

# Michael D. McNally

John M. and Elizabeth W. Musser Professor of Religious Studies  
Religion Department  
Carleton College

Carleton College  
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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **Harvard University**, Committee on the Study of Religion, June, 1996  
Diss.: *Ojibwe Singers: Evangelical Hymns and a Native Culture in Motion*  
Advisor: David D. Hall
- A.M. **Harvard University**, Committee on the Study of Religion, 1993
- M.Div. **Harvard Divinity School**, 1990 (1<sup>st</sup> year at Princeton Theo. Seminary)
- B.A. **Carleton College**, History, 1985 (*Distinction in Major*)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Carleton College, Religion Department, Musser Professor of Religious Studies** (2017-);  
Chair (2009-13, 2016-17); Professor (2010-17); Assoc. Prof. (2005-2010); Asst. Prof  
(2001-2005); American Studies Affiliate Faculty (2001-). Courses” ▲ *Native American Religions* ▲ *Native American Religious Freedom* ▲ *Global Religions in Minnesota* ▲ *Religion & American Culture* ▲ *Religion & American Landscape* ▲ *Religion & Am. Public Life* ▲ *American Pilgrimages* ▲ *Theories & Methods in the Study of Religion*

**E. Michigan University**, Dept. of History & Philosophy, Asst. Professor, (1997-2001)

**T.C.U.**, Religion Department, Asst. Professor, (1996-1997)

**Carleton College**, Visiting Instructor in Religion, (Spring, 1994) ▲ *Intro. to Christianity*

**U. Mass. - Boston**, Lecturer in Anthropology, (Summer, 1995) *Native Peoples of N. America*

**Harvard University**, Committee on the Study of Religion, Teaching Fellow, (1992, 1995)  
▲ *Ritual & the Religious Life* ▲ *Scriptures & Classics* ▲ *Native American Religious Traditions* ▲ *Tutorial: Methods in Study of Religion* ▲ *Sr. Thesis Advisor* (1992, 1994)

## FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

**ACLS/Luce Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs Fellowship** (2021-22)  
Project Title: *Religion as Peoplehood: The Environment of Native American Religions*

**Guggenheim Fellowship**, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2017-18)  
Project Title: *Native American Religious Freedom Beyond the First Amendment*  
Project also received **NEH Summer Stipend**

**Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship, Carleton Center for Community and Civic Engagement** (2012-13) Project: Religious Diversity in Minnesota Initiative

**Mellon New Directions Fellowship** (Summer, 2007; Sabbatical 2008-9, 2013-14)  
Project Title: *Law, “Religion,” and Native Traditions*

**National Endowment for the Humanities Sabbatical Fellowship** (2005-6 Sabbatical)  
Project Title: *Honoring Elders: Ojibwe Aging, Religion, and Authority.*

**American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship** (2004-5 Sabbatical)  
Project Title: *Honoring Elders: Ojibwe Aging, Religion, and Authority.*

**Research Affiliate, The Pluralism Project at Harvard University** (2004-)  
Project Title: *Native American Religious and Cultural Freedom*

**Center for Great Lakes Culture Book Award 2000** for *Ojibwe Singers*

**Mid-Career Associate, History of American Christian Practices Project** (2001-5)

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS (cont.)**

**Carleton Curr. Dev. Grants: Quant. Reasoning** (2009) **American Studies** (2002, 06, 19)  
**Faculty Fellow, E. Michigan University Center for Academic Service-Learning** (1998)  
**John D. Sawyer Award**, Longfellow Institute of Harvard University (1997)  
**Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (1995)  
**Louisville Institute Diss. Fellowship** (1995). Declined Mellon Diss. Fellowship  
**Mellon Dissertation Research Fellowship** (1993-4)  
**Roothbert Foundation Fellowship** (1989-90)  
**Coro Foundation Fellowship in Public Affairs**, New York, NY (1986-7)  
**Charles Dana Award for Personal Achievement**, Carleton College (1985)

