

## VITAE

### **BOBBY C. ALEXANDER, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Sociology, and Public Policy and Political Economy  
Sociology Program, and Program in Public Policy and Political Economy

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### **EDUCATION HISTORY**

- Ph.D., May 15, 1985, Columbia University, New York, New York, Religious Studies  
(area of concentration: social-scientific study of religion)

Dissertation Title: “A Critical Assessment of Victor Turner’s Theory of ‘Ritual Anti-Structure’ as Agent of Social Change as an Interpretive Tool in Application to Pentecostal Spirit Possession and the Contemporary Theatrical Experiments of Jerzy Grotowski’s Polish Laboratory Theatre”

- Ph.D., May 14, 1985, Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York (awarded in cooperation with Columbia University), Systematic Theology
- Master of Philosophy, May 13, 1981, Columbia University, New York, New York, Religious Studies
- Master of Divinity, May 21, 1976, Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York, Systematic Theology
- B.A., May 18, 1973, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, Double Major: Religion, and English Literature; graduated *magna cum laude*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### *UTD*

- Associate Professor of Sociology, August 2002-present, Sociology Program and Program in Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences, Richardson, Texas
- College Master and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, August 1999-May 2002, School of Social Sciences, Richardson, Texas
- Senior Lecturer III, August 2001-May 2002, School of Social Sciences (renamed School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences), Richardson, Texas
- Senior Lecturer II, August 1999-May 2001, School of Social Sciences, Richardson, Texas
- Senior Lecturer I, August 1997-May 1999, School of Social Sciences, School of Arts and Humanities, and Office of Undergraduate Education, Richardson, Texas
- Lecturer I, June 1993-August 1997, School of Social Sciences, Richardson, Texas
- Lecturer II, January 1995-August 1995, School of Arts and Humanities, Richardson, Texas

### *Southern Methodist University*

- Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, August 1986-May 1993, Department of Religious Studies, Dedman College, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

*Hunter College of the City University of New York*

- Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, September 1985-May 1986, Hunter College of The City University of New York, Program in Religion, Department of Philosophy, New York, New York
- Adjunct Lecturer in Religious Studies, September 1981-May 1985, Program in Religion, Department of Philosophy, New York, New York

*Macmillan Publishing Company*

- Editorial Assistant, 1983-1986, *Encyclopedia of Religion*, The Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, New York

*Barnard College*

- Teaching Assistant, September 1979-May 1981, Department of Religion, New York, New York

While a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion at Columbia University I was the Teaching Assistant (TA) for the Department of Religion at Barnard, and was TA for Elaine Pagels, Ph.D., Chair of the Department, my second year in the position.

*Columbia University*

- Curator, The (Wendell) Bush Collection, Department of Religion, New York, New York, September 1981-May 1985

A global collection of religious arts, artifacts, and visual materials.

- Departmental Research Assistant, Department of Religion, Columbia University, New York, New York, September 1977-1978

I held these positions while a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion at Columbia.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research and publications treat religion and social change. Informed by theories of religion and ritual as agents of social change in sociology, anthropology, Religious Studies, and Ritual studies, my research examines social change within the overlap of religion and other social arenas and social forces. A special focus is ways in which minority and marginal social groups have engaged their religious institutions, ideologies/theologies, and rituals as agents of change within the context of broader societal patterns of social conflict and change in other social institutions. My primary research method is participant-observation ethnography.

Earlier research examined politically active black Americans in New York engaging their Pentecostal religion and ritual as protest in the service of civil rights, the contemporary experimental theater of Jerzy Grotowski engaging ritualized performance in the effort to create a secular spirituality of open human community in protest against certain confinements of western social norms and conventions, and viewers of television religion engaging the TV programs as ritual in an effort to redress their ideological and social marginalization in American society, although in conflicting ways, namely establishing self-legitimacy as a minority religious group, and adapting to a secularized American society undergoing political, social, and cultural change. More recent research has examined the religious organizations and rituals of the newest immigrants to the United States and their simultaneous roles in assimilating these immigrants into American society and in maintaining their ethnicity in an increasingly multicultural society.

A current research project examines the contribution of Protestant church organization and egalitarian church doctrine to change in gender role for Mexican immigrant Pentecostal women. The book explores, through such change, broader gender-related issues in the assimilation of Mexicans and the second generation in the United States.

Another research project examines the performance of credibility involving immigrants engaged in the legal process of being granted asylum. Drawn principally from current legal theory, the concept of performance of credibility refers to construction of credibility by the behavioral and speech performances, perceptions, and intentions of individual asylum petitioners, staff members of non-profit agencies providing petitioners legal

representation, pro bono attorneys secured by these agencies, immigration court officers, and immigration judges. I am collaborating with members of the UTD Asylum Research Team (ART), an interdisciplinary group comprised of Drs. Lloyd Jeff Dumas, Jennifer Holmes, Linda Keith, and Doug Dow, all of whom are members of the faculty in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences. ART is carrying out the research in partnership with the Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI), a Dallas-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides legal representation to clients pursuing asylum and other legal statuses. HRI has made available to ART file data on clients and access to clients and staff members, whom I and former ART member, Dr. Danielle Lavin-Loucks, interviewed. The ART project members aim to make their findings available to policymakers engaged in reform of U.S. immigration laws and policies. I am working on journal articles I am co-authoring with members of the research team, which plans to publish its findings in an edited volume.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Academy of Religion, 1986-present
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 1986-2000

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Coolidge Fellow  
CrossCurrents: The Association for Religion and Intellectual Life  
Research Colloquium, with cooperation from Columbia University and Union  
Theological Seminary, New York, New York, July 5-28, 2006

This competitive residency program allowed me to draft a journal article and develop a book monograph on the contribution of Protestant church organization and church doctrine to change in gender role for Mexican immigrant Pentecostal women. The book explores, through such change, broader gender-related issues in the settlement and assimilation of Mexicans and the second generation in the United States.

