**Seth Dowland**

Associate Professor of Religion

Pacific Lutheran University

Tacoma, Washington 98447

(253) 535-8125 ⏐ dowland@plu.edu

**Professional**

Pacific Lutheran University

Associate Professor of Religion, 2016–

Assistant Professor of Religion, 2011–2016

Duke University, Thompson Writing Program

Lecturing Fellow, 2007–2011

Associate Director, 2008-2011

**Education**

Duke University

Ph.D. (2007), Graduate Program in Religion (American Religions)

M.A. (2004), Graduate Program in Religion (American Religions)

University of Virginia

B.A. with distinction (2001), College of Arts & Sciences (Religious Studies & History majors)

**Books**

*Purity and Power: A History of White Christian Masculinity in America* (Oxford University Press, under contract)

[*Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right*](https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15416.html) (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press**,** 2015)

Reviewed in: *American Historical Review*, *American Political Thought*, [*The Christian Century*](https://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2016-08/family-values-seth-dowland), *Fides et Historia*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of Religious History*, *Journal of Southern History*, [*Journal of Southern Religion*](http://jsreligion.org/vol18/bivins/), *Marriage, Families, & Spirituality*, [*Reading Religion*](https://readingreligion.org/books/family-values-and-rise-christian-right)

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“[Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality in American Religious History](https://oxfordre.com/religion/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-432),” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion in America* (online publication 2017, print publication 2018)

“Making Sense of Twentieth-century American Evangelicalism,” *Reviews in American History* (March 2016): 152-159

“War, Sports, and the Construction of Masculinity in American Christianity,” *Religion Compass* 5.7 (July 2011): 355-364

“Family Values and the Formation of a Christian Right Agenda,” *Church History* 78.3 (September 2009): 606-631

**Book Chapters**

“A Brutal Faith: College Football and Manhood at Amos Alonzo Stagg's University,” in *Baptists and Gender: Papers for the International Conference on Baptist Studies IX*, ed. Melody Maxwell (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, in press)

“The Paradox of Christian Masculinity: Sports, War, and Internationalism at the 1919 Inter-Allied Games,” in *Gods, Games, and Globalization: New Perspectives on Religion and Sports*, eds. Rebecca T. Alpert and Art Remillard (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2019), 58-73

“Billy Graham’s New Evangelical Manhood,” in *Billy Graham: American Pilgrim*, eds. Andrew Finstuen, Anne Blue Wills, and Grant Wacker (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 216-231

“Preserving Morality in an Urban Nation: Christian Reform Movements in the Progressive Era,” in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Religion and American Politics*, ed. Barbara McGraw (London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016), 225-236

“The Costs of Prestige: E.J. Carnell’s Quest for an Intellectual Orthodoxy,” in *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Authority of Scripture*, ed. Carlos Bovell (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011), 71-90

“Conservative Christians and Environmentalism, 1970-2005,” in *Diversity and Dominion: Dialogues in Ecology, Ethics, and Theology*, ed. Kyle S. Van Houtan and Michael S. Northcott (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010), 157-165. Co-authored with Brantley W. Gasaway

“A New Kind of Patriarchy: Inerrancy and Masculinity in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1979-2000,” in *Southern Masculinity: Perspectives on Manhood in the New South*, ed. Craig T. Friend (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009), 246-268

**Popular Articles**

“[A New Book Argues This ‘Divine Institution’ is the Key to Understanding White Evangelical Culture](https://religiondispatches.org/a-new-book-argues-that-this-divine-institution-is-the-key-to-understanding-white-evangelical-culture/),” *Religion Dispatches*, August 21, 2021

“[White Evangelical Voters: Trump as a Spiritual Leader](https://www.postalley.org/2020/11/22/white-evangelical-voters-trump-as-spiritual-leader/),” *PostAlley*, November 22, 2020

“[Evangelical Homeschooling and the Development of “Family Values](https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/evangelical-homeschooling-and-the-development-of-family-values),” *Berkeley Forum*: The Culture Wars Today, December 18, 2019

“[American Evangelicalism and the Politics of Whiteness](https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/american-evangelicalism-and-politics-whiteness),” *The Christian Century*, July 4, 2018