## BOOKS

*Defend the Sacred: Native American Religious Freedom Beyond the First Amendment*,  
(Princeton University Press, 2020). Reviewed by *Harvard Law Review*, 54pp, Apr, 2021  
*Honoring Elders: Aging, Authority, and Ojibwe Religion* (Columbia U. Press, 2009)  
*Religion and American Culture Series*  
*Ojibwe Singers: Hymns, Grief, and a Native Culture in Motion* (Oxford U. Press, 2000)  
Republished in paperback (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2009). Received *Center  
for Great Lakes Culture 2000 Book Award*,  
*The Art of Tradition: Sacred Music, Dance, & Myth of Michigan's Anishinaabe 1946-  
1955*, Editor & Annotator, G. Kurath, J. and F. Ettawageshik (unpub. ms. 1955)  
(Michigan State U. Press, 2009). Collaboration with Frank Ettawageshik (Odawa)

## BOOKS IN PROGRESS

*Religion as Peoplehood: The Environment of Native American Religions*, under contract  
with Columbia U. Press for its series, *Contemporary Religions in America*.

## LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

“Native American Religious Freedom as a Collective Right,” 2019 *BYU Law Review*  
205 (Fall, 2019)  
“From Substantial Burden on Native American Religious Exercise to the ‘Decrease in  
Spiritual Fulfillment’ in the San Francisco Peaks Sacred Lands Case,” *Journal of  
Law and Religion* 30:36-64 (Feb, 2015)

## ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

“Religion as Peoplehood: Native American Religious Freedom and the Discourse of  
Indigenous Rights in International Law,” in *Brill Handbook of Indigenous Religions*,  
ed. Greg Johnson and Siv Ellen Kraft (Leiden: Brill, 2018)  
“Where Food Grows on the Water: Manoomin/Wild Rice,” in *Native Foodways:  
Indigenous North American Religious Traditions & Foods*, ed. M. Pesantubbee & M.  
Zogry (SUNY Press, 2021)  
“Is Nothing Sacred? Adding Injury to Insult to the Anishinaabeg flooded by Dams on  
the Upper Mississippi,” in *The Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota: An Environmental  
History*, ed. George Vrtis and Christopher W. Wells (forthcoming)  
“Native American Religious Freedom Beyond the First Amendment,” in *After  
Pluralism*, ed. Courtney Bender & Pamela Klassen (Columbia U. Press, 2010).  
“Religious Belief and Practice,” in *Companion to Cultural Resource Management*, ed.  
Thomas F. King (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011)

## ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (cont.)

- “Practicing Native American Christianities,”** in *American Christianities*, ed. Catherine Brekus and Clark Gilpin (University of North Carolina Press 2011)
- “Naming the Legacy of Native Christian Missionary Encounters,”** in *Native Americans, Christianity, and the Reshaping of the Am. Religious Landscape*, ed. Joel Martin (UNC Press, 2010)
- “Honoring Elders: Practices of Sagacity and Deference in Ojibwe Christianity,”** in *Practicing Protestants: Histories of the Christian Life in America*, ed. Leigh Schmidt, Laurie Maffly-Kipp, & Mark Valeri (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007)
- “The Indian Passion Play: Contesting the Real Indian in *Song of Hiawatha* Pageants”** *American Quarterly* 58, no. 1 (March, 2006)
- “Ogimaakwewag/Boss Women: Women Elders in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Ojibwe Christianity,”** in *Deeper Joy: Laywomen and Vocation in the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Episcopal Church* ed. Fredrica Thompsett and Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook (New York: Church Publishing: 2005)
- “The Practice of Native American Christianity,”** *Church History* 69:834 (Dec. 2000)
- “Indigenous Pedagogy in the Classroom: A Service Learning Model for Discussion,”** *American Indian Quarterly* 28 no. 3 (Fall/Winter 2004/5)
- “Religion and Culture Change in Native North America,”** in *Perspectives on American Religion and Culture*, ed. Peter Williams (Oxford: Blackwell Press, 1999)
- "The Uses of Hymn Singing at White Earth: Toward a History of Practice"** in *Lived Religion in America*, ed. David D. Hall (Princeton University Press, 1997)
- Introductory Essays to Native American Documents,** in *Religions of the U.S. in Practice*, ed. Colleen McDannell (Princeton University Press, 2001)
- “Native American Site Visits in the Context of Service Learning,”** Spotlights on Teaching, *Religious Studies News* (Fall, 2004)
- Native American Traditions Section, *On Common Ground: World Religions in America*,** ed. Diana Eck (Columbia U. Press, 1997). Multi-media CD-Rom, now at pluralism.org

