

# JEREMY LUIS SABELLA

## curriculum vitae

Thornton Hall  
Dartmouth College  
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## EDUCATION

- 2013**      **Ph.D.**, Theology, Boston College  
              *Major Field:* Systematic Theology  
              *Minor Field:* History of Christian Life and Thought
- 2007**      **M.Div.**, Yale Divinity School
- 2003**      **B.A.**, University of Notre Dame, *magna cum laude*  
              Major: Political Science  
              Minors: Theology; PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Dartmouth College

Contemporary Religions (Spring 2020, Fall 2021)  
Religion and Technology (Fall 2018, Spring/Fall 2020)  
What Matters (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021)  
God and Money (Winter 2018, Fall 2019)  
Religion and Social Struggle (Winter 2018, Fall 2020)

### Kalamazoo College

Religion and Social Struggle (Spring 2018)  
Sports, Religion, and American Life (Fall 2017)  
Religion and the U.S. Presidency (Fall 2016)

### Fairfield University

Peoples of the Book, Sacred Texts, and Their Communities (2015-21)  
Common Questions, Traditional Responses: The Monotheistic Religions (2013-15)  
Contemporary Moral Problems (Fall 2014)  
Contemporary Morality: Basic Questions (Fall 2014)  
Non-Traditional American Religious Groups (Fall 2014)

## **Yale Divinity School**

Christian Ethics of War and Peace (Spring 2014)

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

2017 *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story* (Eerdmans, 2017)

### **Articles**

2019 “Postures of Piety and Protest: American Civil Religion and the Politics of Kneeling in the NFL,” *Religions* 2019, 10, 449

2017 “Establishment Radical: Assessing the Legacy of Reinhold Niebuhr’s *Reflections on the End of an Era*” *Political Theology*, 18.5.2017. 377-398

2012 “Poets and Prophets in a Machine Age: Reinhold Niebuhr on Technology” *Theory in Action*, 5.1.2012

### **Chapters in Edited Volumes**

2022 “The American Presidency” in Handbook of *Contemporary Christianity in the United States* (under contract, Rowman & Littlefield, 2022)

2021 “Fandom Transfigured: Fantasy Sports as Neoliberal Religion” in *Religion and Sport in North America* (under contract, Routledge, 2021)

2021 “The 1930s – Economic Crisis and the ‘End of an Era’” in *The Oxford Handbook of Reinhold Niebuhr* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2021)

2020 “The Virtues of the Social Critic” in *Paradoxical Virtue* (Routledge, 2020)

### **Public Scholarship**

2021 “The Prosperity Gospel President,” *Current*, July 21, 2021  
<https://currentpub.com/2021/07/21/the-prosperity-gospel-president/>

2021 “American Amnesia,” *Current*, May 26, 2021  
<https://currentpub.com/2021/05/26/american-amnesia/>

2021 “The Post-Truth Coalition,” *Current*, April 20, 2021  
<https://currentpub.com/2021/04/20/the-post-truth-coalition/>

2020 “Our Nostalgia Is Spiritually Dangerous,” *Christianity Today*, July 16, 2020

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/july-web-only/sabella-nostalgia-spiritually-dangerous-covid-golden-calf.html>

- 2020 “Louie Giglio ‘white blessing’ incident reveals something critical about evangelical efforts to address racism” *Religion Dispatches*, June 19, 2020  
<https://religiondispatches.org/louie-giglio-white-blessing-incident-reveals-something-critical-about-evangelical-efforts-to-address-racism/>
- 2017 “Realism without Despair,” *Christian Century*, August 30, 2017  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/niebuhr-left-right>
- 2017 “The Irony of Environmental History: a response” *Political Theology Today*, August 21, 2017. <http://politicaltheology.com/the-irony-of-environmental-history/>
- 2015 “The Peril and Promise of World Community,” *Political Theology Today*, November 12, 2015. <http://www.politicaltheology.com/blog/?s=sabella>
- 2015 “The Wisdom of the Serpent and the Harmlessness of the Dove” *Political Theology Today*, November 4, 2015. <http://www.politicaltheology.com/blog/?s=sabella>

## Reviews

- 2020 “Reinhold Niebuhr in the 1960s” by Ronald Stone. Reviewed in *Lutheran Quarterly*, 34.4.2020
- 2018 “The Religion of Democracy: Seven Liberals and the American Moral Tradition” by Amy Kittlestrom. Reviewed in *Reading Religion*, July 5, 2018.  
<http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-democracy>
- 2016 “The Politics of Jesús: A Hispanic Political Theology” by Miguel A. De la Torre. Reviewed in *Journal of Theological Studies*, 77.3.2016
- 2016 “Why Church History Matters” by Robert F. Rea. Reviewed in *The Catholic Historical Review*, 2.1.2016
- 2015 “The Rebirth of Latin American Christianity” by Todd Hartch, and “Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture” by Felipe Hinojosa. Reviewed in *Journal of Theological Studies*, 76.2.2015
- 2008 “Christ Killers: The Jews and the Passion from the Bible to the Big Screen” by Jeremy Cohen. Reviewed in *Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations*, 3.1.2008

