

PAUL EMORY PUTZ

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George W. Truett Theological Seminary
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EDUCATION

- 2018** Ph.D. Degree in History, *Baylor University*
2012 M.A. Degree in History, *University of Nebraska-Omaha*
2009 B.S. Degree in Secondary Education (history endorsement), *Grace University*

POSITIONS HELD

- 2024-** **Director of the Faith & Sports Institute / Program Director of the Master of Arts in Theology and Sports Studies, *Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary***
Main responsibilities: Providing oversight, vision, and direction for the Faith & Sports Institute; leading and developing an online graduate degree program; engaging in research, writing, and speaking on sports and Christianity.
- 2022-24** **Assistant Director of the Faith & Sports Institute / Program Director of the Master of Arts in Theology and Sports Studies, *Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary***
Main responsibilities: Leading and developing an online graduate degree program; providing strategic direction and support for the Faith & Sports Institute's other public-facing programs and initiatives; engaging in research, writing, and speaking on sports and Christianity.
- 2019-22** **Assistant Director of the Faith & Sports Institute, *Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary***
Main responsibilities: Leading and developing an online continuing education program; providing strategic direction for the Faith & Sports Institute's public-facing programs and initiatives; engaging in research, writing, and speaking on sports and Christianity.
- 2018-19** **Lecturer in History, *Messiah College***

- 2013-18** **Graduate and Teaching Assistant, *Baylor University History Department***
- 2010-13** **Social Studies Teacher, *Millard North High School (Omaha, NE)***

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

The Spirit of the Game: American Christianity and Big-Time Sports (forthcoming in 2024 with Oxford University Press)

“Touchdown Jesus: The Midwest and the Integration of Religion and Sport.” Chapter under contract in *Oxford History of the Midwest*, edited by Jon Lauck (Oxford University Press).

Book Chapters

“Sport,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Christian Fundamentalism*, edited by Andrew Atherstone and David Ceri Jones (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024), 418-434.

“‘There is Talk of Black Power’: Christian Athletes and the Revolt of the Black Athlete,” in *Religion and Sport in North America: Critical Essays for the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Jeffrey Scholes and Randall Balmer (New York: Routledge, 2022), 13-34.

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Tracing the Historical Contours of Black Muscular Christianity and American Sport,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 39.4 (2022): 404-424.

“Introduction: Sport-Gender Orthodoxy and Muscular Christian Values,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 39:4 (2022): 343-349 [with Chad Carlson and Brian Bolt].

“Commercializing the Sacred Office: Sexual Revolution and the Scandal of the Modern Marrying Parson, 1895-1930,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 17.1 (January 2018): 56-76.

“Building A City on a Hill: Evangelical Protestant Men and Moral Reform under the Des Moines Plan, 1907-1916,” *The Annals of Iowa* 77.1 (Winter 2018): 1-40.

“Big-League Basketball Comes to Omaha: A History of the Omahawks,” *Nebraska History* 97.8 (Winter 2016): 185-198.

“Jesse ‘Cab’ Renick: In Search of an Indian Identity,” *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 89.1 (Spring 2011): 72-97.

Selected Book Reviews

- Randall Balmer, *Passion Plays: How Religion Shaped Sports in North America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022). Review for the *Journal of Sport History* (forthcoming).
- Steve Marantz, *Citizen Akoy: Basketball and the Making of a South Sudanese American* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019). Reviewed for *Nebraska History* 100.4 (Winter 2019): 252-253.
- Michael Hurd, *Thursday Night Lights: The Story of Black High School Football in Texas* (University of Texas Press, 2017). Reviewed for *Great Plains Quarterly* 38.4 (Fall 2018): 440-441.
- Timothy B. Neary, *Crossing Parish Boundaries: Race, Sports, and Catholic Youth in Chicago, 1914-1954* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Reviewed for *Journal of American Ethnic History* 37.3 (Spring 2018): 134-136.
- Murry Nelson, *Big Ten Basketball, 1943-1972* (McFarland, 2017). Reviewed for *Journal of Sport History* 45.1 (Spring 2018). 121-122.
- Christopher D. Cantwell, Heath W. Carter, and Janine Giordano Drake, eds., *The Pew and the Picket Line: Christianity and the American Working Class* (University of Illinois Press, 2016). Reviewed for *Annals of Iowa* 76.1 (Winter 2017): 145-146.
- Brent M.S. Campney, *This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927* (University of Illinois Press, 2015). Reviewed for *Great Plains Quarterly* 37.1 (Winter 2017): 66-67.
- William A. Mirola, *Redeeming Time: Protestantism and Chicago's Eight-Hour Movement, 1866-1912* (University of Illinois Press, 2015). Reviewed for *Fides et Historia* 47.2 (Summer/Fall 2015): 201-203.
- Tekla Agbala Ali Johnson, *Free Radical: Ernest Chambers, Black Power, and the Politics of Race* (Texas Tech University Press, 2012). Reviewed for *Middle West Review* 2.1 (Fall 2015): 107-109.

