

BENJAMIN D. CRACE

College of Arts and Sciences
American University of Kuwait
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EDUCATION

- 2015–2018 Ph.D., *Pneumatic Pieties: A Sociotheological Study of the Coptic Orthodox Diaspora in Kuwait*
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England, UK
- 2013–2015 M.A. with Distinction, *Pneumatic Pieties: A Renewalist Charismatic Examination of the Charismata in the Coptic Orthodox Church*
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England, UK
- 2005–2005 Gulf Arabic Program, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, one semester
- 2003–2004 Amharic Language School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2000–2001 M.A. English
Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
- 1995–1999 B.A. Religion, Philosophy, English
Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY,

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2018–Present Assistant Professor of English, American University of Kuwait
- 2017 Acting Chair, Department of English, Summer
- 2016 Acting Chair, Department of English, Summer
- 2013–2018 English 100 Program Coordinator, American University of Kuwait
- 2012–2017 Instructor of English, American University of Kuwait
- 2011–2012 Instructor in the Intensive English Program, American University of Kuwait
- 2010–2011 Instructor of English, Volunteer State Community College, Livingston, TN

- 2009–2011 Instructor of English, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN
- 2005–2009 Instructor in the Foundation Unit of English Instruction, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar
- 2002–2003 Adjunct Instructor of English, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- 2002–2003 Adjunct Instructor of Western Civilization, Indiana Wesleyan University, Louisville, KY
- 2001–2002 Adjunct Instructor of English, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
- 2000–2001 Long-term Substitute of World Civilization, Glasgow High School, Glasgow, KY
- 1999–2000 Teaching Assistant, The Learning Center, Qatar Foundation, Doha, Qatar, under Fulbright Grant

COURSES TAUGHT SINCE 2009

American University of Kuwait

- English 099 Foundations of Reading and Writing (course developer)
- English 100 Foundations of Academic Reading and Writing (course developer)
- English 101 Critical Reading and Writing
- English 102 Writing and Information Literacy, American University of Kuwait
- English 108 Public Speaking
- English 200 Introduction to Literary Studies [online]
- English 207 Introduction to Rhetorical Studies
- English 220 Survey of World Literatures I
- English 221 Survey of World Literatures II, American University of Kuwait
- English 301 Literature and Film [online]
- English 315 20th Century American Literature
- English 343 Poetry and Poetics [hybrid]

English 415 Introduction to Literary Theory

English 470 Internship in Teaching

ESL Level 3

IEP Advanced Intensive English Language Reading and Writing III

IEP Advanced Intensive English Language Oral Communication, Level 3,

Religion 389 Apocalypticism, Cults, and Popular Culture (special topics)

Religion 389 Apocalypticism and Modern Culture (special topics)

Univ 110 University, Community, and Citizenship (course developer)

Courses taught at additional institutions

English 0810 Skills for English Composition, Volunteer State Community College

English 1010 English Composition I, Tennessee Technological University

English 1020 English Composition II, Tennessee Technological University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Books

Keeping the Faith in Exile: Kuwait–Coptic Orthodox Diasporic Spirituality, under review, letter of interest provided upon request from Brill

General Editor and Primary Contributor. *The American Blockbuster: Movies that Defined Their Generations*. Under contract with ABC–Clio. Projected publication 2022

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Hillbillies at the End of the World: An Appalachian Apocalyptic Poetic.” *The New Americanist*, in press.

“T.S. Eliot as a Pentecostal Playwright: Towards a Pneumatic Poetic.” *Christianity and Literature*, 70, no. 2 (June 2021): 123-141, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/800708>.

“An Incarnational Poetic at Play in T.S. Eliot’s *The Cocktail Party*.” *South Atlantic Review*, 86, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 18–38.

“Towards a Global Pneumatological Awareness: A Comparative Account and Assessment of the *Charismata* in the Coptic Orthodox Church.” *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, 30, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 123–144, <https://doi.org/10.1163/17455251-bja10007>.

“The Catch–22 to *Catch–22*.” *Kentucky English Bulletin*, 60, no. 2 (Spring 2011): 41–46.

Encyclopedia and Anthology Entries

Dystopian States of America: Apocalyptic Visions and Warnings in American Literature, Film, and Politics. Edited by Matt Hill. ABC–Clio Publishers, in press.

“Colony.”

“The Leftovers.”

“Surrogates.”

Brill’s Encyclopedia of Global Pentecostalism Online. Edited by Michael Wilkinson, Conny Au, Jörg Haustein, Todd M. Johnson, Leiden: Brill, 2020.