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP, WWW, & ENCYCLOPEDIA ESSAYS**

- ReligionsMN.org:** Religious Diversity in Minnesota Initiative, co dir. with Shana Sippy.
- Sacred Minnesota:** documentary partnership with Twin Cities Public Television to produce 4 short films on diverse communities making place through sacred space.
- NativeReligion.org:** emerging web-based resource on contested sacred lands
- “Defend the Sacred”** *Berkley Forum*, Georgetown University Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs (Nov. 2020)
- “Why not Religious Freedom?”** *Political Theology Network* (April, 2019).  
<https://politicaltheology.com/why-not-religious-freedom/>
- “Minnesota: A Professor Tells a Tale of Two Congressional Districts,”** [Michelle Bachman, Keith Ellison], Danforth Center Religion & Politics: [www.religionandpolitics.org](http://www.religionandpolitics.org) (2012)
- “Native American Christianities,”** in *Encyclopedia of Religion* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (Macmillan, (2006)
- “Aging, Eldership and Authority in American Religion,”** in *Encyclopedia of Religion and American Cultures*, ed. Gary Laderman and Luis Leòn (ABC-Clio, 2003).
- “Prophetic Native American Movements, 1761-1838”** *Encyclopedia of American Intellectual and Cultural History*, ed. M. Cayton & Peter Williams (Scribners, 2001).
- “Black Elk,” “Ghost Dance,” and “Handsome Lake,”** in *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Tübingen: J.B. Mohr, 2000).

## SELECTED PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Protecting Sacred Lands,” with Suzan S. Harjo, UCSB Walter Capps Center for the Study Ethics, Religion, & Public Life with Suzan S. Harjo (2021)
- “Defend the Sacred,” Villanova School of Law, Univ. St. Thomas Law School (2020)
- “Native American Religious Freedom” Freedom Forum/AAR Public Scholars Program Webinar (March, 2020)
- “Why *Not* Religious Freedom? Native American Religious Freedom as a Collective Right” Law, Religion, and Culture Unit, AAR Annual Meeting (2018)
- “Collective Rights of Native American Religious Freedom,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting (2018)
- “Native American Traditions,” led two days of N.E.H. Summer Institute *World Religions*, (Macalester College, 2017)
- “Standing with Standing Rock: Legal Contexts of the DAPL Controversy,” AAR (2016)
- “Native Sacred Claims and the Discourse of Cultural Resource Management,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Assn. Annual Meeting (2014)
- “Law, Religion, and Native Traditions,” Harvard Divinity School North American Religions Colloquium, (April, 2014)
- “Race, Religion, Law, and Native Traditions: Religious Exemptions to the Eagle Protection Act,” Princeton U., Race and Religion in American History (March 2014)
- “Managing the Sacred on Public Lands” Carleton College LTC lunch series Feb, 2014
- “Where Food Grows on the Water: Manoomin/Wild Rice,” AAR Ann. Mtg (11/2013)
- “The Traditional Authority of the Charismatic: Elders as Shamans and Shamans as Elders in Ojibwe Religion,” *Mysticism and Indigenous Religions: A Symposium*, Ohio State University, March, 2013).
- “Possibilities of Public Scholarship,” Faculty Workshop at Gustavus College (Feb, 2013) Invited Panelist, Author Meets Critics: T. Fessenden, *Culture & Redemption*, AAR (2012)
- “Native American Religious Freedom,” MN Natl. Guard Chaplaincy Corps (March, 2012)
- “The Group Rights of Native American Religious Freedom,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting (2011)
- “Elders, Indigenous Authority, and the Law,” *Who Belongs in Court? Panel*, Native American and Indigenous Studies Assn. Annual Meeting (2010)
- “From *Burden on Religion* to *Diminished Spiritual Fulfillment: An Analysis of the San Francisco Peaks Sacred Land Case in the Federal Courts*,” Law, Religion, and Culture Group, American Academy of Religion (2009)
- “Native American Religious Traditions Beyond the First Amendment,” *After Pluralism Conference*, Columbia University (2007)
- “Ines Talamantez, Elder,” Native American Religious Traditions Group, AAR (2007)
- “Thinking Through the Rethinking of Missions,” Conference Keynote Address, Kripke Center for Religion & American Public Life, Creighton University (2007)
- “A Cultural History of Ojibwe Aging & Authority” Am Soc. of Ethnohistory (2006)
- Invited Panelist: *The Future of Religious Freedom in America*, a roundtable forum of the First Amendment Center & McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum, Chicago (2005)
- “When Elders Speak, People Listen:” Elders Articulating Ojibwe Tradition,” *American Religion Seminar*, Columbia University (2005)
- “Sacred Sites and Native American Religious Freedom,” Mendota History Lecture Series Minnesota Historical Society (2004)
- “The Authority of Eldership in Ojibwe Religion,” Indigenous Trads. Group, AAR (2005)