“[Where Are the Culture Wars?](https://voices.uchicago.edu/religionculture/2017/07/21/where-are-the-culture-wars-a-response-to-russell-johnson-by-seth-dowland/)” *Religion & Culture Forum*, University of Chicago Divinity School, July 2017

“[A Hard-Edged Gospel: The Rise and Fall of Mark Driscoll](http://religioninthenews.org/calvinism/a-hard-edged-gospel-the-rise-and-fall-of-mark-driscoll/),” *Religion in the News*, March 2015

“[Government End Times? Pray for the Individual](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/government-end-times-pray-for-the-individual/article15001809/),” *The [Toronto] Globe & Mail*, October 23, 2013. Co-authored with Kate Bowler. Reprinted in the *Raleigh News & Observer*.

“[The New Dominionist Politics](http://www2.trincoll.edu/csrpl/RINVol14No1/New%20Dominionists.htm),” *Religion in the News*, Spring 2012

**Interviews & Popular Media**

Interviewed by NPR, *FiveThirtyEight*/ABC News, KNKX Public Radio, [CNN](https://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2014/10/10/study-americans-want-more-religion-in-politics/), [*Washington Post*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2018/02/08/national-prayer-breakfast-to-feature-trump-and-rep-scalise-who-was-shot-at-gop-baseball-practice/), [*The Daily Beast*](https://www.thedailybeast.com/segregation-is-still-alive-at-these-christian-schools)*,* [*WhoWhatWhy*](https://whowhatwhy.org/2017/05/16/trump-evangelicals-culmination-unholy-alliance/)*, Kaiser Foundation News, Congressional Quarterly,* [*Newark Star-Ledger*](https://www.nj.com/super-bowl/2014/02/super_bowl_xlviii_religion_runs_deep_for_many_nfl_players_and_teams.html), *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette,* [*Salon*](https://www.salon.com/2016/02/07/how_religious_liberty_replaced_family_values_in_framing_the_conservative_movement_partner/)*,* [*The Way of Improvement Leads Home*](https://thewayofimprovement.com/2016/03/21/the-authors-corner-with-seth-dowland/)*,* [*Marginalia Review of Books*](https://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/first-impressions-72-seth-dowland-on-family-values-and-the-rise-of-the-christian-right/)*,* [*Religion Dispatches*](https://religiondispatches.org/why-family-values-defined-conservative-christianity-and-why-religious-liberty-has-replaced-it/)

Consultant for [*Slow Burn* podcast](https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/09/slow-burn-season-2-episode-6-transcript.html), season 2

**Grants and Awards**

Erasmus+ (EU) Staff Mobility Grant, MF School of Theology in Oslo (2019)

Wang Center for Global Education Faculty Research Grant, Pacific Lutheran University (2017-18)

Karen Hille Phillips Regency Advancement Award, Pacific Lutheran University (2015-16)

Kelmer-Roe Faculty-Student Research Award, Pacific Lutheran University (with Clayton Bracht) (2014)

Award for Excellence in Teaching Writing, Duke University (2009)

Research Travel Grants, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University (2008, 2009, & 2010)

Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship (2006-07)

Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School (2006)

Mellon Dissertation fellow, Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University (2005-06)

Preparing Future Faculty fellow, Duke University/Elon University (2005-06)

Duke University Graduate Fellowship (2001-2006)

Phi Beta Kappa (2001)

College of Arts & Sciences Fellowship for Undergraduate Research, University of Virginia (2000)

**Teaching Experience**

Pacific Lutheran University courses taught (2011-2022)

* American Christianity
* Islam in America
* Global Christian History
* American Evangelicalism
* Religion & U.S. Politics
* Religion & Social Justice
* Race, Gender, & American Christianity
* Religion and Violence (honors)
* Jesus in America
* Capstone Research Seminar

Duke University courses taught (2007-2011)

* Religion in American Life
* Religion and American Politics
* Religious Faith in the American South
* Religion & Popular Culture
* Religious Theory & Experience
* American Religious Autobiography
* Jesus in America

