

THOMAS V. FLORES

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Education

Ph.D., Religion, Emory University, 2006.

Dissertation Title: *Encountering the Other through Interfaith Dialogue: A Constructive Look at a Praxis of Religious Identity and the Promotion of Peace*

M.A., Theology, The Jesuit School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, 1998

B.A., Political Science, Loyola Marymount University (*Summa Cum Laude*), 1995

A.A., Music (Theory & Composition), Los Angeles City College, 2002

Other Training / Education

- *Kingian Nonviolent Social Change*, Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Level 1 training, Atlanta, GA (09-10), conducted by Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr.
- *Statement Taking Certification*: Atlanta Friends of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Through the Carter Center / Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, Atlanta, GA 2008
- *STAR (Strategies in Trauma Awareness and Resilience)*, Level 1, Eastern Mennonite University training at Emory University, Summer 2008
- *Nonviolent Communication Training (NVC)*, Spring, 08
- *Strategic Arts-based Peacebuilding*, Eastern Mennonite University, 2007
- *Male Violence Reduction*, Men Stopping Violence organization, 2000
- *Facilitation Training*, The Berkeley Dispute Resolution Service 1999
Mediation Certification, The Berkeley Dispute Resolution Service 1997
- *Comparative Democracies* Loyola Marymount / Oxford Scholars Program, Oxford, England. Summer

Research and Teaching Areas

Contemplative / Spiritualities of Peacemaking; Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation; Religion, Violence, and Conflict Transformation (interdisciplinary approaches); Religion and Culture; Interfaith Dialogue, Education, and Peacebuilding; Psychologies of Prosocial Behavior, Altruism, and Enemy Construction; Violence and Gender Identity, Peace Museums; Expressive Arts-based Strategic Peacebuilding

Relevant Work History

Life University: Assistant Professor of Positive Human Development and Social Change,
8/2015 - Present Marietta, GA

Georgia Gwinnet College:
Fall 12 – present Adjunct Professor, World Religions, Lawrenceville, GA

Emory University:
2010/11 Program Coordinator, in Religion, Conflict, & Peacebuilding, Department
of Religion.
Conference Coordinator, Second Emory Conference on Religion,
Conflict, and Peacebuilding.
2009/10 Director of External Relations, Initiative in Religion, Conflict, &
Peacebuilding.
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Religion, Conflict, & Peacebuilding,
2008/09 Visiting Assistant Professor of Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation
Practices, Candler School of Theology.
2006/08 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Initiative in Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding.
2000/06 Doctoral Student, Student Teacher

Family Creative Response to Conflict:
2000 Program Director, The Family Creative Response to Conflict, The San
Antonio Alternative Housing Corp., San Antonio, TX

University of the Incarnate Word:
1999/2000 Adjunct Instructor, Religion Dept. School of Extended Studies

Berkeley Dispute Resolution Service:
1997- 1999 Community Mediator, (Volunteer), Berkeley, CA

Publications

Book Chapter: “Broadening the Purview of Peace: The Challenge & Promise of Peace-related
Museums and Centers in the United States”, in *Peace Museums: Past, Present, and Future*, Ikuro
Anzai, Joyce Apsel, and Syed Sikander Mehdi eds. (Kyoto: Kyoto Museum for World Peace,
Ritsumeikan University, 2008).

Peer Reviewed Article: “Peace Studies and Secular Ethics: Towards a Positive, Multidimensional
Model of Health and Flourishing,” by Thomas V. Flores, Brendan Ozawa de Silva, and Caroline
Murphy, *Journal of Healthcare, Science and the Humanities*, vol. 4, no. 2 (Fall, 2014), pp. 65-92.
<http://jhsh.cryptictruth.com/>

Article (on-line): “The Continuum of Violence and Peace: Applying a Contemplative Framework
for Turning the Problem into the Solution”, *Practical Matters, Journal of Practical Theology*. May
2012, Emory University,
<http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2012/03/01/continuum-of-violence-and-peace/>

Article: *Secular Ethics and Interfaith Dialogue: Possibilities and Pitfalls*, in progress

Peer Reviewed Publishing Contract Offers: 1) Cambria Press, New York, 2007, 2) Peter Lang Publishing, Academic Publishing Group, New York, 2007 for Thomas Vincent Flores, *Encountering the Other through Interfaith Dialogue: A Constructive Look at a Praxis of Religious Identity and the Promotion of Peace*, Ph.D. Dissertation, Emory University.

