

1. Name and Position

Andre C. Willis
Willard Prescott and Annie McClelland Smith
Assistant Professor of History and Religion

2. Address

Department of Religious Studies
Brown University, Providence, RI 02912
Andre_Willis@brown.edu

3. Education

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| 2006 | Ph.D., Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,
Committee on the Study of Religion
Dissertation Title: <i>Hume and Hope: A Study in David Hume's Philosophy of Religion.</i>
Supervisor: David C. Lamberth |
| 2003 | M.A., Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,
Committee on the Study of Religion, Modern West: Philosophy of Religion |
| 1990 | M.T.S., Harvard University, Harvard Divinity School, Christianity and Culture |
| 1987 | B.A., Yale University, Philosophy |

4. Academic Positions

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| 2014- | Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University |
| 2012-2014 | Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University |
| 2006-2012 | Assistant Professor, Philosophy of Religion, Yale Divinity School |
| 2002-2006 | Lecturer, Humanities Program, San Jose State University |
| 2004-2006 | Instructor, Humanities, San Jose City College |
| 2000-2002 | Visiting Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, Fairfield University |
| 1998-1999 | Visiting Instructor, Department of Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross
Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Wellesley College |
| 1997-1998 | W. E. B. Du Bois Visiting Scholar, Religious Studies, College of the Holy Cross |

1994-1995 Adjunct Lecturer, Wesleyan University, Department of Religious Studies

5. Completed Research and Scholarship

a. Monograph

Towards a Humean True Religion: Genuine Theism, Moderate Hope, and Practical Morality. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2015.

Reviews: Willem Lemmens, *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 14, 2 (2016): 193-196; Beryl Logan, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 79-3 (2016): 305-307; James Harris, *Philosophical Quarterly* 66, 265 (2016): 862-864; Jasper Reid, *Religious Studies* 52, 3 (2016): 429-433; Paul Russell, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 55, 1 (2017): 168-169; David O'Connor, *Global Intellectual History* 2, 1 (2017): 91-95; Jonathan Baddley, *Reading Religion* (2017); David R. Brockman, *Journal for Eighteenth Century Studies* 41, 2 (2018): 332-333.

b. Chapters in books

"Love as Spiritual-Ethical Force: A Reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr.," in *Love: A History*, ed. by Ryan Hanley (Oxford Philosophical Concepts). In press, Forthcoming 2019.

"Hume on Race," in *The Humean Mind*, ed. by Angela Coventry and Alex Sager (New York: Routledge, 2018), 497-510.

"Culture in Bonhoeffer and King: Deweyan Naturalism in Action," in *Bonhoeffer and King: Their Legacies and Import for Christian Social Thought*, ed. Willis Jenkins and Jennifer M. McBride, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010), 175-88.

"A Womanist Turn on the Hip Hop Theme: Leslie Harris's 'Just Another Girl on the IRT'," in *Language, Rhythm and Sound: Black Popular Culture into the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Joseph Adjaye and Adrienne Andrews, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997), 134-45.

c. Refereed Journal Articles

"The Impact of Hume's Thoughts about Race for his Stance on Slavery and his Concept of Religion." *Hume Studies* 42, nos. 1-2, November 2016 (Published Summer 2018), 213-239.

"Obama's Racial Legacy: The Power of Whiteness." *Critical Philosophy of Race* 5, no. 2 (Summer 2017), 183-97.

"Notes Towards a Dissident Theo-Politics: Whiteness as God." *Political Theology* 18, no. 4 (May, 2017), 290-308.

"The Usefulness of Hume's True Religion." *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 12, no. 1 (Spring 2015), 1-15.

"Theology in Post-Democracy." *Political Theology* 10, no. 2 (July, 2009), 209-23.

“Rap Music and the Black Musical Tradition.” *Radical America*, 23, no. 4 (June 1991): 38-49.
Reprinted in *Popular Music*, v. 4, ed. Chris Rojek, SAGE Benchmarks in Culture and Society Series (London: Sage Publications), 2011.

d. Public Engagement and Other Publications

“Black Natural Law,” *Syndicate*, Symposium, June 2017.

“The Twilight’s Last Gleaming,” Watson Institute Blog, November 2016.
<http://watson.brown.edu/news/explore/2016/AndreWillis2016Campaign>

“Considering ‘Post-Democracy,’” *Juncture* 22, no. 3 (November, 2015), 201-3.

“1000 Words on the Future of Liberation Theologies,” in KU Leuven Newsletter #6.
September, 2013.

“American Pragmatism and Religion: Radical Impermanence and Existentialism in Religious Studies,” in *Religion and Culture Web Forum*, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, October 2009.

