

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## DOUGLAS A. BAFFORD

Harvard College Writing Program  
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Updated January 2024

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

#### Harvard University

Preceptor in Expository Writing, Harvard College Writing Program

Cambridge, Massachusetts

July 2023 – Present

#### College of the Holy Cross

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology  
Visiting Instructor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Worcester, Massachusetts

August 2022 – Present

September 2021 – August 2022

#### Babson College

Adjunct Lecturer of Anthropology, History and Society Division

Wellesley, Massachusetts

August 2019 – December 2021

#### Brandeis University

Lecturer, Department of Anthropology  
Writing Instructor, Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program

Waltham, Massachusetts

January 2020 – May 2020

August 2014 – May 2018

### EDUCATION:

#### Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology

Brandeis University

Dissertation: “The Sins of Our Ancestors: Conservative Evangelical Christianity and Cosmological Responses to Racial Division in Post-Apartheid South Africa”

Committee: Janet McIntosh (Chair), Sarah Lamb, and Anita Hannig, with Devaka Premawardhana (External Examiner)

August 2022

Waltham, Massachusetts

#### Master of Arts in Anthropology

Brandeis University

Thesis: “Contesting the Secular Other, Constructing the Creationist Self: Scientific Discourse and Religious Narrative among Kentuckian Evangelical Christians”

Readers: Janet McIntosh and Richard Parmentier

May 2015

Waltham, Massachusetts

#### Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology, *Summa Cum Laude*

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Minor: Modern Languages & Linguistics – Spanish

Honors Thesis: “Personal and Communal Expressions of Islam on a University Campus: An Ethnography of Religious Practice”

May 2012

Baltimore, Maryland

#### Associate of Arts, *Summa Cum Laude*

Carroll Community College

May 2010

Westminster, Maryland

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:**

<b>Higher Education Administrative Fellowship</b> Office for Undergraduate Research and Creative Collaborations, Brandeis University	July 2020 – May 2021
<b>University Fellowship</b> Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University	August 2015 – May 2020
<b>Visiting Researcher</b> Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	July 2018 – June 2019
<b>Doctoral Fellow</b> Science, Religion, and Culture Program, Harvard University	August 2016 – May 2018

**FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

<b>The Rise of Self-Sufficient Communities in South Africa</b> Department of Sociology & Anthropology, College of the Holy Cross	July 2022 – August 2022
<b>Evangelical Christianity in Post-Apartheid Southern Africa</b> Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University Faculty Advisor: Janet McIntosh	July 2018 – July 2019, December 2021 – January 2022
<b>Modernity and Creation among South African Evangelical Christians</b> Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University Faculty Advisor: Janet McIntosh	May 2017 – August 2017
<b>Religious and Scientific Discourse among American Young-Earth Creationists</b> Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University Faculty Advisor: Ellen Schattschneider	June 2014 – August 2014
<b>Religious Practices of Muslim Students at a U.S. University</b> Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County Faculty Advisor: Seth Messinger	September 2011 – May 2012

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Anthropology of religion; evangelical Christianity; political and religious conservatism; legal anthropology; contested authority; cosmology; Southern Africa; race and multiculturalism in post-apartheid South Africa; scientific and evolutionary discourse; the anthropology of knowledge; cross-cultural epistemology; ritual and embodiment; linguistics; social theory

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING GRANTS:**

<b>Faculty Research Award</b> Committee on Faculty Scholarship, College of the Holy Cross	April 2022 \$2,750
<b>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (#BCS-1919715)</b> Cultural Anthropology Program, National Science Foundation	July 2019 \$10,022

<b>Provost Dissertation Fellowship</b> Office of the Provost, Brandeis University	May 2019 \$1,000
<b>Provost Research Grant</b> Office of the Provost, Brandeis University	April 2018 \$15,622
<b>Teaching Innovation Grant</b> Center for Teaching and Learning, Brandeis University	May 2017 \$6,900
<b>Dissertation Research Grant</b> Andrew J. Mellon Foundation, Brandeis University	April 2017 \$3,825
<b>Travel and Research Grant</b> Graduate Student Association, Brandeis University	March 2017 \$375
<b>Travel and Research Grant</b> Graduate Student Association, Brandeis University	December 2014 \$50
<b>Graduate Student Summer Research Grant</b> Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University	April 2014 \$1,100
<b>Master's Research Grant</b> Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University	March 2014 \$154

