

**R. ANDREW CHESNUT**

**BISHOP WALTER SULLIVAN ENDOWED CHAIR OF CATHOLIC STUDIES  
PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

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**EDUCATION**

- 1995 Ph.D., History (Latin America)  
University of California, Los Angeles
- 1989 M.A., Latin American Studies  
University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 1986 B.A., International Studies and History, cum laude  
Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

- 2007 Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Economy (*Oxford University Press*), paperback edition
- 2003 Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Economy (*Oxford University Press*), book on the development of religious pluralism in Latin America, hardcover edition
- 1997 Born Again in Brazil: The Pentecostal Boom and the Pathogens of Poverty (*Rutgers University Press*), book on the Pentecostal boom in Brazil, hardcover and paperback

**Articles and Book Chapters**

- 2010 "Conservative Christian Competitors: Pentecostals and Charismatic Catholics in Latin America's New Religious Economy," forthcoming, spring, *SAIS Review of International Affairs*
- Chapter on charismatic faith healing in Brazil in edited volume "Global Pentecostal and Charismatic Healing," forthcoming 2010, *Oxford University Press*.
- Chapter on pentecostalization of Christianity in Brazil in edited volume "Introducing World Christianity," forthcoming 2010, *Blackwell Press*

- 2009 "Charismatic Competitors: Protestant Pentecostals and Catholic Charismatics in Latin America's New Religious Marketplace," chapter in Religion and Society in Latin America: Interpretive Essays from the Conquest to the Present, *Orbis Press*.
- 2007 "Specialized Spirits: Conversion and the Products of Pneumacentric Religions in Latin America's Free Market of Faith," chapter in Conversion of a Continent: Contemporary Religious Change in Latin America, *Rutgers University Press*.
- 2006 "Brazil," Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion, *CQ Press*
- 2005 "Witches, Wailers and Welfare: The Religious Economy of Funerary Culture and Witchcraft in Latin America," *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 40:3
- "A Historical Perspective on the Religious Economy of Tzintzuntzan, Mexico," *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* April 2005, Vol. 10
- 2004 "Faith Healing in the Free Market: Prospering in Latin America's New Religious Economy," chapter in Globalización Religiosa y Neoliberalismo: Espiritualidad, política y economía en un mundo en crisis, *Publicaciones para el Estudio Científico de las Religiones*, Naucalpan, Mexico.
- 2003 "A Preferential Option for the Spirit: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Latin America's New Religious Economy," *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 45:1, spring.
- "Pragmatic Consumers and Practical Products: The Success of Pneumacentric Religion Among Women in Latin America's New Religious Economy," *Review of Religious Research*, Vol. 45:1, pp. 20-31.
- 2000 "Born Again in Brazil: Spiritual Ecstasy and Mutual Aid," chapter in Virginia Garrard Burnett's On Earth as It Is in Heaven: Religion in Latin America, Scholarly Resources, Jaguar Series on Latin America.
- 1999 "The Salvation Army or the Army's Salvation?: Pentecostal Politics in Amazonian Brazil, 1962-1992," in *Luso-Brazilian Review*, fall.

## **Book Reviews**

- 2010 How Latin America Saved the Soul of the Catholic Church, *Pneuma*, forthcoming, 2010
- 2008 Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism, *Contemporary Sociology*, Volume 37, Number 4, July
- 2005 From Fanatics To Folk: Brazilian Millenarianism and Popular Culture, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 110, No. 2
- 2004 The Sacred and the Sovereign in *International Studies Review*, June.

2002 Secret Dialogues: Church-State Relations, Torture, and Social Justice in Authoritarian Brazil, in H-LATAM, January.

2001 Living in the New Jerusalem: Protestantism in Guatemala, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, winter

The Church at the Grassroots in Latin America, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, summer.

1999 Women, Religion, and Social Change in Brazil's Popular Church, *The Journal of Church and State*, fall.

1998 Promised Land: Base Christian Communities and the Struggle for the Amazon, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, fall.