“Egypt,” http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2589-3807_EGPO_COM_034836

“Jordan,” http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2589-3807_EGPO_COM_033776

“Lebanon,” http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2589-3807_EGPO_COM_034850

“Kuwait,” http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2589-3807_EGPO_COM_033778

“Asia,” with Connie Au, http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2589-3807_EGPO_COM_037142

Book Reviews

Review of *Handbook of UFO Religions*. Edited by Ben Zeller. *Nova Religio*, in press.

Review of *Empty Churches: Non-Affiliation in America*. Edited by James L. Heft and Jan E. Sets. *Nova Religio*, in press.

Review of *The Altars Where We Worship: The Religious Significance of Popular Culture*. By Juan M. Floyd–Thomas, Stacey M. Floyd–Thomas, and Mark G. Toulouse. *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, in press.

Review of *Speaking with the Dead in Early America*. By Erik R. Seeman, *Nova Religio*, 25, no. 1 (Aug. 2021): 143–5, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2021.25.1.143>.

Review of *The Miracle Lady: Kathryn Khulman and the Transformation of Charismatic Christianity*. By Amy Collier Artman. *Nova Religio*, 24, no. 4 (May 2021): 135–6, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2021.24.4.135>.

Review of *Spirit on the Move: Black Women and Pentecostalism in Africa and the Diaspora*. Edited by Judith Casselberry and Elizabeth Pritchard. *Nova Religio*, 24, issue 2, (November 2020): 116–8, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2020.24.2.116>.

Review of *Aldous Huxley and Alternative Spirituality*. By Jake Poller. *Nova Religio*, 24, no. 1 (August 2020): 126–8, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2020.24.1.126>.

Review of *Reading J.Z. Smith*. Edited by Willi Braun and Russell T. McCutcheon. *Nova Religio*, 24, no. 1, (August 2020): 102–4, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2020.24.1.102>.

Review of *Minority Religions in Europe and the Middle East: Mapping and Monitoring*. Edited by George D. Chryssides. *Nova Religio*, 23, no. 4, (May 2020): 142–4, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2020.23.4.142>.

Review of *A Course in Desert Spirituality*. By Thomas Merton. Edited by Jon M. Sweeney for *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/course-desert-spirituality>, Apr. 27, 2020.

Review of *John Fetzer and the Quest for the New Age*. By Brian Wilson. *Nova Religio*, 23, no. 2 (November 2019): 115–6, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2019.23.2.115>.

Review of *On Thomas Merton*. By Mary Gordon. *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/thomas-merton>. April 2, 2019.

Review of *Alternative Sociologies of Religion: Through Non-Western Eyes*. By James Spickard. *Nova Religio*, 21, no. 3 (February 2019): 135–7, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2019.22.3.135>.

Review of *William James: Psychical Research and the Challenge of Modernity*. By Krister Dylan Knapp. *Nova Religio*, 21, no. 3 (February 2019): 145–7, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2019.22.3.145>.

Review of *Hizmet Means Service: Perspectives on An Alternative Path in Islam*. Edited by Martin Marty. *Nova Religio*, Vol. 21. no. 3 (February 2018): 126–7, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2018.21.3.124>.

Review of *Gülen: The Ambiguous Politics of Market Islam in Turkey and the World* by Joshua D. Henrick, for *Nova Religio*, 21, no. 3 (February 2018): 124–5, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2018.21.3.124>.

Review of *Sociology of Religion: A Rodney Stark Reader*. Edited by Dedong Wei, Zhifeng Zhong. *Nova Religio*, 20, no. 4 (May 2017): 135–6, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2017.20.4.135>.

Review of *American Possessions: Fighting Demons in the Contemporary United States*. By Sean McCloud. *Nova Religio*, 20, no. 4 (May 2017): 123–4, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2017.20.4.123>.

Review of *Engineering Jihad: The Curious Connection Between Violent Extremism and Education*. By Diego Gambetta and Steffan Hertog. *Reading Religion*, February 3, 2017, <http://readingreligion.org/books/engineers-jihad>.

Review of *How to Survive the Apocalypse: Zombies, Cylons, Faith and Politics at the End of the World*. By Robert Joustra and Alissa Wilkinson. *Reading Religion*. October 12, 2016, <http://readingreligion.org/books/how-survive-apocalypse>.

Review of *Spirits in Politics: Uncertainties of Power and Healing in African Societies*. Edited by Barbara Meier and Arne S. Steinforth. *Nova Religio*, 19, no. 3 (February 2016): 131–2, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2016.19.3.131>.

Review of *Surprised by Meaning*. By Alistar McGrath. *Pneuma Review*. November 2015, <http://pneumareview.com/alister-mcgrath-surprised-by-meaning/>.

Review of *Paganistan*. By Murphy Pizza. *Nova Religio*, 19, no. 1 (August 2015): 113–14, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2015.19.1.113>.

Review of *Greyhound Commander: Confederate General John G. Walker's History of the Civil War West of the Mississippi*. By Richard Lowe. *Journal of American Culture*, 38, no. 2 (June 2015): 168–69, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jacc.12322>.

