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# Christina Littlefield

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## Education

October 2007 — May 2012      University of Cambridge      Cambridge, England  
**PhD, Faculty of Divinity**

Chosen Nations: The Pursuit of the Kingdom of God and its Influence on Democratic Values in Late Nineteenth Century Britain and the United States.

January 2006 — September 2007 Fuller Theological Seminary, Southwest Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Early Church History, Medieval Church History and American Church History.**

Paid for with a Lilly grant from the Religion Newswriters Association.

August 2002 — December 2003      Pepperdine University      Malibu, California  
**Master of Arts degree in Religion interdisciplinary Communication**

Served as teaching assistant for journalism and student newspaper. Master's thesis researched movie representations of God and how they influenced individual representations.

August 1998 — May 2002      Pepperdine University      Malibu, California  
**Bachelor's degree in Journalism with a minor in Religion**

Graduated Magna Cum Laude, spent one semester in London International Program.

## Work Experience

August 2012 — Present      Pepperdine University      Malibu, California  
**Assistant Professor of Journalism and Religion, tenure-track**

Teach Jour 241, Introduction to Newswriting; Com 400, Ethics; Jour 590, Investigative Reporting, Rel 301, Christianity and Culture; Rel 635, American Studies graduate course on American Moral Thought, and various 599, independent studies.

January 2008 — June 2012      Ridley Hall      Cambridge, England  
**Adjunct instructor**

Taught course on diversity, emphasising engagement with world religions, and course on applied ethics for second-year students in the Honours Degree in Youth and Community Work and Applied Theology at Ridley Hall's Centre for Youth Ministry. Lead workshops on working with the media and reading philosophy.

October 2003 — September 2007      *Las Vegas Sun*      Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Higher education and religion reporter**

Responsible for covering the Nevada System of Higher Education and, effective October 2005, responsible for covering all religious issues affecting the Las Vegas Valley for a 167,000 circulation daily magazine-style, multimedia newspaper and website, [lasvegassun.com](http://lasvegassun.com).

- Journalist work included television and radio appearances; published 900-plus stories.
- Investigative reporting into construction corruption at the College of Southern Nevada in 2007 led to the conviction and jail sentence of the college's construction chief on felony theft charges, with three other employees accepting plea deals.

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August 2002 — May 2003      *The Graphic*, Pepperdine      Malibu, California  
**Graduate Assistant**

Served as adviser to student newspaper, training staff members in reporting, writing, editing, lay-out design and photography skills while overseeing all production.

May 2002 – August 2002      *Las Vegas Sun*      Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Staff Writer**

Covered general assignment metro desk on afternoon daily, including breaking news, community, health, weather, government, crime, court and general interest news.

May 2001 – August 2001      *Ventura County Star*      Ventura, Calif.  
**Staff Writer**

Covered general assignment metro desk on daily, six-county newspaper, including breaking news, community, health, weather, government, crime, court and general interest news.

August 1998 – May 2002      *The Graphic*, Pepperdine      Malibu, California  
**Various positions – Editor in Chief, News Editor, A&E Editor**

Editor duties include reporting, writing, editing, lay-out design and photography. Served as news editor and editor in chief the year “The Graphic” won the Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker at Fall 2001 conference.

June 1998 – August 2000      Buzard Eye Institute      Las Vegas, Nev.  
**Executive Assistant**

Reported directly to Dr. Kurt Buzard and executive manager Carol Buzard for four months every summer and as requested on other college breaks. Office duties included handling all manner of administrative details, including personal schedules, email, travel, competitor research, legal issues, advertising, research and publications and editing company newsletter.

## Books and Book Chapters

*Chosen Nations: Pursuit of the Kingdom of God and its Influence on Democratic Values in Late-Nineteenth Century Britain and the United States.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.

“Harry Potter as a Metaphor for Struggling with God” in *World Wide Influence of Harry Potter*, edited by Diana Patterson. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009.

## Conferences, Papers and Presentations

Aug. 7, 2014      Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication  
Montreal, Canada

**Presented peer-reviewed poster “Promulgating the Kingdom: Social Gospel Muckrackers Josiah Strong and Hugh Prices Hughes.”**

Oct. 30, 2013      Pepperdine University      Malibu, Calif.

**Moderator: Interfaith Panel on Religion in the Public Sphere**

With guest speakers Marium Mohiuddin of the Muslim Public Affairs Council and Zev Garber, professor emeritus for Jewish Studies at Los Angeles Valley College.

Co-sponsored by the Pepperdine Provost’s office and the Glazer Institute for Jewish Studies.

Nov. 25, 2013      American Academy of Religion      Baltimore, Maryland  
**Presented paper “Pragmatism and Nationalism in the Work of Josiah Strong” for a joint session of the Liberal Theologies group and Pragmatism and Empiricism in**

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## **American Religious Thought on the theme “New Approaches to Social Gospel Theology.”**

March 10, 2012 American Academy of Religion Western Regional Conference  
Arizona State University, Tempe

**Presenting paper “Chosenness and Civic Patriotism in Late Nineteenth Century England and the United States.”**

**Book Review: "And No One Will Keep that Light from Shining": Civil Religion After September 11 in Speeches of George W. Bush.** *Review of Religious Research*, November 2011 (53:2), p. 254.

