

Andrew R. Polk

Curriculum Vitae

Middle Tennessee State University
Department of History
MTSU Box 23
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
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Academic Positions

- 2020-present Associate Professor, Director of History Education, Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History
- 2014-2020 Assistant Professor, Director of History Education, Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History
- 2013-2014 Assistant Professor and Director of Social Studies Education, Arkansas State University, Department of History

Education

- 2013 Doctor of Philosophy, Florida State University – American Religious History
- 2009 Master of Arts, Yale University – American Religious History
- 2007 Master of Arts, Lipscomb University, Hazelip School of Theology – Second Temple Judaism
- 2003 Bachelor of Arts, Lipscomb University, Department of History – Major: History (with 7-12 license), Minor: Political Science, Biblical Studies

Research and Scholarship

Books and Monographs

- *Faith in Freedom: Propaganda, Presidential Politics, and the Making of an American Religion* (Ithica, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Explaining Waco: How Historians come to Different Conclusions about What Really Happened” in *Understanding and Teaching Contemporary American History since 1980*, Kimber Quinney and Amy Sayward, Eds. (in press with Wisconsin University Press, forthcoming summer, 2022)
- “Divergent Interpretation: The Conflicting Hermeneutics of Contemporary Christianity” in *Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States*:

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Historical, Cultural, Theological, and Ethical Explorations, Mark A. Lamport, Ed. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2022), 144-158.

- "Critical Analysis of Religious Sources: A Case Study of Christian Science Pamphlets," in *Research Methods for Primary Sources* (SAGE Academic/Adam Matthew Digital, Nov, 2021) DOI: https://doi.org/10.47594/RMPS_0193
- "The Best Knower: Mythmaking, Fard Muhammad, and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam." *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* 10:1 (Jan, 2020), 81-93. doi:10.18848/2154-8633/CGP/v10i01/81-93.
- "A Market-based Argument for Liberal Arts Degrees," *Forum for Values in Higher Education*, 2019:4 (July 2019) <https://svheforum.com/2019/07/18/a-market-based-argument-for-liberal-arts-degrees/>
- "Faith Battling Fear: U.S. Military Chaplains and the Regulation of Fear during World War II" *Journal of Academic Perspectives*, 2016: 4 (Dec, 2016)
- "'Unnecessary and Artificial Divisions:' Franklin Roosevelt's Quest for Religious and National Unity Leading Up to the Second World War," *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 82:3 (Sept, 2013), 667-678.

Non Peer-Reviewed Articles, Book Chapters, and Essays

- "Religious Propaganda and the Making of an American Religion" *Liberty Magazine* (Nov/Dec, 2021), 14-19. Online at <https://www.libertymagazine.org/article/religious-propaganda-and-the-making-of-an-american-religion>
- "Evangelism, Missions, and Growth: 1888-1992" in *The First 200 Years: A Bicentennial History of First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, Tennessee*, Ed. Evelyn Hicks (Nashville: Plumblin Publishers, 2020), 61-89.
- "Cold War," in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 180-188.
- "Lincoln, Jefferson, and the Legacies of Religion," *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 46.2 (June 2015), 473-495.
- "Mormon Doctrine and Covenants" in *Milestone Documents of World Religions*, ed. David M. Fahey, (Dallas: Schlager Group, 2010), 1130-1150.

Shorter Encyclopedia Articles

- "Religion, Politics, and War," in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 634-637.
- "Dwight D. Eisenhower," in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 269-271.
- "Jehovah's Witnesses," in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 399-400.