- Resident  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
Residency, The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study and Conference Center  
Bellagio, Italy, July 15-August 13, 2004

This competitive residency program allowed me to devote one month to the initial stage of conceptualizing my book on Protestant religious organization and doctrine, change in gender role for Mexican immigrant Pentecostal women, and assimilation of Mexican immigrants.

- Junior Scholar Award and Research Grant  
Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (Southwest region of the American Academy of Religion)  
1989-1990

Research and book on television religion

## **ACHIEVEMENTS IN ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH**

### **Grants Awarded**

#### Federal

- “An Ethnographic/Social Science/Community-Based Model to Recruit and Retain Hispanics”  
Bobby C. Alexander, Project Director (PI)  
U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)  
September 1, 2003-August 31, 2004

As FIPSE Project Director, I secured a no-cost extension of the FIPSE grant by applying interest earned during the original period of the grant and tapping money that had not been expended during the original grant period.

The purpose of the FIPSE grant was to address Congressional Priorities 12 and 13 (1998): retain Hispanic students enrolled in two-year colleges, transfer them to four-year colleges and universities upon completion of the Associate’s

degree, prepare them to graduate with a Bachelor's, and enroll more Latino students as majors in the sciences.

- “An Ethnographic/Social Science/Community-Based Model to Recruit and Retain Hispanics”  
Bobby C. Alexander, PI (beginning October 2001)  
U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)  
September 1, 2002-August 31, 2003

I secured a second no-cost extension of the grant.

- “An Ethnographic/Social Science/Community-Based Model to Recruit and Retain Hispanics”  
Rita Mae Kelly, PI; Bobby C. Alexander, Co-PI (from September 1999 to October 2001)  
U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)  
September 1, 1999-August 31, 2002  
\$600,000

I assisted Dean Rita Kelly, the original FIPSE Project PI, in preparing the proposal for the FIPSE grant.

#### Other Federal Grant Activity

- U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) Migration and Gender in the Globalization Context Program  
  
During the Fall 2004 semester, following the departure from UTD of Laura Gonzalez, Ph.D., the former Project Director of this second FIPSE grant project, I served as Project Director during the final phase of funding. Formerly known as the North American Mobility Project (NAMP), this international student-exchange program sent UTD students to The University of Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico, and The University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada, and received students from these universities at UTD. I supervised a student from each of these universities during my term of office.

University

- Special Faculty Development Assistance (SFDA) leave (sabbatical)  
Bobby C. Alexander  
UTD  
academic year 2006-2007  
three-quarters salary

My year-long sabbatical enabled me to draft a journal article and develop a book monograph on the contribution of Protestant church organization and egalitarian church doctrine to change in gender role for Mexican immigrant Pentecostal women, and, through such change, broader gender-related issues in the assimilation of Mexicans and the second generation in the United States.

I initiated these efforts while I was a Coolidge Fellow in the Summer Residency Program sponsored by CrossCurrents: Association for Religion and Intellectual Life, with the cooperation of Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary, in New York, New York, where I resided from July 5-28, 2006.

The leave also allowed me to complete a book examining barriers Hispanic community college students experience in transferring to four-year colleges and universities based on the U.S. Department of Education's FIPSE Project, of which I am one of two editors and one of the two primary authors, and to submit the book manuscript to potential publishers. The book is under contract with The Edwin Mellen Press and has received the first of two recommendations to publish by scholars in the field as required by the press.

My leave also allowed me to revise and correct page proofs for my co-authored journal article on barriers to transfer previously submitted to the *Journal of Hispanics in Higher Education*. The article, "New Challenges for Community Colleges: Hispanic Students, Immigrants, and the Transfer Process," co-authored with Victor Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, formerly of UTD, Geoffrey Grimes, and Dan O'Brien, formerly of UTD, was published in April 2007, 6(2):174-184. The journal is a publication of Sage Publications.

While on leave, I completed follow-up interviews with clients and staff members of the Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI) for the Asylum Research Project being carried out by the UTD Asylum Research Team (ART).

- University Research Council Grant  
Bobby C. Alexander  
Southern Methodist University

1990

Research and book on television religion

- Fund for Faculty Excellence Grant  
Bobby C. Alexander  
Southern Methodist University's Dedman College  
Summer 1990

Research and book on television religion

- Research Assistance Grant  
Bobby C. Alexander  
American Academy of Religion  
1988-1989

Research and book on television religion

- Fund for Faculty Excellence Grant  
Bobby C. Alexander  
Southern Methodist University's Dedman College  
Summer 1989

Research and book on television religion

#### Private Sources

- UTD Asylum Research Team (ART)  
Cannon Flowers, Executive Director, Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI)  
The Overbrook Foundation  
Summer 2009  
\$7,500

I led a presentation by members of the UTD Asylum Research Team (ART) to the Director of The Overbrook Foundation in Fall 2008 that resulted in the renewal of the grant initially awarded by the foundation in 2007. All of the grants from the foundation were awarded directly to HRI, which dispersed the funds to the individual members of ART.

- UTD Asylum Research Team  
Cannon Flowers, Executive Director, Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI)  
The Overbrook Foundation  
Summer 2008  
\$15,000

I assisted the Development Officer of HRI in writing two separate grant proposals to The Overbrook Foundation to fund the research of UTD's Asylum Research Team in Summer 2007 and Summer 2008.