Published Interview: “Religious Peacemaking in Higher Education: A Survey of 12 Institutions.” Report by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, 2010.

Teaching Experience

Life University (Winter 2016)

- *Introduction to Peace Studies*
- *Conflict Transformation I*
- *Peace Studies Lab*

Georgia Gwinnet College (2012-present)

- *Introduction to World Religions*

Emory University (00-07) (Designed and taught)

- *Religion and Conflict* (Includes Peace & Conflict Studies and Religious Peacebuilding), (undergraduate)
(Guest speaker: **Juli Endee, Traditional Queen of Liberia**)
- *Religion and Conflict: Sacred Violence, Sacred Peace* (undergraduate)
- *Putting Insights into Action: Reflections from the Base of the Emory “Summit” on Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding* (Interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding), Adult Continuing Education, Center for Lifelong Learning
- *Topics in Ethics: Religious Practices of Peace and Violence*, (co-taught Doctoral Seminar)

Candler School of Theology, Emory University (08-09) (Designed and taught)

- *Sacred Ambivalence: Violence, Peacebuilding, & Interfaith Dialogue in Theory and Practice*
(Guest Speaker: **Former President Jimmy Carter**)
- *Skills in Conflict Transformation*, (intensive workshop format)
- *Advanced Skills in Conflict Transformation*,
- *Contemplation, Compassion, and Conflict Transformation*
- *Theology and Ethics of Reconciliation: Pathways to Peacebuilding*
- *Conflict Resolution: Practice in Peacemaking Skills*, (intensive workshop format)
- *Conflict Resolution: Practice in Peacemaking Skills*, Teaching Associate, January / Spring Session 2004.

Thesis Co-Advisor: Master of Theology (MTS): “Bridging Cultures: The Chaplain as Religious Liaison,” Fr. David R. Glassmire, Chaplain, United States Navy.

University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX (99-00)

Adjunct Faculty, School of Extended Studies:

- *The Synoptic Gospels & Acts*

Academic Organization and Community Outreach

- Co-authored proposal and academic curriculum for a new BA and AA in Positive Human Development and Social Change (PHDSC) for Life University, Marietta, GA
- Initial core group planning member: The First Emory Summit on Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding, featuring **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, in conversation with religious leaders from Hindu, Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions, which brought over 3,000 attendees with worldwide virtual audience.
- Chief Coordinator: Emory’s Second International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding, June 17-19, 2011. Follow-up to First Summit with the Dalai Lama.
- Initiator and Coordinator: Emory University Lecture Series, “Humanity at the Crossroads.” Conceptualized and coordinated all aspects of five-part lecture series introducing field of Religious Peacebuilding to Emory and Atlanta Community. Secured renowned scholars for public speaking and consultation sessions.
- Initial organizing member and principle liaison: Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Atlanta Friends of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Statement Taking Process, the Carter Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, and the International Interfaith Accompaniment Program Atlanta, GA. (07) Hundreds of Liberians in Atlanta Metro area able to give statements as part of the Liberian TRC process (07-08)
- Initiator, Co-organizer, and principle liaison in “Bosnia Revisited Exhibition.” Hosted **Bosnia-Herzegovina’s Ambassador to the United States** visit to Emory for dialogue facilitation and brought Atlanta community and religious leaders of Bosnian Croatian, Serbian descent together for the first time.

(Selected) Peace Studies Education and Consultation

- Invited Panelist / Peace Studies consultant at Octagon Conference, brainstorming session for proposed *Center for Compassion, Peace and Secular Ethics*, Life University, April 2014
- Invited panelist, (October 08) Kyoto, Hiroshima, Japan, 6th annual conference of the International Network of Museums for Peace,
- Consultative input into inaugural Peace Studies program / Certificate Program, Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA 2011-12.