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- “Bible Belt,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016)
- “W.D. Mohammed” in *Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Ed. Gerhard Böwering, et al. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013)
- “Birth Control,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Freedom Summer,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Kennedy's Inaugural Address,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “March to Selma,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Poor People's Campaign,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Dean Rusk,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “School Prayer,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Fred Shuttlesworth,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Transcendental Meditation (TM)” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
- “Francis Perkins,” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011),
- “Military Air Transport Service,” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011),
- “Military Sea Transport Service,” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011),

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- “Salvation Army” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011)

Book Reviews

- Review of Andrew Johnstone, *Against Immediate Evil: American Internationalists and the Four Freedoms on the Eve of World War II*, in *Pacific Historical Review*, vol. 85, no. 2 (May 2016): 307-308.
- Review of Lawrence J. McAndrews, *What They Wished For: American Catholics and Presidents, 1960-2004*, in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, vol. 45, no. 4 (December 2015): 818-819.
- Review of Clint Van Winkle, *Soft Spots: A Marine’s Memoir of Combat and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*, in *Michigan War Studies Review*
- Review of William Inboden, *Religion and American Foreign Policy, 1945-1960: The Soul of Containment*, in *Symposia: The Graduate Student Journal of the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto*, vol. 3 (2011)
- Review of Efrat Ben-Ze’ev, Ruth Ginio, and Jay Winter, Editors, *Shadows of War: A Social History of Silence in the Twentieth Century*, in *Michigan War Studies Review*, 2011 volume. available online at <http://www.miwsr.com/2011-011.aspx>
- Review of Andrew S. Finstuen, *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants: The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr, Billy Graham, and Paul Tillich in an Age of Anxiety*, in *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*, no. 30 (Fall, 2009)

Op-Eds and Guest Essays

- “When you hear 'In God We Trust' pay attention to what comes next” *The Tennessean*, December 6, 2021, available online at <https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-attention-in-god-we-trust/8856231002/> Republished in *Knoxville Sun Sentinel*, December 12, 2021, available online at <https://www.knoxnews.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-attention-in-god-we-trust/8856231002/>
- “Can we please call a cease-fire in the supposed War on Christmas?” *The Leaf Chronicle*, December 20, 2021, available online at <https://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/2021/12/21/war-christmas-according-mtsu-professor-andrew-polk/8975064002/> Republished in *Yahoo News*, December 21, 2021, at <https://news.yahoo.com/mtsu-professor-please-call-cess-030045179.html>

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Select Academic Presentations

- June, 2020 "Explaining Waco: Branch Davidians, the Cult Awareness Network, and 24 Hour News" Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting 2020
- Apr., 2020 "Religious Action in the Social and Civil Order: Religious Propaganda and Nationalism from the Mid-twentieth Century to Today" Religion and Spirituality in Society International Conference 2020
- Sept., 2019 "Historical Simulations in the Classroom: A Discussion about Best Practices" Teaching History Today 2019
- Nov., 2018 "Ain't I an Afghan Girl: Teaching about Muslim Women in American History", American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2018
- Sept., 2018 "The Truth of the Matter?: Historical Memory in the Modern Classroom" Tennessee Council for History Education Annual Meeting 2018
- June, 2018 "The Whole (Sojourner) Truth: Historical Memory in the Classroom" Teaching History Today 2018
- May, 2017 "The Way it Happened: Historical Memory in the Public Imagination" Rutherford County Schools Professional Development
- Aug., 2016 "Freedom from Fear: The U.S. Military's Surprising Use of Chaplains during World War II" Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies
- May, 2016 "Who Killed Archie Fischer?: Teaching Historical Thinking Skills" Rutherford County Schools Professional Development
- Nov., 2015 "Free-Market Religion: Selling America after the Second World War" American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2015
- Apr., 2014 "Freedom Was Better: the Advertising Council's Quest for a National Mythos and Its Legacy in American Culture" American Culture Association Annual Meeting 2014
- Dec., 2012 "For God and Country: The Challenges of Religious Unity during the Second World War Religion and World War II, Florida State University
- Jan., 2012 "Faith Battling Fear: Military Chaplains and the Regulation of Fear during World War II" American Historical Association Annual Meeting 2012
- Nov., 2011 "I Want You to Understand Your Book:" Mythmaking in the Lost-Found Nation of Islam" Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting 2011
- Nov., 2011 "The Best Knower: Mythmaking, Fard Muhammad, and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam" American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2011
- Apr., 2011 "The Demarcation of an Imagined Place: The Search for the Elusive Bible Belt" American Culture Association Annual Meeting 2011
- Mar., 2011 "Where Those People Live: The Bible Belt as Cultural Myth" Southwestern Historical Association