- UTD Asylum Research Team  
Cannon Flowers, Executive Director, Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI)  
The Overbrook Foundation  
Summer 2007  
\$12,500

- Oak Cliff Center for Community Studies (OCCCS)

A.

Donor Grant  
The Dallas Women's Foundation  
July 2004  
\$5,000

In the final months of the FIPSE grant, I led the successful effort by principals of the FIPSE Project to secure a donor grant from the Dallas Women's Foundation (DWF). The grant, which was awarded through UTD, funded the transition from the U.S. Department of Education's FIPSE Project to the creation by former FIPSE Project principals of a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization – the Oak Cliff Center for Community Studies (OCCCS). The OCCCS, which operated out of the physical site of the former FIPSE Project's ethnographic field station in Oak Cliff, continued and expanded the activities of the FIPSE Project. As President of the Board of Directors of the OCCCS, I wrote and submitted grant applications to a number of foundations, including the Dallas Women's Foundation and the Harold Simmons Foundation.

The OCCCS cooperated with Mountain View College (MVC), UTD's institutional partner in the FIPSE Project, in providing instructional staff for the "Cultural Studies" course offered by MVC. The OCCCS also made the ethnographic field station it operated available to train students enrolled in the course in ethnographic research. As the FIPSE Project had done, the OCCCS

assisted students, particularly women, in applying to four-year institutions, applying for scholarships and other forms of financial assistance, and mentored the students and their parents as well as other members of students' families. The OCCCS expanded the mission of the FIPSE Project by assisting high school students enrolled in Dallas Independent School District high schools in Oak Cliff, preparing them for and helping them apply to two-year and four-year colleges and universities, and apply for scholarships and financial aid. The OCCCS included students' parents as participants in its programs and activities in an effort to engage them more fully in supporting their children's higher education.

In the final months of the FIPSE grant I was instrumental in the initiation by administrators and faculty in the Dallas County Community College District of a new, successful FIPSE grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The new grant built upon the FIPSE Project's community and family model.

B., C., D., E., and F.

The Dallas Womens' Foundation  
Harold Simmons Foundation  
TXU Electric

In my role as President of the Board of the OCCCS, I secured two additional grants from the Dallas Women's Foundation (2004 – \$19,125, and 2005 – \$15,000) to support programs and activities of the center, two grants from the Harold Simmons Foundation (2006 – \$20,000 and \$15,000) to support the salaries of the Executive Director and Assistant to the Director, and a grant from TXU Electric (2005 – \$1,000) to pay operating expenses.

- Junior Scholar Award and Research Grant  
Bobby C. Alexander  
Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (Southwest region of the American Academy of Religion  
1989-1990  
Around \$500

Research and book on television religion

### Grant Proposals Submitted

- “Does Religion Affect Behavior? Influence of Religious Authority on Schooling Decisions in Africa”  
Simon Fass, PI; Bobby C. Alexander, Nathan Berg, Karl Ho, Co-PIs  
NSF  
2006  
\$150,000

I assisted UTD’s Simon Fass, Ph.D. by writing drafts of the section of the proposal on “spiritual capital,” and by designing a questionnaire on religion and schooling decisions to be administered to research subjects. The proposal was based upon the proposal submitted to the Metanexus Institute in 2005, which I also assisted Dr. Fass in preparing.

- “Spiritual Rationality, Education and Economic Progress: Lessons from Africa”  
Simon Fass, PI; Bobby C. Alexander, Nathan Berg, Karl Ho, Co-PIs  
Metanexus Institute  
2005  
\$150,000
- Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE)  
Kellogg Foundation  
2000

Representing UTD, along with Dean Rita Kelly of the formerly named School of Social Sciences, I was a member of the planning committee that submitted the grant proposal to the Kellogg Foundation. The grant proposed strengthening links between and among partners in education – particularly higher education, business, and government in enhancing educational opportunities for Latinos in the greater Dallas area. The planning committee was comprised of representatives of the Dallas County Community College District, area colleges and universities, and the Dallas Independent School District.

## Book Under Contract

- *Transferring Hispanics to the University – New Challenges for Community Colleges: An Ethnographic Case Study*. Bobby C. Alexander and Victor Garcia, Editors. Lewiston, New York: The Edwin Mellen Press. Submitted February 27, 2009. Contract issued April 14, 2009.

I am one of two editors of the book and one of two primary authors; I wrote three of the book's six chapters. Authors of other chapters are Victor Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, and Geoffrey Grimes. Dan O'Brien authored an appendix. The book presents ethnographic findings on barriers to transfer Hispanic students encounter in transferring to the university. Beyond identifying barriers and recommending policy to address them modeled on the U.S. Department of Education FIPSE Project partnering UTD and Mountain View College in the Dallas County Community College District on which the book is based, the value of the ethnographic findings for other researchers is that they generate a variety of concepts, contexts, and questions for future research.

The book is an expanded version of a paper I and my co-authors were selected by The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University to present to its eight-panel symposium on "Community Colleges and Latino Educational Opportunity" held at The Harvard Law School with support from the Pew Hispanic Center.

## Books Authored

- 1994. *Televangelism Reconsidered: Ritual in the Search for Human Community*. Studies in Religion Series, No. 68. Atlanta: Scholars Press (in the catalogue of Oxford University Press; originally published by the American Academy of Religion's press).

By framing the phenomenon within the context of viewers' ideological and social marginalization within mainstream U.S. society, the book calls attention to televangelism's attractiveness as an opportunity viewers discover to redress their marginality. Fundamentalist Christian viewers' religious ideology and morality differ from those of mainline Christians and from mainstream society, which is historically committed to political, cultural, and religious pluralism. The book offers an analysis of the conflicting ritual uses of television religion by viewers to overcome their marginality: self-legitimation as a minority religious group, and adaptation of members of this group to a secularized U.S. society undergoing political, social, and cultural change.