## **MEDIA CITATIONS**

2009 Quoted in *Christian Science Monitor* on charismatic Christianity in Latin America, 12/31/09

Quoted in *NY Times* on Palo Mayombe religion in Venezuela, 12/11/09

2008 Quoted in *NY Times* on pro-Chavez church in Venezuela, 7/31/08

2007 Quoted in *The Economist* on papal visit to Brazil, 5/3/07

Quoted in *Wall Street Journal* on papal visit to Brazil, 5/9/07

Quoted in *Ottawa Citizen* on Pentecostalism in Latin America, 2/25/07

Contributed expert commentary on papal visit to Brazil for PBS's *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*

2006 Quoted extensively in *Houston Chronicle* article on Three Kings Day in Latin America, 1/6/06

Quoted in *Philadelphia Inquirer* article on Catholicism in Latin America, 6/06

2005 Quoted extensively in *Financial Times* article on the new pope, 4/19/05

Interviewed on *National Public Radio*, Santa Fe, about religion in Latin America and Pope Benedict, 4/14/05

2001 Cited as an expert on Brazilian Pentecostalism in *LA Weekly* article, 6/29/01

1999 Cited in *Folha de Sao Paulo* (5/99), the city's leading daily, as part of lengthy article on the new generation of anglophone Brazilianist scholars

1998 Quoted in *Houston Chronicle* on papal visit to Cuba, 1/98

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- 2009 Gave talk entitled “Charismatic Competitors” as part of panel on religion in Latin America, American Academy of Religion conference, Montreal, 11/8/09
- 2007 Featured speaker at workshop on religion in Latin America, Yale Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, 4/21/07. Gave talk entitled “Latin America’s New Religious Landscape”
- 2006 Invited commentator for panel entitled “Religion, Media and Globalization - the evangelical media in Brazil and USA as part of conference “Transnational Religion in Contemporary Latin America and the United States,” Latin American Studies Institute, University of Texas, 1/26-27/06
- Gave talk entitled “Entrepreneurial Spirits: African Diasporan Religion in Latin America,” as part of panel on religion in Latin America, Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, PR, 3/15-3/18/06
- Featured speaker at USC conference “Spirit in the Word, An International Symposium on the Dynamics of Pentecostal Growth and Experience.” Gave talk entitled “Competitive Spirits: Latin America’s New Religious Economy,” 10/5-10/7/06
- Gave talk entitled “Spirited Sisters: The Success of Charismatic Religion among Latin American Women,” as part of panel on Religion in Latin America, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland OR, 10/19-10/21/06
- 2005 Featured speaker at University of Texas conference “Is God Brazilian? Christianity and New Religious Movements.” Gave talk entitled “Spirited Sisters: The Success of Pneumacentric Religion among Brazilian Women,” 2/17-2/18/05
- Featured speaker at Notre Dame University conference, “Contemporary Catholicism, Religious Pluralism, and Democracy in Latin America: Challenges, Responses, and Impact.” Gave talk entitled “Opting for the Spirit in Latin America: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a Response to Pentecostal Competition,” 3/30-4/1/05
- Featured speaker at Wayne State University conference “Religion in the Americas.” Gave a talk entitled "Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Religious Marketplace," 4/22/05
- Featured speaker at Ohio State University symposium entitled “Fundamentalism and the Media: Wars on Culture – Struggles in Culture – Conflicts between Cultures.” Gave a talk entitled "Faith in Marketing: Pentecostal Prosperity in Latin America's New Religious Economy," 5/2/05
- 2004 “Entrepreneurial Spirits: Religions of the African Diaspora,” paper presented as chair of Presidential Panel on religious competition and conversion in Latin America, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion conference in Kansas City