March 13, 2009 Ecclesiastical History Conference Postgraduate Colloquium  
University of Manchester

**Presented paper “Protestantism and National Identity in the Works of Congregationalists R.W. Dale and Josiah Strong.”**

November 11, 2009 McMenemy Seminar Trinity Hall, Cambridge

**Presentation *How Would Jesus Vote? Understanding the Religious Right and the Religious Left in America.***

July 25-28, 2008 Accio 2008 Magdalen College, Oxford

**Presented paper *Harry Potter as a Metaphor for Struggling with God. Accio is a peer-reviewed academic conference on all things Harry Potter.***

## **Scholarships, Grants and Awards**

- Seaver Research Council grant winner, 2014-2015, \$2,700 for archive work on Josiah Strong.
- Named as one of the Seaver Fellows for Pepperdine in 2014-2015, includes \$2,500 travel grant
- Harris Manchester College, Oxford, Fellow for July 2014 for archive work on Henry Scott Holland.
- Pepperdine’s Academic Year Undergraduate Research Award, \$1,000 to study civil religion in Aaron Sorkin’s television shows with two undergraduates, Spring 2014
- Crosse Studentship, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, full tuition and rent stipend, 2008-2010
- Research grants, University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity and Trinity Hall, totalling £2,500 for summer 2009 archive trip to Boston, New York and Atlanta
- German Language Grant, University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity, £500
- Second Place, Investigative Reporting, 2007 Associated Press California-Nevada Newswriting and Photo contest
- First Place, Freedom of Information Award, 2007 Nevada Press Association
- Second Place, Best News Feature, 2006 Nevada Press Association
- Part of reporting team which won First Place, Breaking News Coverage, 2005 National Society of Professional Journalists
- Pepperdine University Graduate Assistantship, full tuition and maintenance stipend, 2002-2003
- Scripps Howard Internship Winner – Ventura County Star
- Pepperdine Communication Division “Outstanding Graduate” 2002
- Pepperdine Graphic “Outstanding Journalism Graduate” 2002

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- Pepperdine Graphic “Best All-Around Writer” 2002
- Pepperdine Currents “Best All-Around Contributor ” 2002
- Pepperdine Graphic “Best All-Around Contributor” 2001
- Pepperdine Graphic “Best Editorial Leadership” 2001
- Pepperdine Graphic “Rookie Writer of the Year” 1999
- Gamma Ghhkkkket Sigma Songfest 2002 Director’s Award
- Journalism scholarships, ranging between \$1,100 - \$4,500 a semester, 1998-2002
- Seaver College Dean’s List, 1998-2002
- Pepperdine Dean’s Scholarship, \$10,000 scholarship for each of four years, 1998-2002
- Nevada Association of Student Councils Dale Hawley National Leadership Award, \$1,000 scholarship, 1998
- Coca-Cola Scholar, \$1,000 scholarship each year, 1998-2002
- Target All-Around Scholarship, \$1,500 scholarship, 1998
- Las Vegas High School Valedictorian

## Memberships and Activities

- Conejo Valley Church of Christ, member since October 2012, serve on adult education committee and proofread newsletter
- Investigative Reporters and Editors, member since 2014, underwent Computer-Assisted Reporting bootcamp in January 2015
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, member since 2014
- American Academy of Religion, member since 2008, Western Region Nineteenth Century Chair
- American Journalism Historians Association, member since 2015
- American Society of Church History, member since 2015
- Ecclesiastical History Society, member 2008-2012
- Trinity Hall MCR, member since 2007
- Trinity Hall Boat Club, rower October 2008- June 2009
- Society of Professional Journalists, member 1998-2007
- Golden Key National Honor Society, member since 1998
- Coca-Cola Scholars Association, member since 1998

## Volunteer experience

- Pepperdine Convocation, small group for Pepperdine Graphic Media, 2014-2015
- Pepperdine Convocation, small group on Lee Strobel’s *Case for Christ*
- Pepperdine Convocation, small group on C.S. Lewis *Out of the Silent Planet*, Fall 2013
- Pepperdine Convocation, Spiritual Mentoring, Fall 2012-present
- Pepperdine Step Forward Day, 2012-present
- Fundraising for Cancer Research UK, 2011
- Cambridge Graduate Union Ball, 2011
- Las Vegas High School Class of 1998 Reunion, organizer 2008
- Mission work with orphans, street kids in Romania, Summer 2005 and 2008
- Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, Oasis Center, 2003-2007, organized and led bimonthly activities for emotionally disturbed children
- Project Serve: church and home building in San Felipe, Mexico, 1998-2002
- Habitat for Humanity, construction work volunteer, 1998-2002
- Omaha Woodmen Summer Camp Counselor, supervised activities, including swimming, archery and arts and craft and evening entertainment for entire camp; personal counsellor for 12-15 females each year, 1996-2000
- Make a Wish Foundation, 1995-1998, founded ongoing fundraiser with rival high school that raises several thousand dollars each year