

Michael E. Heyes

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Rice University, Religious Studies (History of Christianity), May 2015
Dissertation Title: "The Metamorphosis of Monsters: Christian Identity in Medieval England and the Life of St Margaret"
- M.A. University of Washington, Comparative Religion, Graduated with Honors and Thesis of Distinction, June 2008
- B.A. St. Olaf College, Graduated *Cum Laude*, May 2004

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

- Ancient:* Latin (Advanced), Old English (Intermediate), Middle English (Advanced), Ancient Greek (Intermediate)
- Modern:* Japanese (Intermediate), German (Reading Proficiency), French (Reading Proficiency)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Howard C. Berthold Faculty Research and Information Competencies Award (2020)
- Student Research Grant (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; 2024; 2025 Lycoming College)
- Professional Development Grant (2019; 2022; 2024 Lycoming College)
- Lycoming Innovations in Teaching with Technology Award (2018 & 2020; Lycoming College)
- CREATTE Scholars Award (2016 and 2017; University of South Florida)
- Wagoner Fellowship (2012; Rice University)
- Mellon Foundation Summer Research Grant (2010; Rice University)

POSITIONS HELD

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|---|----------------|
| Department Chair of Religion at Lycoming College | 2021 - present |
| Associate Professor of Religion at Lycoming College | 2022 - present |
| Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Religion at Lycoming College | 2017-2022 |
| Director of Undergraduate Research in Religious Studies | 2016-2017 |
| Faculty Affiliate in Women's and Gender Studies at USF | 2015-2017 |
| Visiting Instructor in Religious Studies at University of South Florida | 2015-2017 |

PUBLICATIONS

Trade Publications

1. *Devils of Democracy: America's Love Affair with Political Demons from the Revolution to Today*. Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2026.

Scholarly Monographs

2. *Demons in the USA: From the Anti-Spiritualists to QAnon*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2024.
3. *Margaret's Monsters: Women, Identity, and the Life of St. Margaret in Medieval England*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2019.

Edited Volumes

1. Heyes and Richardson, *Eldritch Islands: Essays on the Cthulhu Mythos and Lovecraftian Horror in Japan*, forthcoming 2027.
2. *Holy Monsters, Sacred Grotesques: Monstrosity and Religion in Europe and the U.S.* Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018.

Articles and Book Chapters

1. “Optical Illusions: *Housing Complex C* (C 団地) and the Subversion of Lovecraft in Japan” in Heyes and Richardson, *Eldritch Islands: Essays on the Cthulhu Mythos and Lovecraftian Horror in Japan*, forthcoming 2027.
2. “Domestication in the Theater of the Monstrous: Reexamining Monster Theory.” *The Journal of Gods and Monsters* 1, no. 1 (2020): 36-53.
3. “Magic, Magician - Christianity - Medieval Times and Reformation Era.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Constance M. Furey, Brian Matz, Steven L. McKenzie, Thomas Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric Ziolkowski. Berlin; Boston: DeGruyter, 2019.
4. “From Revelation to Revolution: Explaining the ‘Strange Success’ of Fox’s *Sleepy Hollow*.” In *Holy Monsters, Sacred Grotesques: Monstrosity and Religion in Europe and the U.S.*, edited by Michael E. Heyes. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018.
5. “That Monstrous Book: Moral Panic, the Occult, and the *Necronomicon*.” In *Terrifying Texts: Essays on Books of Good and Evil in Horror Cinema*, edited by Cynthia J. Miller and A. Bowdoin Van Riper. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2018.
6. “Fixing Ground Zero: Race and Religion in Francis Lawrence’s *I Am Legend*.” *Journal of Religion & Film* 21, no. 2 (2017): Article 13.
7. “Holy War, Medieval Roman Catholic Conceptions Of.” In *War and Religion: An Encyclopedia of Faith and Conflict*, edited by Jeffrey M. Shaw and Timothy J. Demy, 1:356–57. Santa Barbara, CA; Denver, CO: ABC-CLIO, 2017.
8. “Magic East and West: A Refutation of Pasi’s Eighth Thesis.” *Societas Magica Newsletter* 22 (2009).