- "Espiritus Competitivos: O Novo Mercado Religioso do Brasil e da America Latina," paper presented in Portuguese as chair of the religion section at Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) conference in Rio de Janeiro
- 2003 "Spirited Competition: Latin America's New Religious Marketplace," paper presented as invited panelist at SSSR/RRA conference in Norfolk, VA.
- 2002 "Cornering Brazil's Religious Market: An Anatomy of Pentecostal Success," paper presented at BRASA (Brazilian Studies Association) Congress in Atlanta.
- "Competitive Spirits: Latin America's New Free Market Religious Economy," paper presented at Religious Research Association conference in Salt Lake City.
- 2001 "Competitive Spirits: Prospering in Latin America's New Religious Economy," paper presented at LASA 2001 in Washington, DC.
- "Approaches to the History of Protestantism in Latin America," served as invited discussant on panel at LASA 2001 in Washington, DC.
- "Competitive Spirits: Prospering in Latin America's New Religious Economy," paper presented in Spanish at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Socioreligious Studies, Havana, Cuba.
- 2000 "A Preferential Option for the Spirit: The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Latin America's New Religious Economy," paper presented at LASA 2000 (Latin American Studies Association) in Miami.
- Organized and chaired the Religion and Society subgroup of BRASA (Brazilian Studies Association) 2000 in Recife, Brazil.
- "The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil's New Religious Economy," paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Social Science Association of Religious Studies in Latin America, Buenos Aires
- 1999 "Brazil's Free Market in Faith," paper presented as member of panel on religion and popular movements in Latin America at SLAS 99, Cambridge, England.
- 1998 "The Spirit of Brazil: The Rise of Charismatic Christianity in the Largest Catholic Nation," paper presented as chair of panel entitled "Brazil's New Religious Marketplace" at LASA 98 in Chicago.
- "Pentecostalize or Perish? The Rise of Charismatic Christianity in Brazil," paper presented as invited guest speaker at the Brazil Center's "Brazilian Week," University of Texas.
- 1997 "Brazil's New Religious Marketplace," paper presented as member of panel entitled "Social and Psychological Dynamics of the Religious Marketplace in Brazil" at the Brazilian Studies Association Fourth Congress, Washington, D.C.
- "The Pentecostal Boom in Latin America," lecture given as invited speaker at UCLA Extension's Spring 1997 lecture series, "Tension Areas in the World Today."

1995 "Exorcising the Demons of Poverty: Pentecostal Faith Healing and Conversion in an Amazonian City of Brazil," paper presented as chair of panel "Opium of the People or Liberation?" at LASA 95 Congress, Washington, D.C.

"Salvation Army or the Army's Salvation?: Pentecostal Politics in Brazilian Amazonia during the Military Dictatorship," paper presented as invited panelist on religion and politics at conference entitled "Constructing a Democratic Culture in Brazil," sponsored by UCLA Program on Brazil.

"Supernatural Surgery: Pentecostal Faith Healing in Brazil," paper delivered as member of panel on religion at 1995 BRASA Conference, University of Minnesota.

"The Pentecostal Boom in Brazil: Exorcising the Demons of Poverty," keynote paper presented as member of panel on Pentecostalism sponsored by UCLA Program on Brazil.

1994 "The Power of Healing: Pentecostalism and Poverty in an Amazonian City," keynote paper presented in Portuguese at the Seminar on Pentecostalism at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), 8/94.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

2005 Faculty Small Grant, University of Houston, for book, *Competitive Spirits*

1999 Research Initiation Grant, University of Houston, for book project

Special Merit, UH, for critical success of book, Born Again in Brazil

1998 Limited Grant in Aid, University of Houston, for archival research in Brazil

1994-95 UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship

1993-94 Fulbright Grant for dissertation research in Brazil

UCLA Latin American Center research grant

UCLA International Studies and Overseas Programs  
long term fieldwork grant

1992-93 National Resource (Title VI) Fellowship, Portuguese

1988-89 University of Wisconsin Alumni Fellowship, full support

1986 Kellogg Grant for research on Central American refugees

1982-86 National Presbyterian Scholarship

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

- 2008- **Bishop Walter Sullivan Endowed Chair of Catholic Studies and Professor of Religious Studies**, School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Research Fellow**, Non-Resident, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University
- 2005-08 **Professor**, Department of History, University of Houston
- 2002-04 **Associate Professor**, Department of History, University of Houston
- 1997-02 **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, University of Houston
- 1996-97 **Lecturer**, Department of History, UCLA.
- 1994-95 **Dissertation Year Fellow**, Department of History, UCLA. Awarded departmental fellowship for dissertation write-up.

