



**SACRED WRITES**  
PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP ON RELIGION

**NEW PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING COHORT SELECTED;  
REMOTE TRAINING MODEL ANNOUNCED**

1 July 2020

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, [Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion](#) is adapting its public scholarship training model to facilitate remote learning and engagement. Several of the scholars selected for our original cohort have had to defer participation; we are delighted to announce the selection of nine outstanding scholars for inclusion in our 2020 remote training cohort.

These scholars will meet participate in real-time collaborative sessions and work through multimedia training materials at their own pace from 1 August 2020 to 30 January 2021. These sessions and materials are designed to cultivate practical skills toward producing public-facing work based on their areas of expertise, as well as to build a community of accountability and support for sustainable, responsible public scholarship on religion.

Each scholar selected to participate in this year's training receives a \$1000 stipend. These nine scholars each have committed to placing two pieces of public scholarship (including but not limited to op-eds, public interviews, and/or trade books) within a year of their meeting.

This year's public scholarship training cohort includes:

- [Swati Chawla](#), Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts and Humanities at O.P. Jindal Global University, scholar of modern South Asian history
- [Ambre Dromgoole](#), Ph.D. candidate in Religion and African American Studies at Yale University, scholar of Black religion and popular culture
- [Ericka Dunbar](#), Adjunct Professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Spelman College, scholar of Hebrew Bible, Africana collective identity, and sex trafficking
- [Lynne Gerber](#), independent scholar of religion and bodies, currently working on a history of religion and HIV/AIDS in San Francisco

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- **Abel Gómez**, Ph.D. candidate in Religion at Syracuse University, scholar of sacred sites, ritual, and decolonization in the context of contemporary Indigenous religion
- **James Howard Hill, Jr.**, Ph.D. candidate in Religion at Northwestern University, scholar of Black studies, disability studies, genders and sexualities, popular culture, performance studies, and religious traditions within the U.S.
- **Constance Kassor**, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Lawrence University, scholar of Buddhist thought and Asian religious traditions
- **Suzanna Krivulskaya**, Assistant Professor of History at California State University San Marcos, scholar of modern American religious history and sexuality
- **Shaily Patel**, Assistant Professor of Early Christianity at Virginia Tech, scholar of ancient magic, early Christian literature, and ideological criticisms of the New Testament

**Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion** is a Henry Luce Foundation-funded project hosted by Northeastern University. In addition to helping academics translate their expertise for a broader audience, Sacred Writes partners with established media outlets to facilitate collaborations between news providers and scholars to create more nuanced reporting on religion. For more information, visit [sacred-writes.org](https://sacred-writes.org) or contact Primary Investigator Liz Bucar at [e.bucar@northeastern.edu](mailto:e.bucar@northeastern.edu).

