**Abel R. Gómez, PhD**

Abelrgomez.com

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Assistant Professor, Native American Spiritual Traditions

Department of Religion

Texas Christian University

Fort Worth, Texas 76109

**EMPLOYMENT**

2022 – present, Assistant Professor, Native American and Indigenous Spiritual Traditions

Department of Religion, Texas Christian University

2021 – 2022, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

2020-2021, Lecturer

Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University

**EDUCATION**

2021 Ph.D. (with distinction) Religion – Syracuse University

Certificate of Advanced Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies

Certificate of University Teaching

Comprehensive Exams: History of Religions and Anthropology of Religion; Indigenous Religions and Indigenous critical theory; Race, Place, and Memory

2018 M. Phil. Religion – Syracuse University

2015 M.A. Religious Studies - University of Missouri, Columbia

Thesis: *Beneath and Above the Worlds of the Spirit Are Alive: Religion, Place,*

*and Ohlone Cultural Revival*

2013 B.A. Philosophy and Religion - San Francisco State University

Minor: Anthropology

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Native American and Indigenous Religions, Decolonial and Indigenous Feminisms, Two-Spirit Critique, Globalization, Place, Race and Ethnicity, Ethnography, Ritual Theory

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Journal Articles**

In Review, “‘We Survived This’: California Missions, Colonialism, and Indigenous Suvival” *Political Theology*, special issue on settler colonialism and political theology

In preparation, “Religion Scholarship on Native Lands: Potentials, Perils, and Limits of Engaged Scholarship,” *The Journal of Religion, Nature and Culture*

In preparation, “Sogorea Te’ Land Trust and Amah Mutsun Land Trust: (Re)Riteing and Indigenous Futurity in Northern California.”

**Book Chapters**

In Review, “What does it mean for Indigenous religions to be ‘place based’?” *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, ed. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

In Review, “Is Neo-Paganism an Indigenous religious tradition?” *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, ed. Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

**Book Reviews**

2018 “(Re)writing, (Re)righting, (Re)riteing Hupa Womanhood: Cutcha Risling Baldy and The Flower Dance Revitalization." Review of *We are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies* by Cutcha Risling Baldy. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2018. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion,* Equinox Publishing Ltd. VOL 47, NO 3–4.

**PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

2021. “The Matter of Shellmounds: Preserving Sacred Sites.” Interview for Challenging Colonialism Podcast, Season 1, Episode 2. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-matter-of-shellmounds/id1571419094?i=1000541720488

2021. “What Are Indigenous Religions? Part 2.” Interview for Keeping it 101 Religion Podcast, Season 4, Episode 4. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-are-indigenous-religions-part-2/id1494843031?i=1000539842348

2021. “Sacred Sites, Indigenous History, and Spanish Colonialism.” Interview for Classical Ideas podcast, episode 196. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sacred-sites-indigenous-history-spanish-colonialism/id1268915829?i=1000512048345

2021. “Postapocalyptic Communities: Tribal and Religious Organizations Respond to COVID-19.” *The Revealer*. https://therevealer.org/postapocalyptic-communities-tribal-and-religious-organizations-respond-to-covid-19/

2020. “Indigenous Peoples Day comes amid a reckoning over colonialism and calls for return of Native land.” *The Conversation*. https://theconversation.com/indigenous-peoples-day-comes-amid-a-reckoning-over-colonialism-and-calls-for-return-of-native-land-147734

2020. “Statues topple and a Catholic church burns as California reckons with its Spanish colonial past.” *The Conversation*. https://theconversation.com/statues-topple-and-a-catholic-church-burns-as-california-reckons-with-its-spanish-colonial-past-142809

2020. “Land Acknowledgements in Neo-Pagan Rituals: Perspectives from Ohlone Territory.” Co-written with Claire Chuck Bohman and Corrina Gould. *A Beautiful Resistance*. https://abeautifulresistance.org/site/2020/1/19/land-acknowledgments-in-neopagan-ritualsnbspperspectives-from-ohlone-territory

2019. “Intro to Indigenous Religions.” *YouTube*, uploaded by ReligionForBreakfast. https://youtu.be/izuL0Wquvkw. Short educational YouTube video created through media partnership with Sacred Writes and Religion for Breakfast, an initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

2019. “San Francisco Pride, Nation’s Largest LGBT Celebration, Takes Place on Indigenous Ohlone Land.” *Medium.com –Noteworthy – The Journal Blog*. https://blog.usejournal.com/san-francisco-pride-nations-largest-lgbt-celebration-takes-place-on-indigenous-ohlone-land-dd4475f47fd5

**PRESENTATIONS**

2021. “‘We Survived This’: Ohlone Narratives of Colonialism and Belonging at Mission Dolores.” Critical Mission Studies Conference, November 13

2021 “#SaveTheWestBerkeleyShellmound: Sacred Sites and Indigenous Futures in Ohlone Territory.” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), June 2021.

