

Books

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.

Published Monographs

- 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.