## SELECTED PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS (cont.)

- “Elders Making Tradition: Elders, Authority, and Ojibwe Culture in Time,” Indigenous Traditions Group, AAR (2001)
- “Ojibwe Hymn Singing” *Costo Conversation Series*, U. California, Riverside (2001).
- “Aging, Eldership, and Religious Authority among the Ojibwe,” Religion and Healing Group, AAR (2000)
- “The Indian Passion Play: Domination, Resistance, & the Real in *Song of Hiawatha* Pageants” Religion in Arts & Literature Group, AAR (1999)
- “The Practice of Native American Christianity” AAR (1998)
- “Native American Religious Imagination & the Return of the Sacred White Buffalo” TCU Religious Studies Lunch Series (1996)
- Respondent, “Author meets Critics,” Fessenden, *Culture and Redemption*, AAR, 2010
- Respondent, “Author meets Critics,” Schermerhorn, *Walking to Magdalena*, AAR 2020
- Respondent, Standing Rock/noDAPL Panel, AAR 2018
- Respondent, Native American Missions Panel, *Am. Society of Church History* (2015)
- Respondent, Religion, Medicines, and Healing Group AAR (2007)
- Respondent, Native American Religions Group AAR (2003, 2019)
- Respondent, North American Religions Section AAR (2001)
- Presenter, “Academic Civic Engagement at Carleton: a National Perspective, LTC (2007)
- Moderator, “Making Service Learning Work at Carleton,” Carleton College LTC (2004)
- Panelist, Lived Religion in America Conference, Harvard University (1996)
- Panelist, “Crossing Boundaries: Perspectives on Ojibwe Religion,” U. Vermont (1995)

## REVIEWS

- Kathleen Sands, *America’s Religious Wars* (forthcoming)
- Mark Clatterback, *Crow Jesus: Personal Stories of Native Religious Belonging*. *Sociology of Religion* (2017)
- Anton Treuer, *Warrior Nation: A History of the Red Lake Ojibwe*, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* (2016)
- Theodore Karamanski, *Blackbird’s Song: Andrew J. Blackbird and the Odawa People*, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 2014
- Thomas Maroukis, *Peyote Road: Religious Freedom & the Native American Church*, *Church History* 2013
- Tisa Wenger, *We Have a Religion*, *American Indian Culture & Research Journal, Journal of Religion* 2010
- Huston Smith, *A Seat at the Table*, *Great Plains Quarterly*, 2006
- Bonnie Sue Lewis, *Creating Christian Indians*, *Journal of American History*, 2004
- Christopher Vecsey, *The Paths of Kateri’s Kin*, *Journal of Religion*, April, 2000
- Christopher Vecsey, *Where the Two Roads Meet*, *Church History*, 2001
- Melissa Meyer, *The White Earth Tragedy*, *Minnesota History*, Spring, 1995
- Booknotes in *Religious Studies Review*: Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places*; Kan, *Memory Eternal*, Kidwell, *Native American Theology*, Sullivan, *Impossibility of Religious Freedom*.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Law, Religion, and Native American Traditions  
Native American Religious Traditions and Cultures  
Anishinaabe/Ojibwe Religion, History, Culture  
Religious Diversity in Minnesota  
Aging and Eldership in American Religions