2020 “Defending Indigenous Sacred Places: Perspectives from Ohlone Territory/San Francisco Bay Area.” American Academy of Religion – Religion and Cities Section, December 1

2020, Invited Panelist, “Decolonial Futures: Religion as a Source of Resistance.” *Raising Our Voices* conference of the American Anthropological Association, November 13.

2019 “(En)Gendering Indigenous Ceremonial Revival: Restoring Good Relations,” “Author Meets Critics: Cutcha Risling Baldy’s *We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies*.” American Academy of Religion – Native Traditions in the Americas Section, San Diego, November 22.

2018 “Becoming Brujas: Rise of Women and Queer of Color Witchcraft in the U.S.” American Academy of Religion – New Religious Movements Section, Denver, November 17.

2017 “(Re)Claiming Bruja Feminism: Transnational Flows of Race, Gender, and Magic.” Association of Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, October 7.

2016 “Shellmound Peace Walk: Prayer, Pilgrimage, and Activism in Ohlone Territory.” American Academy of Religion – Native Traditions in the Americas Section, San Antonio, November 21.

2015 “Honor the Past to Shape the Future: Ohlone Women, Spirituality, and Indigenous Revitalization.” 14th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on Religion, Florida State University, February 20.

2014 “Offerings to the Kindreds: Druids, Ritual, and Nature.” Religion and the Natural Elements Graduate Conference, Northwestern University, November 1.

2014 Invited Panelist: “Religion in the Public Sphere: A Discussion of Diversity, Difference, and Civility in an Increasingly Interconnected World.” Missouri Scholars Academy, University of Missouri, June 11.

2014 “The Ancestors Will Return: Ghost Dance as a Ritual of Resistance.” 15th Annual American Indian Studies Association Conference, Arizona State University, February 6.

2013 Invited Panelist: “Indigenous and Queer: Two Spirit Identity in Native America” presentation for Native American Heritage Month and Transgender Awareness Week, University of Missouri, November 11.

2011 “The Holy Queer: Shamans, Healers, Warriors, Dancers, and Ritualists Ancient and Modern.” Western Regional LGBTQQIA Conference. University of California, Berkeley, March 5.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2022 – present, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Texas Christian University

Native American Religions, Fall 2022

Native American Religions, Genders, and Sexualities; Fall 2022

2021- 2022, Instructor of Record

Department of Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

Introduction to Native American Studies, Fall 2021

Gender and Sexuality in Native North America, Spring 2022

2020 –2021, Instructor of Record

Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University

American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Summer 2021

American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Spring 2021

American Indian Religion and Philosophy (online), Fall 2020

2018 –2021, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Syracuse University

Religions of the World (online), Spring 2021

Religions of the World (online), Fall 2020

Religions of the World, Spring 2019

Sacred Sites and Indigenous Peoples, Fall 2018

(Meets with Native American and Indigenous Studies 300)

2015 – 2021, Teaching Assistant

Department of Religion, Syracuse University

Religion and Sports (online), Spring 2021

Indigenous Religions (online), Fall 2020

Yoga: Ancient Religion to Modern Practice, Spring 2019

Religion and Hip Hop, Fall 2018

Religion and Sports, Spring 2018

Ancient Greek Religion, Fall 2017

Religion and Regulation of Bodies of Color, Spring 2017

Indigenous Religions, Fall 2016

Religion and Sports, Spring 2016

Judaism, Fall 2015

2014- 2015, Teaching Assistant

Department of Religious Studies, University of Missouri

History of Religion in Post-Civil War America, Spring 2015

Indigenous Religions, Fall 2014

2011-2011, Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology, San Francisco State University

Variations in Human Sexuality, Fall 2011

**INVITED TALKS**

2021. “Understanding Indigenous Religions: Insights from Religious Studies and Indigenous Studies,” Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at University of Oklahoma.

2020. “Queer SF, Indigenous SF,” Indigenous Peoples’ Day Lecture, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco

2020. “Disease, ‘Discovery,’ and Survival in Native California.” Public talk for Mother Earth‘s Pandemic: The Doctrine of Discovery (virtual conference) hosted by Indigenous Values Initiative and American Indian Law Alliance.

