

Josefrayn Sánchez-Perry

Assistant Professor, Department of Theology & Religious Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Latin American & Latino Studies Program
College of Arts and Sciences, Loyola University Chicago

Updated: November 2022

EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., Religious Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Concentration: *Religion in the Americas; Native American and Indigenous Studies*
- 2018 M.A., Religious Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2015 C.P.E., 4 Clinical Units, Parkland Health & Hospital System
- 2014 M.Div., cum laude, Southern Methodist University
- 2011 B.A., Religious Studies, Northwestern College in Iowa

EMPLOYMENT

- 2021-pre *Assistant Professor*, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2020 *Lecturer*, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas
- 2020 *Lecturer*, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
- 2018 *Lecturer*, Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas

PUBLICATIONS

Books

(in progress) *Give Drink to the Sun: the Life and Labor of Nahua Ritual Specialists*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2021 “Exclusive Monotheism and Sahagún’s Mission: The Problem of Universals in the First Book of the *Florentine Codex*,” in *Religions*, volume 12, issue 3, 204-224.

Book Chapters

- (forthcoming) “Adaptation: Indigenous Rituals and Colonial Classification in Central Mexico” in *The Social Order of Things: Material Religion in the Americas*, edited by Chad Seales (publisher TBD).
- 2022 “Why Does it Matter How we Translate Religious Concepts in Indigenous Traditions” in *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, edited by Natalie Avalos and Molly Bassett, (Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing), 107-109.

Book Reviews (Journals)

(Forthcoming) Review Essay: “Adjusting to Change: New Interpretations, Old Histories, and the Struggles to Survive in the Colonial Americas” in *Early American Literature*.

- Andrew Devereux, *The Other Side of Empire: Just War and the Rise of Early Modern Spain*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2020).
- Eleni Kefala, *The Conquered: Byzantium and America on the Cusp of Modernity*, (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2020).
- Laura Dierksmeier, *Charity for and by the Poor: Franciscan-Indigenous Confraternities in Mexico, 1527-1700*, Norman, San Diego: University of Oklahoma Press; The Academy of American Franciscan History, 2020).
- Bradley Skopyk, *Colonial Cataclysms: Climate, Landscape, and Memory in Mexico’s Little Ice Age*, (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 2020).
- John Eugene Rodriguez, *Spanish New Orleans: An Imperial City on the American Periphery, 1766-1803*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021).
- William Taylor, *Fugitive Freedom: The Improbable Lives of Two Impostors in Late Colonial Mexico*, (Oakland: University of California Press, 2021).
- Eric Van Young, *A Life Together: Lucas Almán and Mexico, 1792-1853*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021).

2020 Review of Amber Brian, Bradley Benton, Peter Villella, and Pablo García Loeza (eds.), *History of the Chichimeca Nation: Don Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl’s Seventeenth-Century Chronicle of Ancient Mexico*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2019), in the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, volume 45, Issue 3, 441-442.

2017 Review of Timothy Larsen, *The Slain God: Anthropologists & the Christian Faith*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), in *Journal of Religious & Theological Information*, volume 16, Issue 2, 83-84.

Book Reviews (Open Access)

2021 Review Essay: “Translating Ritual, Politics, and Language in Colonial Mexico” in [*Religiology*](#).

- Jonathan Truitt, *Sustaining the Divine in Mexico Tenochtitlan: Nahuas and Catholicism, 1523-1700*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018).
- Ryan Crew, *The Mexican Mission: Indigenous Reconstruction and Mendicant Enterprise in New Spain*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019).
- Daniel Wasserman Soler, *Truth in Many Tongues: Religious Conversion and the Languages of the Early Spanish Empire*, (University Park: Penn State University Press, 2020).

- 2019 Review of Mary O'Connor, *Mixtec Evangelicals: Globalization, Migration, and Religious Change in a Oaxacan Indigenous Group*, (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2016), in [AAR-Reading Religion](#).
- 2018 Review of David Tavárez (ed.), *Words and Worlds Turned Around: Indigenous Christianities in Colonial Latin America*, (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2017), in [AAR-Reading Religion](#).
- 2017 Review of Mark B. Wiebe, *On Evil, Providence, and Freedom: A New Reading of Molina*, (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2017), in [AAR-Reading Religion](#).
- 2017 Review of Reinhold F. Gleis and Nikolas Jaspert (eds.), *Locating Religions: Contact, Diversity, and Translocality*, (Boston: Brill Press, 2017), in [AAR-Reading Religion](#).