Public Facing Scholarship

1. “The ‘Jezebel Spirit’ Isn’t (Just) Bible-Based Misogyny, It’s a Literal Demon — So What Happens When They ‘Stop Tolerating’ It?” *Religion Dispatches*, November 1, 2024. <https://religiondispatches.org/the-nars-jezebel-spirit-isnt-just-bible-based-misogyny-its-a-literal-demon-so-what-happens-when-they-stop-tolerating-it/>.
2. “The ‘Courage Tour’ Is Attempting to Get Christians to Vote for Trump – and Focused on Defeating ‘Demons.’” *The Conversation*, October 30, 2024. <http://theconversation.com/the-courage-tour-is-attempting-to-get-christians-to-vote-for-trump-and-focused-on-defeating-demons-241335>.
3. “A Match Made in Hell: Demons Have Become a Serious Force in US Politics — But We’ve Seen This Show Before.” *Religion Dispatches*, October 24, 2024. <https://religiondispatches.org/a-match-made-in-hell-demons-have-become-a-serious-force-in-us-politics-but-weve-seen-this-show-before/>.

Editorships

1. *The Journal of Gods and Monsters*, General Editor as of April 2019.

Book Reviews

1. "Review of Martha Rampton, *Trafficking with Demons: Magic, Ritual, and Gender from Late Antiquity to 1000*." *Church History* 93 no. 1 (2024).
2. "Review of Maja Bondestam, ed., *Exceptional Bodies in Early Modern Culture: Concepts of Monstrosity before the Advent of the Normal*." *Journal of Gods and Monsters* 3, no. 1 (2022): 35–36.
3. "Review of *Spirit Matters: Occult Beliefs, Alternative Religions, and the Crisis of Faith in Victorian Britain*." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 23, no. 1 (2019): 125–26.
4. "Review of *Sociology of Exorcism in Late Modernity*." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 22, no. 4 (2019): 128–29.
5. "Review of *The Myth of Disenchantment: Magic, Modernity, and the Birth of the Human Sciences*." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86, no. 4 (2018): 1158–1161.
6. "Review of *Magic in the Modern World: Strategies of Repression and Legitimization*." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 21, no. 4 (2018): 137–39.
7. "Review of *Handbook of Spiritualism and Channeling*." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 20, no. 2 (2016): 144–47.
8. "Review of *Magic in the Cloister: Pious Motives, Illicit Interests, and Occult Approaches to the Medieval Universe*." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 18, no. 3 (2015): 129–31.
9. "Review of *The Transformations of Magic: Illicit Learned Magic in the Later Middle Ages and Renaissance*." *Religious Studies Review* 40, no. 1 (2014): 17.
10. "Review of *Crafting the Witch: Gendering Magic in Medieval and Early Modern England*." *Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft* 9, no. 2 (2014): 235–37.
11. "Review of *Victorian Occultism and the Making of Modern Magic: Invoking Tradition*." *Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft* 8, no. 1 (2013): 94–96.
12. "Review of *Love Cures: Healing and Love Magic in Old French Romance*," *Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft* 8, no. 2 (2013): 202–4.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

1. "Podcasts and Politics: Inside Lance Wallnau's Ideas of Dominion and Spiritual Warfare," *The Political Uses of Spiritual Warfare Worldwide*, June 2026.
2. "*Housing Complex C* (C 団地) and the Subversion of Lovecraft in Japan," *Mechademia* 2025
3. "*Longlegs* Has Long Reach: The Influence of the Satanic Panic on Contemporary Media," 2025 International Conference on Religion and Film
4. "The Past and Future of The Exorcist Franchise: The Anti-Spiritualist Paradigm behind Exorcism Films," 2024 International Conference on Religion and Film

