

Eric M. Stephen

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he/him/his

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EDUCATION

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT Entering Year Fall 2020

- JD Candidate, Class of 2023

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Entering Year Fall 2016

- PhD Candidate, Committee on the Study of Religion
- Concentration: Religions of the Americas
- Qualifying Examinations: Passed with Distinction, *April 2019*
- Dissertation: “Conceiving an American ‘Secularism’: How Nineteenth Century Secularist Discourse Reshaped American Law, Religion, and Civic Life,” *Approved September 2019*
- Advisors: David Holland, Amy Hollywood

Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA May 2016

- Master of Theological Studies
- Area of Focus: Religion, Ethics, and Politics

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT May 2014

- Master of Arts, Department of Psychology
- Thesis: “Shamanic Rituals as Site of Religio-Cultural Revival: A Statistical Analysis of the Demographic and Cultural Differences at Shamanic Ceremonies in Buryatia, Russia”
- Advisors: Justine Quijada, Lisa Dierker

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT May 2013

- Bachelor of Arts
- Undergraduate Majors: Psychology, Religion
- Certificate (Minor): Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory

HONORS AND AWARDS

Yale Law School Legal History Fellowship	2021-2022
Loeb Summer Research Fellowship	2021
William R. Hutchison American Religions Fellowship	2016-2018
Stendahl Symposium on Interreligious Dialogue Award	2016
Harvard Divinity School Dean’s Scholarship	2014-2016
Rhodes Scholarship Finalist, District IV	2013
Phi Beta Kappa	2013
Holzberg Fellowship for Applied Research in Psychology	2013
William A. Spurrier Ethics Award	2013
Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society	2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale Law School

Teaching Fellow

PLSC257: Bioethics and the Law

Spring 2022

LAW21310-01: Employment Discrimination Law

Spring 2021

Harvard University

Teaching Fellow

RELI S-1510: How & Why Americans Bring their Scripture into Politics

Summer 2020

GEN1062: How & Why Americans Bring their Scripture into Politics (*Head TF*)

Spring 2020

HDS4515: Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion

Fall 2018; Fall 2019

HDS2045: Confronting Religious Difference in Modern America

Spring 2019

HDS2140: Reconfiguring Paradise: Utopian Dreams and Social Possibility

Spring 2019

HDS2318: The Niebuhr Brothers, Past and Present

Spring 2019

HarvardX

Virtual Teaching Assistant

HDS3321: Religious Literacy: Traditions and Scriptures

Spring 2016

Harvard Extension School

Teaching Assistant

RELI S-1505: Religion, Education, and Democracy

Summer 2015

Harvard Prison Education Program

Education Mentor

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Wesleyan University

Visiting Lecturer in Psychology

QAC201: Applied Data Analysis

Fall 2013-Spring 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Current Writing Project: E. Stephen, "Benedictine Free Exercise and the Problem of *Sherbert* for the Roberts Court," advised by Samuel Moyn, Yale Law School.

E. Stephen, "Bringing Reflexive Religious Studies into Historical Scholarship on American Religion." *American Religion Journal*, "American Religion, Inside Out" (2021). Available at <https://www.american-religion.org/inside-out/stephen>.

D.L. Moore, E. Stephen. "From *Smith* to *Hobby Lobby*: The Transformation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act." *Law, Religion, and Health in the United States*. Cambridge University Press (2017), 34-46.

A.S. Selya, E. Engel-Rebitzer, L. Dierker, E. Stephen, J. Rose, D.L. Coffman, M. Otis. "The Causal Effect of Student Mobility on Standardized Test Performance: A Case Study with Possible Implications for Accountability Mandates within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act." *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7:1096. (19 July 2016).

- J.B. Quijada, E. Stephen. "Performing 'Culture': Diverse Audiences at the International Shaman's Conference and *Tailgan* on Ol'Khon Island." *Études Mongoles et Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques et Tibétaines*. 46 (10 September 2015), 1-21.
- J.B. Quijada, K.E. Graber, E. Stephen. "Finding 'Their Own': Revitalizing Buryat Culture Through Shamanic Practices in Ulan-Ude." *Problems of Post-Communism*. 62:5 (3 August 2015), 258-272.
- E. Stephen, J. Rose, L. Kenney, F. Rosselli, R. Striegel. "Prevalence and Correlates of Unhealthy Weight Control Behavior: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health." *Journal of Eating Disorders*. 2:16 (3 June 2014).
- E. Stephen, J. Rose, L. Kenney, F. Rosselli, R. Striegel. "Risk Factors for Purging in Female Adolescents: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health." *Journal of Eating Disorders*. 2:1 (3 January 2014). **Highly Accessed**.

PRESENTATIONS

- E. Stephen, "Claiming 'Religion' in the Age of COVID-19: An Examination into how Conservative Legal and Religious Groups Translate Political Objections to COVID-19 Policies into Free Exercise Arguments" *To Be Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 19 November 2022.
- E. Stephen, Panelist, "Secular Ambivalence and Secular Misfits: A Roundtable on Joseph Blankholm's *The Secular Paradox* (2022)," *To Be Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 20 November 2022.
- E. Stephen, "Judicializing Secularism in the American Gilded Age: How the Cincinnati Bible War Reshaped the Concept of 'Secularism' into a Contested Legal Principle." *Presented at the American Society for Legal History*, 5 November 2021.
- E. Stephen. "'To Excite Agreeable Sensations': The Knowlton Affair, the Victorian-Era Secularist Movement, and the Shaping of Sexual Subjectivities Within Modern Secularity." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 30 November 2020.
- E. Stephen. "The Neoliberal Turn in American Religious Liberty Jurisprudence: Intellectual Foundations and their Social, Political, and Legal Implications, 1990-Present." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 23 November 2019.
- E. Stephen. "Secularist Women, Agency, and the Fight for Gender Equality: Examining Katie Kehm Smith's Campaign for Women's Rights in the Late Nineteenth Century American Secularist Movement." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 18 November 2018.
- E. Stephen. "Unpacking the Theological Underpinnings of Hobby Lobby: An Intellectual History of the Idea of 'Complicity' in American Religion and Law." *Presented at the American Academy of Religion*, 21 November 2017.
- E. Stephen. "'Secularism is the Religion of Humanity': Uncovering the Rise and Fall of the U.S.-American Secularist Movement and its Effect on Contemporary Understandings of Western

‘Secularism.’” *Presented at the Problematizing Religious Diversity in a Secular Age Conference*, McGill University, 16 September 2017.

