**Peter Cajka**

Department of American Studies

University of Notre Dame

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**Academic Appointments**

University of Notre Dame

Assistant Teaching Professor 2020-

Director of Undergraduate Studies 2020-

Young Scholar of American Religion

Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture

Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis 2022-2024

Faculty Fellow, Klau Institute for Civil and Human Rights 2021-

Faculty Fellow, Ansari for Global Engagement with Religion 2020-

Director, “Gender Sex and Power: Toward a History of Clergy Abuse

In the US Catholic Church.” 2020-2022

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies 2019-2000

Postdoctoral Fellow, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism 2017-2019

**Education**

Boston College, Ph.D., American History 2017

Marquette University, M.A. History 2010

University of Dayton, B.A. History, *Magna Cum Laude* 2008

**Publications and Works in Progress**

**Books**

*Follow Your Conscience: The Catholic Church and the Spirit of the Sixties.* University of Chicago Press, 2021.

**Review Forum:** *The Catholic Historical Review,* 108 (2022): 173-188.

**Review Essays:** *The US Catholic Historian,* 40 (2022): 96-101; *Political Theology* (forthcoming).

**Reviews:** *Commonweal, American Catholic Studies, The Catholic Library World, The Journal of Moral Theology, The Journal of American History* (forthcoming).

**Interviews:** Catholic Studies New Books Network, Righting America, Upper House Podcast, Cushwa Center

**Invited Book Lectures:** Duquesne University, Springfield College (online), American Catholic Historical Society (online), Universita Ca Foscari Venezie (University of Venice, online).

**Refereed Articles**

“A Military Surge for God: Archbishop Robert Lucey, Lyndon Johnson, and the Vietnam War,” ***The Journal of Church and State***, 64 (2022): 301-321.

“’This May Help Us and the Whole Cause of Due Process’: Father Joseph Byron, the Washington Nineteen, and American Catholic Priests as Sixties Rebels,” ***The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics, and Culture*** 14 (2021): 74-96.

“C. Ellis Nelson, Liberal Protestants, and the Rise of the Catholic Theology of Conscience, 1944-1987,” ***U.S. Catholic Historian****,* 35 (Summer 2017), 47-74.

“The National Cash Register and the Neighborhoods: New Perspectives on Relief in the Dayton Flood of 1913,” ***Ohio History***118 (2011), 49-71.

“Riding with St. Paul in the Passenger Side: The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Enters the Automobile Age, 1920-1965,” ***American Catholic Studies***121 (Summer 2010), 65-93. Winner of Catholic Press Award for Best Feature Article in a Scholarly Magazine

**Book Chapters**

“’Each Individual Catholic Does and Can Form His Own Conscience on This and Every Other Subject’”: John Ford, S.J., and the Theology of Conscience, 1941-1969,” in *Crossings and Dwellings: Restored Jesuits, Women Religious, American Experience, 1814-2014* ed. Kyle B. Roberts and Stephen Schlosser, (Brill, 2017), 567-602.

**In Progress**

“Clergy Abuse in America’s Holy Land: The Internal Life of Father Louis Miller,” *draft manuscript complete; ready to submit to peer review*.

“The Body in the American Intellectual Imagination,” *article manuscript in progress.*

“Catholicism and Human Rights: Past and Future,” for collection ed. Bill Murphy, *Social Catholicism in the Twenty-First Century*, *in progress*.

*Master of Crisis: Richard Sipe and the Study of Catholic Sexuality*, book manuscript at very beginning stages of research

**Book Reviews**

Review Essay, Matthew Levering, *The Abuse of Conscience: A Century of Catholic Moral Theology, U.S. Catholic Historian*, 40 (2022): 87-95.

Review Essay, *Kindred Spirits: Friendship and Resistance at the Edges of Modern Catholicism* (Brenna Moore) and *Take Back What the Devil Stole: An African American Prophet’s Encounters with the Spirit World* (Onaje X.O. Woodbine), *Political Theology*, forthcoming.

Review of D.G. Hart, *American Catholic: The Politics of Faith During the Cold War*, *Church History*, 90 (2021): 990-992.

Review of Katherine D. Moran, *The Imperial Church: Catholic Founding Fathers and United States Empire, The Annals of Iowa* 80 (Spring 2021): 160-162.

Review of Catherine Osbourne, *American Catholic and the Church of Tomorrow*, *Syndicate Symposium,* September (2019): [published online](https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/american-catholics-and-the-churches-of-tomorrow/).

Review of James Fisher and Margaret McGuinness, eds., *Roman Catholicism in the United States: a Thematic History* 130 (2019): 75-76.

Review of Catherine Osborne and Mark Massa, eds. *American Catholic History: A Documentary Reader, Church History and Religious Culture* 99 (2019): 111-113.

Review of Karen Johnson, *One in Christ: Chicago Catholics and the Quest for Interracial Justice*, *American Catholic Studies Newsletter* 46(2019): 38, 49.

