

# KIMBERLY A. DIAZ

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## EDUCATION

University of California Riverside (UCR)

**Ph.D. Study of Religion**

June 2025

- Major Field: Religious History of the Modern Americas
- Minor Field: Religion, Race, and Gender of the Modern United States
- Theory and Method: Affect, Body, and Society

University of California Riverside (UCR)

**M.A. Religious Studies**

September 2022

University of California San Diego (UCSD)

**B.A. Study of Religion, B.A. Political Science**

June 2018

- Honors: Study of Religion (*summa cum laude*)
  - Minor: Film Studies
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## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Book Chapters, Articles, and Book Reviews

“A Historical Imagination About Mexican Muscular Christian Women,” article on Religion, Sport, Gender, and Sexuality (in preparation)

“The Legacy of Liberation Theology: Perpetuating and Transcending the Foundation of Sameness,” journal article for *Latin American Perspectives*, November 2024 (*forthcoming*)

“Slavery’s Long Shadow: Race and Reconciliation in American Christianity,” book review for *Reading Religion*, 2021

“Unsettling Science and Religion: Contributions from Queer Studies,” book review for *Religious Studies Review*, 2021

“Faith and Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Religious Communities,” book review for *Religious Studies Review*, 2020

### Public Intellectual Work

“[Harvesting Food Across UCR](#).” Wellness series, blog entry, co-authored with Hana Baig, *UC Riverside Graduate Student Resource Center*, November 20th, 2024

“[Games are Cool! Here’s Why: A Follow-Up Conversation to Playing at the American Academy of Religion](#).” Changing Scholarship series, blog entry, co-authored with Dr. Neomi DeAnda and Dr. Michael DeAnda, *Wabash Center*; April 15th, 2024

“Ella, Madre en la Oscuridad” (“Her, Mother in the Darkness”), short poem for *La Semana de la Mujer*, Winter 2024

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Religious Studies, Latino/a & Latin American Studies, Occidental College  
**Visiting Instructor** 2022 - present

- Religion, Liberation, and Latin American Social Movements (RELS/LLAS 228)
- “Indecent” Liberation in Latin America (RELS/LLAS 221)

Department for the Study of Religion, Ethnic Studies Department, UCR  
**Instructor** Summer 2024

- Religious Myths and Rituals (RLST/ETST 012)

Department of Religious Studies, UCR  
**Teaching Assistant** 2020 - 2024

Department of History, UCR  
**Teaching Assistant** Winter 2023

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Marxist Institute for Research (MIR) August 2024  
**Graduate Student Scholar**

The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), Mexico August 2023  
**Visiting Research Fellow**

Center for Ideas and Society, UCR 2021 - 2022  
**Graduate Student Research Fellow**

Latino & Latin American Studies Research Center, UCR 2020 - 2021  
**Graduate Student Researcher**

Department of Ethnic Studies, UCR

**CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Panelist**, “‘He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands:’ Critically Examining the New Imperialist Origins of American Muscular Christianity.” Presented in the fourth session, Oxford Symposium of Religious Studies at St Anne’s College, March 2024

**Panelist**, “From Empire to the ‘Shadows of Empire:’ Muscular Christianity’s Complicity in American Imperialism, Resistance, and Their Complex Interweavings.” Presented in the first session of the Religion, Sport, and Play Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2023

**Presider**, second session of the Religion, Sport, and Play Unit, Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2023

**Panelist**, “Reflections on the UC Strike.” Presented in the “Graduate Student Professional Development Roundtable” session, American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, March 2023

**Guest Lecturer**, “Apocalypse in Pop Culture and Media: (De-)Centering Whiteness in *Stranger Things* and *Nope*.” Presented in Cults and New Religious Movements course (RELG 1991-A), Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, March 2023

**Convener**, “QTSR and North American Religion,” UCR Conference on Queer and Transgender Studies in Religion, UCR, February 2023

**Presider**, “Divine and Human Selves,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2022

**Guest Lecturer**, “What is Liberation? Liberation Philosophy/Theology as Foundations for Social Justice.” Presented in History of Christianity course (REL 360), Program of Religious Studies, Defiance College, November 2022

**Guest Lecturer**, “Muscular Christianity at the Intersection of Nationalism and Neocolonialism.” Presented in Gender, Religion and Colonialism course (RELG 2991-B), Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, October 2022

**Panelist**, “Nearing God’s Reality: Muscular Christian Healthy-Mindedness as a Negotiation Between Jamesian, Hegelian, and Marxist Theory.” Presented in the “Subjectivity and Religion” session, Critical Approaches to the Study of Religion Conference, June 2022

**Guest Lecturer**, “Muscular Christianity at the Intersection of Nationalism and Neocolonialism.” Presented in Gender, Colonialism and Religion course (RELG 2991), Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, April 2022