Multiple Essays for TheRoot.com: “Why Martin Stands Alone,” January 18, 2010; “Taking Our Cues from Martin,” July 31, 2009; “No More Mr. Tough Guy,” June 15, 2009; “Guns Kill, But Poverty is the Real Murderer,” May 19, 2009; “Pulpit Pimps,” May 18, 2009; “The New Black-Catholic Alliance,” January 15, 2009; “Tyler Perry’s Conservative Tent Revival,” March 25, 2008; “Did Obama Betray Wright First?,” June 2, 2008; “Faith-Based Politics, the Obama Way,” November 15, 2008 (Reprinted in The Dallas Morning News, msnbc.com, cnn.com)

“Jazz People,” *Transition* 65, 5, no. 1 (Spring 1995): 140-75.

Multiple entries in *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience*, ed. Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., (Philadelphia: Running Press Book Publishers, 1993).

e. Invited Lectures/Talks

“Hume: Faith and Testimony.” Keynote Lecture, 46th International Hume Society Conference. Reno, Nevada, July 2019.

“Hume’s Prefiguration of Rorty: Naturalism, Skepticism and Religion.” Symposium on Varieties of Atheism. Rome, Italy, August 2018.

“Afro-Theism and Post-Democracy,” Pennsylvania State University, Department of Philosophy, State College, Pennsylvania, February 2018.

“The Christian Imagination: Individuality in Community.” Black Christian Ministries Conference. Boston, Massachusetts, February 2018.

“Theology and Incarceration.” Harvard Divinity School Conference. Cambridge, Massachusetts, November, 2017.

“Forms of Hope.” Hope Festival. Los Angeles, California, May, 2017.

“Are There Any Advantages to Racializing Hope?” Templeton Foundation Grant Conference. Estes Park, Colorado, June 2016.

“Whiteness as God: Theology in Post-Democracy.” University of California Santa Barbara, November, 2016.

Response to “Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics” Symposium at Boston College, Newton, Massachusetts, September 2016.

“Postsecularism in Global Context: New Perspectives on the Role of Religion in Postsecular Societies.” Goethe Universitat, Frankfurt Am Main, Germany, September 2015.

“On African American Religion and Literature.” University of Stuttgart, Germany, July 2014.

“Unbearable Poverties: The Future of Liberation Theology.” 25th Anniversary Conference Center for Liberation Theology, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium, December 2013.

“Religion and African American Studies.” Bremen University American Studies Conference, Bremen, Germany, July 2012.

“The German Influence on Martin Luther King, Jr.” W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture Series, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, November 2011.

“Obama and Faith Based Politics.” German American Institute, Heidelberg, Germany, November 2011.

“Obama’s Approach to Faith Based Politics.” Evangelische Fachhochschule, Nuremberg, Germany, November 2011.

Response to “American Pragmatism and the Empiricist Tradition.” William James Conference, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, October 2007.

“Philosophy and Social Action.” Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 2007.

“Religion as Starting Point.” New York Theological Seminary, Sing-Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, May 2007.

“Reflections on Howard Thurman.” Yale Divinity School, April 2006.

“Word Transforming Culture.” Center for Arts Education, New York, New York, March, 2006.

“Theology and Freedom.” California Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco, California, April 2004.

“Francis Bacon on Freedom.” San Jose State University, College of Humanities Commencement, San Jose, California, June 2003.

Response, “Sennet’s Treatment of Hegel.” Rockefeller Study Center, Bellagio, Italy, April 1998.

f. Papers Read and Professional Meetings

“Natural History of Religion and the French.” Hume Society Conference, Budapest, Hungary July 2018 (Panel Commentator/Respondent).

Session Chair, “Two Forms of True Religion in Hume” Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, March 2018.

“Religiously Influenced Political Activism and Black Americans.” American Sociological Association, Seattle, August 2016.

Session Chair, “Hume and the Question of Resistance.” 43rd Annual Hume Society Conference. Sydney, Australia. July 2016.

“Religious Elements of Hume’s Moral Philosophy?” Religion and Morality: Hume and his Context. University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium, May 2015.

“Hume and Smith on Race and Slavery.” Weissbourg Society of Fellows Annual Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May 2015.

Respondent, “The Role of the Natural History of Religion in Hume’s Critique of Religious Belief.” 42nd Annual Hume Society Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, July 2015.

“Hume and Smith on History and Slavery.” Society of Scottish Philosophy, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, March 2015.

“Hume’s True Religion.” Cave Hill Philosophy Conference, University of West Indies, Barbados, November 2014.

“The Utility of Hume’s True Religion.” Association of Social Anthropologists, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 2014.

“True Religion in Hume.” Society of Scottish Philosophy, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, March 2014.

“Post-Democracies: Interdisciplinary Engagements after the Democratic Ideal.” Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, Cambridge, England, April 2013.