- 1991. *Victor Turner Revisited: Ritual as Social Change*. Academy Series: Dissertation Series, No. 74. Atlanta: Scholars Press (in the catalogue of Oxford University Press; originally published by the American Academy of Religion's press).

The book offers an evaluation of Victor Turner's theory of "ritual anti-structure" – ritual stands in "dialectical relation" to social structure and, as such, is an agent of social change within the context of social conflict and change in the wider society – applied as an interpretive tool to two examples of religious or spiritual ritual, one found in traditional religion and the other in a secular form of spirituality. Application is made to a well-known black Pentecostal church in Brooklyn, New York, engaged in political activism in that city, as well as to the highly influential, counter-cultural experiments of Jerzy Grotowski's contemporary Polish Laboratory Theatre.

## Journal Articles

### Refereed

- 2007. "Barriers in the Transfer Process for Hispanic and Hispanic Immigrant Students." *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education* 6(2) (April):174-184. Co-authored with Victor Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Geoffrey Grimes, and Dan O'Brien.

I was the lead author of this article based on the paper my co-authors and I were selected to present to The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University's eight-panel symposium on "Community Colleges and Latino Educational Opportunity" sponsored by the Pew Hispanic Center. The journal is a publication of Sage Publications.

- 1998. "A Pentecostal-styled Mexican Mission in Dallas: An Illustration of Religious Diversity among New Latino Immigrants." *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture* 33(3) (Fall):175-187.
- 1998. "Introduction." *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture* 33(3) (Fall):155-161.

I was Editor of this special issue devoted to the "Religions of

America's Immigrants.”

- 1995. “An Afterward on Ritual in Biblical Studies.” *Semeia: Journal for Biblical Interpretation* 67 (Fall):209-225.

The editor of this special issue solicited my essay as a response to the other articles, which addressed the theme, “Passages, Transformations, and Processes: Ritual Approaches to Biblical Texts.” One of the major journals in biblical studies.

- 1991. “Correcting Misinterpretations of Turner’s Theory: An African-American Pentecostal Illustration.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 30(1) (March):26-44.

The leading journal in social-scientific study of religion.

- 1991. “Turner’s Definition of Ritual Reconsidered: Grotowski’s Experimental Theater as Secular Rituals of Spiritual Healing.” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 3(1), Issue 31 (Winter):62-83.
- 1989. “Pentecostal Ritual Reconsidered: ‘Anti-structural’ Dimensions of Possession.” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 3(1) (Winter):109-128.

The leading journal in Ritual Studies.

#### Non-Refereed

- 1994. Rejoinder to Don Hendelman’s review of my book, *Victor Turner Revisited: Ritual as Social Change*. *Journal of Ritual Studies* 8(2) (Summer):161-163.

The editors of this refereed journal published my rejoinder as a non-refereed response.

#### **Articles Appearing as Chapters in Edited Volumes/Book Chapters**

- 2010. “Public Art in the Ritual Construction of Human Community.” In *Holy Hiatus Art as Ritual and Community*, edited by Ruth Jones. London: Parthian Books.

In this chapter I apply sociological and anthropological theories of ritual to illumine the role of performance art as ritual in the construction of human community and the experience of the “holy” in contemporary secular western society. The chapter is a revised version of my keynote address to the symposium “Holy Hiatus: Performing Ritual, Community, and Space” funded by The University of West England and held at Cardigan, Wales, United Kingdom, May 24-25, 2008.

- 2009. “Rite of Passage.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Chicago.

Editors of the encyclopedia invited me to update the entry originally written by Edwin Norbeck and discuss contemporary theories that illumine the phenomenon.

- 1997. “Ritual and Current Studies of Ritual: Overview.” *Anthropology of Religion: A Handbook*, edited by Stephen D. Glazier. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press.

I was Editor of the chapters on ritual.

- 1997. “Televangelism Reconsidered: Ritual within a Larger Social Drama.” *Rethinking Media, Religion, and Culture*, edited by Stewart M. Hoover and Knut Lundby. Sage Publications, Inc.: Thousand Oaks, California.

The chapter is based on the paper I was invited to present by organizers of the first of three international symposia on “Media-Religion-Culture” at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, in 1993. Hoover and Lundby organized the symposium.

### Articles in Encyclopedias

In Press

- “Liminal/Liminality.” *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*, edited by Kocku von Stuckrad and Robert Segal. E.J. Brill. Leiden, The Netherlands. Forthcoming. Submitted June 2, 2010.

The editors invited me to discuss the concept of liminal/liminality as it is applied in the study of religion.

- “Rites of Passage in Secular Society.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Chicago, Illinois. Forthcoming. Submitted August 24, 2010.

This entry in a forthcoming edition of EB discusses theories of the societal roles of religious rites of passage in traditional societies as well as the roles of religious or quasi-religious rites in modern secular societies viewed within the context of competing theories of secularization and religion.

Published

- 2009. “Rite of Passage.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Chicago, 2009. Published online.

Editors of the encyclopedia invited me to update the entry originally written by Edwin Norbeck and discuss contemporary theories that illumine the phenomenon.

- 2005. “Ceremony.” *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Second Edition, edited by Lindsay Jones, *et al.* Vol. 3:1512-1519. The Macmillan Publishing Company.

A cross-cultural examination of political applications of religious ritual and of religiously informed secular ritual with political purpose, providing contemporary and classical examples. (an updated and revised entry based on 1987 publication, below)

- 2003. “Jerry Falwell.” *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, edited by Hans Hillerbrand. Vol. 2:738-739. Routledge Publications, Inc.

