

# Laura Rominger Porter, PhD

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## EDUCATION

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- 2013      *Doctor of Philosophy* in United States History, University of Notre Dame
- Dissertation:**  
“From Sin to Crime: Evangelicals, Politics, and Public Moral Order in the Nineteenth-century Upper South.”  
Mark Noll (chair), John McGreevy, George Marsden, R. Tracy McKenzie
- Examination Fields:**  
American History to 1877 (Thomas Slaughter)  
United States History from 1877-present (John McGreevy)  
American Religious History (Mark Noll)  
Religion, Society and Empire (Thomas Kselman)
- 2009      *Master of Arts* in United States History, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.
- 2006      *Master of Arts* in Modern United States History, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis.
- 2004      *Bachelor of Arts* in History and Philosophy, *cum laude*, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books:

Co-editor [with Heath Carter], *Turning Points in the History of American Evangelicalism*, under contract with William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

### Book Chapters:

“Dissent as Mainline” in *The Oxford History of Protestant Dissenting Traditions*, Vol. 4, *The Twentieth Century: Traditions in Global Context*, ed. Jehu J. Hanciles, under contract with Oxford University Press.

“From ‘Citizens of Zion’ to Citizens of the State: The Protestant Moral Order in the Nineteenth-Century Upper South” in *La politisation du religieux en modernité*, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, forthcoming.

### Articles:

“Church Government and the Body Politic: The Religious Logic of Secession in Tennessee,” *The Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (Fall 2011).

“The Bible, Commonsense, and Interpretive Context: A Case Study in the Antebellum Debate over Slavery,” *Fides et Historia* (Summer/Fall 2006).

“Elite Values and Liberal Christianity in Milwaukee’s First Unitarian Society, 1857-1894,” *Milwaukee History* (Spring 2006).

### **Book Reviews:**

Catherine Brekus, *Sarah Osborn’s World: The Rise of Evangelical Christianity in Early America*, *The Catholic Historical Review* (October 2013).

Jonathan Daniel Wells and Jennifer R. Green, eds., *The Southern Middle Class in the Long Nineteenth Century*, *Journal of Southern Religion* 14 (2012): <http://jsr.fsu.edu/issues/vol14/porter.html>.

Jeffrey Williams, *Religion and Violence in Early American Methodism: Taking the Kingdom by Force*, *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (Summer 2010).

Randolph Ferguson Scully, *Religion in Nat Turner’s Virginia: Baptist Community and Conflict, 1740-1840*, *The Southern Historian* (Spring 2010).

## **TEACHING**

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**Instructor**, Drake University, 2016-present

Courses: United States to 1877  
Religion and American Politics  
Donald Trump in Historical Context

**Instructor**, University of Florida, 2014-present

Courses: United States to 1877  
Slavery and Abolition  
Southern Religious Culture

**Instructor**, Collège Universitaire de Sciences Po, Campus Euro-Américain de Reims, France, 2014

Course: Religion and Politics in the United States

**Instructor**, University of Notre Dame, 2010

Course: U. S. South in the Nineteenth Century

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Notre Dame, 2008-2010

Courses: Religion and American Politics  
Mexican American History  
The American Catholic Experience  
United States History, Survey II

## HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

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2014	Recipient, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Lilly Fellows Program, Valparaiso University (declined)
2012	Walter Durham Award for best essay published in the <i>Tennessee Historical Quarterly</i> in a given year
2012	Recipient, Postdoctoral Fellowship, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame (Declined)
2012	Mellon Summer Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Initiative on Religion Across the Disciplines, University of Notre Dame
2011-2012	Graduate Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study
2011	Finalist, Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship
2011	American Society of Church History Graduate Student Award
2011	Notebaert Professional Development Award
2010	Filson Fellowship, Filson Historical Society
2009	Graduate Student Research Award, Institute for the Study of the Liberal Arts
2009	Travel Grant, Zahm Research Travel Fund, University of Notre Dame
2009	Scholarly Research Fellowship, Kentucky Historical Society
2009	Lynn E. May, Jr. Study Grant, Southern Baptist Library and Archives
2006-2011	Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Notre Dame Department of History (Full Tuition + Stipend)
2004-2006	Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Marquette University Department of History (Full Tuition + Stipend)

## PRESENTATIONS

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**“Church Discipline and the Secularization of Sin in the Nineteenth-century South.”** Conference paper delivered at the joint meeting of the American Society of Church History and the Ecclesiastical History Society, Oxford, UK, Apr. 3-5, 2014.