## Encyclopedia Entries

- 2016 *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, s.v. “Howard Thurman;” “*Life is Worth Living* (Fulton Sheen);” “Luis Palau Association;” “Millenarian Movement;” “Personality Cult in American Christianity;” “Rescue Movement.” (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016)

## INVITED LECTURES AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2021 *St. Mark's Teaneck Soup & Speaker Series*

Featured Speaker for weekly Lenten series (Jan 2021)

2019 "Reckoning With the Past: Guatemala After the Civil War" Ramapo College, Feb 4, 2019

2018 "Acting Ethically in Anxious Times," *General Board of Higher Education and Ministry*, United Methodist Church

Featured speaker at continuing education events in Chicago (July) and North Carolina (October) for military, hospital, and hospice chaplains

2018 "Tolerance as Christian Virtue," Weekapaug Chapel, Westerly, RI, July 8, 2018

2018 "Excavating Hope: Reinhold Niebuhr and the Reformation" Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA, Feb 4, 2018

2017 "Costly Hope," Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, IN, Sept 17, 2017

2017 Thompson Lecture, Kalamazoo College, May 4, 2017

2013 "Apocalypticism, Millennialism, and Cold War Violence: The Case of Guatemala." Yale University, Nov. 19, 2013

## CONFERENCES, PANELS, AND SYMPOSIA

### Conferences Presentations

2018 "Postures of Piety and Protest: The Politics of Kneeling in NFL Stadiums," American Academy of Religion, November 2018

2017 "Niebuhr and the Virtues of the Social Critic" Niebuhr and Virtue Conference, Harvard Divinity School, November 2017

2015 "God, Country, and Communism: The Construction of Cold War Political Theology," American Religious History Working Group, Yale University, May 2015

2014 "Saints Go Marching: Conversion, Coercion and National Identity in Ríos Montt's Guatemala," American Academy of Religion, November 2014

2013 "Apocalypses Now: the Convergence and Clash of Millennial Visions in Cold War Guatemala," American Academy of Religion, November 2013

2012 "'Real Things:' Reinhold Niebuhr's Theological Pragmatism as Model for

Cross-disciplinary Engagement,” Graduate Religion Conference at Harvard Divinity School, October 2012

2011 “Theological implications of technology in the thought of Reinhold Niebuhr” Northeast Regional AAR meeting, Syracuse, NY, May 2011

### **Panels**

2017 *An American Conscience* documentary screenings at Boston College (Feb 1), Princeton Theological Seminary (Mar 15), and University of Notre Dame (Apr 10)

2016 *An American Conscience* premiere, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (Nov. 19)

### **Symposia Organized**

2020 “Sins and Virtues in American Public Life,” *Syndicate*, Sept-Nov 2020  
Created, coordinated, and introduced symposium  
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/sins-virtues-in-american-public-life/>

2020 “Color of Compromise,” *Syndicate*, June-July 2020  
Created, coordinated, and introduced symposium on Jemar Tisby’s *New York Times* bestselling book  
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/the-color-of-compromise/>

### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**St. Paul’s Community Development Corporation**, Paterson, NJ

*Board Member* (2020-)

Drafted organization statements on BLM protests and in support of the AAPI community

**El Concilio**, Kalamazoo, MI

*Executive Council Secretary* (2017- 2018)

Wrote grants, conducted financial oversight, advocated for the local Latinx community

**Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC)** Kalamazoo, MI

*Board Member* (2017- 2018)

Coordinated with religious groups and other nonprofits as representative of El Concilio

***An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*** (PBS Documentary)

*Lead Consultant* (2016-2017)

Advised filmmaker Martin Doblmeier on film content, helped arrange and structure interviews, consulted on set

**ERACCE**, Kalamazoo, MI

*Participant* (May 2016)

Completed three-day *Eliminating Racism and Creating/ Celebrating Equity* training session

**Christian-Muslim Dialogue: “Creation: Our Shared Inheritance,”** Istanbul, Turkey

*Master Note Taker* (2015)

Compiled session notes designed to be representative of conference proceedings and sensitive to the religious concerns and political safety of participants

## **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

**2020** *Experiential Learning Grant*, Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning  
Awarded funds supported an eclectic roster of guest speakers for co-taught “Religion and Social Struggle” course offered in the fall of 2020.

**2016** *Arthur Vining Davis Grant*  
Co-wrote grant application to fund curriculum development related to *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*  
**Grant amount:** \$125,000

**2015** *Lilly Foundation Grant*  
Co-wrote grant application to fund the PBS documentary *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*  
**Grant Amount:** \$550,000

## **REFERENCES**

Randall Balmer  
John Phillips Prof. of Religion  
Dartmouth College  
[randall.balmer@dartmouth.edu](mailto:randall.balmer@dartmouth.edu)

Robin Lovin  
Prof. of Ethics Emeritus  
Southern Methodist University  
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