- E. Stephen. “Proselytism and the Paradox of Tolerance: A Comparative Analysis of State Approaches to Proselytism and Related Religious Speech.” *Presented at The Stendahl Symposium*, Harvard University, 18 April 2016.
- E. Stephen. “Deities and Data Mining: The Utility of Methodological Pluralism in Analyzing Attendance at Shamanic Ceremonies in Buryatia, Russia.” *Presented at the Ways of Knowing Conference*, Harvard University, 24 October 2014.
- E. Stephen. “Shamanic Rituals as Site of Religio-Cultural Revival: A Statistical Analysis of the Demographic and Cultural Differences at Shamanic Ceremonies in Buryatia, Russia.” *Presented at the Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention*, Columbia University, 25 April 2014.

SELECT LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP, AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Dean’s Advisor, Yale Law School Fall 2021-Spring 2022
Served as mentor and resource for 16 first-year law students. Organized social, academic, and professionalization opportunities to support first-year students in feeling comfortable in law school. Led events particularly focused on first-generation professional students at YLS.

Legal History Fellow, Yale Law School Fall 2021-Spring 2022
Received prestigious research fellowship awarded to two students each academic year. Served as liaison and coordinator for legal history faculty. Organized and ran the YLS Legal History Forum, which brings legal historians globally to Yale to present on ongoing research projects related to legal history.

Vice President of Scholarship, YLS American Constitution Society Spring 2021-Spring 2022
Organized events relating to progressive scholarship and American constitutional law. Oversaw fall semester Faculty Scholarship Workshop and spring semester Progressive Scholarship Reading Group. Developed additional panel discussions and events relating to American legal scholarship, especially from humanities-based perspectives.

Director of Research, Religious Literacy Project Fall 2017-Summer 2019
Led two research projects:

- **Religion and Public Education Mapping Project**
Updated research methodology to help more effectively collect data, visually map, and statistically analyze the diverse ways religion is being taught in public K-12 schools. Supervised 32 students from Harvard Divinity School and elsewhere in data collection process. *Promoted from lead researcher, Spring 2015-Fall 2017.*
- **Religion and U.S. History (RUSH) Initiative**
Developed a series of online resources to allow public school educators to augment current U.S. history curricula to be more inclusive of American religious history. Oversaw collation of primary and secondary source materials. Generated content and curricula proposals relevant to high school history teachers. Supervised 11 students from Harvard Divinity School and the Committee on the Study of Religion.

Module Organizer, Harvard Divinity School Ways of Knowing Conference Fall 2017
Developed conference module entitled “Experiencing American Religious Liberty in the Twenty-First Century” exploring the ways in which religious liberty is understood, articulated, and experienced in the contemporary United States.

Vice President of Advocacy, Harvard Graduate Student Government Fall 2015
Organized committees for key events and initiatives related to Harvard-wide graduate student interests. Represented the graduate and professional student body by addressing academic and career-related advocacy issues to the University’s administration.

SELECT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Yale University Fall 2021-Present
Advisor: Sally Promey
Serving as research assistant on non-establishment case law associated with Professor Promey’s manuscript, set for publication in 2023. Offering writing and editing support on manuscript chapter associated with legal issues and material displays of religion.

Research Assistant, Yale Law School Spring 2021-Present
Advisors: Douglas NeJaime and Reva Siegel
Providing research assistance on issues relating to religious liberty ahead of highly-anticipated Supreme Court decisions. Working to integrate humanities-based scholarship into legal analysis. Collecting and synthesizing primary- and secondary-source scholarship relating to religion and the law to support advisors’ upcoming research publications.

Research Assistant, Harvard Kennedy School of Government Spring 2019
Advisor: Cornell Brooks, Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership and Social Justice
Worked to provide summary information on voter suppression in the United States as part of a long-term research project led by Professor Brooks. Offered writing and preparation support for Professor Brooks’ presentation at the Annual Greeley Lecture for Peace and Social Justice.

Research Assistant and Editor, Harvard Divinity School Fall 2018
Advisor: K. Healan Gaston, Lecturer on American Religious History
Offered additional research on content related to First Amendment history for Professor Gaston’s monograph *Imagining Judeo-Christian America: Religion, Secularism, and the Redefinition of Democracy* (Chicago University Press, 2019). Edited full manuscript and provided assistance for integrating reviewer comments into the text’s final draft.

SKILLS AND BACKGROUND

- **Journals:** Founding Editor, *Yale Journal of Law and Liberation*, 2022-Present
Lead Submissions Editor, *Yale Journal of Law & Humanities*, 2021-Present
- **Committees:** AAR Secularism and Secularity Unit, Committee Member, 2019-Present
- **Computer:** Extensive use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, InDesign, PhotoShop, Stata, R Studio, SAS, SPSS; Some experience with WordPress, GIS, Sharepoint
- **Language:** Spanish (conversational); German (research proficiency)
- **Clubs:** OutLaws (LGBT+ Law Student Association), American Constitution Society (ACS), National Lawyers Guild (NLG)