**Conference Presentations**

“Religion of Fear: Response to Papers on White Christian Denominations & the 1920s KKK,” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 2022 (New Orleans)

“Women and the New Christian Right: A Response to Emily Suzanne Johnson’s *This is Our Message*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019 (San Diego)

“Feminism and Evangelical Family Men,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018 (Denver)

“Teaching American Religious History in the Trump Era,” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 2018 (Washington)

“Vanishing Masculinity in the Midcentury YMCA,” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 2017 (Denver)

“American Evangelicals Looking Abroad” panel respondent, American Historical Association, January 2015 (New York)

“Evolving Notions of Christian Manhood in the YMCA,” American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting, May 2014 (Calgary) (co-presenter Clayton Bracht)

“Southern Baptist Apostate: Bill Clinton’s Fight with the Religious Right,” American Society for Church History Spring Meeting, April 2013 (Portland)

“How the Bible Works: Scripture and the Body in Nineteenth Century Religion” panel respondent, American Society for Church History Spring Meeting, April 2013 (Portland)

“Go, Fight, Win: Masculinity, Sports, and War in the 1919 Inter-Allied Games,” American Society for Church History, January 2012 (Chicago)

“A Surprising Advocate for Disarmament: Billy Graham’s Opposition to ‘Peace through Strength,’” Southern Historical Association, November 2010 (Charlotte)

Respondent: “Changing Attitudes Towards Women” panel, American Society of Church History, January 2010 (San Diego)

“Conservative Christian Activists and Coal Miners in the Kanawha County (WV) Textbook Controversy of 1974,” American Historical Association, January 2009 (New York)

“Focusing on the Family: How the Religious Right Defined the Common Good,” American Academy of Religion, November 2007 (San Diego)

“Gender Battles in Southern Schools, 1967-1975,” American Academy of Religion, Southeast Region Meeting, March 2006 (Atlanta)

“‘Is this the religion of my adorable Master Jesus?’ James Meacham and the Tensions of Southern Methodism, 1788-1797,” American Society of Church History, January 2005 (Seattle)

“Moral Majority and the Mobilization of White Evangelicals in Alabama,” American Academy of Religion, November 2003 (Atlanta)

**Invited Lectures**

 “A Brutal Faith: College Football and Manhood at Amos Alonzo Stagg's University,” International Conference of Baptist Studies IX: Baptists and Gender, North Greenville University, July 2021 (Greenville, SC) – canceled due to COVID

“Evangelical Homeschooling and the Development of “Family Values,” Russia in the Global Culture Wars Conference, Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, October 2019 (Washington, DC)

“Gender, Sexuality, and the Construction of American Christianity: A Brief History,” Lutheran Studies Conference on Sexuality, Pacific Lutheran University, September 2019 (Tacoma, WA)

“Cooperation or Conquest: Christian Masculinity in the Era of the Great War,” MF School of Theology, September 2019 (Oslo, Norway)

“Same-Sex Marriage and Christianity, 200 Years Ago,” Women’s Center Sex-Positive lecture, Pacific Lutheran University, March 2015 (Tacoma, WA)

“Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right,” Bethany of the Northwest Pastor’s Lecture, November 2014 (Everett, WA)

“Billy Graham’s New Evangelical Manhood,” Worlds of Billy Graham Conference, Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, September 2013 (Wheaton, IL)

“From Civil Rights to the Christian Right: King, Neuhaus, and Christian Political Action,” Lutheran Studies Conference on Political Life, Pacific Lutheran University, September 2012 (Tacoma, WA)

“Christian Political Activism in America,” Bethany of the Northwest Pastor’s Lecture, November 2011 (Everett, WA)

“Peace with God, Peace through Strength: Billy Graham and the Struggle for Nuclear Disarmament,” Aurora University Chaplain’s Forum, October 2010 (Aurora, IL)

“Religion and Politics in the Twentieth Century,” Divining America Lecture Series, Durham County Library, November 2008 (Durham)

“Gender, Social Order, and the Rise of the Christian Right in the South,” Louisville Institute Winter Seminar, January 2007 (Louisville)