Review of *American Evangelicals and the 1960s*. Edited by Axel Schafer. *Journal of American Culture*, 38, no. 2 (June 2015): 149–50. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jacc.12307>.

Review of *Prophecy in the New Millennium: When Prophecies Persist*. Edited by Sarah Harvey and Suzanne Newcombe. *Nova Religio*, 18, no. 2 (November 2014): 112–13, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2014.18.2.112>.

Review of *Issachar Bates: A Shaker's Journey*. By Carol Medicott. *Nova Religio*, 18, no. 2 (November 2014): 115–16, <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2014.18.2.115>.

Review of *Divine Healing: The Holiness–Pentecostal Transition Years, 1890–1906: Theological Transpositions in the Transatlantic World*. By James Robinson. *Pneuma Review*. July 29, 2014, <http://pneumareview.com/james-robinson-divine-healing/>.

Review of *Seductive Screens: Children's Media—Past, Present and Future* by Michael Brody for *Journal of American Culture*, 37, no. 2 (June 2014): 247–48, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jacc.12196>.

Review of *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution*. By James Byrd. *Journal of American Culture*, 37, no. 2 (June 2014): 249–50, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jacc.12194>.

Creative Writing

- Mar. 2021 “Growing Young,” creative nonfiction for *Ekstasis Magazine*, <https://www.ekstasismagazine.com/essays/2021/4/28/growing-young>
- Nov. 2020 “The Incense and the Smoke,” *God With Us: 2020 Be In Christ Advent Devotional*, <https://beinchrist.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BIC-Advent-Guide-2020-Digital-Version.pdf>, 41.
- Apr. 5, 2019 “Confessions of the Snakeskin Preacher,” set of three poems, *Cagibi Literary Journal*, <https://cagibilit.com/confessions-of-the-snakeskin-preacher/>

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Presentations at Scholarly Conferences

- “The Critical Significance of T.S. Eliot’s Incarnational Erotic Integration.” Peer Seminar Paper. *Annual Meeting of The International T.S. Eliot Society*. Washington University, St. Louis, MO, (virtual) September 23, 2021.
- “An Incarnational Poetic at Play: *The Cocktail Party*.” Peer Seminar Paper. *Annual Meeting of The International T.S. Eliot Society*. Washington University, St. Louis, MO, (virtual) September 28, 2019.
- “Migrant Faith: The Coptic Orthodox Church in Kuwait,” *Out of Place: Migrants and Race, Tribalism and Fear, Within and Without*, The Mid-Atlantic Region of the *American Academy of Religion*, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ, February 28, 2019.
- “The Transformation of Roman Catholicism in the 1960s: Vatican II, the Charismatic Renewal, and Bishop John Wright.” *Ecclesiastical History Society*, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University, England, September 13, 2016.
- “Creating a Classroom Story: Reflectivity and Narrative Evaluation.” *College English Association*, Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 1, 2016.
- “Retooling for the Future: Copywork as a Bridge Between Technology and Composition.” *College English Association Annual Meeting*, Indianapolis, IN, March 31, 2015.
- “Screencasting as a Means of Assessing Student Writing.” *College English Association Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD, April 1, 2014.

Additional Scholarly Presentations

- “Country Music as Poetry.” *English Department Poetry Series*, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait, (virtual) April 27, 2021.

“Nightmares: Towards a Re–assessment of the Incubi Phenomenon.” *Annual Meeting for the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, The King’s University, South Lake, TX (virtual), March 20, 2021.

“The Power of Origins: Hillbillies and American Identity.” Roundtable: “1776, 1619, 2021: Defining American Identity in Literature and Culture.” The 52nd Annual Convention of the Northeastern Modern Language Association. (virtual) March 12, 2021.

“How to Do a Close Reading.” *English Department Conference Series*, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait, (virtual) November 18, 2020.

“Contextual Issues and Barriers for Migrant Pentecostals in Kuwait.” GloPent [Global Pentecostalism] Conference, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England, (virtual) October 31, 2020.

“*American Gods*: Towards a Post–Secular Supernatural Imaginary.” Christianity and Literature Conference, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, March 30, 2019.

“Supplying the Faith(ful): Religious Economies and Competing Churches in Kuwait.” Gulf Studies Symposium, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait, March 17, 2019.

“Religious (Mis)representation and the Postmodern Subject Position of *The Bamboo Stalk*.” Narrative Perspectives of the East and West, American University in Dubai, Dubai, UAE, April 6, 2018.

“Singing the Lord’s Song in a Foreign Land: The Coptic Orthodox Diaspora in Kuwait.” Gulf Studies Symposium, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait, March 19, 2017.

