

Erik Christopher Owens

Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life
Boston College, 24 Quincy Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
erik.owens@bc.edu 617.552.1861

EDUCATION

- The University of Chicago** Ph.D., Religious Ethics, 2007
Harvard Divinity School M.T.S., Religion and Society, 1996
Duke University B.A., *magna cum laude*, Religion/Public Policy Studies, 1994

EMPLOYMENT

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Associate Director, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, July 2009 – present

Interim Director, July 2016 – June 2017

Assistant Director, July 2006 – June 2009

Plan and execute public programs (15-20 per year) and special projects; hire and supervise research staff; direct web development and other communications; conduct strategic planning and grant writing in coordination with the director, patrons and board of advisors.

Associate Professor of the Practice in Theology and International Studies, July 2014 – Present

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theology, July 2006 – June 2014

Teach interdisciplinary courses on theological ethics, political theory, international relations and public policy; serve as core faculty member in the undergraduate International Studies program.

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Chicago, IL

Research Associate, September 2001 – February 2003

Interim Administrative Director, June – September 2001

Organized numerous public academic events, including major conference on religion and the death penalty; organized meeting and joint public statement of deans of major American divinity schools; helped to administer \$500,000 grant from Pew Charitable Trusts; published scholarly primer on capital punishment.

City of Chicago Board of Ethics, Chicago, IL

Research Analyst, June 2000 – June 2001

Analyzed and wrote legal opinions on possible or alleged violations of City ethics laws.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Concord, MA

Research Assistant, April 1996 – July 1998

Researched dozens of primary sources to describe President Lincoln's battlefield visits for Goodwin's award-winning Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln (Simon & Schuster, 2005).

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Volumes

Gambling: Mapping the American Moral Landscape. (Edited, with Alan Wolfe.) Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009. Honorable Mention, 2010 Popular Culture Association/ American Culture Association Ray & Pat Browne Award for Best Edited Collection.

Religion and the Death Penalty: A Call for Reckoning. (Edited, with John Carlson and Eric Elshtain.) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004.

The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. (Edited, with John Carlson.) Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2003. Selected as a “must read” book on religion and international relations by *Foreign Affairs* (2009).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Searching for an Obama Doctrine: Christian Realism and the Idealist/Realist Tension in Obama’s Foreign Policy.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 32.2 (Fall/Winter 2012): 93-112.

“A United States Perspective on the European REDCo Project,” *Religion and Education* 37:3 (Fall 2010): 203-8.

“Disestablishment as Legal Paideia: Assessing Michael McConnell’s Educational and Religious Pluralism.” In *Philosophy of Education* (2008): 132-141.

“Taking the ‘Public’ Out of Our Schools: The Political, Constitutional and Civic Implications of Private School Vouchers.” *Journal of Church and State* 44:4 (Autumn 2002): 717-747.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Religious Freedom, Common Schools and the Common Good.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Education*, edited by Michael D. Waggoner and Nathan C. Walker (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2017).

“The End(s) of Political Life.” In *In Search of the Ethical Polity: Critical Essays on the Work of Jean Bethke Elshtain*, eds. Michael LeChevallier and Debra Erickson (University of Notre Dame Press, forthcoming 2017).

“Religious Freedom and Civic Education in American Public Schools.” In *Human Rights and Religion in Educational Contexts*, Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Rights, vol. 1, edited by Manfred L. Pirner, Johannes Lähnemann and Heiner Bielefeldt (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2016). [Revised and updated version of my article in *Reconciling Religion and Public Life*; full cite below.]

Introduction (with Alan Wolfe) to *Gambling: Mapping the American Moral Landscape*, edited by Alan Wolfe and Erik Owens (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009), 1-11.

“Civic Values and ‘Education Lotteries’: The Irony of Funding Public Education with Lottery Revenues.” In *Gambling: Mapping the American Moral Landscape*, edited by Alan Wolfe and Erik Owens (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009), 323-343.

“Religion and Civic Education in American Public Schools.” In *Reconciling Religion and Public Life: Essays on Pluralism and Fundamentalism in the United States and Germany*, edited by Karin Johnston (Washington: American Institute for Comparative German Studies, 2007), 38-48.

“Religion and Capital Punishment” (with Eric Elshtain). In *Religion and the Death Penalty: A Call for Reckoning*, edited by Erik Owens, John Carlson and Eric Elshtain (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004), 1-23.

“Sovereignty after September 11: What Has Changed?” In *The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics*, edited by John Carlson and Erik Owens (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2003), 1-22.

“Reconsidering Westphalia’s Legacy for Religion and International Politics” (with John Carlson). In *The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics*, 2003, op. cit., 1-41.

Other Scholarly Publications

“Separation of Church and State,” Boisi Center Papers on Religion in the United States, no.2 (2007):1-24.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Research Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University (2015-2016).

Boston College Faculty Fellowship (funding AY 2015-2016 sabbatical).