“Christian Academies and the Reordering of Southern Conservatism, 1965-1975,” Southern Studies Seminar, University of North Carolina, April 2006 (Chapel Hill)

**Church Presentations**

“Divided Church, Divided Nation,” 3-part lecture series, Our Savior Lutheran Church, September 2021 (Everett, WA)

“Gender, Sexism, and Justice in American Christianity,” 2-part virtual lecture series, Mt. View Lutheran Church, May 2021(Edgewood, WA)

“Race and American Christianity,” 2-part virtual lecture series, Trinity Presbyterian Church, November 2020 (Tacoma, WA); Roswell United Methodist Church, September 2020 (Roswell, GA)

“Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism in America,” 4-part lecture series, Mt. View Lutheran Church, September 2018 (Edgewood, WA)

“Liberal Protestants and Christian Humanitarianism,” 2-part lecture series, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, December 2017 (Olympia, WA)

“Christianity and Politics in America,” 3-part lecture series, Hope Lutheran Church, October 2017 (Enumclaw, WA); Mt. View Lutheran Church, November 2012 (Edgewood, WA); Creator Lutheran Church, October 2012 (Bonney Lake, WA); Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Port Angeles, WA), September 2012

“Islam in America,” 2-part lecture series, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, February 2017 (Olympia, WA); Christ Church Episcopal, October 2015 (Tacoma, WA)

“America: A Christian Nation?” Christ Church Episcopal, October 2016 (Tacoma, WA)

“New Religious Movements in America,” 5-part lecture series, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, February 2016

“The Spread of Global Christianity,” 4-part lecture series, Mt. View Lutheran Church, January 2016 (Edgewood, WA)

“Gender and Christianity in America: 4 Stories,” 4-part lecture series, Mt. View Lutheran Church, April 2015 (Edgewood, WA); Creator Lutheran Church (Bonney Lake, WA), March 2016

“Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right,” 3-part lecture series, Mt. View Lutheran Church, February 2014 (Edgewood, WA), St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, March 2015 (Lakewood, WA)

“Church History,” 2-part lecture series, Tacoma First Presbyterian Church, January 2015 (Tacoma, WA)

“Christianity and Politics: the Example of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, October 2008 (Houston)

**Presentations on Teaching**

“Grading with iPads,” Instructional Technology workshop, Pacific Lutheran University, February & November 2014 (Tacoma, WA)

“Teaching with Interactive Lectures,” Provost Workshop on Teaching, Pacific Lutheran University, Fall 2012-2015 (Tacoma, WA)

“Teaching in 21st Century Learning Spaces,” Faculty Fall Conference, Pacific Lutheran University, August 2013 (Tacoma, WA)

“Using WordPress to Facilitate Multi-Modal Writing,” Duke Center for Instructional Technology Faculty Showcase, April 2010 (Durham) (with Susanne E. Hall)

“Teaching Religion and Politics through Blogging,” American Academy of Religion, November 2008 (Chicago)

**Book Reviews & Encyclopedia Articles**

Book Review: Hilde Løvdal Stephens, Family Matters: James Dobson and Focus on the Family’s Crusade for the Christian Home, *The Journal of Religion* 102.1 (January 2022): 139-141.

“Masculinity and Christianity,” *Bloomsbury Religion in North America* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021)

Book Review: James M. Patterson, [Religion in the Public Square: Sheen, King, Falwell](https://academic.oup.com/jcs/article/62/4/771/5920811?guestAccessKey=b252bd9b-23d5-491f-be9a-628a85100c85), *Journal of Church and State* 62.4 (Autumn 2020): 771-773.

Book Review: Gillian Frank, Bethany Moreton, and Heather R. White, editors. [Devotions and Desires: Histories of Sexuality and Religion in the Twentieth-Century United States](https://academic.oup.com/ahr/article-abstract/125/1/262/5721577?redirectedFrom=fulltext). *American Historical Review* 125.1 (February 2020): 262-263.

