

CURRICULUM VITAE

DOUGLAS A. BAFFORD

Harvard College Writing Program
One Bow Street, Suite 250, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA
dbafford@fas.harvard.edu • [ORCID iD: 0000-0001-8613-5966](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8613-5966) • www.dougbafford.com
+1 (617)-495-1656 • +27 (0)76-468-4772

Updated January 2025

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 – May 2024 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, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> 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, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Carroll Community College	May 2010 Westminster, Maryland

FELLOWSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

Civil Discourse Pedagogy Fellowship Intellectual Vitality Initiatives, Harvard University	June 2024 – Present
Higher Education Administrative Fellowship Office for Undergraduate Research and Creative Collaborations, Brandeis University	July 2020 – May 2021
University Fellowship Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University	August 2015 – May 2020
Visiting Researcher Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	July 2018 – June 2019
Doctoral Fellow Science, Religion, and Culture Program, Harvard University	August 2016 – May 2018

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

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

Faculty Research Award Committee on Faculty Scholarship, College of the Holy Cross	April 2022 \$2,750
--	-----------------------

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (#BCS-1919715) Cultural Anthropology Program, National Science Foundation	July 2019 \$10,022
Provost Dissertation Fellowship Office of the Provost, Brandeis University	May 2019 \$1,000
Provost Research Grant Office of the Provost, Brandeis University	April 2018 \$15,622
Teaching Innovation Grant Center for Teaching and Learning, Brandeis University	May 2017 \$6,900
Dissertation Research Grant Andrew J. Mellon Foundation, Brandeis University	April 2017 \$3,825
Travel and Research Grant Graduate Student Association, Brandeis University	March 2017 \$375
Travel and Research Grant Graduate Student Association, Brandeis University	December 2014 \$50
Graduate Student Summer Research Grant Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University	April 2014 \$1,100
Master's Research Grant Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University	March 2014 \$154

PUBLICATIONS:**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“Contested Authority, Godly Discipline, and Cosmic Disorder among Conservative Christians in South Africa and the United States.” Submitted to *Current Anthropology*. **Revise & resubmit**

“The Allure of Heavenly Mother, from South Korea to South Africa: Epistemological Authority at the World Mission Society Church of God.” *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 29(2). **In press**

“Sing and Make Music to the Lord’: Cultural Difference in South Africa’s Urban Religious Soundscapes.” *Anthropology Southern Africa* 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). [doi:10.1080/23323256.2023.2284329](https://doi.org/10.1080/23323256.2023.2284329) **2023**

“Aging and the End Times: Evangelical Eschatology and Experiences of Elderhood in the United States and South Africa.” *Anthropology & Aging* 40(1):32-47. [doi:10.5195/aa.2019.197](https://doi.org/10.5195/aa.2019.197) **2019**

Editor-Reviewed Articles

“Who Gets to Own Land?” In *People before Markets: An Alternative Case Book*, edited by Daniel Souleles, Johan Gersel, and Morten Sørensen Thaning. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [doi:10.1017/9781009165846.006](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009165846.006) **2022**

“Pentecostal Promise and a South African Dream Deferred.” *Africa Is a Country*, March 31. **2020**
<https://africasacountry.com/2020/03/pentecostal-promise-and-a-south-african-dream-deferred>

“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**

Book Reviews

Review of “*Yes Gawd!: How Faith Shapes LGBT Identity and Politics in the United States*, Royal G. Cravens, III, Religious Engagement in Democratic Politics, edited by Paul A. Djupe, Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2024.” *Politics, Ideology and Religion*. **In press**

Review of “*Glossolalia and the Problem of Language*, Nicholas Harkness, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2021.” *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 32(1):252-254. [doi:10.1111/jola.12317](https://doi.org/10.1111/jola.12317) **2022**

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Academic Paper Presentations

“Let’s Talk about Taboo: Questioning Orthodox Models of Sex/Gender in Anthropological Scholarship and the Liberal Arts Classroom.”

Department of Sociology & Anthropology Brown Bag Presentations, College of the Holy Cross, April 22, 2024

“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 119th 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 118th 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 116th 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 114th 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 118th 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
Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

December 2015 – May 2017

Ethiopian Obstetric Fistula Hospital Project, with Anita Hannig
Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

May 2014 – June 2014

Ecuadorian Sociolinguistics Project, with John Stolle-McAllister
Department of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication,
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

October 2012 – April 2013

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 & 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, Spring 2024

Anthropology of Religion

Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024

Anthropology of Law

Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023

Linguistic Anthropology

Fall 2023

Writing Courses (Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program and Harvard)

Taboo

Fall 2024, Spring 2025

Rationality and the Supernatural

Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

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

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

STUDENTS MENTORED:

College of the Holy Cross

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

Worcester, Massachusetts

Babson College

Anandita Goenka

Wellesley, Massachusetts

Brandeis University

Annie Jean-Baptiste
Johnson Agyapong
Janikah Brice

Waltham, Massachusetts

OTHER PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE:

Boston College

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

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

August 2021 – December 2021

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology

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

Cambridge, Massachusetts

September 2020 – December 2020

Brandeis University

Study Group Leader, Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

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

Co-Facilitator, Department of Anthropology

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

Teaching Fellow, Department of Anthropology

Fall 2017: *ANTH 80a, Anthropology of Religion* (with Rupa Pillai)Spring 2017: *ANTH 5a, Human Origins* (with Javier Urcid)Spring 2016, Fall 2016: *ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies* (with Janet McIntosh)Fall 2015: *ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies* (with Sarah Lamb)

Course Assistant, Department of Anthropology

Spring 2014, Spring 2015: *ANTH 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies* (with Jonathan Anjaria)Fall 2014: *ANTH 127a, Medicine, Body, and Culture* (with Anita Hannig)

Writing Consultant, Writing Center

Writing Tutor, Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program

Language Tutor, English Language Program

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Writing Tutor, Writing Center

Peer Facilitator, Office of Undergraduate Education

Peer Tutor, Learning Resources Center

Outside Higher Education

English and Mathematics Tutor, Total Tutoring Services, LLC

Private Instructor, Spanish Language and Culture

Training and Certifications

Online Course Development Training, Boston College

Online Teaching Training Program, Babson College

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**Peer Reviewer for Academic Publishing and Proposals**

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

Web Designer and Listserv Moderator

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Waltham, Massachusetts

September 2019 – December 2019

August 2019 – December 2019

August 2015 – December 2017

January 2014 – May 2015

September 2013 – May 2016

September 2013 – May 2015

August 2013 – May 2014

Baltimore, Maryland

September 2011 – May 2012

August 2011 – December 2011

September 2010 – May 2012

September 2012 – June 2013

September 2012 – May 2013

August 2021

July 2020

Ad hoc basis**November 2021 – Present**

Graduate Student Representative, Working Group on the Future of Graduate Education

April 2017 – March 2018

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University

Learning Goals Evaluator, University Accreditation Assessment

April 2016 – June 2018

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