NEW PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING COHORT SELECTED; REMOTE TRAINING MODEL ANNOUNCED
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion is adapting its public scholarship training model to facilitate remote learning and engagement. Several of the scholars selected for our original cohort have had to defer participation; we are delighted to announce the selection of nine outstanding scholars for inclusion in our 2020 remote training cohort.

These scholars will meet participate in real-time collaborative sessions and work through multimedia training materials at their own pace from 1 August 2020 to 30 January 2021. These sessions and materials are designed to cultivate practical skills toward producing public-facing work based on their areas of expertise, as well as to build a community of accountability and support for sustainable, responsible public scholarship on religion.

Each scholar selected to participate in this year’s training receives a $1000 stipend. These nine scholars each have committed to placing two pieces of public scholarship (including but not limited to op-eds, public interviews, and/or trade books) within a year of their meeting.

This year’s public scholarship training cohort includes:

- **Swati Chawla**, Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts and Humanities at O.P. Jindal Global University, scholar of modern South Asian history
- **Ambre Dromgoole**, Ph.D. candidate in Religion and African American Studies at Yale University, scholar of Black religion and popular culture
- **Ericka Dunbar**, Adjunct Professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Spelman College, scholar of Hebrew Bible, Africana collective identity, and sex trafficking
- **Lynne Gerber**, independent scholar of religion and bodies, currently working on a history of religion and HIV/AIDS in San Francisco

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• **Abel Gómez**, Ph.D. candidate in Religion at Syracuse University, scholar of sacred sites, ritual, and decolonization in the context of contemporary Indigenous religion

• **James Howard Hill, Jr.**, Ph.D. candidate in Religion at Northwestern University, scholar of Black studies, disability studies, genders and sexualities, popular culture, performance studies, and religious traditions within the U.S.

• **Constance Kassor**, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Lawrence University, scholar of Buddhist thought and Asian religious traditions

• **Suzanna Krivulskaya**, Assistant Professor of History at California State University San Marcos, scholar of modern American religious history and sexuality

• **Shaily Patel**, Assistant Professor of Early Christianity at Virginia Tech, scholar of ancient magic, early Christian literature, and ideological criticisms of the New Testament

**Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion** is a Henry Luce Foundation-funded project hosted by Northeastern University. In addition to helping academics translate their expertise for a broader audience, Sacred Writes partners with established media outlets to facilitate collaborations between news providers and scholars to create more nuanced reporting on religion. For more information, visit [sacred-writes.org](http://sacred-writes.org) or contact Primary Investigator Liz Bucar at [e.bucar@northeastern.edu](mailto:e.bucar@northeastern.edu).