**PUBLICATIONS:**

“Contested Authority, Godly Discipline, and Cosmic Disorder among Conservative Christians in South Africa and the United States.” Submitted to <i>Current Anthropology</i> .	Under review
“The Allure of Heavenly Mother, from South Korea to South Africa: Epistemological Authority at the World Mission Society Church of God.” Submitted to <i>Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions</i> .	Revise & resubmit
“Sing and Make Music to the Lord’: Cultural Difference in South Africa’s Urban Religious Soundscapes.” <i>Anthropology Southern Africa</i> 46(3):173-187 (in special issue “Multisensory Performances: Sonic, Haptic, and the Making of Urban Identities in Southern Africa,” guest edited by Alice Aterianus-Owanga). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/23323256.2023.2284329">doi:10.1080/23323256.2023.2284329</a>	2023
“Who Gets to Own Land?” In <i>People before Markets: An Alternative Case Book</i> , edited by Daniel Souleles, Johan Gersel, and Morten Sørensen Thaning. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009165846.006">doi:10.1017/9781009165846.006</a>	2022
Review of “ <i>Glossolalia and the Problem of Language</i> , Nicholas Harkness, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2021.” <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i> 32(1):252-254. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/jola.12317">doi:10.1111/jola.12317</a>	2022
“Pentecostal Promise and a South African Dream Deferred.” <i>Africa Is a Country</i> , March 31. <a href="https://africasacountry.com/2020/03/pentecostal-promise-and-a-south-african-dream-deferred">https://africasacountry.com/2020/03/pentecostal-promise-and-a-south-african-dream-deferred</a>	2020
“Aging and the End Times: Evangelical Eschatology and Experiences of Elderhood in the United States and South Africa.” <i>Anthropology &amp; Aging</i> 40(1):32-47. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5195/aa.2019.197">doi:10.5195/aa.2019.197</a>	2019

- “Religion and Science.” In *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Hilary Callan, general editor. Simon Coleman, associate editor. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. [doi:10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea1812](https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea1812) 2018
- “What’s in Your Bag, Anthropologists?” with Tammy Clemons, A.J. Faas, Taylor R. Genovese, Carol Hendrickson, Alejandro Ponce de Leon, Brooke Scelza, Nancy White, Laura Zanotti, Susan Mazur-Stommen, Claire-Marie Hefner, Michael T. Balonek, Ashley Stinnett, and Natalia Maksymowicz Mroz. *Anthropology News* website, July 18. [doi:10.1111/an.929](https://doi.org/10.1111/an.929) 2018
- “Multiculturalism Is No Enemy of Democracy.” *Baltimore Sun*, June 7: 18. 2013

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

### Academic Paper Presentations

- “Refiguring Racial Sin in a Post-Apartheid Future: The Religious and Extra-Christian Rhetoric of Race among Conservative Evangelicals in South Africa.”  
*Meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Victoria, Canada, May 13, 2023*
- “Obedient Subjects, Heretical Criminals: Contested Authority and Discipline among Conservative Evangelicals in South Africa.”  
*Anthropology in the Making Seminar Series, Rhodes University, Makhanda/Grahamstown, South Africa, July 21, 2022*
- “Fake News and the False Prophet: Neoliberal Frameworks and an Epistemology of Authenticity in South African Christianity.”  
*The 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, Maryland, November 18, 2021*
- “African Bodies Out of Place: Evangelical Discourses of Material Religion in Contemporary South Africa.”  
*Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, December 2, 2020*
- “Gender Regimes as Imported Secularism?: Conservative Christian Responses to Shifting Demands of Sex, Sexuality, and Kinship in South Africa.”  
*Brandeis Anthropology Research Seminar, Brandeis University, June 19, 2020*
- “Evangelical Christianity and the Formation of a Multiracial South Africa.”  
*Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 23, 2019*
- “The Challenge of a New Right in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Componential Reading of Conservative Evangelical Christianity.”  
*The 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada, November 22, 2019*
- “Evangelical Christians’ Engagement with the Cultural Other: Constructing an Alternative Post-Apartheid Modernity through Religious Cosmology.”  
*Provost Research Awards: A Celebration of Scholarly Inquiry, Brandeis University, November 1, 2019*
- “Embodiment and the Word: The Ambiguity of Boundary Making among Conservative Evangelical Christians in South Africa.”  
*Religion and the Strange: Boundary Making and Crossing, Boston University Department of Religion, September 15, 2019*

“The Prosperity Gospel and an Unprosperous Reality in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Conservative Evangelical Responses to Charismatic Christianity.”

*Wits Interdisciplinary Seminar in the Humanities, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, March 4, 2019*

“A Laboratory for Scholarly Inquiry: Integrating Writing Workshops into the First-Year Curriculum.”

*Celebration of Teaching and Learning, Brandeis University, April 27, 2018*

“Origins Science and Evangelical Christianity in the Construction of a Post-Apartheid South African Modernity.”

*The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 1, 2017*

“A Specter of Worldly Decline: Cosmopolitical Stances toward Liberal Social Change within Conservative South African Christianity.”

*Ways of Knowing 2017: The Sixth Annual Conference on Religion, Harvard Divinity School, October 27, 2017*

“Lessons from an Ethnographer’s ‘Among-the-Text’: Some Comparative Notes on Epistemological Authority across History, Anthropology, and Christianity.”

*Meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans, Louisiana, May 16, 2017*

“Evangelistic Failures and Imperial Anxieties among Nineteenth-Century American Missionaries to the Zulu.”

*Science, Religion, and Culture Program Symposium, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 15, 2017*

“‘Only One Race’: Religious and Scientific Rhetoric of Anti-Racism among Young-Earth Creationists.”

*The 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, Colorado, November 19, 2015*

“Confiding in ‘God’s Word’; Confirming through ‘Man’s Word’: The Intersection of Religious and Scientific Discourse among Kentuckian Evangelical Creationists.”

*Ways of Knowing 2014: The Third Annual Graduate Conference on Religion, Harvard Divinity School, October 25, 2014*

“‘God’s Word’ in a ‘Fierce’ World: Religious and Scientific Discourse among Kentuckian Creationists.”

*Brandeis Anthropology Research Seminar, Brandeis University, September 19, 2014*

### **Workshop and Conference Organizing**

The Contours of Conservatism: Ethnographic Approaches to Shifting Political Climates

*Panel at the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada, November 22, 2019*

Workshop for Critical Inquiry and Education

*Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program, Brandeis University, August 2017 – May 2018*

Anthropology, Law, and the Pursuit of Social Justice: A Conference in Honor of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis

*International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, Brandeis University, April 16, 2016*

### **Invited Guest Lectures**

“Belief, Religion, and Witchcraft”

*21a.00, Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Cultures. October 6, 2020.*

“Christian Fundamentalism in America: Politics, Language, and Belief”

*ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies. March 19, 2018.*

“Who Is a Witch? Anthropological Reflections on Witchcraft, Magic, Christianity, and Death”

*ANTH 80a, Anthropology of Religion*. October 31, 2017.

“Anthropological Reactions to Sociobiology”

*ANTH 5a, Human Origins*. April 27, 2017.

“Evangelical Christianity, Anthropology, and the Problem of Irrationality: Can a Nonbeliever Truly Study and Understand Religious Belief?”

*ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies*. March 29, 2017.

“Christian Fundamentalism: Religious Education and Identity Construction”

*ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies*. November 2, 2016.

“Christian Fundamentalism: Ecstatic Experience and Cultural Contestation”

*ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies*. March 23, 2016.

“Structural Violence and the Provision of Medical Care”

*ANTH 127a, Medicine, Body, and Culture*. November 21, 2014.

“American and Japanese Attitudes toward Organ Donation: Life and Death in Cross-Cultural Perspective”

*ANTH 127a, Medicine, Body, and Culture*. November 7, 2014.

“Science Fiction as a Lens: Writing about *Ender’s Game*”

*TYP 8a, Technological Monsters: Men and Machines in Contemporary Science Fiction*. November 14, 2013.

“Identifying Ineffective Writing Styles”

*TYP 8a, Technological Monsters: Men and Machines in Contemporary Science Fiction*. October 10, 2013.

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE:

**United States Physician Aid-in-Dying Project**, with Anita Hannig

**December 2015 – May 2017**

Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

**Ethiopian Obstetric Fistula Hospital Project**, with Anita Hannig

**May 2014 – June 2014**

Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

**Ecuadorian Sociolinguistics Project**, with John Stolle-McAllister

**October 2012 – April 2013**

Department of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication,

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

## AWARDS AND PRIZES:

**University Prize Instructorship**

**May 2019**

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Brandeis University

*Recognizing several advanced doctoral candidates each year by allowing them to design and teach an undergraduate course related to the themes of their dissertation research (awarded for the course “African Ways of Knowing” taught in Spring 2020)*

**Robert A. Manners Prize**

May 2019

Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

*Recognizing a significant piece of scholarly writing by a doctoral student in anthropology (awarded for the article "Aging and the End Times" published in 2019 in Anthropology & Aging)***Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award**

May 2017

Graduate School of Arts &amp; Sciences, Brandeis University

*Recognizing excellence among graduate-student teaching assistants, nominated by their respective departments***COURSES TAUGHT:****Anthropology Courses (Babson and Holy Cross)***Cultural Anthropology/The Anthropological Perspective* (introduction to cultural anthropology)

Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

*Anthropology of Religion*

Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

*Anthropology of Law*

Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023

*Linguistic Anthropology*

Fall 2023

**Interdisciplinary Social Science Courses (Brandeis and Babson)***Foundations of Critical Inquiry: Nature and Environment*

Fall 2020

*African Ways of Knowing*

Spring 2020

**Independent Research Projects (Babson and Holy Cross)***An Oral History of the Jesuits at Holy Cross*

Fall 2022

*Social Media and Youth Culture*

Spring 2021

*Anthropology of Brand Marketing*

Summer 2020

**Writing Courses (Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program and Harvard)***Rationality and the Supernatural*