Online and General Interest Publications

I have published over twenty articles on themes related to history, Christianity, and sports for publications including *Christianity Today*, *Slate*, *Religion News Service*, and *Religion & Politics*. A list of those publications with links is available at paulemoryputz.com.

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

2016	Research Fellowship, Presbyterian Historical Society
2016	Evangelism Research Grant, Billy Graham Center Archives

2016	University of Chicago Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship
2015-16	Wayne Travel Grant, Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas
2015-16	State Historical Society of Iowa Research Grant
2013-14	Guittard Fellowship, Baylor University
2012-13	Nebraska State Historical Society Research Grant
2011-12	Outstanding History Graduate Student, University of Nebraska-Omaha

SELECTED ACADEMIC PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

2023

“The City Game On A Hill: The Dallas Mavericks, Evangelical Politics, and the Shape of Religion in the National Basketball Association.” Academic paper presented in the Religion, Sport, and Play unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 2023.

“The Role of the Coach in Moral Formation: A Brief History.” Academic paper presented as part of a symposium at the Annual Conference of the Association for Moral Education. October 2023.

“Jesus and James Naismith: The Christian History of Basketball and its Lessons for the Church Today.” Truett Seminary Sports Ministry Chapel. March 2023.

2022

“Jackie Robinson and the American Way.” Invited lecture for an American history class at Baylor University. November 2022.

“Sports and Religion in American History.” Invited lectured for an American history class at Baylor University. September 2022.

“Muscular Christianity and the Making of Tim Tebow.” Invited lecture delivered virtually for a class on sports and Christianity at Vanderbilt University. March 2022.

2020

“Sports, Race, and the American ‘Middlebrow’ Project in the Twentieth Century.” Paper presented at the U.S. Society for Intellectual History’s virtual conference. November 2020.

“Sunday’s Competition: Christian Ministry in a Sports-Obsessed World.” Lecture delivered for the Baylor Department of Religion’s Ministry Guidance Conference. March 2020.

“Mission-Driven Institutions with a New Mission: How Religiously Affiliated Universities are Using Athletics to Survive.” Paper presented with Jordan Bass and Claire Zvosek at the Applied Sport Management Association conference. February 2020.

“White Allies and Black Athletes in College Sports.” Paper presented with Matthew White at the Black Student-Athlete Summit. January 2020.

2019

"Christian Athletes and the Revolt of the Black Athlete." Paper presented at the Second Global Congress on Sport and Christianity. October 2019.

"Black Athletes in American Society: History for our #TakeAKnee Moment." Invited lecture delivered at Saint Francis University. April 2019.

“The Rise of Sports Ministry.” Invited lecture delivered to a class on sports and religion at Bucknell University. March 2019.

Participant in the “Five Slides in Five Minutes” Session for Early Career Scholars. Annual meeting of the American Historical Association. January 2019.

2018

“John Wooden, Jesus, and Me: Thinking Historically about the Intersection of Sports and Christianity.” Invited lecture delivered at Messiah College. November 2018.

“‘There is talk of Black Power...it is time somebody talked about God Power’: Evangelical Sports Ministries and the Black Athlete in the Long 1960s.” Presented at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. January 2018.

2017

“Protestant, Catholic, Mormon: Forging a Broad Christian Alliance through Sport in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 1954-1970.” Presented at the winter meeting of the American Society of Church History. January 2017.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

I have been interviewed as a subject matter expert on sports and Christianity for podcasts and publications including National Public Radio, the Associated Press, the *New York Times*, *The Ringer*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Deseret News*, and *Religion News Service*. For a list of media interviews and appearances with links provided, visit paulemoryputz.com.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association | American Academy of Religion | American Society of Church History | North American Society for Sport History