## TEACHING FIELDS

Native American Religious Traditions  
Law, Religion, and American Public Life  
History of Religion and Culture in North America

## SCHOLARLY SERVICE

Secretary, *American Academy of Religion* (elected by membership of 5,000) (2014-17)  
Executive Director Search Committee, *American Academy of Religion* (2017-18)  
Macalester College, Department of Religion, External Program Reviewer (2018)  
Colorado College, Department of Religion, External Program Reviewer (2016)  
Mt. Holyoke College, Department of Religion, External Program Reviewer (2014)  
Haverford College, Department of Religion, External Program Reviewer (2013)  
Williams College, Dept. of Religion, External Program Reviewer (2012)  
Editorial Board, *Religion and American Culture* (2012-)  
AAR Indigenous Religions Group, Steering Committee, (2013-15)  
AAR Native Am. Religious Trad. Group, Co-Chair (2004-8); Steering Comm. (2002-14).  
Network Editor, *Religious Studies Review* (1998-2003).  
Dissertation Committee, (Vanderbilt Univ.) for student of late Howard Harrod (2003-5)  
Title: *Sweating in the Joint: Sweat Lodge Practice by Native Americans in Prison*.  
Tenure Reviews: Yale, U. Ottawa, Kansas U., Iowa State U, Macalester, Trinity, U. Texas  
Manuscript Reader: U. Toronto Press, U.N.C. Press, U. Oklahoma Press, Routledge, Kansas,  
SUNY, *Am. Indian Quarterly*, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Current Anthropology*, *Ethnohistory*, *Great Plains Quarterly*, *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Native American and Indigenous Studies*, *J. of Law and Religion*  
Grant Reviewer: *American Philosophical Society*, *National Science Foundation*

## COLLEGE SERVICE

Broom Fellow for Public Scholarship and Faculty Coordinator, Carleton *Center for Community & Civic Engagement* (2011-13) Integrating curricular and co-curricular civic engagement at Carleton and creating new program to promote/support Public Scholarship  
Co-led Carleton Humanities Ctr Faculty Seminar, *Varieties of Public Scholarship* (2013-14)  
Faculty Personnel Committee (2011-13), elected one of 5 faculty to join President and Dean on Carleton's college-wide review, tenure, and promotion committee  
Co-Chair, *Carleton Community, Equity, and Diversity Initiative* (2009-11)  
2 yr. presidential appointment to lead campus inclusion, diversity and equity initiative.  
Chair, Carleton *Religion Department* (2009-13, 2016-17)  
Administered department, mentored new faculty, made successful case for a new tenure track line in Ethics, Justice, and Peace Studies from an existing search.  
Carleton Humanities Center Advisory Board (2020-1)  
Faculty Adviser, *Carleton Undergraduate Journal of Humanistic Studies* (2020-1)  
Carleton *American Studies Program* (2001-) active affiliate of interdepartmental program  
Carleton *Academic Civic Engagement Initiative*, (2001-09) key faculty supporter of campus initiative to build and extend institutional commitment to civic engagement.