Book Review: Daniel Rodgers, [As a City on a Hill: The Story of America’s Most Famous Lay Sermon](https://readingreligion.org/books/city-hill), *Reading Religion*, May 2019

Book Review: Richard G. Kyle, [Popular Evangelicalism in American Culture](https://readingreligion.org/books/popular-evangelicalism-american-culture), *Reading Religion*, August 2018

Book Review: Regina D. Sullivan and Monte Harrell Hampton, eds., [Varieties of Southern Religious History: Essays in Honor of Donald G. Mathews](http://jsreligion.org/vol18/dowland/), *Journal of Southern Religion* 18, April 2016

Book Review: Michael J. McVicar, Christian Reconstruction: R.J. Rushdoony and American Religious Conservatism, *Political Science Quarterly* 130, Winter 2015

“Billy Graham,” *Dictionary of American History, Supplement: America in the World, 1776 to the Present*, ed. Edward J. Blum, New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2015

Book Review: Rachel Hope Cleves, [Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America](http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2015/03/same-sex-marriage-in-early-america.html), *Religion in American History* blog, March 13, 2015

Book Review: Brian Steensland and Philip Goff, eds., [The New Evangelical Social Engagement](http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2014/03/the-new-evangelical-social-engagement.html), *Religion in American History* blog, March 12, 2014

Book Review: Carol Howard Merritt, [Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry in a New Generation](http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2013/09/reframing-hope.html), *Religion in American History* blog, September 26, 2013

“The Christian Right,” in *The Oxford Companion to American Politics*, ed. David Coates, Oxford University Press, 2012

Book Review: Darren Dochuk, From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism, *Church History* 81, 2012

Book Review: Gastón Espinosa, ed., Religion and the American Presidency, *Journal of Church & State* 52, 2010

“Benjamin Lawson Hooks,” in *African American National Biography*, ed. Henry Louis Gates and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Oxford University Press, 2008

Book Review: Michael Lienesch, [In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, the Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement](https://networks.h-net.org/node/16794/reviews/17107/dowland-lienesch-beginning-fundamentalism-scopes-trial-and-making), H-Net Review, H-Law, 2007

“[Judgment Days: Two New Books Find Good and Evil in the Rev. Billy Graham’s Presidential Politics](https://mountainx.com/news/community-news/101007graham/),” *Asheville Mountain Xpress*, 10 October 2007

Book Review: Donald G. Mathews and Beth Barton Schweiger, eds., Religion in the American South, *Journal of Presbyterian History* 84, 2006

“Moral Majority,” in *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, ed. Hans J. Hillerbrand, Routledge, 2004

Book Review: D.G. Hart, That Old Time Religion in Modern America, *Journal of Presbyterian History* 81, 2003

**Academic Administration & Service**

American Society of Church History

Program Committee (2022-23); Membership Committee (2015-2018)

American Academy of Religion

Religion and Families Group Steering Committee (2017- )

Gender, Sexuality, and Race Studies Program, Pacific Lutheran University (2014- )

Chair (2018-2020)

Faculty Affairs Committee, Pacific Lutheran University (2014-2017)

Chair (2016-2017)

External Dissertation Examiner for Thomas Russell Freure, University of Waterloo (2021)

Knutson Lecture Organizer, Pacific Lutheran University (2015, 2019)

First-Year Experience Program Executive Committee, Pacific Lutheran University (2013-2016)

Blog Contributor, *Religion & American History*, http://usreligion.blogspot.com (2009-2015)

Women’s Center Advisory Board, Pacific Lutheran University (2013-15)

Search Committee for History of Christianity faculty position, Pacific Lutheran University (2013-14)

Secretary, Humanities Division, Pacific Lutheran University (2012-14)

Webmaster, Religion Department, Pacific Lutheran University (2011-14)

Editor, *Deliberations: A Journal of First-Year Writing at Duke University* (2010-11)

Steering Committee, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University (2008-11)

Search Committee for Postdoctoral Fellows, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University (2009-10)

Associate Director of First-year Writing, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University (2008-11)

Program for Teaching & Learning coordinator, Duke Graduate Program in Religion (2004-05)

Graduate Student Advisory Board, Duke University Graduate Program in Religion (2003-05)

**Professional Organizations**

American Academy of Religion

American Society of Church History