

# BENJAMIN P. LEAVITT

CURRICULUM VITAE

## Presidential Scholar and History Ph.D. Candidate at Baylor University

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## EDUCATION

### Ph.D., expected 2023, Department of History, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Dissertation: “The Soul of the American College: Christianity and the Liberal Arts since the Civil War”

Exam Fields: U.S. History since 1877 (major field); American Religious History (dissertation field); Global Colonialism and Cold War (minor field)

Advisor: Andrea L. Turpin, Ph.D.

### M.A., May 2018, Department of History, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Thesis: “Defining the Christian College: The Council of Church Boards of Education and American Religious Higher Education, 1911–1950”

### B.A., May 2016, Grove City College, Grove City, PA (History Major, French Minor)

Senior Thesis: “The Architectural History of Grove City College, 1912–1956”

## PUBLICATIONS

(forthcoming) Review of *Mother of Modern Evangelicalism: The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Mears*, by Arlin C. Migliazzo. *Journal of Presbyterian History* 100 (2022).

“[Fruits of the Ivy Vine](#).” *Christian History* 139 (May 2021): 39–41.

“[College Chapel and COVID-19](#).” *Anxious Bench: The Relevance of Religious History for Today*, October 14, 2020.

Review of *The Resilience of Religion in American Higher Education*, by John Schmalzbauer and Kathleen A. Mahoney. *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*, May 13, 2019. ([link](#))

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2018–2023: Presidential Fellowship, Baylor University Graduate School

2022: Nominee, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, Baylor University

2021: Exploratory Research Grant, Hagley Museum and Library  
Special Collections Teaching Fellowship, Institute for Oral History, Baylor University  
Lynn E. May, Jr. Study Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

- 2019: Fundamentals of Data Research Fellowship, University Libraries, Baylor University
- 2018: Finalist, 2019–2022 Cohort, Lilly Graduate Fellows Program
- 2017: Thesis Research Travel Funding to Yale Divinity School Library, Baylor University
- 2016: Guittard Fellowship, Department of History, Baylor University  
Elinor M. Caruthers Award, Grove City College  
Phi Alpha Theta History Award, Grove City College
- 2015: David E. McKillop Scholarship, Grove City College  
Student Conference Funding Grant, Grove City College Calderwood Fund
- 2014: Faculty-Student Research Grant, Grove City College Calderwood Fund  
Permelia Baldwin Shoemaker Award, Grove City College  
ODK Paper of the Year for the Social Sciences, Grove City College  
Phi Alpha Theta Western Pennsylvania Regional Conference, Panel Winner
- 2013: ODK Paper of the Year for the Social Sciences, Grove City College  
Phi Alpha Theta Western Pennsylvania Regional Conference, 3rd Place Presentation

## **INVITED TALKS**

“Christian Higher Education and Social Movements in the United States.” Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) International Forum (Dallas, TX), February 1, 2018.

## **CONFERENCES**

### **Panels Chaired**

“Religion, Ritual, and Liberation in Latin America.” Biennial Undergraduate Conference of the Conference on Faith and History (CFH) (Waco, TX), March 30, 2022.

“The Business of Virtue.” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture: The Character of the University (Waco, TX), October 18, 2019.

### **Panels Organized**

“Competing Identities: Denominational Higher Education in the American South.” American Society of Church History (ASCH) Winter Meeting (New Orleans, LA), January 7, 2022.

“Unexpected Preaching: Authority, Setting, and Reception in American Sermons.” American Society of Church History (ASCH) Winter Meeting (New York City, NY), January 3–6, 2020.

“Unusual Suspects: A View of American Higher Education from the Religious Margins.” History of Education Society (HES) Annual Conference (Columbus, OH), October 31, 2019.

“Faith in an Anxious Age: Religious Thought in Mid-Twentieth-Century America.” Society for U.S. Intellectual History (S-USIH) Conference (Dallas, TX), October 28, 2017. (co-organized with John Compton, Chapman University)

### **Papers Presented**

“Denominational Colleges, Institutional Identity, and the Cold War, 1945–1960.” Biennial Professional Conference of the Conference on Faith and History (CFH) (Waco, TX), March 31, 2022.

“‘No Educational Creeds’: Southern Baptists, Americanism, and the Idea of the Christian College, 1935–1970.” American Society of Church History (ASCH) Winter Meeting (New Orleans, LA), January 6–9, 2022. (presented in absentia due to COVID-19)

“Why is my dorm weird?: The Presence of the Past on a Rural College Campus.” Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association (online conference), November 22, 2021.

“Between the Times in the College Chapel: Religious Authority and Sermonic Reception in America’s Elite Private Colleges and Universities, 1890–1960.” American Society of Church History (ASCH) Winter Meeting (New York City, NY), January 3–6, 2020. (could not present due to personal circumstances)

“Fighting the Academic Revolution: Institutional Religious Identity and the Liberal Arts College Movement, 1930–1934.” History of Education Society (HES) Annual Conference (Columbus, OH), October 31, 2019.

“‘Sacred’ and ‘Secular’: Baylor University and the Texas Council of Church-Related Colleges.” Central Texas Historical Association (CTHA) Annual Conference (Round Rock, TX), April 27, 2018.

“Experiments in Education: Robert Lincoln Kelly, the Council of Church Boards of Education, and Religious Instruction in Early Twentieth Century Colleges and Universities.” Society for U.S. Intellectual History (S-USIH) Conference (Dallas, TX), October 28, 2017.