Fall 2023

*Critical Approaches to Evaluating Evidence, Research, and Knowledge Production*

Spring 2018

*An Introduction to the Style, Substance, and Logics of Scholarly Discourse*

Fall 2017

*Expressing Affliction II: Embodied Ills from Horror Fiction to the Halls of Medicine*  
Spring 2017

*Expressing Affliction I: The Structural Violence of Social Marginalization*  
Fall 2016

*Writing Culture II: The Intersection of Gender, Kinship, and Cosmology*  
Spring 2016

*Writing Culture I: The Intersection of Language, Race, and Ethnicity*  
Fall 2015

*Introduction to Ethnography II: Writing about Gender, Kinship, and Religion*  
Spring 2015

*Introduction to Ethnography I: Writing about Culture, Language, and Race*  
Fall 2014

## STUDENTS MENTORED:

### College of the Holy Cross

Worcester, Massachusetts

Josephine Kalondji (honors thesis reader)  
Shanil Perez Lantigua  
Anne Rogers

### Babson College

Wellesley, Massachusetts

Anandita Goenka

### Brandeis University

Waltham, Massachusetts

Annie Jean-Baptiste  
Johnson Agyapong  
Janikah Brice

## OTHER PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE:

### Boston College

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Adjunct Instructor, Woods College of Advancing Studies  
Fall 2021: *ADSO 1501: Cultural Anthropology*

August 2021 – December 2021

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology

September 2020 – December 2020

Fall 2020: *21a.00, Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Cultures* (with Lauren Bonilla)

### Brandeis University

Waltham, Massachusetts

Study Group Leader, Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

September 2019 – December 2019

Fall 2019: *SOC5-10, Youth, Aging, and Human Connection: Theory and Practice*

Co-Facilitator, Department of Anthropology

August 2019 – December 2019

Fall 2019: *EL 42a, Sages and Seekers: A Fieldwork Practicum in the Life Course across Generations* (with Sarah Lamb)



Teaching Fellow, Department of Anthropology	August 2015 – December 2017
Fall 2017: <i>ANTH 80a, Anthropology of Religion</i> (with Rupa Pillai)	
Spring 2017: <i>ANTH 5a, Human Origins</i> (with Javier Urcid)	
Spring 2016, Fall 2016: <i>ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies</i> (with Janet McIntosh)	
Fall 2015: <i>ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies</i> (with Sarah Lamb)	
Course Assistant, Department of Anthropology	January 2014 – May 2015
Spring 2014, Spring 2015: <i>ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies</i> (with Jonathan Anjaria)	
Fall 2014: <i>ANTH 127a, Medicine, Body, and Culture</i> (with Anita Hannig)	
Writing Consultant, Writing Center	September 2013 – May 2016
Writing Tutor, Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program	September 2013 – May 2015
Language Tutor, English Language Program	August 2013 – May 2014
<b>University of Maryland, Baltimore County</b>	<b>Baltimore, Maryland</b>
Writing Tutor, Writing Center	September 2011 – May 2012
Peer Facilitator, Office of Undergraduate Education	August 2011 – December 2011
Peer Tutor, Learning Resources Center	September 2010 – May 2012
<b>Outside Higher Education</b>	
English and Mathematics Tutor, Total Tutoring Services, LLC	September 2012 – June 2013
Private Instructor, Spanish Language and Culture	September 2012 – May 2013
<b>Training and Certifications</b>	
Online Course Development Training, Boston College	August 2021
Online Teaching Training Program, Babson College	July 2020
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:</b>	
<b>Peer Reviewer for Academic Publishing and Proposals</b>	<b>Ad hoc basis</b>
Academia Letters	
Anthropology & Aging	
Brandeis University Teaching Innovation Grant	
Critique of Anthropology	
Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture	
Journal of the American Academy of Religion	
<b>Web Designer and Listserv Moderator</b>	<b>November 2021 – Present</b>
Society for the Anthropology of Religion	
<b>Graduate Student Representative, Working Group on the Future of Graduate Education</b>	<b>April 2017 – March 2018</b>
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University	
<b>Learning Goals Evaluator, University Accreditation Assessment</b>	<b>April 2016 – June 2018</b>
Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University	

**Learning Goals Evaluator, University Accreditation Assessment**

**July 2016**

Environmental Studies Program, Brandeis University

**Student Member, New Student Book Experience Committee**

**September 2011 – December 2011**

Office of Undergraduate Education, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**Classroom Assistant, Even Start Program**

**September 2011 – December 2011**

Education Based Latino Outreach

**LANGUAGES:**

español/Spanish: written and verbal proficiency

français/French: reading facility and basic verbal competency

isiZulu/Zulu: limited communicative competency

Afrikaans/Afrikaans: limited communicative competency