Review of Steven Avella, *Crisis and Confidence: A History of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee*, *American Catholic Studies*, 126 (2015): 105-107.

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Young Scholar of American Religion 2022-2024

Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship 2016-2017

US Embassy/BAAS Small Grant Program, Award from US Embassy

and British Association of American Studies Program 2017

Dean’s Summer Session Teaching Fellowship 2016

Fellow, Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy 2014-2016

Summer Research Grant, American Catholic Historical Association 2014

Dorothy Mohler Research Grant, The American Catholic History Research Center

and University Archives, the Catholic University of America 2014

Summer Research Grant, Boston College Center for Human Rights and

International Justice 2014

Travel Grant, Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy 2014

Forum Scientarium Funded Participant, Religion and Secularism in Modern

Democracies, with Charles Taylor 2013

Research Fellowship, Department of History, Boston College 2013-2014

Junior Scholar Research Grant, Boston College Center for Christian-Jewish Learning 2013 Manning/Gelfand Summer Research Fellowship, Boston College History Department 2013

Best Feature Article in a Scholarly Magazine, Catholic Press Conference 2011

Richard Scharburg Student Paper Award, The Society of Automobile Historians 2008

**MEDIA**

Interview, “Med students walk out mid-ceremony to protest speaker’s antiabortion views,” *The Washington Post,* July 26, 2022.

Interview, “Officials said a ‘good Samaritan’ saved lives in Greenwood. But What does that mean? *Indianapolis Star*, July 21, 2022

Interview, [“What Francis’s Comments About Gay People Could Mean for LGBTQ People Worldwide,”](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2020/10/21/what-pope-franciss-comments-about-gay-families-could-mean-lgbtq-attitudes-worldwide/) *The Washington Post,* October 21, 2020.

Book Interview, [“Follow Your Conscience,”](https://newbooksnetwork.com/follow-your-conscience) *New Books Network: Catholic Studies*, September 27, 2021.

Interview, [“Biden Could Be Our Second Catholic President, Does it Matter?”](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/23/opinion/biden-catholic-president-2020.html) *New York Times*, September 23, 2021.

[“‘Outing’ of priest shines light on power – and partisanship – of Catholic Media,” *The*](https://theconversation.com/outing-of-priest-shines-light-on-power-and-partisanship-of-catholic-media-165143) *Conversation*, July 30, 2021.

Book Interview, [“Follow Your Conscience,”](https://rightingamerica.net/follow-your-conscience-an-interview-with-peter-cajka/) *Righting America: A Forum for Scholarly Conversation about Christianity, Culture, and Politics in the US*, July 1, 2021.

Interview, *,* [“Catholic Church debate on Eucharist underscores tension between Vatican, Conservative Bishops,”](https://justthenews.com/nation/religion/catholic-church-debate-eucharist-underscores-tension-between-vatican-conservative) *Just the News* June 21, 2021.

Interview, [“We Don’t Understand Religious Freedom. COVID-19 Proved it.”](https://uscatholic.org/articles/202106/we-dont-understand-religious-freedom-covid-19-proved-it/) *US Catholic,* June 8, 2021.

Book Interview/Launch. [“Follow Your Conscience,”](https://cushwa.nd.edu/events/2021/05/13/book-launch-peter-cajkas-follow-your-conscience/) The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, March 13, 2021.

[“The Good Catholic,”](https://religionandpolitics.org/2021/01/19/the-good-catholic/) *Religion and Politics,* January 19, 2021.

[“Father Pelton Built Links Between Latin America and US Church,”](https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/fr-robert-pelton-built-links-between-latin-america-and-us-church) *The National Catholic Reporter,* December 7, 2019.

[*Conversations and Conversions: The Bob Pelton Interviews*](https://cushwa.nd.edu/news/conversations-and-conversions/)*, American Catholic Studies*, 45 (Spring 2018): 7-13.

**Presentations**

**Invited**

University of Venice, Seminar in the History of Christianity 2022

*Book Lecture*

The American Catholic Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA 2022

*Book Lecture*

Duquesne University, History and Catholic Studies 2022

*Book Lecture*

Springfield College, Philosophy and Religion Spring Forum 2021

*Book Lecture*

University of Virginia, Colloquium in American Religions 2020

*Book Presentation and Discussion*

Catholic University of America, School of Theology and Religious Studies 2018

“Follow Your Conscience: The Catholic Roots

of Modern America’s Rights Revolution”

Public Lecture

University of Dayton, History Department 2016

“Conscience: The Catholic Idea that Transformed Modern America”

Public Lecture

**Invited, Notre Dame**

“Dissent and Discipline in Modern American Catholicism”

Special Edition of American Studies Colloquium 2022

“From Good Priest to Abuser: Father Louis Miller and Clergy Abuse

In the Archdiocese of Louisville, 1956-2017”