**Panelist**, “Reframing Graduate Student ‘Professional Development:’ Movements Toward Equity, Social Justice, and Mercy.” Virtually presented in the “Graduate Student Professional Development Roundtable” session, American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, March 2022

**Guest Lecturer**, “Cultivating or Constructing Masculinity? Comparing and Contrasting Masculinities during the Mexican Revolution.” Presented in Gender and Sexuality in Religion course (RELG 295), Program of Religious Studies, Defiance College, March 2022

**Panelist**, “Muscular Christianity in Latin America: Attempted Liberations through the Myth of Modernity,” Global 19th Century Working Group, Center for Ideas and Society, UCR, March 2022

**Guest Lecturer**, “Apocalypse in Pop Culture and Media: The (De-)Centering of Whiteness in the Horror Genre.” Presented in Apocalyptic Consciousness course (RELG 2841), Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, March 2022

**Convener**, “Religion and Sex Work,” UCR Conference on Queer and Transgender Studies in Religion, UCR, February 2022

**Panelist**, “Nation Beautiful: Muscular Christianity and the Quest for Perfection.” Presented in the “Shadow, Sins, and Profits: Complicating Sport and Play” session, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2021

**Panelist**, UCR Graduate Student Panel, Virtual Colloquium, Department of Religious Studies, UCR, November 2021

**Guest Lecturer**, “Muscular Christianity, Early American Eugenics, and the Body.” Presented in Religion, Body and Sexuality course (RELG 1641), Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University, September 2021

**Guest Lecturer**, “Introduction to Feminism and Toxic Masculinity.” Presented in Gender and Sexuality course (GSST 001), Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, UCR, June 2021

**Guest Lecturer**, “Colonization as an Analytical Tool.” Presented in Myths and Rituals course (RLST 012/ETST 012), Department of Religious Studies and Ethnic Studies, UCR, April 2021

**Panelist**, “Chaos Averted: Muscular Christianity as a Unique Form of Healthy-Mindedness.” Virtually presented in the “Church in the Pandemic Age” session, American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, March 2021

**Respondent**, Religious Studies Panel, Center for Ideas and Society Virtual Conference, UCR, April 2020

**Panelist**, “From Muscular Christianity to Feats of Strength Ministries in Contemporary United States: Peculiar Manifestations of the Public and Private Spheres.” Virtually presented in the

“New Religious Movements and New Movements within American Religion” session,  
American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, March 2020

**Panelist**, UCR Graduate Student Panel, Virtual Colloquium, Department of Religious Studies,  
UCR, March 2020

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## **GRANTS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

2019 - present	Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship Award UCR
2024	Parrott Service Award Department for the Study of Religion, UCR
2024	Chicano Student Programs Travel Grant Chicano Student Programs, UCR
2023	Graduate Dean’s Dissertation Research Grant UCR
2023	Humanities Graduate Student Research Grant Center for Ideas and Society, UCR
2023	Chicano Latino Alumni Scholarship Chicano Latino Alumni Scholarship Committee, UCR
2021	Cardenas Markets Scholarship Chicano Educational & Cultural Fund, Inc.
2021	Global 19th Century Workshop Graduate Student Fellowship Center for Ideas and Society, UCR
2020	Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) Finalist HSF Program

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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion, Western Region (2020 - present)

American Academy of Religion (2019 - present)

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## **PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Religion, Sport and Play, AAR

<b>Unit (Co-)Chair</b>	2023 - present
Graduate Student Professional Development, AAR/WR <b>Unit Chair</b>	2021 - present
Gender and Sexuality, Religious Studies Review (RSR) <b>(Co-)Editor</b>	2022 - 2024
Religion, Sport and Play, AAR <b>Steering Committee Member</b>	2020 - 2022

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Decolonial Praxis Conference, UCR <b>Organizing Committee Member</b>	2024 - present
Non-Tenure Track (NTT) Faculty Union, Occidental College <b>Member of Leadership Team</b>	2024 - present
Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research, UCR <b>Special Topics Peer Mentor</b>	2024 - present
Graduate Student Mentorship Program (GSMP), UCR <b>Mentor</b>	2020 - present
Chicano Student Programs, UCR <b>Semana de la Mujer Planning Committee Member</b>	2020 - 2022
The Well, UCR <b>Graduate Student Public Health Peer Lead</b>	2021 - 2022
The Well, UCR <b>Graduate Student Peer Health Coach</b>	2022
Women's Resource Center, UCR <b>Mentor</b>	2020 - 2021

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## LANGUAGES

Spanish: native; Italian: intermediate; French: elementary.

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## REFERENCES

Dr. Melissa Wilcox, Professor and Department Chair for the Study of Religion, UCR,

melissa.wilcox@ucr.edu

Dr. Jennifer Hughes, Associate Professor in History, UCR, jennifer.hughes@ucr.edu

Dr. Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa, Associate Professor in Religious Studies & Asian Studies,  
Department Chair of Religious Studies, Occidental College, tagchung@oxy.edu