- 1987. "Ceremony." *Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by Charles Adams, *et al.*; Mircea Eliade, Editor in Chief. Vol. 3:179-183. New York: The Macmillan Publishing Company.

## **Works in Progress**

### Book Monograph

- *The Contribution of Religion to Change in Gender Role for Mexican Migrant Women and Mexican Assimilation: The Case of Pentecostalism*

This book monograph examines the contribution of Protestant church organization and egalitarian church doctrine to change in gender role for Mexican immigrant Pentecostal women. The book explores, through such change, broader gender-related issues in the assimilation of Mexicans and the second generation in the United States.

The book calls attention to religion's contribution to patterns of change in gender role emerging within the overlapping social arenas of religious institutions (which sociological studies of immigrant women overlook), the family, and paid labor (on which sociologists tend to place their focus as the locus of change). Change in gender role occurring inside the religious organization both influences and is influenced by such change occurring inside the family and in the workforce.

The book focuses on the religious institution, its life cycle rituals, and egalitarian Pentecostal doctrine. More specifically, the book calls attention to the encouragement of women's agency and authority in decision making by growing leadership roles for women within the congregational structure of the religious organizations they help to establish and lead and within the congregations' community model of service delivery, by women's leadership in celebrating life cycle rituals observed by their churches, and by Pentecostal egalitarian religious doctrine. The book examines how these features of their religion provide these women leverage to exercise greater degrees of agency and assert greater authority within their churches, families, and work.

I have received support for this research from the Rockefeller Foundation (2004), CrossCurrents: The Association for Religion and Intellectual Life (2006), and UTD (Special Faculty Development Assistance, academic year 2006-2007).

## Journal Articles

- “The Contribution of Protestant Church Organization and Church Doctrine to Change in Gender Role for Mexican Immigrant Pentecostal Women and Their Assimilation”

The article is a condensed version of the argument I make in the book monograph (above) now in progress.

- “The Criticality of Performance of Credibility in the Process of Appeal for Political Asylum: Petitioners and Trial Judges.” Co-authored with Doug Dow, Jennifer Holmes, and Linda Keith.

This is my initial journal article based upon research on “The Performance of Credibility in the Construction of Successful Political Asylum Cases” I am conducting in collaboration with members of UTD’s Asylum Research Team (ART). My ethnographic research conducted on clients and staff members of HRI, undertaken in collaboration with Danielle Lavin-Loucks, formerly of UTD, is the basis of sociological interpretations of the performance of credibility in the construction of successful political asylum cases. I plan to co-author additional journal articles with members of the team, which also plans to publish our findings in an edited volume.

- “Ritual Liminality As ‘Holy Play.’”

In this chapter I develop discussion of the concept the “holy” I explored in my keynote address to the first symposium “Holy Hiatus” in 2008, examining the convergence of secular and religious definitions. The chapter is based on my lecture to the second symposium “Holy Hiatus: Performing Ritual, Community, and Space” funded by The University of West England and held at Cardigan, Wales, United Kingdom, on September 25, 2010.

## **Other Writings**

### Book Reviews

- 2001. *Rites in the Spirit: A Ritual Approach to Pentecostal/Charismatic Spirituality* by

Daniel E. Albrecht, *Journal of Pentecostal Theology Supplement Series 17*, Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999. In *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* 23(2) (Fall):303-306.

- 1992. *By Means of Performance: Intercultural Studies of Theatre and Ritual*. Edited by Richard Schechner and Willa Appel. In *History of Religions: An International Journal for Comparative Historical Studies* 31(3) (February):323-324.
- 1989. *Ecstasy, Ritual, and Alternate Reality: Religion in a Pluralistic World* by Felicitas D. Goodman; and *Religious Worlds: The Comparative Study of Religion* by William E. Paden. In *American Anthropologist* Vol. 91, No. 4 (December):1057-1059.
- 1988. *To Take Place: Toward Theory in Ritual* by Jonathan Z. Smith. In the *Perkins Journal* 41(4) (October):32-34.
- 1987. *Grotowski and His Laboratory* by Zbigniew Osinski. In *Slavic Review: American Quarterly of Soviet and East European Studies* 46(2) (Summer):373-374.

### Reports

- 2005. *Final FIPSE Report* (FIPSE Grant #P116D990399). March 3.

The report is available in the archive of the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), Washington, D.C.

### **Conference Proceedings/Symposia Papers**

### Refereed

- 2006. "The Role of Institutional Religion in the Transformation of Migration through Encouragement of Women's Agency: Mexican Pentecostal Women in the U.S." Presentation to Fellows of CrossCurrents: The Association for Religion

and Intellectual Life. New York, New York. July 12.

- 2004. “Religion and Transnational Migration: The Case of La Luz del Mundo.” Co-authored with Patricia Fortuny, Ph.D. Presentation to Residents of the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Study and Conference Center. Bellagio, Italy. August 2.
- 2003. “New Challenges for Community Colleges: Latino Immigrants and the Transfer Process.” Co-authored with Victor Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Dan O’Brien, and Geoffrey Grimes. Symposium on “Community Colleges and Latino Educational Opportunity” organized by The Harvard Civil Rights Project, supported by the Pew Hispanic Center, and held at the Harvard Law School. Cambridge, Massachusetts. October 11.

The paper was one of eight selected by The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University for presentation at this roundtable symposium.

- 2001. Poster Session on the UTD FIPSE grant, Annual FIPSE Project Directors Meeting of the U.S. Department of Education. San Diego, California. November 17.
- 2000. “Two Family Histories in the Early Mexican Community in Dallas, 1915-1945.” Co-authored with Dr. Laura Gonzalez. Second Annual “Legacies Dallas History Conference” held at Southern Methodist University. Dallas, Texas. October 21.