FUNDING

Awards

- 2021 Spiritual Innovation in the Americas Award (\$2,500), Henry Luce Foundation Project with The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2020 From Primary Source to Publication Workshop Award (\$300), Omohundro Institute and John Carter Brown Library, Brown University.
- 2016-20 Professional Development Awards (\$2,500), The Graduate School, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2019 Graduate School Continuing Education Award (\$10,000), The Graduate School, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2014 Albert C. Outler Award for Best Essay in Theology (\$500), Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.
- 2014 Alfredo Nañez Award, Perkins School of Theology (\$1,000), Southern Methodist University.
- 2013 Nancy Underwood Graduate Student Leadership & Achievement Award (\$2,000), Student Senate, Southern Methodist University.

Fellowships

- 2022 College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Summer Research Experience Fellowship (\$2,500), "Aztec Ritual Specialists in Colonial Sources," Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago.
- 2020 University Graduate Continuing Fellowship (\$30,000), The Graduate School, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2019 Graduate School Fellowships (\$5,000), The Graduate School, The University of Texas at Austin.

- 2017 Graduate School Fellowship (\$5,000), The Graduate School, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2016 Recruitment Excellence Fellowship (\$10,000), The College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin.

Grants

- 2022 Course Development Grant for “Missionary Print Culture in the Colonial Americas” (\$4,000), Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2018 Research Travel Grant (\$3,000), The Department of Religious Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2017 Tinker Field Research Grant (\$1,800 [declined]), Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2016 Academic Travel Grant (\$650), The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity & Religions, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.
- 2016 Academic Travel Grant (\$650), The Center for Evangelism & Missional Church Studies, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2022 “Good and Bad Ritual: Adapting Nahua Divination to Colonial Life in Central Mexico” (presentation for The Social Order of Things: Material Religion in the Americas Workshop, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, October 6-8).
- 2022 “Remapping Sacred Time: Calculating Ritual Feasts in Christian Mesoamerican Calendars” (plenary session presentation for the Society for Textual Scholarship, Newberry Library and Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May 26-28).
- 2022 “The Telpochcalli in the Ritual Lifecycles of the Nahua World” (presentation for the American Historical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9).
- 2021 “Teotihuacan and Tollan in the Hierarchy of Mexica Ritual Specialists” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 20-23).
- 2021 (canceled) “Hands of Fire: Mexica Ritual Specialists and their Objects” (presentation for the Conference of the Latin American Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, May 26-29).

- 2021 “The Academy in Crisis” (roundtable panelist for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, March 6).
- 2020 “Incense and Performance: Teaching Ritual Labor in the Nahua World” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, November 21-24).
- 2020 (canceled) “Temple and Household Networks: The Social Fabric of Ritual Healing in Late Postclassic Mexico” (presentation for the Conference of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Duke University and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Durham, North Carolina, November 4-8).
- 2020 (canceled) “Ministers of Idols: The Colonial Semantics of Aztec Ritual Specialists” (presentation for the Conference on Faith and History, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, October 7-10).
- 2020 “The Cihuatlamacazque: Gendered Ritual Offerings in the Nahua World” (presentation for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, February 29 – March 1).
- 2019 with Sarah Sweeney, “Building to Share: An Open Education Approach to Materials Development” (presentation for COLING Annual Conference, Austin, Texas, December 12-13).
- 2019 “Remembering the Teopixque: Caretaking the Sacred Spaces of the Nahua World,” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 23-26).
- 2019 “Recording the Mesoamerican Past: Indigenous Religions in the Relaciones Geográficas of 1577-1585” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 23-26).
- 2019 “Migration and Sacrifice: Stories of Creation in Colonial Mesoamerica” (presentation for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, March 8-10).
- 2019 “In the Time of their Gentility: Prehispanic Religion in the Relaciones Geográficas of New Spain and Guatemala, 1577-1585” (presentation for the Central Texas Colloquium on Religion, Austin, Texas, February 23).

- 2018 “Intersecting Religions: Mesoamerican Christianity in the Codex Mexicanus” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 17-20).
- 2018 “Moteuczoma’s Throne: Cultural Memory & the Manipulation of Time” (presentation for the Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association, Austin, Texas, March 1-3).
- 2018 “Translating the New World: Images of Mesoamerica in Early Modern Europe” (presentation for the World Christianity & History of Religions Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, January 18-20).
- 2017 “Visuals of Culture-Contact in the Atzaqualco Pictorial Catechism” (presentation for the Department of Religious Studies & the Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, April 8).
- 2017 “Colonial Mesoamerica as a Source in the Study Missionary Strategies” (presentation for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Irving, Texas, March 10-12).
- 2016 “Rituals with El Señor Nácxit: K’iche’ Maya Interpretations of Biblical Narratives” (presentation for the American Society of Missiology, Saint Paul, Minnesota, June 16-18).

Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

- 2021 “Translating Ritual Performance in Colonial Mexico” (guest lecture for Colonial Latin American Art, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, March 31).
- 2021 “Exclusive Monotheism and Sahagún’s Mission” (invited talk for the colloquium of the Department of Theology at Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 11).
- 2021 “Imagining God in the Past and Present” (guest lecture for Introduction to Theology at Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 11).
- 2020 “Mesoamerican Writing Systems” (guest lecture for Lettering Through the Ages at Richard Milburn Academy, Fort Worth, Texas, November 9).
- 2019 “The reducción of Indigenous Languages in New Spain” (guest lecture for Faith and Fighting in Colonial America at Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa, June 27).
- 2019 “Indigenous Origins and Settled Borders” (invited talk for the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas, January 3).

Department Talks & Workshops

- 2021 “Adaptation: Remembering Good and Bad Rituals in Central Mexico” (invited talk for the Pre-modern Writing Group of Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, December 6).
- 2020 “Mesoamerican Directions in Colonial Context: Analyzing City, Symbol, and Space in the Relaciones Geográficas of New Spain and Guatemala” (workshop for the Mesoamerica Meetings, Austin, Texas, January 14-18).
- 2019 “Nahuatl Language Workshop” (workshop for the Central American Students Association at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, October 2).
- 2018 “Baptizing Aztec Divination: Intersecting Religions in the Codex Mexicanus” (invited talk for the Tertullia of the Mesoamerica Center at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, March 29).
- 2018 “El Códice Borgia” (Spanish-speaking presentation for the Art & Art History Department at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, February 15).
- 2017 “Reading the First Books” (panelist for LILLAS-Benson Latin American Studies and Collections at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, May 30).

TEACHING

Instructor of Record (Undergraduate)

Health, Science, and Religion in Mesoamerica (Loyola University Chicago)
Missionary Print Culture in the Colonial Americas (Loyola University Chicago)
Christianity through Time (Loyola University Chicago)
History of Christianity: Ancient to Medieval (Loyola University Chicago)
History of Christianity: Renaissance to Modern (Loyola University Chicago)
Religions in Latin America (Southwestern University)
Religions in the United States (The University of Texas at Austin)

Instructor of Record (Graduate)

Health, Science, and Religion in Mesoamerica (Loyola University Chicago)
History of Christianity: Ancient to Medieval (Loyola University Chicago)
History of Christianity: Renaissance to Modern (Loyola University Chicago)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2022 Director
Project: “Nahua Ritual Specialists Project”
<http://ctsdh.org/nahuatl/>
Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship
Loyola University Chicago
- 2019-20 Graduate Research Assistant
- 2017-18 Project: “Open Access Language Curriculum of Huasteca Nahuatl”
<https://tlahtolli.coerll.utexas.edu/>
LLILAS-Indigenous Languages Initiative
The University of Texas at Austin
- 2018 Digital Scholarship & Special Collections Intern
Project: “Relaciones Geográficas of México & Guatemala, 1577-1585”
<https://fromthepage.lib.utexas.edu/llilasbenson/relaciones-geograficas-of-mexico-and-guatemala>
LLILAS-Benson
The University of Texas at Austin

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Academy

- 2020-22 Reviewer for Graduate Student Roundtable Sessions of the American Academy of Religion
- 2019-22 Graduate Student Director for the Southwest Region of American Academy of Religion

Loyola University Chicago

- 2022-pre Faculty Advisor of Our Land Loyola, Native American and Indigenous Student Organization
- 2022-pre Chair of the Website Development Committee for the Department of Theology & Religious Studies
- 2022-pre Committee Member of the Recruitment of Majors and Minors for the Department of Theology & Religious Studies
- 2022-pre Organizer of the Graduate Theology Tertulia for the Department of Theology and Religious Studies
- 2021-pre Associate Member of the Graduate School for the College of Arts and Sciences
- 2021-22 Member of the Undergraduate and Core Learning Committee for the Department of Theology & Religious Studies
- 2022 Representative of the Crown Fellowship Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences

The University of Texas at Austin

- 2017-21 Graduate Student Representative for the Department of Religious Studies
2018-20 Graduate Coordinator for Tertulia of the Mesoamerica Center
2017-18 Volunteer for UT Explore

ADVISING SERVICE

Master's Thesis

- 2023 Advisor for Kacie Barrett (Master of Theological Studies), Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Master's Comprehensive Exams

- 2022 Advisor and Committee Member of Historical Theology for Chi Nhan Nguyen (Master of Theological Studies), Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (speaks, reads, and writes fluently)
English (speaks, reads, and writes fluently)
Modern Nahuatl (speaks, reads, and writes at intermediate level)
Colonial Nahuatl (reads with dictionary)
Modern Maya K'iche' (speaks, reads, and writes at elementary level)
Koinē Greek (reads with dictionary)

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion
American Historical Association
American Society of Ethnohistory
Latin American Studies Association
Society for Textual Scholarship and Textual Studies