5. “*In daemonibus veritas: The Theo/Demonology of Malachi Martin*,” American Historical Association/American Catholic Historical Association, 2023.
6. “*House but with Demons: Interpreting The Exorcist as Medical Drama*,” Visions of a Better World: Film and the Politics of Lived Religion, 2022 International Conference on Religion and Film.
7. “Protestants, Catholics, and Demons – Oh My!: *Faux Catholicism* in Exorcism Films,” American Historical Association/American Catholic Historical Association, 2022.
8. “‘Crawling Out of the Middle Ages:’ Monstrosity, Race, and Religion in Francis Lawrence’s *I Am Legend*,” Film & History Conference, 2016
9. “‘Like an Innocent Lamb:’ Accusations of Ritual Murder in English Martyrological Narratives,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2015
10. “Circumcising Olibrius: Threatening Sexuality and Religious Alterity in the Life of St. Margaret,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2015
11. “Four-footed Beasts: An Analysis of the Original Audience of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 303,” Borders and Encounters, 2015
12. “In the Belly of the Beast,” Medieval Association of the Pacific, March 2013.
13. “The Devil in the Details: Demonic Corporeality in the Greek and Latin *Lives of Anthony*,” Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, November 2012.
14. “Racial and Religious Alterity as Monstrosity in the Life of St. Margaret,” Georgia Medievalists Conference, October 2012.
15. “The Translation, Transformation, and Transportation of Demons in the *Life of St. Anthony*,” “Religion and the Trans...” Conference, October 2012.
16. “Sympathetic Suffering: Alleviating Suffering through the *Life of St. Margaret*,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2012.

Invited Public Lectures

1. “Eden’s Fading Glow: Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare and Its Environmental Outcomes,” The Rockwell Lectures at Rice University, April 2026.
2. “Shinkansen to R’lyeh: Lovecraftian Horror in Japan,” Humanities Research Center at Lycoming College, November 2024.
3. “Walking the Stacks: Manuscript Studies at Cambridge University Library,” Lycoming College, November 2022.
4. “Sex, Death, and Dragons: A Diachronic and Intertextual Analysis of the *Life of St. Margaret*,” Lycoming College, October 2019.
5. “Negotiating Humanity: The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Film,” Lycoming College, April 2019.
6. “The Paleography of the *Life of St. Margaret*,” Lycoming College, October 2017.
7. “What’s Love Got to Do with It?” University of South Florida, February 2017.

Keynote Addresses

1. "Eighty-Eight Doctors," at "Religion and Pop Culture: Vampires, Demons, and Jesus... Oh My!" University of South Florida, March 2018.

Conferences Organized

1. First Annual Lycoming Undergraduate Humanities Research Conference, Lycoming College, Conference Committee, April 2023.
2. "Lay Reactions to Institutional Conflict," Lycoming College, April 2019
3. "Women and Monsters: Second Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in Religious Studies," University of South Florida, March 2017
4. "Negotiating Boundaries: First Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in Religious Studies," University of South Florida, March 2016
5. "First Annual Humanities Graduate Student Association Interdisciplinary Conference," Rice University, Co-Organizer, February 2014
6. "Holy Monsters, Sacred Grotesques," Rice University, Primary Organizer, October 2013

Conference Grants

1. Humanities Research Center at Rice University ("Holy Monsters, Sacred Grotesques", 2013)

Steering Committees

1. Steering Committee Member, "New Directions in the Study of Religion, Monsters, and the Monstrous" (2018-present; Five-Year Seminar for the American Academy of Religion)
2. Steering Committee Member, "15th Annual Vagantes Medieval Graduate Student Conference," Rice University, March 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lycoming College

3. *Lovecraft's Country* (15-week 100-Level First-Year Seminar, Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
4. *Knowing and Believing: Science, Religion, and Magic* (15-week 100-Level First-Year Seminar, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
5. *Vampires, Wizards, and Robots: The Alchemy of Modern Media* (15-week 100-Level First-Year Seminar, Spring 2018)
6. *Introduction to World Religions* (15-week 100-Level Course, Fall 2017 [2 sections]; Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024; Spring 2026)
7. *Conspiracy Theories* (15-week 200-Level Course, Fall 2026)
8. *Religion and Its Monsters* (15-week 200-Level Course, Fall 2026)
9. *Introduction to Medieval Studies* (15-week 200-Level Course, Spring 2026)
10. *What is Religion?* (15-week 200-Level Writing Intensive Course, Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023; Fall 2025)