**“Evangelical Republicanism and the Rhetoric of Southern Secession, 1860-1861.”** Conference paper delivered at *Weapons of Mass Seduction: Political Discourse in the United States*, Roosevelt Study Center, University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium, Nov. 6-9, 2013.

**“Church, State, and the Public Moral Order in the Nineteenth-century Upper Southwest.”**

Conference paper delivered at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, St. Louis, MO, Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2013.

**“From Sin to Crime in the Nineteenth-century American South.”** Conference paper delivered at *Religion and American Life*, King’s College London, London, UK, Feb. 22-24, 2013.

**“The Losing War Against ‘Sin’ in the Upper Southwest, 1861-1877.”** Conference paper delivered at the biennial meeting of the Society of Civil War Historians, Lexington, KY, June 14-16, 2012.

**“The Decline of Church Discipline and the Rise of Prohibition Politics in the Postwar South.”** Presentation at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, May 23, 2012.

**“Preparing Material for Publication.”** Invited presentation for graduate students in the College of Arts and Letters, delivered at the University of Notre Dame, March 28, 2012.

**“The Problem of ‘Sin’ in the Civil War-Era Upper South.”** Invited talk delivered at *The Civil War and Sacred Ground: Moral Reflection on the Civil War*, The Raven Foundation and The Center for Applied Christian Ethics, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, March 16-17, 2012.

**“The Politics of ‘Sin’ in the Upper Southwest: The Anticlerical Challenge to the Protestant Moral Order, 1800-1880.”** Presentation at the Notre Dame Institute for Advance Study, University of Notre Dame, Feb. 1, 2012.

**“The Public Impulse in Southern Evangelicalism, 1800-1860.”** Presentation at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, Dec. 7, 2011.

**“Church, State, and Moral Regulation in the Upper Southwest, 1830-1880.”** Presentation at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, Sept. 8, 2011.

**“From Citizens of Zion to Citizens of the State: The Protestant Moral Order in the Nineteenth-Century Upper South.”** Conference paper delivered at *Profane Imprints on the Sacred: What Religion Owes to Politics*, IMAGER (Research Institute on English-, German-, and Romance Language-Speaking Cultures), Université Paris-Est Créteil and Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée, Paris, France, June 17, 2011.

**“From Church Elders to Elder Statesmen: Evangelical Jurisprudence and Moral Regulation in the Antebellum Upper South.”** Conference paper delivered at the American Society of Church History, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 7-9, 2011.

**“The Political Meaning of Religious Rebellion in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1844-1860.”**

Conference paper delivered at *Secessions: From the American Revolution to the Civil War*, Filson Institute for the Advanced Study of the Ohio Valley and the Upper South, Louisville, KY, Oct. 2010.

## SERVICE AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Panel Organizer**, “Historicizing Sin in Nineteenth-century America,” panel at the joint meeting of the American Society of Church History and the Ecclesiastical History Society, Oxford, UK, April 3-5, 2014.

**Ad Hoc Referee**, *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 2013

**Member**, Graduate and Early Career Committee (GECC), American Historical Association

2011-2013            Liaised between the GECC and CWH; participated in biannual committee meetings; assisted in organizing GECC receptions and panels at annual AHA conferences.

**Member**, Committee on Women Historians (CWH), American Historical Association

2011-2013            Liaised between the CWH and GECC; participated in biannual committee meetings; assisted in articulating and addressing the concerns of women in the historical profession in meetings and the AHA blog.

**Chair**, “What Works and What Does Not Work in the Survey and Assessment,” Workshop Panel on Recognizing Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association

2012                    Introduced speakers and moderated questions.

**Invited Participant**, “Religion Across the Disciplines” initiative, funded by the Mellon Foundation and based at the University of Notre Dame

2011-2012            Convened with the nation’s leading scholars of religion across academic disciplines to articulate and discuss questions central to the study of religion.

**Panel Organizer**, “Clergy, Congregants, and Conflict in the Civil War-Era Upper South,” biennial meeting of the Society of Civil War Historians, Lexington, Kentucky, June 14-16, 2012.

**Research Assistant**, Professor and Dean John McGreevy, University of Notre Dame

2009-2012            Assisted in primary source research; located and ordered primary and secondary sources.

**Coordinator**, Colloquium on Religion and History (CORAH), University of Notre Dame

2009-2010            Scheduled and invited guest presenters for weekly colloquia; sent weekly email invitations to participants; attended and facilitated colloquia discussions.

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Mark Noll  
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Department of History  
University of Notre Dame  
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