large for-profit corporation. More specifically, these meetings take fellows through the process of grant writing, fundraising, organizational auditing, among other forms of skill preparation, in order to build a coalition of African American prepared to participate within and lead an organization's board of directors.

The Open Church of Maryland

Baltimore, Maryland

Associate Minister

Oct. 2011-July 2017

Duties and responsibilities included but were not limited to, organizing and leading steering committee meetings, delivering sermons, assisting in worship leadership, developing and implementing volunteer and social justice programs, and offering theological and religious perspectives regarding social justice and political advocacy for communities of color and low-income communities.

Center for American Progress

Washington, D.C. August

Leadership Institute Fellow

Aug. 2014 - June 2015

Duties and responsibilities included but were not limited to, taking part in monthly workshops with fellows from the Center for American Progress, as well as key leaders from major foundations and governmental and grassroots organizations. Workshops engaged the following topics: approaches to successful grant writing, techniques for lobbying for progressive policies, and strategies for effective interaction with and use of (social) media. Also, I helped to shape the way in which progressive public policy making is thought about and implemented with respect to communities of color.

Sing Sing Correctional Facility

Ossining, New York

Chapel Intern

Sept. 2009 - May 2010

Duties and responsibilities included but were not limited to, assisting Chaplain Petero Sabune in ministerial programming, preaching every third Sunday, taking part in Bible study during the week alongside diverse prison ministry groups of varying faiths. Also, I helped the Quaker Prison Ministry as they meditated on the work of Howard Thurman.

St. Hope Foundation

Sacramento, California

Lecturer

July 2008 – Aug. 2008

Duties and responsibilities included, but were not limited to, researching, analyzing, and lecturing on ethnic diversity, leadership and social justice, as well as the role of good governance and civil rights policies. Furthermore, I counseled and mentored newly minted St. Hope middle school teachers, as they began to contemplate performing justice work within the public school system.

Publications:

“A Blues Mysticism: Howard Thurman, Mysticism, and Tragedy as Displayed in *Deep River and the Negro Spiritual Speaks of Life and Death*”

[Article in Progress]

“Beyond Black Churches: Understanding the Black Spiritual Left as a Black Counter Culture”

[Article Forthcoming]

A Black Spiritual Leftist: Howard Thurman and Liberal Religion's Unfinished Business of Race Relations

[Book Under Review]

Reconsidering Howard Thurman: Essays on Howard Thurman in Light of the Current State of Affairs (Edited Volume)

[In Progress, five authors have agreed to contribute essays]

Religious Studies Review—September 2010: Volume 36, Number 3

Publication Title: “Review of *My People Need Me: The Howard Washington Thurman Papers Volume I*”

Presentations and Invited Talks:

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and Georgetown University, Department of African American Studies

Lilly Foundation Public Lecture Series for the Inaugural Post-Doctoral Fellows in the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life—April 2019

Lecture Title: “Understanding Our Faith By and By: The Black Spiritual Left”

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in conjunction with Journey Films and Wesley Theological Seminary—February 2019

Panel Discussion on the film, *The Psalm of Howard Thurman*

North Carolina State University, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Lecture Title: “Howard Thurman and the Legacy of the Black Spiritual Left”

Marymount University—November 2018: Theology Department

Lecture Title: “Reimagining Our Faith: A Black Spiritual Leftism in the Work of W. E. B Du Bios, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Alain Locke”

Georgetown University, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and the University of Virginia's Project on Religion and its Publics

Round Table Discussion, “Christianity and the Alt-Right: Exploring the Relationship”

American Academy of Religion—November 2017: Black Theology Section

Presentation Title: “Pluralism in Black: Pluralism in the work of Howard Thurman and the Religion of Black Lives Matter”

Georgetown University—March 2016: Department of Theology, Terrence Johnson's Course on Theologies of Liberation

Lecture Title: “Beyond Black Christianity: Black Liberal Spirituality and the Theology of James H. Cone”

American Academy of Religion—November 2013: Liberal Theology Section
Presentation Title: “Beyond Black Churches: A Black Spiritual Left”

American Academy of Religion—November 2011: Ethics Section
Presentation Title: “Howard Thurman: Not Color Blind, But Color-Concerned”

Teaching Interests:

African American Religious History, Black Theology, Womanist Theology, African American Religious Thought, African American Intellectual History, Religion and the Civil Rights Movement, American Religious Thought, Religion and American Politics, American Religious Thought, Transcendentalism, Pragmatism, American Liberal Theology, The Social Gospel

Research Interests:

African American Religious History, African American Intellectual History, the Black Spiritual Left, the Black Social Gospel, Black Theology, Black Mysticism, Religion and American Politics, American Religious Thought, African American Religious Thought, African American Religion and Politics, African American Pluralism, American Liberal Religion, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Movement, Transcendentalism, Pacifism, and American Pragmatism.