

LORI BRANCH

Ph.D. Indiana University, English, 2000

M.A. University of Memphis, English, 1994

B.A. Harding University, History, *summa cum laude*, 1992

Academic Positions

2006 – present Associate Professor, University of Iowa, English,

2008 –2011 Associate Chair, Director of Undergraduate Studies, UI English

2000 – 2006 Assistant Professor, University of Iowa, English

Honors & Awards (selected)

2010 – 2013 Invited Member, Mellon Working Group on “Religion and Literature,” University of Notre Dame

2007 Book of the Year, *Rituals of Spontaneity*, Conf. on Christianity & Literature

Professional Service

2019-20 Invited Consultant (1 of 12 internationally) for the “Christian Poetics Initiative,” Rivendell Center for Theology and the Arts, Yale University

2018- Founding Co-chair, “Orthodoxy and Literature” Group, International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA)

2014- Advisory Board, invited member, *Religion & Literature* (journal)

2012- Series Editor, “Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies,” Ohio State UP

2007- Editorial Board, *Philological Quarterly*

2010- Reviewed 6 mss for 3 scholarly journals; 2 mss for 2 presses

Reviewed 4 tenure/promotion cases for universities in the US and UK

Refereed Scholarship

Books: *Rituals of Spontaneity: Sentiment and Secularism from Free Prayer to Wordsworth*. Baylor University Press, 2006. 11 Reviews of this monograph to date.

Edited Books – Monograph Series:

Series Editor, “Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies,” Ohio State University Press, 2012 – present. 15 volumes in print.

Articles and Invited Chapters – most recent 7 of 20 total (last 5 years):

“Bunyan, Theory, & Theology: A Case for Postsecular Criticism.” *The Oxford Handbook of John Bunyan*. Eds. Michael Davies & W. R. Owens. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2018. 502-518.

With Mark Knight, “Why the Postsecular Matters: Literary Studies and the Rise of the Novel.” Solicited by *Christianity & Literature*, 67.3 (2018): 493-510.

“Postcritical and Postsecular: The Horizon of Belief.” *Religion & Literature* 48.2 (2016 [2017]): 160-67.

“Beauty and Belief: Postsecular Approaches to Literature and the Humanities.” *Literature & Belief* 36.1-2 (2016): 1-20.

“Eastern Orthodoxy,” with Ioana Patuleanu. *The Cambridge Companion to Literature & Religion*, ed. Susan Felch. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2016. 202-217.

“Postsecular Studies.” *Routledge Companion to Literature and Religion*, ed. Mark Knight. London & New York: Routledge, 2016. 91-101.

“The Rituals of Our Re-Secularization: Literature Between Faith and Knowledge.” *Religion & Literature* 46.2-3 (2014 [2015]): 9-33.

Invited Lectures (of 40 over career) and Conference Presentations (of 38 over career)

Forthcoming: “The Transformation of Secular Affect in James Wood’s *The Book Against God*,” at *The Problem with God: Christianity and Literature in Tension*, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 29-30 March 2019

“‘The Prose of Everyday Reality’: Fr. Roman Braga, Alexandros Papadiamandis, and the Living Literariness of Orthodox Spirituality,” at *The International Orthodox Theological Association Inaugural Conference*, Iași, Romania, 9-12 January 2019

10 invited lectures in China, May 4-14, 2018, at Beijing Normal University (7 in series), East China Normal University (2 lectures), and Xiamen University

“*Dracula*’s Sacramental Prosaics and the Remains of Religion in Modernity,” University of Notre Dame, Invited Lecture, Religion and Literature Lecture Series, March 7, 2018

Recent External Research Funding

NEH Summer Seminar for Faculty, 2018-2019, \$105,000 grant to teach 3-week seminar on “Religion, Secularism, and the Novel,” July-August 2019, Co-Director Mark Knight, Lancaster University, UK

NEH Summer Seminar for Faculty, 2015-2016, \$139,000 grant to teach 4-week seminar on “Postsecular Studies and the Rise of the English Novel, 1719-1897,” July 2016, Co-Director Mark Knight, Lancaster University, UK

Teaching Areas/Specialized Courses

- Doctoral Seminars in Postsecular Studies: “Religion, Secularism, & Modernity: Towards a Postsecular Criticism”; “Literature, Personhood, and Postsecular Studies”
- Honors Seminars in Postsecular Studies: C20-21 novels; Marilynne Robinson
- British Literature: Restoration Literature; Gothic Literature; an “Authors” course on Wordsworth; Children’s Literature; The Bible Among Its Readers
- Foundations of the English Major (4 times)

Service to the Institution – Selected

Department

Honors Program Scholarships & Awards Committee Chair, 2014-present

Honors Steering 2014-present

Undergraduate Steering 2013-2015

College

CLAS Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Spring 2019

CLAS Collegiate Academic Standards Committee, 2015-2018

Invited Presentation to Faculty on Teaching a Successful First-Year Seminar 2015

University

UI Presidential Scholars Review Committee, 2016

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), UI Chapter Faculty Sponsor, 2008 – present

InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship, UI Faculty Sponsor, 2006 – present