- Peace museum and peace education consultation to the Imagination, Computation, and Expression laboratory of the Liberian Virtual Memorial project team at Georgia Institute of Technology, 09
- Invited consultation / presentation to the United States Institute of Peace Public Education Exhibition Working Group. “Trends and Challenges of Museums for Peace and the USIP Public Education Center” Washington D.C., (March 2009)

(Selected) Inter-religious / Multicultural Engagement

- Co-created Seminary course on comparative Christian / Buddhist approach to Conflict Transformation: *Contemplation, Compassion, and Conflict Transformation*, (co-taught, Spring 09)
- Keynote Speaker: “Every Encounter Counts: A Peacebuilding Framework for thinking about Interfaith Dialogue,” to the Intercultural Dialogue and Empathy Association, Kennesaw State University, November, 2006.
- Featured Speaker / Facilitator: “Spirituality, Ethics, and Leadership” to High School Leadership retreat: Atlanta Yeshiva High School, Atlanta, GA (December 2010)
- Participant: Trip to Jordan and Israel, with World Pilgrims interfaith organization. (October-November, 07) (American Christians, Jews, Muslims)
- Participant with Istanbul Center for Culture and Dialogue, trip to Turkey for Muslim / Christian Dialogue, (June, 06)
- Presentation (Co-presenter): “Exploring Diversity with the Tri-Faith Dialogue: An interactive approach to Jewish, Christian, Muslim interfaith dialogue.” Start Seeing Diversity Conference for Educators and Community Workers. Barshop Jewish Community Center, San Antonio, Texas. April, 2002

(Selected) Presentations

Panelist / Respondent: Bio-Ethics Annual Intensive Course, and Annual Commemoration of the Presidential Apology for the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study, Tuskegee University, March 23-27, 2015.

Panelist / Presenter: “Social Protest, Social Change & Religion: Exploring Creative Paths to Peace,” Emory Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA. February, 2015.

Panel member expert / Presentation: “The Dalai Lama’s Secular Ethics and Peace Studies: Possibilities for a Curriculum,” Octagon Conference, Life University. April 2014.

“Religious Resources and the Psychology of Othering”, guest lecturer in “Religion and Psychology” class, Dr. Brendan Ozawa-de Silva, Life University, Atlanta, GA, October, 2012.

“Every Encounter Counts: Expanding a Continuum Model to link Interfaith Dialogue with Peacebuilding”, Second Emory Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding, Atlanta, GA 2011, June, 2011.

“Conceptualizing a Liberian Virtual Peace Memorial in relation to Peace Museums and Peace Education,” to the Imagination, Computation, and Expression laboratory, the Liberian Virtual Memorial project team at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), September, 2009.

“Challenges of an Emerging Field: Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding,” to the “Religions and the Human Spirit” associated faculty. Emory University, February, 2007.

Keynote Speaker: “Every Encounter Counts: A Peacebuilding Framework for thinking about Interfaith Dialogue,” to the Intercultural Dialogue and Empathy Association, Kennesaw State University, November, 2006.

“The role of Memory in Peace and Peace Studies.” Conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association: “Confronting Injustice, Ending War: The Role of Peace Educators and Activists After 9/11.” Georgetown University. Washington D.C. October, 2003

“Music as a Healing Force of Reconciliation Across Cultures.” And, “A Crisis of Culture: Can We Survive Without Scapegoats?” The National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution. Phoenix, AZ. Through: The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. George Mason University.

Professional Organizations and other academic involvement

Fellow, Center for Compassion, Integrity, and Secular Ethics, Life University, Marietta, GA
Consultant: Morehouse College Peace Studies Program
PJSA – The Peace and Justice Studies Association
Peace and Collaborative Development Network (PCDN)
Alliance For Peacebuilding (AFP)
National Peace Academy (NPA)
FAMA – Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta
AAR – American Academy of Religion

Selected Awards

Emory Minority Graduate Fellowship Award, Emory University (2000)
Hispanic Theological Initiative “Dissertation Year Award” Fellowship (2005)
Hispanic Theological Initiative Fellowship Award (2000-4)
“Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities” – The Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley
Outstanding Graduate in Political Science – College of Liberal Arts – Loyola Marymount University
Finalist: Valedictorian – Loyola Marymount University