#### Non-Refereed

- 1998. Session on “Migration and Sex Roles: The Dallas-Guanajuato [Mexico] Connection.” UTD-U.N. Conference on Women: “Advancing Women through Global Policy,” sponsored by the School of Social Sciences, UTD and the United Nations, Dallas Chapter, held at The University of Texas at Dallas. Richardson, Texas. October 25.
- 1997. Session on the “Environment, Development, and Migration.” UTD-U.N. Conference on Women: “Advancing Women through Global Policy,” sponsored by the School of Social Sciences, UTD and the United Nations, Dallas Chapter, held at The University of Texas at Dallas. Richardson, Texas. October 25.

### Invited Talks/Presentations

- 2010. “Ritual Liminality As ‘Holy Play.’” Lecture for second symposium “Holy Hiatus: Performing Ritual, Community, and Space” funded by The University of West England and held at Cardigan, Wales, United Kingdom. September 25.

I developed discussion of the concept the “holy” I explored in my keynote address to the first symposium “Holy Hiatus” in 2008, examining the convergence of secular and religious definitions. The symposium was attended by faculty members and Ph.D. students in Performance Studies at the university, as well as practicing performance artists.

- 2008. “Public Art in the Ritual Construction of Human Community: Developments in the Cityscape.” Keynote address, first symposium “Holy Hiatus: Performing Ritual, Community, and Space” funded by The University of West England. Cardigan, Wales, United Kingdom. May 24.
- 1999. “The Role of Genealogical Research in Preserving and Building upon Local Community Histories.” Session on “Communities and Their Histories.” Conference on “Creating Our Future Trinity: Community Action Conference” sponsored by The Dallas Plan with The City of Dallas. Dallas, Texas. October 28.
- 1993. “Televangelism Reconsidered: Ritual within a Larger Social Drama.” First of three international symposia on “Media-Religion-Culture.” Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden. May 24.

The organizers of the symposium, Stewart Hoover, Ph.D. and Knut Lundby, invited to present my paper.

- 1993. “Television Religion in Recent American History.” American Historical Association, Regional Workshop for Teachers of History, held at The University of North Texas. Denton, Texas. October 30.

### Papers Presented at Professional Society Meetings

- 2004. “The Role of a Mexican Protestant Church and Its U.S. Missions in Transnational Migration.” Joint Session of the Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group and the Evangelical Theology Group, American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, Texas. November 21.
- 2002. “Social Mobility and Cultural Dissonance in a Transnational Mexican Pentecostal Church: A Case Study of the Dallas Mission.” Religion in Latin American and the Caribbean Group, American Academy of Religion. Toronto, Canada. November 24.
- 2002. “Social Mobility and Cultural Dissonance among Mexican Pentecostals: A Case Study of a Transnational Dallas Mission.” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, co-sponsored by the American Anthropological Association and the American Academy of Religion. Cleveland, Ohio. April 6.
- 2000. “Migration and Religion: Church Control as a Countervailing Force to Transnational Innovation in the Dallas Mission of a Mexico-Based Sect.” 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) on “Religion and Transnationalism: Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Houston, Texas. October 22.
- 1997. “Mexican Immigrant Religion in the Resurgence of Ethnicity in Urban America.” Session on Religion and the Social Sciences, American Academy of Religion. San Francisco, California. November 24.
- 1992. “Televangelism Reconsidered: Ritual in the Service of Social Legitimation, Social Adaptation, Human Community, and Empowerment.” Roundtable Session, American Academy of Religion. San Francisco, California. November 22.
- 1992. “Televangelism: Ritual in the Service of the Empowerment of Its Marginalized Constituency.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Washington, D.C. November 7.
- 1992. “What Is Missing in Our Understanding of the Attraction of Televangelism?: Ritual in the Search for Human Community.” Southwest Commission on Religious

Studies (Southwest Region meeting of the American Academy of Religion and of the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion). Dallas, Texas. March 13.

- 1991. "How to Interpret Support for Televangelism from Outside It: Ritual in the Service of Social Legitimation and Social Change." Roundtable Session, American Academy of Religion. Kansas City, Missouri. November 25.
- 1991. "Interpreting Support for Televangelism from the Outside: Recent Patterns." Session on "Current Issues in Televangelism," Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. November 9.
- 1990. "Rituals of the Electronic Church: Robertson's '700 Club' and Falwell's 'The Old Time Gospel Hour' in the Service of Social Legitimation and Social Adaptation." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Virginia Beach, Virginia. November 11.
- 1989. "Electronic Storytelling: Televangelism's Innovations with a Traditional Ritual Form." Ritual Studies Group, American Academy of Religion. Anaheim, California. November 18.
- 1989. "Rituals of the Electronic Church: Performance in the Service of Social Protest and Social Change." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Salt Lake City, Utah. October 29.
- 1989. "Rituals of the Electronic Church: Performance in the Service of Social Protest." Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (Southwest Region meeting of the American Academy of Religion and of the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion). Dallas, Texas. March 11.
- 1988. "The Rituals of the Electronic Church: Performance in the Service of Social Conflict." North American Religions Section, American Academy of Religion. Chicago, Illinois. November 21.
- 1987. "Grotowski's Recent Theater Projects as Modern Rituals of Spiritual Healing." Ritual Studies Group, American Academy of Religion. Boston, Massachusetts. December 5.

- 1986. “Pentecostal Ritual Reconsidered: Possession as ‘Anti-structure.’” *Ritual Studies* Group, American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, Georgia. November 23.

## PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY CITIZENSHIP

### Professional Activities and Committees

#### Editorships and Associate/Assistant Editorship

- Guest Editor, special issue of *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture* devoted to the “Religions of America’s Immigrants,” 33(3) (Fall 1998).
- Editor, chapters on “The Study of Ritual” in *Anthropology of Religion: A Handbook of Method and Theory*, edited by Stephen D. Glazier. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1997.
- Editorial Assistant, 1984-1986, *Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by Charles Adams, *et al.*; Mircea Eliade, Editor in Chief; and published by the The Macmillan Publishing Company.

#### Reviewer for Scholarly Journals

- Reviewer for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- Reviewer for *Journal of Ritual Studies*
- Reviewer for *Journal of Anthropological Research*
- Reviewer for *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* (2010)

### Professional Organizations

- Steering Committee, Ritual Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, 1987-1990

### Departmental Activities and Committees

#### *UTD*

2010-2011

- Sociology Program Committee, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

As a member of the program committee, I help make strategic and programmatic decisions and plans regarding degree requirements, curricula, catalogue listings, student recruitment, and faculty hires related both to the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Sociology. I also actively and regularly recruit UTD students to the Sociology major, recruit undergraduate majors to the Fast Track in Sociology and the Masters in Applied Sociology, and advise and mentor students on an informal basis. I also advise Sociology majors and Master's students about jobs and careers in the field of sociology and related fields. Many call on me to write letters of recommendation for admission to graduate degree programs, for internships, and for employment.

2009-2010

- Sociology Program Committee, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2008-2009

- Sociology Program Committee, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2007-2008

- Sociology Program Committee, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2006-2007

On Special Faculty Development Assistance (SFDA) leave

2005-2006

- Sociology Program Committee, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

*Southern Methodist University*

1987-1989

- Member, Steering Committee for the Graduate Program in Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Dedman College

School Activities and Committees

*UTD*

2010-2011

- Dissertation Committee #4, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
- Dissertation Committee #3, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
- Dissertation Committee #2, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2009-2010

- Dissertation Committee #3, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
- Dissertation Committee #2, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2008-2009

- Ad Hoc Committee for Granting Tenure and Promotion to Rank of Associate Professor for Sheryl Skaggs, Ph.D., School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
- Dissertation Committee #1, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences (student graduated)
- Reader, Qualifying Examination for graduate students in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2007-2008

- Dissertation Committee #1, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
- Reader, Qualifying Examination for graduate students in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2006-2007

On Special Faculty Development Assistance (SFDA) leave

2005-2006

- Ad Hoc Committee for Mid-Probationary Tenure Review for Sheryl Skaggs, Ph.D., School of Social Sciences
- Dissertation Committee #1, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2004-2005

- Ad Hoc Committee for Mid-Probationary Tenure Review for Danielle Lavin-Loucks, Ph.D., School of Social Sciences
- Dissertation Committee #1, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

2003-2004

- Quality Teaching Committee, School of Social Sciences

1999-2002

- Chair, Committee for Undergraduate Studies (CUS), School of Social Sciences

The CUS is comprised of Program Heads of the six undergraduate degree programs for undergraduate majors offered by the School: Crime and Justice Studies, Economics, Geographic Information Systems, Political Science, Public Administration, and Sociology.

1997-1999

- Quality Teaching Committee, School of Social Sciences

Courses (post award of tenure):

2011, Spring	SOC 6370, New Immigrant Religious Organizations and Assimilation (graduate seminar)
2011, Spring	SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community
2010, Fall	SOC 3333 Religion in Society (New Immigrant Religious Organizations and Assimilation)
2010, Fall	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
2010, Spring	SOC 5390 Immigration Policy (graduate seminar)
2010, Spring	SOC 4396 (SOC 4335) Immigrants, Immigration, and American Society
2009, Fall	SOC 6355 Race, Ethnicity, and Community (graduate seminar)
2009, Fall	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
2009, Spring	SOC 4396 (SOC 4355) Immigrants, Immigration, and American Society
2009, Spring	SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community
2008, Fall	SOC 3333, Religion in Society (New Immigrant Religious Organizations and Assimilation)
2008, Fall	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
2008, Spring	SOC 6355 Race, Ethnicity, and Community (graduate seminar)
2008, Spring	SOC 4396 Religion in Society (New Immigrant Religious Organizations and Assimilation)
2007, Fall	SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community
2007, Fall	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
Fall 2006-Spring 2007	I was on Special Faculty Development Assistance (SFDA) leave.
2006, Spring	SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community

2006, Spring	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
2005, Fall	SOC 3333 Religion in Society (New Immigrant Religious Organizations and Assimilation)
2005, Fall	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
2005, Spring	SOC 4335 Immigrants, Immigration, and American Society
2005, Spring	SOC 3306 Professional Writing for Sociology
2004, Fall	SOC 6355 Race, Ethnicity, and Community (graduate seminar)
2004, Fall	SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community
2004, Spring	ISSS 4357 Religions
2004, Spring	SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology
2003, Fall	SOC 4335 Immigrants, Immigration, and American Society
2003, Fall	SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology
2003, Summer	ISSS 4357 Religions
2003, Spring	SOC 4V97 Independent Study
2003, Spring	SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community
2003, Spring	SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology

#### Dissertation Committees

Fall 2010-present, Dissertation Committee #4, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

Spring 2010-Fall 2010, Dissertation Committee #3, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences (student graduated)

Fall 2009-present, Dissertation Committee #2, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences

Fall 2004-Spring 2009, Dissertation Committee #1, Public Policy and Political Economy, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences (student graduated)

#### Supervisor Senior Honor's Thesis and Independent Study

2006, Spring	SOC 4V99 Senior Honor's Thesis (I supervised the Senior Honor's Thesis of three Sociology majors.)
2006, Spring	SOC 4V99 Senior Honor's Thesis
2006, Spring	SOC 4V99 Senior Honor's Thesis
2006, Spring	POEC 8V01 Independent Study (Master's student)

2004, Spring	SOC 4V97 Independent Study
2003, Fall	SOC 4V97 Independent Study
2002, Fall	SOC 4V97/4397.25 Independent Study in Sociology

### Notes on Selected Courses

Professional Writing for Sociology (a Core Course required of Sociology majors)

Religion in Society (post-1965 immigrants, their religious organizations, and assimilation)

Prior to Fall 2002 I regularly taught Fieldwork in the Hispanic Community as an Independent Study. I taught the course both at the graduate and undergraduate level.