11. *Angels and Demons* (15-week 200-Level Course, Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025; Fall 2026)
12. *Magic and Myth in Popular Culture* (15-week 200-Level W College Course, Fall 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2023)
13. *Religion and Film* (15-week 200-Level W College Course, contributing to the minor in Film Studies, Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2026)
14. *Medieval Women's Religious Lit* (15-week 200-Level College Course, contributing to majors and minors in Medieval Studies and Women, Sexuality and Gender Studies, Spring 2023)
15. *Comparative Topics: Comparative Magic* (15-week 300-Level Writing Intensive Course, Fall 2022)
16. *Comparative Topics: Religion and the Monstrous* (15-week 300-Level Writing Intensive Course, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023)
17. *Comparative Topics: The Weird Stuff* (15-week 300-Level Writing Intensive Course, Fall 2019)
18. *Research in Religion* (15-week 400-Level Research Intensive Course, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025)
19. *Advanced Medieval Studies* (15-week 400-Level Research Intensive Course, Fall 2023)

University of South Florida

20. *Medieval Women's Religious Literature* (15-week 4000 Level College Course, cross-listed as Women's and Gender Studies, Spring 2017)
21. *Introduction to Religious Studies* (15-week 3000 Level College Course, Fall 2016)
22. *Introduction to World Religions* (15-week 2000 Level College Course, Spring 2017 [2]; 5 week Summer version in Summer B 2016 and 2017)
23. *Advanced Undergraduate Research* (15-week 4000 Level College Course, Spring 2016 and Spring 2017)
24. *Directed Readings* (15-week 4000 Level College Course, Spring 2016 [2 sections] and Spring 2017)
25. *Medieval Monsters and Mystics* (15-week 4000 Level College Course, Spring 2016 and Spring 2017)
26. *World Religions* (15-week 3000 Level College Course, Spring 2016)
27. *History of Christianity* (15-week 3000 Level College Course, Fall 2015)
28. *The Religious Quest in Contemporary Film* (15-week 3000 Level College Course, Fall 2015 [2 sections], Fall 2016 [2 sections])
29. *Magic and Myth in Popular Culture* (15-week 3000 Level College Course, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016; 5 week Summer version Summer A 2016)

Rice University

30. *Fundamentals of Academic Communication* (15-week 100-Level College Course at Rice University, Fall 2014 [2 sections])
31. *Medieval Christian Thought* (15-week 200-Level College Course at Rice University, Spring 2014)

University of Washington

32. *Mythology and Magic in Popular Culture* (11-week 300-Level College Course at University of Washington, Spring 2008)
33. Writing Instructor for the Center for Learning and Undergraduate Education (11 weeks at University of Washington, Spring 2007)

SERVICE

Faculty

1. Member of Promotion and Tenure Committee (2025-2030)
2. Chair of Academic Freedom and Grievance Committee (2022-2023)
3. Academic Freedom and Grievance Committee (2022-2025)
4. Individual Studies Committee (2021 – 2022)
5. Super Committee on Short-Term Remote Access (Summer 2021)
6. COVID-19 Faculty Executive Committee (2020-21)
7. Secretary of the Faculty at Lycoming College (2019-21)
8. First Year Seminar Committee (2018-Present)
9. Study Abroad Planning Committee (2018-Present)
10. Faculty in Charge of Graduate and Undergraduate Recruitment (Spring 2016)
11. Faculty Fellow in Undergraduate Research at University of South Florida (2015-16)

Students

1. Faculty Mentor for Cooking Affinity House (2022-)
2. Advisor of the Tabletop RPG Club at Lycoming College (2019-)
3. Faculty Mentor in Religious Studies at University of South Florida
4. Co-Advisor to the Religious Studies Club at University of South Florida
5. Co-Advisor to the Tabletop Roleplaying Society at University of South Florida