2019. “Living on Ohlone Land: Building Respectful Relationships,” Sponsored by the Bay Area Reclaiming Community in San Francisco

**INTERVIEWS**

2021. “How Indigenous Religions Can Widen the Interfaith Circle.” Interview with Monique Parsons for Interfaith America. https://ifyc.org/article/how-indigenous-religions-can-widen-interfaith-circle

2019. It’s Just a Talk Podcast, “Episode 020-- Two Spirit People Pride featuring Abel R. Gómez.” Apple Podcasts. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-020-two-spirit-people-pride-featuring-abel-r-gómez/id1436570379?i=1000442131480&fbclid=IwAR1V54A73Lix02CqZY3wSsIHDZpciIg4\_AkB-3PcH8hUlgG9I1fuI\_uoMjg

2012. *De Colores Spirit Warriors*. Dir. Berenice Dimas. Queer Woman of Color Film Festival. Film.

**AWARDS & HONORS**

2020. Research Fellowship, CSRC Covid-19 Research on Relief and Restoration Work – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University

2020. Sacred Writes Public Scholarship Fellow

2019-2020. Graduate Fellowship – Syracuse University Graduate School, Syracuse University (2019-2020)

2019. Research Grant – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University

2019. Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University

2018. Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University

2017. Toni Taverone Graduate Paper Prize - “Decolonizing the Chicana Spirit: Indigenous Religion and Chicana Feminism.” - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Syracuse University

2017. Theta Chi Beta ΘΧΒ Honors Society - Syracuse University

2013 – 2015. Thurgood Marshall Graduate Fellowship – University of Missouri Graduate School

2013. Community Leadership Award – Queer Resource Center at San Francisco State University

2013. Dedicated Member Award – La Raza Student Organization at San Francisco State University

**LEADERSHIP/SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING**

2019. KIAROS Blanket Exercise: Witness to Injustice Facilitator Training [An interactive exercise that introduces Indigenous and U.S./Canada relations]. Buffalo, NY.

2011-2012. Collaborative Leadership Training with Suzanne Sterling and Ravyn Stanfield. San Francisco, CA.

2009. Permaculture Design Certification. Earth Activist Training with Starhawk and Erik Ohlsen. Cazadero, CA.

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Steering Committee, Native Traditions in the Americas Unit (2019 – present)

Center for the Study of Religion and the City

Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland

Advisory Board (2022 – present)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT**

Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS)

Powwow Committee (Fall 2019 – Spring 2021)

Religion Graduate Organization (Syracuse University)

Member (Fall 2015 – Spring 2019)

Admissions Representative (Fall 2018 -Spring 2019)

Undergraduate Representative (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017)

Xicanxs Empowering Xicanxs (XeX) (Syracuse University)

Member (Spring 2017- Spring 2019)

Religious Studies Graduate Student Organization (University of Missouri)

Co-founder

Vice President (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015)

Organizer, Religious Studies Graduate Student Professional Development Series (Fall 2014)

Latina/o Graduate Professional Network (University of Missouri)

Vice President (Fall 2014 –2015)

Member (Fall 2013 –2015)

Associated Students, Inc. (San Francisco State University)

Representative at Large (May 2012 –April 2013)

Internship Coordinator (February 2013 –April 2013)

Movimiento Estudiantil Chican@ de Aztlan (MEChA) (San Francisco State University)

Member (March 2012 – May 2013)

Associated Students, Inc. Queer Resource Center (San Francisco State University

Co-founder/organizer

Interim Assistant Director (September 2012 - October 2012)

La Raza Student Organization (San Francisco State University

Member (October 2011 – May 2013)

Dia de la Cruz, Chair (May 2012)

Dia de los Muertos, Chair (October 2012)

Queer Yo’ Mind Conference (San Francisco State University)

Organizer, Publicity Committee (March 2011 – October 2011)

Pride Committee (San Francisco State University)

Member (May 2011 – May 2013)

Jumpstart for Early Education Club (San Francisco State University)

Member (February 2011 – May 2011)

Gay-Straight Alliance (Skyline College)

Member (October 2008 – December 2010)

Student Adviser (August 2010 – December 2010)

Environmental Club (Skyline College)

Member (October 2009 – May 2010)

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Reading and speaking proficiency)

French (Reading proficiency)

**REFERENCES**

Philip P. Arnold

Associate Professor and Department Chair, Department of Religion

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Syracuse University

pparnold@syr.edu

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Natalie Avalos

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Director of Graduate Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies

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