

**GABRIEL PAXTON, PH.D.**

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**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**EDUCATION**

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**Boston University**

Ph.D., Religion in Philosophy, Politics, and Society 2025

*Dissertation:* “Preaching for Progress: How the Social Gospel Elevated the Canadian Left Beyond Its U.S. Counterpart.”

*Committee:* Dr. Adam Seligman (advisor), Dr. Christopher Evans, Dr. Heath Carter, Dr. Anthony Petro

M.A., Religion in Philosophy, Politics, and Society 2022

**Central European University**

M.A., *with honors*, Nationalism Studies 2018

**Winthrop University**

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Political Science 2017

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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- Religion and Political Philosophy
- Sociology of Religion
- Nationalism and Nation Building
- North American History
- Populist Politics
- Comparative Politics

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Mount Allison University**, Department of Religious Studies

Visiting Assistant Professor Aug. 2025 to April 2026

- Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion
- Christianity: A Historical and Sociological Survey
- Religion and Popular Culture
- Religion and North American Politics
- Nationalism, Populism & Religious Extremism

**Winthrop University**, Department of Political Science

Adjunct Lecturer Jan. 2019 to May 2023

- American Government and Politics
- Religion, Politics & Society in Europe
- God and Country: An Introduction to Religion and Nationalism
- Varieties of American Left-Liberal Politics

**Boston University**, Department of Religion  
Teaching Fellow

Sept. 2020 to May 2022

- The Holocaust
- The Philosophy of Death and Immortality
- Islamophobia and Antisemitism
- History of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### Books and Monographs

*The Other Christian Nationalism: Nationalists, Populists, Socialists, and the Fight for North America's Soul* — **[work in progress]**

### Peer Reviewed Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters

“Christian Nationalism & Populism in North America,” forthcoming chapter of *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Nationalism in an Interdisciplinary Perspective*. **[publication scheduled for winter 2026]**

“Messiah of the Masses and Prophet of the Proletariat’: Reexamining Eugene Debs in the Framework of Spiritual Socialism,” *Left History*. York University: Toronto, Canada. 2024.

“Cartoonish Critiques: An Examination of Editorial Cartoons as a Historical Medium of Political and Religious Discourse in the United States,” *Religion and Popular Culture in North America* in the Bloomsbury Religion in North America (BRINA) collection. 2023.

“Under God’s Consent: Religious Tradition as a ‘Nodal-Point’ for Illiberal Alliances in Hungary and the United States,” *Axis Mundi*. Comenius University: Bratislava, Slovakia. 2022.

### Journal Articles and Research in Development

“Converting Populists to Socialism: A History of Clergy-Populists as Radical Activists in North America” **[work in progress]**

**Gabriel Paxton** and Daniel Cooper, “Gaming Dissent: Introducing “*Populism, A Strategy Game*” as a Pedagogic Tool for Social Science Instructors” **[work in progress]**

### Theses and Dissertation

“Preaching for Progress: How the Social Gospel Elevated the Canadian Left Beyond Its U.S. Counterpart” Boston University. ProQuest ETD. 2025.

“The Guardians of Christianity vs. The Watchmen of European Christendom: Persecution Narratives in American and Hungarian Christian Nationalism.” Central European University eTD Collection. 2018.

## Editorials and Other Publications

“Christian Nationalism’s Legacy of Hate: How the Religious Right’s concerns with ‘Groomers’ and ‘Wokeness’ is misleading and hypocritical,” *The Progressive; MSN News; The Chicago Tribune* (Oct. 2024).

“The Historical Significance of Tim Walz: From Farmer Labor Politics to Middle-American Progressivism,” *The Conversation; The Minnesota Post; Yahoo News* (Sept. 2024).

“Canada’s Trucker Protest—Some Warning Signs about the ‘Fringe’ from the U.S.,” *The Ottawa Citizen; The Montreal Gazette* (Feb. 2022).