Research Symposium: Gender, Sex, and Power 2022

**Conference Papers**

“The Corporeal Turn in American Thought: Catholic and Feminist Perspectives, 1980 to 2000” The Society of United States Intellectual History (S-USIH) 2021

“Inside the Mind of Reverend Louis Miller: Toward and Intellectual History of Clergy Abuse” The Society of United States Intellectual History (S-USIH) 2020

“Formation of Christian Soldiers for the Vietnam War”

The American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago 2020

“Conscience: A Global Catholic Movement for Medieval and Modern Rights”

Global History and Catholicism, Cushwa Center 2019

“Catholic Conscience Language in the Secular Human Rights Revolution, 1970-1985”

The Conference of Faith and History, Calvin College 2018

“Speaking Catholic: Liberal Protestants Adopt the Catholic Theology of Conscience”

The Boston College Biennial Conference on the History of Religion 2016

“Conscience: The Rise of a Moral and Political Category”

The United States Intellectual History Annual Conference 2015

““Their Conscience is Known to God Alone’: Catholic Conscience Claims in War, 1940-1957” The New England Historical Association 2015

“Consistently Askew: The Theologies of John Ford, S.J., 1944-1968”

Crossings and Dwellings,Loyola University, 2014

“Set Apart and a Setting Apart: Conscience in World War II America, 1939-1945”

Intellectual Hinterlands*,* 2014

“From Miracle to Meditation: American Consumer Culture and the Transformation of Catholic Devotion at Holy Hill Shrine, 1880-1960”

Capitalism in Action! Harvard’s Third Annual Graduate Conference on the History of American Capitalism*,*  2010

“Riding with St. Paul in the Passenger Side and the Creation of Consumer Sites: The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Enters the Automobile Age, 1920-1965”

Symposium on Faith and Culture, Secularization and Revival, Baylor 2010

**Roundtable Participation**

“A Catholic in the White House: The Biden Presidency in Historical Context,”

Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism 2021

“Catholicism, Public Scholarship, and the 2020 Election” American Catholic Historical Association, Webinar 2020

“Associations and Catholic Modernity”

American Catholic Historical Association 2019

**Panels Organized**

“American Catholics, Sex Abuse, the Body, and Modern Sexualities”

American Catholic Historical Association (accepted) 2023

“Conscience Politics in the Twentieth-Century United States”

The Organization of American Historians(OAH) (accepted/canceled COVID) 2020

**Discussant**

“Catholicism and the Formation of Conscience”

The American Academy of Religions (online) 2020

“Catechetics, Schools, and the Color Divide”

The American Catholic Historical Association, Chicago 2019

**Teaching Experience**

undergraduate: Instructor of Record

University of Notre Dame

Introduction to American Studies 2020

America’s Culture Wars 2021

The Vietnam War and American Catholics 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Witnessing the Sixties 2019, 2020, 2021, 2021, 2022

Civil Rights in America 2020, 2021, 2022

The Ideas That Made America 2019, 2020

Boston College

Religion in America Since 1945 2015

Religion in the Twentieth-Century US 2016

Modern History I 2016

Senior Thesis Supervision

Hailey Oppenlander 2020-2021

Katherine Machado 2020-2021

Julianne Downing 2020-2021

Lily Strailey 2020-2021

Caroline Kelly (Political Science) 2020-2021

John Draves 2019-2020

Caroline Freeman 2019-2020

Thresa Azemar 2019-2020

Teaching Assistantships

Boston College

American History to 1865 2014

American History since 1865 2015

Democracy Rights and Empire I 2012

Democracy Rights and Empire II 2013

Europe and the World I 2011

Europe and the World II 2012

Marquette University

Western Civilization I 2009

Western Civilization II 2010

**Professional Affiliations and Service**

Service

Discipline

Chair of Membership Committee, American Catholic Historical Association 2020-

Executive Council Member, American Catholic Historical Association 2019-2020

Peer Reviewer: *University of Chicago Press, Fordham University Press, American Catholic Studies, US Catholic Historian*

Notre Dame

Director of Undergraduate Studies 2020-

Faculty Advisor, *Americana* 2020-

Advisory Board, Sports Media and American Culture Minor 2021-

Planning Committee, Ansari, Faith in the Story 2020-

Director, “Gender, Sex, and Power” 2020-2022

Faculty Participant, Center for Social Concern Spring Break Trip 2020, 2022

Coordinator, American Studies Colloquium 2019-2020

Search Committee, Gallivan Director 2020-

Chair, Undergraduate Awards Committee 2020-

Committee, Cushwa Center, Global Catholic History Conference 2018-2019

**Affiliations**

Fellow: Ansari Institute 2020-

Fellow: Klau Institute 2020-

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cushwa Center 2017-2019

Organization of American Historians 2019-

American Historical Association 2019-  
Society of US Intellectual Historians 2016-

American Catholic Historical Association 2010-