“Religion and Interpretation in Black Aesthetics.” American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, Georgia, October 2010.

g. Research in Progress:

Afro-Theism and Post-Democracy: Notes Toward Communities for Transformative Justice
(Second Book Project)

6. Research Grants (All are related to second book project)

Salomon Faculty Research Grant for work on *Afro-Theism and Post-Democracy*, Brown University, \$14,000. 2014-2015.

Watson Institute Collaboration Grant for Symposium on Post-Democracy, \$10,000
Watson Institute, Brown University. 2014-2015.

Templeton Foundation: Hope/Optimism Grant, for research on race and hope, \$30,000.
Spring 2016.

7. Other Awards and Distinctions

Named Chair *Willard Prescott and Annie McClelland Smith Assistant Professor of History and Religion*, 2015-

Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (\$4,000), Summer 2016.

Course Development Grant, Dean of the College, Sophomore Seminar Program, Brown University (\$4,000), Spring 2015.

Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Brown University, 2014-2015.

Faculty Fellow, Cogut Institute, Brown University, Fall 2015.

Faculty Fellow, Watson Institute, Brown University, 2015-2017.

8. Service

a. To the University

- Plenary Speaker for Mellon Mays Fellow Startup Week, May 2018.
- Keynote Speaker for Brown University Theories in Action Conference, April 2018.
- Keynote Speaker for Black Student Appreciation Gala, February 2018.
- Keynote Speaker @ Brown University Midyear Commencement, December 2017.
- Guest Panelist at Brown Center for Students of Color, December 2017.
- Faculty Judge for Black Student Association performance, December 2017.
- Excellence@ Brown, Instructor, 2015-2018.
- Inter-Religious Working Group, 2016-2017.
- Selection Committee: Swearer Center for Public Service Fellowship, 2015-2017.
- Advisory Board, Mellon Mays Program, 2015-2017.
- Department Liaison to the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, 2015-2018.
- Participant, Political Philosophy Workshop, 2016-2018.
- Search Committee: Dean of the Graduate School, Spring 2016.
- Moderator: “The Gospel of Healing” Panel, Faith in Action, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, April 2015.
- Participant in Religion and Critical Thought Colloquia, 2013-2018.
- Lecturer in “Christian Classics” for Prof. S. Harvey, April 2015.
- Cogut Center, Panel, Martin Luther King, Jr. in Berlin, January, 2014.

b. To the Profession

- Host/Organizer for 44th International Hume Society Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, July 2017.
- Executive Committee, Hume Society
- External Reviewer for: Yale University Press
Edinburgh University Press
Fordham University Press
Journal of Religious History
Hume Studies
American Academy in Berlin

c. Professional Associations/Memberships

- The American Academy of Religion
- Hume Society
- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- American Philosophical Association
- Caribbean Philosophical Association

9a. Teaching (at Brown University):

- Spring 2013 (VAP, One course per-term beginning January, 2013)
David Hume’s Philosophy of Religion (7)

-Fall 2013 (VAP, One course per term)
Christianity and Culture (10)

-Spring 2014 (Beginning of appointment as Assistant Professor)
African American Religious Strategies: Martin and Malcolm (50)

2014-15

Sem. 1: Graduate Seminar: Afro-Theisms (4)
Christianity and Economic Inequality (Sophomore seminar, 5)

Sem. 2: David Hume's Philosophy of Religion (8)
Foundational Texts in Black Theology (7)

2015-16

Sem. 1: Cogut Fellowship/One-course Teaching Relief
African American Religion and Politics (8)
Sem. 2: Junior Sabbatical Leave

2016-17

Sem. 1: Sabbatical Leave (Funded)
Sem. 2: Religion and Postmodernism (8)
African American Religious Strategies: Martin and Malcolm (57)
GISP on YorùBá Religion and Africana Freedom: Lecturer

2017-18

Sem. 1: Graduate Seminar: Afro-Theisms (10)
Blues People: Debates in African American Religion and
Culture (with Prof. Tricia Rose, 58)
Sem. 2: Teaching relief/Special projects with the Office of the Provost
Edward Said and Cornel West (with Prof. Nancy Khalek, 69)
GISP on Liberation Theology: Lecturer, Spring, 2018

9b. Undergraduate Advising and PhD Committees:

First year Advisor, 2017-2018 (Four Students)

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Hannah Santos, 2019
Noah Fitzgerald, 2017
Rachel Leiken, Winner, *McVickar Thesis Prize*, 2016.
Liza Carroll, 2013

Second Thesis Reader: Will Underwood, 2015
Lyll Stuart, Political Science, 2016
Naomi Chasek-MacFoy, Africana Studies, 2018
Elizabeth Carlson, Public Health, 2019

Capstone Advisor:

Katie Van Heidrich, 2013
Victoria Leonard, 2015
Henry Seiler, 2017
Rodell Jefferson, 2018

Dissertation Committee Member:

Nicholas Friesner, completed 2017
Alexis Glenn, 2019