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Mar., 2011 "The Best Knower: Mythmaking, Fard Muhammad, and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam," Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion

Feb., 2011 "Praying the Fear Away: Religion and Power in the Second World War" Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium

Feb., 2010 "The Sins of (Puritan) Youth: Sex and Disrespect in Northampton, MA" Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium

Public and Guest Lectures/Interviews

Feb., 2021 Interview for "After Bible in school controversy, experts question program used in Hamilton Co. Schools" a news report from Sabrina Maggiore, News Channel 9, Chattanooga, TN, Feb. 7, 2022, online at https://newschannel9.com/news/local/more-students-in-hamilton-co-use-non-profit-bible-study-program-than-anywhere-in-country?fbclid=IwAR2TZdmveZsXgkPJOYqJLd3fC-EpwBKnXQE1CtaFhrwWeApZt_0-cFj0s1o

Feb., 2021 "Religious Propaganda with Dr. Andrew Polk," *MTSU On the Record* radio program on WMOT-FM Roots Radio 89.5. Two part interview, with part one first airing on Feb. 15, 2022 and part two first airing on Feb. 22, 2022. Online at <https://mtsunews.com/polk-on-the-record-feb2022/>

Dec., 2021 "Faith in Freedom with Andrew Polk", *The Road to Now* Podcast, available at <https://www.theroadtonow.com/episodes/faith-in-freedom-w-andrew-polk/>

Oct., 2021 "Propaganda and the Making of an American Religion," Guest interview on *Freedom's Ring* radio program, available at <https://soundcloud.com/freedoms-ring/fr-2145-religious-propaganda-of-an-american-religion-andrew-polk-rel-date-11-6-21>

June, 2021 "How Religion Shaped America" Library of Congress' Teaching with Primary Sources Workshop

Aug., 2017 "The End has Come...Again: Apocalypticism in American Religious History" The Great Tennessee Eclipse, Middle Tennessee State University

April, 2015 "Racial Reconciliation in the Churches of Christ" African American History, Lipscomb University

Nov., 2014 "Universal Military Training: American Service after the War" World War II, Graduate Symposium, Middle Tennessee State University

Teaching Experience

Middle Tennessee State University

- HIST 2010: Survey of United States History I
- HIST 2020: Survey of United States History II
- HIST 3011: Teaching Historical Thinking

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- HIST 3020: Topics: U.S. Religion and Politics (cross listed with REL, AS)
- HIST 4650: Religious Experience in America (cross listed with REL, AS)
- HIST 4840: World War II
- HIST 6103/7103: Readings in Modern America
- HIST 6104/7104: Topics in U.S. History: Readings in American Religious History
- HIST 6105/7105: Research in American History: American Religious History
- HIST 6910: Selected Studies in U.S. History: Religion in Higher Education; Jewish History of the American South; The Pope and El Pope: Southwest Native American Religions; Masculinity and Sexuality in Mormon History; Martin, Malcolm, and the Long Civil Rights Movement; Nineteenth Century American Religion; Ethnographic Studies of Biblical Pre-History; Teaching World War II

Theses and Dissertations under Direction

- M.A. Thesis Reader, Lane Tillner, "Not Easily Defined: A Continuum of Definitions of the 'Museum School'", fall, 2016
- M.A. Thesis Chair, Phillip Morgan, "The Promise of a Second Evangelical Mind: Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Hybrid Model of Christian Higher Education", spring, 2016
- M.A. Thesis Chair, Robert Michael Browning, "'A Peculiar Beat: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois: A Microcosm of 'Traditioned Innovation' and Adaptive Change in American Protestantism'", fall, 2017
- M.A. Thesis Chair, Lawrence Dahl, "Pillaged Skulls and Looted Gear: The Racialization of the Japanese and its effect on United States Trophy Hunting during the Second World War", spring, 2021
- M.A. Thesis Chair, John Broadwell, "In God's Own Image: LGBTQ+ Student Activism and Lived Experience at Lipscomb University", summer, 2021
- M.A.L.A. Thesis Reader, Keven Paul Lewis, "Manly Men of God: Masculinity and Sexuality in the History of the Latter-day Saints", fall, 2021
- M.A. Thesis Chair, Jay Morgan, expected spring, 2022
- PhD Dissertation Reader, Kathryn McClurkin, "The Troubles and Beyond: Expanding the Narrative of Northern Ireland's Recent Past Through Collecting, Interpretation, and Programming", spring, 2019
- PhD Dissertation Reader, Rebecca Duke, "From Dewey to Skyline Farms: Progressive Education in New Deal Resettlement Communities", fall, 2020