Teaching with New Media Award. Instructional Technology/eTeaching Services, Boston College (2009).

Visiting Fellow, Center on Religion and Democracy, University of Virginia (2005-2006).

Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Research Related to Education (2004-2005).

Doolittle-Harrison Travel Fellowship, University of Chicago (2005).

Finalist, Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship (2003-2004).

Bradley Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2001-2004).

Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago (2002-2003).

University of Chicago Divinity School Scholarship (1998-2001).

Senior honors thesis “Religion and the Presidency: Comparing Carter and Reagan” awarded Special Distinction in Religion (1994); assigned as a required text for “Ethical Issues in Twentieth Century America” at Duke University, Fall 1994 and 1995.

GRANTS

Collaborative Digital Project Grant for “Digital Mapping in Teaching and Scholarship.” Institute for the Liberal Arts, Boston College (2014-15).

Course development grant for Spring 2012 course “Religions and American Public Schools.” Teachers for a New Era program, Boston College (summer 2011).

Classroom Visitation Grant. Teachers for a New Era, Boston College (2011-12).

Discretionary Grant for Google Earth mapping project for humanities professors. Institute for the Liberal Arts, Boston College (summer 2011).

Exploratory Technology Grant for Google Earth mapping project. Academic Technology Advisory Board, Boston College (summer 2010).

INVITED LECTURES (SINCE 2011)

“Religion and Public Life in Trump’s First Hundred Days.” Plenary panel for annual meeting of AAR Northeast and Maritime Region, April 2017.

“Religion Education and Global Citizenship: A Match Made in Heaven?” Conference on Religion, Globalization and Citizenship.” Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University, March 2017.

“Religious Literacy and the Public Understanding of Religion.” Conference on “Religious Literacy in a Plural Age.” National Endowment for the Humanities, Harvard Divinity School, July 2016.

“Believers as Equal Citizens: The Status of an American Ideal.” Conference on “Global Citizenship and Religion.” Centre for Civilizational Dialogue, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. August 2015.
[Presentation prepared but not delivered due to family emergency.]

“The Future of Religious Studies and the Public Understanding of Religion in a Global Age.” Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, May 2014.

“Jean Bethke Elshtain and the Dilemmas of Intervention.” Conference on “Jean Bethke Elshtain: The Engaged Mind.” University of Chicago Divinity School, October 2013.

Opening remarks: Religion Breakout Session. Conference on “Can We Talk? A Conversation about Civility and Democracy in America,” National Constitution Center, March 2011.

“Civic Education in Public Schools: Can the State Teach Tolerance?” Conference on “Toleration and Freedom: The American Experience in Context.” Institute for Philosophy and Religion, Boston University, March 2011.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS and SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION (SINCE 2010)

American Academy of Religion (1999-present)

Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion (chair 2017-2018; member 2013-2016), by AAR presidential appointment. Developed the Public Scholars Project to enhance PUR skillsets among AAR members, and to foster collaboration on PUR issues between the AAR and other organizations.

Religion and Politics Section (co-chair 2011-2013; steering committee 2006-2010 and 2014-2016)

Religion and Public Schools: International Perspectives Group (founding steering committee 2011-2016)

Scholarly papers accepted in 2004, 2006 (x2), 2008 (x2), 2009, 2013, and 2017

Session chair 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013 (x2), 2014 (x4), 2015 (x2), 2016, 2017 (x3); presidential plenary moderator 2013, 2014.

Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute (Washington, DC)

National Advisory Board (2016-present)

Curriculum advisor (2014-present)

Inter-religious Research Institute (Chicago, IL)

National Advisory Board (2017-present)

Society of Christian Ethics (2004-present)

Scholarly papers accepted in 2005, 2007 and 2012

Book sessions accepted in 2004 and 2006

Council on Foreign Relations, Religion and Foreign Policy Initiative (2008-present)

Religion and Foreign Policy Summer Workshop (invited participant 2010-present; session chair 2011)

Christopher David Owens (born July 13, 1979) is an American singer, songwriter, and musician. He is best known as the frontman and songwriter for the now-disbanded indie rock band Girls. He released his debut album as a solo artist, *Lysandre*, in January 2013. In September 2014, Owens released his second album, *A New Testament*. In May 2015, Owens released his third album, *Chrissybaby Forever*. Christopher Owens Articles and Media.Â Christopher Owensâ€™™ New Band Curls Announce Debut EP, Share New Song: Listen. by: Sam Sodomsky. and Noah Yoo. September 18 2017. Watch Mark Kozelek, Christopher Owens, More Cover Leonard Cohen at Tribute Show. by: Matthew Strauss. November 28 2016. Christopher Owens Shares Self-Directed Video For "To Take Care of Myself Again". by: Molly Beauchemin. June 2 2015. Christopher Owens Releases Surprise Album *Chrissybaby Forever*.