## **COLLEGE SERVICE (cont.)**

Carleton *Curricular Review Design Team*, Curriculum Review Process (2007-8)  
Carleton Engagement and Service Subcommittee, Accreditation Review (2007-8)  
Carleton Internal Review of Sociology/Anthropology Department (2006)  
Carleton Faculty Liaison for Service Learning (2002-4, 2006-9)  
Carleton New Faculty Mentor (2006-7, 2009-10, 2020-21)  
Carleton Accessibility Awareness Committee (2002-4)  
EMU Steering Committee on Native American & Xicano Studies, Convener (1998-2000)  
Harvard University Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (1988-90)  
Div. School appointee to advise Harvard Corp. on ethical endowment investment.  
Harvard Peabody Museum of Anthropology, NAGPRA Research Assistant (1992-93)

## **FURTHER PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP and COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Leadership Team, “The Doctrine of Discovery & Am. Indian Boarding Schools: History, Trauma, Healing,” For educational initiative of White Earth Nation Tribal Chair and Episcopal Church in MN, developed curriculum and made public presentations.  
Co-convener, *Roundtable on Native American Religious Freedom* Vermilion, SD, 2007.  
Helped assemble strategy session for 25 law professors, advocates, and 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment organizations to form strategy on sacred sites, repatriation, religion in prisons.  
Invited Member, *Freedom Forum Roundtable on Religious Freedom* Chicago, IL 2005.  
Joined 25 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment organizations across culture war divides in strategic discussion of state of religious freedom.  
Invited Consultant, Am Academy of Religion Government Relations Initiative:  
Consultations between State Officials of American Corrections Chaplains Association and Scholars of Native American Religions 2007 2016.  
“Native American Religious Traditions,” 3 Lectures at *Center for Religious Inquiry*, St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral (2007)  
Trinity Episcopal Church (Excelsior, MN) Adult Education Leader, 3 Series  
St. John’s Episcopal Church (Mpls., MN) Adult Education Leader, 3 Series  
Board of Directors, YMCA Family Camp du Nord (Ely, Minnesota) (2008-14)  
Board of Directors, Whitaker School of Theology, Episcopal Diocese of MI (1998-2000)  
Advisor, “Super-Chief,” documentary film on Ojibwe politics aired on HBO (1999)  
Consultant (unpaid), Smithsonian Folkways Native Hymnody Recording Project (2003)  
Coalition for Neighborhood Economic Development (New York City, 1987-1988)  
Research Associate working on NY City/State economic development policy

## **AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association  
Society for the Study of Native American Religious Traditions  
American Studies Association  
American Society for Church History  
National Congress of American Indians

## **LANGUAGES**

**German, French** (Reading), **Koine Greek** (Reading), **Ojibwe** (Studying)

## **FAMILY**

Wife: Rev. Devon Anderson (Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Excelsior)  
Children: Svea McNally, 21; Coleman McNally, 18

## REFERENCES by Field

### *History of Religion in America*

**David D. Hall**, Bartlett Research Professor of New England Church History, Harvard  
**Robert Orsi**, Nagel Chair in Catholic Studies, Northwestern University  
**Leigh Eric Schmidt**, University Professor, Washington University  
**Ann Braude**, Director, Women's Studies in Religion Program, Harvard Divinity School

### *Native American Studies*

**Philip Deloria** (Standing Rock Dakota), Professor of History, Harvard  
**Joel Martin**, Provost, Franklin and Marshall College  
**Gabi Tayac** (Piscataway) Historian, Smithsonian Natl Museum of the American Indian

### *Tribal Leaders*

**Erma Vizenor**, Former Chairwoman, White Earth Nation (Ojibwe)  
**Frank Ettawageshik** Former Chair, Little Traverse Bay Band (Odawa)

### *Law, Religion, and Native Traditions*

**Kevin Washburn** (Chickasaw) Dean, Iowa Law School & Former Asst. Secretary  
for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior  
**James Boyd White**, Hart Wright Prof. of Law *Emeritus*, Michigan Law School

### *Carleton Related References*

**Shahzad Bashir**, Aga Khan Chair of Humanities, Brown University  
**Robert A. Oden**, President and Professor of Religion *emeritus*, Carleton College