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- PhD Dissertation Chair, Jessica Roseberry, "Shiloh Voices: Race, Region, and Religion at Camp Shiloh, NY", expected spring, 2022
- PhD Dissertation Reader, Heather Scheuer, expected fall, 2022
- PhD Dissertation Reader, Elizabeth Johnson, expected fall, 2022
- PhD Dissertation Reader, David Bowlby, expected spring, 2023
- PhD Dissertation Chair, Jared Bryson, expected spring, 2023

Arkansas State University

- Methods and Materials for Social Studies Teachers
- Computer Technologies for Social Studies Teachers
- Social Studies Teaching Internship

Lipscomb University

- World Religions and Cultures
- Story of the Christian Church
- American History to 1870

Florida State University

- Religion in American Political History
- American Religious History
- The Islamic Tradition (Graduate Assistant)
- The Christian Tradition (Graduate Assistant)

Professional Development

- "Toward a MT Engage Major Pathway," Faculty Learning Community, MTSU 2019-2020
- "MT Engage Summer Institute," Professional Development Workshop, MTSU 2019
- "Religion, Politics, and History," Teaching History Today Conference 2019
- "Students as Knowledge Creators," Faculty Learning Community, MTSU 2018-2019
- "General Education Design Retreat," Professional Development Workshop, MTSU 2018
- "Teaching Historical Memory," Teaching History Today Conference 2018
- "Text, Pictures, and Stuff: Teaching Through Multiple Sources," Teaching History Today Conference 2017
- "Using Reacting to the Past in the Classroom," LT&ITC Professional Development Workshop, MTSU 2015

Select Grants, Awards, and Honors

- MTSU President's Leadership Development Institute Fellow (2021)
- MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award Winner (2019)
- MTSU College of Liberal Arts Faculty Teaching Award Winner (2019)

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- MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee Faculty Research Grant (2019)
- MTSU University Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award Nominee (2018, 2019)
- MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee Faculty Research Grant (2015)
- Dissertation Research Grant, Florida State University (2011-2012)
- Conference Presentation Grant, FSU Congress of Graduate Students (4 grants from 2010-2012)
- Dean's Fellowship, Florida State University (2009-2012)
- Hooker-Dwight Fellowship, Yale University (2008-2009)
- Outstanding Future Scholar Award, *Stone-Campbell Journal* (2007)

Select Academic and Community Service

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center of Rutherford Cty, 2020-present
Board Member
- Teaching History Today Conference, Co-Founder and Organizer 2017-present
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center of Rutherford Cty, 2016-present
Emergency OP, Hospital and Crisis Line Advocate
- MTSU, Council on Teacher Education 2015-present
- Tennessee Council for History Education, Board Member 2015-present
- MTSU, History Department, Director of History Education 2014-present
- MTSU, History Department, Undergraduate Committee 2014-present
- Middle Tennessee Regional History Day Coordinator 2014-2021
- MTSU, History Department, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Search Committee 2019
- MTSU University CAEP Core Advisory Committee 2017-2021
- MTSU, History Department, FTT Search Committee 2018
- MTSU, History Department, Student Awards Committee 2015-2017
- MTSU, University NCATE/CAEP Advisory Council 2014-2017
- ASU, History Department, BSE Undergraduate Committee (Chair) 2013-2014
- ASU, College of Education, Curriculum Task Force 2013-2014