FUTURE AND FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

“North Africa” for De Guyter’s *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*

“Migrants, Monks, and Mystics in the Music City: A Spiritual Ethnography of Diasporic Orthodox Copts in Nashville,” grant proposal under review with the ACLS

“A Transpersonal Conversation: Towards a Participatory Hermeneutic for Pentecostal Theology” for *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* (under review)

“The Critical Significance of T.S. Eliot’s Mystical-Erotic Integration” for *Christianity and Literature* (under review)

“The Joy of Disgust: An Incarnational Reading of the Walking Dead” for the *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* (under review)

“Disaffiliation and Deconstruction among the @ New Evangelicals: A Case Study” (article in process)

“Oord and Schwartz’s “Panentheism and Panexperientialism for Open and Relational Theology” and a Phenomenology of Semi-Discarnate Persons,” AAR, Nov. 2021

“Stoic Cosmological Foundations for a Contemporary Pneumatology,” AAR, Nov. 2021

“Televangelists, UFOs, and Soul Eaters: A Contemporary Account of Occult Christianity's Sci-Fi Demonology,” *Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association*, Nov. 2021

Representations of Mental Health and Trauma Care in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) for Northeast Modern Language Association, panel co-chair, Mar. 2022.

Imaging Peace: Care-full Non-violence in Contemporary Sci-Fi Narratives for Northeast Modern Language Association, panel co-chair, Mar. 2022.

RESEARCH GRANTS

“A New Look at Eliot’s *Four Quartets* and *The Cocktail Party*.” Completion of Research Grant for 500 Kuwaiti Dinars (roughly equivalent to \$1500). American University of Kuwait, March 2019.

“The Copts in Kuwait: Socio-religious Networks and Practices.” Completion of Research Grant for 500 Kuwaiti Dinars (roughly equivalent to \$1500). American University of Kuwait, October 2016.

“The Copts in Kuwait: Socio-religious Networks and Practices.” Initiation of Research Grant for 500 Kuwaiti Dinars (roughly equivalent to \$1500). American University of Kuwait, November 2015

“How Arabic L1 Speakers Learn English.” William J. Fulbright Grant. Doha, Qatar, 1999–2000.

UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR THESIS ADVISING

“Phenomenological Reflection and Embodiment in Albert Camus’ *The Stranger*.” Dina Al-Sayed. American University of Kuwait, Spring 2020.

“The Representation of Gender and Power in Marion Zimmer Bradley’s *The Mists of Avalon*.” Bashayer Al-Anjeri. American University of Kuwait, Fall 2019.

“Termites in the Foundation: The Representation of Women in *Samarkand*.” Hussam El-Helmy. American University of Kuwait, Fall 2018.

“T.S. Eliot and the *Rubiyat* of Omar Al-Khayyam.” Neda Al-Shirazi. American University of Kuwait, Spring 2016.

“The Angelic Gaze in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.” Dina Al-Qassar. American University of Kuwait, Spring 2014.

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

American University of Kuwait

- Fall 2019 Assessment Committee, English Department
 Hiring Committee, English Department
- Spring 2019 Faculty Advisor for Marine Life and Awareness Student Club
- 2017–present Adjunct and New Faculty Mentor
- 2015–present Faculty Secretary for College of Arts and Sciences
- 2013–2019 Writing Curriculum Program Committee Member
- Mar. 2018 TEDx Speech Coach
- 2017–2018 Faculty Advisor for *The Voice*, a student magazine
- Summer 2017 Acting English Department Chair
- Summer 2016 Acting English Department Chair
- 2014–2015 Grade Appeal Committee member
- 2014–2015 New Course University 110 developer
- 2013–2014 Student Grievance Committee member
- 2013/5/8 Professional Development and Research Committee member
- 2012–2013 Library Committee member
- 2012–2014 Faculty Search Committee member
- 2011–2012 IEP Accreditation Committee member

2011–2012 IEP Curriculum Committee member

Service to Other Academic Institutions

2009–2011 Mentor for Teaching and Graduate Assistants, Tennessee Technological University

2009–2011 Composition Committee member, Tennessee Technological University

2006–2007 Accreditation Project webmaster, Qatar University

2005–2009 Writing Support System facilitator and developer, Qatar University

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2020–present Northeastern Modern Language Association Mentor, NeMLA Job Clinic

2020–present South Atlantic Modern Language Association

2019–present Society for Pentecostal Studies

2018–present International T.S. Eliot Society

2018–present Mid–Atlantic Region American Academy of Religion

2016–present American Academy of Religion

2013–present College English Association

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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REFERENCES

Professor Allan Anderson
Emeritus Professor
Dept of Theology & Religion
University of Birmingham
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Dr. Katherine Hennessey
2020-21 Research Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities
Assistant Professor, American University of Kuwait
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Dr. Josh Mobley
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Great Text Program
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