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS [SELECTED]**

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“Christianity, Nationalism & Populism in North America,” Presented at the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN) annual conference at The University of Edinburgh, April 2026.

“Converting Populists to Socialism: A History of Clergy-Populists as Radical Activists.” Accepted for panel presentation at the 2025 Social Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) conference, October 2025.

“Under God’s Consent: Christian Nationalism as a Driver of Competitive Authoritarian politics in the United States and Hungary.” Presented at the 2022 Central European Symposium on the Academic Study of Religion’s (CESAR), September 2022; Boston University Center for Religion and World Affairs annual colloquium, September 2023.

“‘Messiah of the Masses and Prophet of the Proletariat’: Reexamining Eugene Debs’ Political Philosophy in the Framework of Spiritual Socialism,” Presented at the Boston University Center for Religion and World Affairs annual colloquium, December 2021.

“Powerful Protestants and the Socialist Salvation: How Religion Shaped the Path Dependency of Socialism in Canada.” Presented at the 2021 Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) National Conference. June 2021.

“Crucifying the Candidates: Presidential Elections and the Portrayal of Religion in American Political Cartoons.” Presented as part of the 2020 CURA Colloquium, “Religion and Communal Interaction” at Boston University, December 2020.

“Eugene V. Debs and the Socialist Theology: How Debs’ Religious Rhetoric Challenged ‘Americanism’ in the 20th Century.” Presented at the Resistance to Order and Authority in Religion Conference (ROAR) at Central European University, October 2020.

“Brothers in Arms: Christian Nationalism and the ‘Persecution Complex’ in the United States and Hungary.” Panel, Christian Nationalism: Session III. Accepted for presentation at the 2020 SSSR+RRA annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. [*canceled due to COVID-19*]

“The Homeless Evangelical: Liminality as a Prophetic Characteristic of Rachel Held Evans and Liberal Evangelicalism.” Accepted for presentation at the New England and Maritimes Academy of Religion conference (NEMAAR), April 2020. [*anceled due to COVID-19*]

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, PANELS, AND INVITED TALKS**

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“The Historical and Cultural Dynamics of the U.S. – Iran Conflict,” March 23, 2025. Panelists: Dr. Gabriel Paxton, Dr. Darren Dochuk (Notre Dame), Dr. James Devine (Mount Allison)

“‘For The People’: a Roleplaying Simulation and Discussion on Populism,” April 1, 2025. Mount Allison University

## **RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL AND ALT-ACADEMIC ROLES**

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### **Communities Engaging with Difference and Religion**

Graduate Fellow

2022 & 2023

- Graduate fellow at the 2022 Central Asian Summer Program on “Pedagogies of Solidarity” (CAPPS) in Kyrgyzstan, and the 2023 Nusantara School of Difference in Indonesia
- As a fellow, I facilitated summer school programs alongside scholars and civil society actors on geopolitical developments in Central and Southeast Asia

### **Database of Africana Religious Experiences in the US (DARE-US)**

Investigator

2021

- The purpose of this project was to create the first comprehensive database for scholars to access primary source material related to 19th-20th century African American religious history
- Carried out digital archival research and data collection at *The Massachusetts Historical Society*, *Historic New England Society*, and *The Digital Commonwealth Archives*

### **The Center for Public Opinion & Policy Research**

Operations Manager

Jan. 2019 to August 2019

- Oversaw the methodology and implementation of a 3.5-million-dollar grant from DHEC and the CDC to study the health and safety standards of South Carolina residents, as well as quarterly opinion polling for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election

## **GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS [SELECTED]**

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**BUCH Awardee**, Boston University

2024

*Awarded to a Humanities PhD candidate with an outstanding research portfolio*

**Institute on Culture, Religion, & World Affairs Fellow**, Boston University

2023

**Boston University Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award**, Boston University

2022

**Institute on Culture, Religion, & World Affairs Fellow**, Boston University

2021