“‘Something Like a Sermon’: Sacred and Secular in Baylor University Chapel Services.” LSU History Graduate Student Association Conference (Baton Rouge, LA), March 17, 2017.

“Families in Growing Communities: An Analysis of Wills in Colonial New Hampshire, 1640–1700.” Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention (Orlando, FL), January 9, 2016.

“Composing a Massacre: An Analysis of the Events in Boston on the Evening of March 5, 1770.” Phi Alpha Theta Western Pennsylvania Regional Conference, Slippery Rock University (Slippery Rock, PA), March 29, 2014.

“Origins of Revolt in the Habsburg Netherlands: Philip II’s Religious Policy and the Role of William the Silent.” Phi Alpha Theta Western Pennsylvania Regional Conference, West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV), April 6, 2013.

## **CAMPUS TALKS**

“Green and Gold Afar: Using Baylor’s History to Teach U.S. and World History.” Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET) on “Teaching with Special Collections,” Academy for Teaching and Learning, Baylor University, March 22, 2022.

“Death Comes for the College: Funeral Orations and Eulogies in Early American Higher Education.” Brown Bag Colloquium, Department of History, Baylor University, October 13, 2021.

“Using Digital Scholarship in Historical Research.” Guest Lecture in HIS 5390 (Archival Research in History), Baylor University, May 21, 2021.

“The History of College Chapel in the United States.” Virtual Presentation to the Baylor Chapel Advisory Team, Baylor University, November 6, 2020.

“The History of Baylor University Chapel.” Presentation to the Baylor Spiritual Life Staff, Baylor University, December 17, 2019.

“Historians and Digital Humanities.” Guest Presentation in HIS 5369 (The Historian’s Craft), Baylor University, October 21, 2019.

“Mapping Historic Denominational Higher Education in the United States.” Fundamentals of Data Research Digital Presentations, Baylor University, September 16, 2019.

“Defining the Christian College.” Presentation in the Fourth Annual Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Baylor University, November 7, 2017.

“The Truman Administration.” Guest Lecture in HIS 2366 (History of the United States since 1877), Baylor University, October 20, 2016.

“The Architectural History of Grove City College, 1912–1956.” Residence Life Program, Grove City College, April 28, 2016.

## **TEACHING / INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Teacher of Record, HIS 1300: The United States in Global Perspective, Baylor University (Fall 2021): I taught a freshman- and sophomore-level core course on U.S. history in global perspective; my iteration of the course was subtitled “Green and Gold Afar” and used the histories of higher education in general and Baylor University in particular as windows into larger national and international historical events.

Graduate Assistant for Dr. Andrea L. Turpin, Baylor University (2018–2019): I graded for History of the American Woman since 1865 and Women’s and Gender History, and did research for an extensive historiographical essay on the history of religion in American higher education that Dr. Turpin was writing.

Graduate Assistant for Dr. Andrea L. Turpin, Baylor University (2016–2017): I graded for History of the United States since 1877 and assisted in the preparation of several grant proposals to support Dr. Turpin’s second book project.

Private History Tutor, Grove City, PA (2014–2016): I spent roughly 160 hours teaching self-designed courses in American history to high-school-aged homeschoolers. I set the schedule for the two-year sequence, selected a textbook and supplementary readings, prepared lectures, and created and evaluated assignments ranging from quizzes and exams to research papers and presentations.

Student Assistant for Dr. Mark W. Graham, Grove City College (2013–2016): I assisted with the Western Civilization and World History I courses by writing quizzes, grading assignments, managing the gradebook, and analyzing student performance on quiz and exam questions in order to improve teaching of commonly missed content.

## **RESEARCH / ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

Assistant Book Review Editor, *Journal of Church and State*, Oxford University Press (2020–present): I assist the editors in preparing book reviews for publication; this work includes acquisition of books for review, identification of prospective reviewers, correspondence with reviewers, and initial editing of review submissions.

Graduate Assistant for Dr. Joseph Stubenrauch, Baylor University (2019–2020): I studied national trends in 4+1 History B.A./M.A. programs and cataloged primary sources on the nineteenth-century English working class.

Graduate Assistant, The Texas Collection, Baylor University (2017–2018): I assisted in processing the extensive archives of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, comprising nearly eight hundred document boxes. I also independently processed eight smaller collections spanning more than twenty-eight boxes.

Research Assistant for Dr. Paul C. Kemeny, Center for Vision and Values, Grove City College (Summer 2016): I transcribed sermons by Dr. Isaac Ketler, the first President of Grove City College, and proofread portions of Dr. Kemeny’s then-forthcoming book, *The New England Watch and Ward Society* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Research Assistant for Dr. Mark W. Graham, Grove City College (Summer 2014): I spent two weeks conducting independent archival research on the ancient history curricula of Dartmouth College and Harvard University during the nineteenth century, to support Dr. Graham in his research on “The Ancient World in Modern America.”

## **SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

- 2018, 2022: Volunteer Judge, Heart of Texas Regional History Fair, Waco, TX
- 2020–2021: Mentor Group Leader, History Graduate Program, Baylor University
- 2019–2020: Orientation Chair, History Graduate Program, Baylor University

- 2018–2019: Representative, Baylor University Graduate Student Association (GSA)
- 2014–2016: President, Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary, Grove City College
- 2013: Volunteer Intern, American Independence Museum, Exeter, NH

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association  
American Society of Church History  
History of Education Society  
Omicron Delta Kappa (leadership honor society)  
Phi Alpha Theta (history honor society)

## **REFERENCES**

Andrea L. Turpin, Ph.D.  
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