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2010 Member of Board of Directors, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
- Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- 2009 Evaluated book proposal on Pentecostalism in Brazil for NYU Press.
- Member of Board of Directors, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
- Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- Evaluated article submission on religion and violence in Latin America for *Latin American Politics and Society*
- Evaluated article submission on Pentecostalism in Brazil for *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*
- Evaluated grant proposal on religion in Latin America for ACLS
- External reviewer for case of promotion to full professor of history, University of Texas, Austin
- 2008 Member of Board of Directors, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
- Evaluated book proposal on Protestantism in Guatemala for Oxford University Press.
- Evaluated book ms. on Catholic church in Peru for Notre Dame Press
- External reviewer for case of promotion to full professor of history, University of San Diego

- External reviewer for case of promotion to full professor of political science, University of Washington
- 2007 Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*  
Departmental member of Executive Committee  
Evaluated book proposal on US-Latin American relations for Blackwell Publishing
- 2006 Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*  
Departmental member of Executive Committee  
Reviewed article manuscript, "Retail Religion? Contesting the Cooptation and Commodification of Candomblé in Salvador, Brazil." for *Radical History Review*, 3/06  
Evaluated NSF Proposal, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: God's Ambassadors: Youth Programs in the Baptist Churches of Brasilia," 3/06  
Reviewed book proposal "The Book of the Living and the Dead in Latin America" for *Rutgers University Press*, 10/06  
Served on Jon Tolman Essay Prize Committee for Brazilian Studies Association, spring
- 2005 Member, editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*  
Reviewed article manuscript on Protestantism in Dominican Republic for *Review of Religious Research*, 10/05  
Departmental member of Executive and Undergraduate committees
- 2004 Member of editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*  
Coordinator of religion section for Brazilian Studies Association conference in Rio de Janeiro, June  
Chair of presidential panel on Latin American religion for SSSR conference to be held in Kansas City, 10/04  
Doctoral adviser to three UH graduate students  
Served as reader of book manuscript for Scholarly Resources Press.
- 2003 Served as reader of book manuscripts for Oxford and Notre Dame University presses  
Departmental member of Graduate and Undergraduate Committees

- 2002 Departmental member of Merit (elected position), Executive, Graduate, and Library Committees
- Reviewed manuscript on Protestant political action in Venezuela submitted for publication to *Latin American Politics and Society*
- Reviewed book manuscript on Brazilian history for Scholarly Resources Press
- 2001 Evaluated grant proposal on religion in Brazil for the Austrian Science Fund
- Reviewed manuscript on Pentecostalism in Latin America submitted for publication to *Latin American Research Review*
- Departmental member of Executive, Undergraduate and Library Committees
- 1999-00 Departmental member of Executive and Undergraduate Committees and College member of Study Abroad Committee.
- Reviewed manuscript on Brazilian 20<sup>th</sup>-century history for publication by *Luso-Brazilian Review*.
- Reviewed manuscript on religion in Central America for publication by *Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies*.
- Reviewed manuscript on 19<sup>th</sup>-century Brazilian history submitted for publication to *Luso-Brazilian Review*
- 1997-98 Member of Undergraduate and Library Committees.
- Reviewed manuscript on Brazilian history for publication by *Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies*.
- Invited to write modern Latin American history text for Prentice Hall but declined.
- Chaired and organized panel entitled “Brazil’s New Religious Marketplace” at LASA 98, Chicago.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Since 2009 American Academy of Religion
- Since 2008 Board of Directors, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
- Since 2004 Editorial board member of *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*
- Since 2001 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Since 1995 Brazilian Studies Association

Since 1994 American Historical Association and Latin American Studies Association

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, competent in French. Translation and interpretation experience in Spanish and Portuguese.