### Teaching Awards and Nominations

- Student Choice Teaching Award, presented by the students in the School of Social Sciences, UTD, Fall 1996, and Spring 2001
- Nominee, Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award, UTD, 1996, and 1997
- Nominee, Margareta Deschner Teacher Award, nominated by female students and awarded by the Women's Center, Southern Methodist University, 1988-1989, 1989-1990, and 1990-1991

### University Activities and Committees

*UTD*

2010-2011

- Committee on University Calendar

- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

2009-2010

- Committee on University Calendar
- Ad Hoc Committee for Mid-Probationary Tenure Review for Monica Rankin, Ph.D.,  
School of Arts and Humanities
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

2008-2009

- Committee on Education Policy (CEP)
- Outside Chair, Ph.D. Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense), School of Arts and  
Humanities
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

2007-2008

- Committee on Education Policy (CEP)
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

2006-2007

On Special Faculty Development Assistance (SFDA) leave

2005-2006

- Outside Chair, Ph.D. Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense), School of Arts and  
Humanities
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

2004-2005

- Vice Chair, Committee on Student Scholarships

- Office of International Education Advisory Committee
- President's Ad Hoc Committee for Community Outreach
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

#### 2003-2004

- Chair, Committee on Education Policy (CEP)
- Committee on Core Curriculum (CCC), member Ex-Officio (as Chair of CEP)
- Outside Chair, Ph.D. Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense), School of Arts and Humanities
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

#### 2002-2003

- Committee on Education Policy (CEP)
- Planning Committee, UTD-U.N. Conference on Women, sponsored by the School of Social Sciences and the Dallas Chapter of the United Nations. Richardson, Texas. October 5-6, 2002
- Faculty Advisor, UTD Baha'i Association

#### 2001-2002

- Council of Masters (College Masters/Associate and Assistant Deans for Undergraduate Education)
- Committee on Core Curriculum (CCC)
- Committee on Student Scholarships

#### 2000-2001

- Council of Masters (College Masters/Associate and Assistant Deans for Undergraduate Education)
- Committee on Student Scholarships

1999-2000

- Council of Masters (College Masters/Associate and Assistant Deans for Undergraduate Education)
- Committee on Student Scholarships
- Planning Committee, UTD-U.N. Conference on Women, sponsored by the School of Social Sciences and the Dallas Chapter of the United Nations. Richardson, Texas. November 6-7, 1999

1998-1999

- Planning Committee, UTD-U.N. Conference on Women, sponsored by the School of Social Sciences and the Dallas Chapter of the United Nations. Richardson, Texas. October 24-25, 1998

*Southern Methodist University*

1987-1989

- “The Un-Committee” (a voluntary committee of faculty from across the University addressing social issues and issues of social justice relevant to the university community)

Service to the Wider, Non-Academic and Academic Community

2010

- Presenter, Fourth Annual “Youth Summit and Diversity Dialogue” sponsored by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Congresswoman Johnson invited me to serve as one of three North Texas university faculty presenters to the summit her office sponsors. I lead the forum for three groups of middle and high school youth on “Addressing the Need for Social Change.” Southern Methodist University. August 17, 2010

2007-present

- Member, Friends of Yale Institute of Sacred Music (Yale ISM),

The Director of Yale's ISM, Professor Martin Jean, appointed me to Friends of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, a board that advises the Director. In this role, I advised the Director in the development of a strategic plan for the Institute; the revision of the Institute's mission statement; the creation of an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global ISM Fellows program in Sacred Music, Worship, and the Arts and a related research center at the Yale ISM; and the launch of the Congregations Project bringing practicing church musicians and church staff members to the Yale campus for a summer seminar, among other strategic initiatives undertaken by the Yale ISM administration, faculty members, and graduate students.

2008-present

- Member, With One Voice

This three-year-old body is a coalition of public and government institutions, including Dallas County's Parkland Hospital, and non-profit organizations providing a variety of services to immigrants in North Texas and advocating change in policy and U.S. law regarding refugees, individuals seeking political asylum, children, and other immigrants.

2004-2007

- President of the Board of Directors, Oak Cliff Center for Community Studies (OCCCS); and honorary Lifetime Member, Board of Directors, 2007-present

At the conclusion of the U.S. Department of Education FIPSE grant, I and other FIPSE Project principals co-founded this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas, Texas. The OCCCS provided a variety of programs and services targeting Latino high school and community college students and their families that prepared students to enroll in colleges in the Dallas County Community College District and transfer to bachelor's degree-granting institutions upon completing the associate's degree. As President of the Board, I secured three grants from the Dallas Women's Foundation, two from the Harold Simmons Foundation, and a TXU Electric grant.

2001-present

- Member, Resource Council for the New Americans Project

The members of this body, composed partly of university faculty in North Texas, serve as expert witnesses for individual immigrants involved in a variety of legal matters.