

Curriculum Vitae
Eric Isaac
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EDUCATION

1/2020-4/2024: MA, Latin American Studies. Florida International University, School of International and Public Affairs, Miami FL. Conducted largest qualitative and quantitative data collection of Latiné survivors of spiritual abuse. Thesis Title: *Understanding Spiritual Abuse: Incentives to Preserve Spiritual Power & Reducing Abusive Experiences*. Committee: Dr. Erik Larson, Dr. Jose Miguel Cruz, Dr. Ana Maria Bidegain

7/2015-07/2019: MA, Theology. Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. Coursework focused on power within church history.

9/2009-04/2015: BS, Sociology/Anthropology. Florida International University, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies.

EMPLOYMENT

1/2020-Present: Professor

Current Titles: Honors College Teaching Fellow, Faculty Director: Scotland, Faculty Director: Japan, COIL Faculty, Religious Studies Adjunct Faculty, College of Arts and Science Adjunct Faculty.

Florida International University, Miami, FL

Description: Taught and designed courses and programs at Florida International University for multiple schools within the university, including the honors college. Created first course at a US state university on the topic of spiritual abuse. Created, and led study abroad programs covering religious abuse in Scotland as well as in Japan. Organized and teach two collaborative online international learning, (COIL), programs with ULACIT in San Jose, Costa Rica, and University of Kansai in Osaka, Japan. Directs, coaches, and oversees undergraduate, graduate, and honors college research projects. Founding faculty for Certificate in Christian Studies. Created Juliana Isaac fund to benefit study of Christianity and spiritual abuse at FIU.

Awards: Rewarding Excellence in Teaching Incentive Winner 24'

Winner from 70 nominees, out of 1400 faculty. After 2 rounds of blind reviews, I was selected as the recipient of the award recognizing excellence in learning-centered, inclusive, and evidence-based teaching.

8/2018-Present: Founding Pastor: Neighborhood Church Miami

Founder & leader of religious non-for-profit organization. Church was created to serve as a resource for survivors of spiritual abuse in Miami. Serves as proof of concept that a church designed to not operate on abusive paradigms is viable. First publicly fully financially transparent church that dedicates 50% of its revenue to those in need, mainly survivors of spiritual abuse. Funds given to those in need range between 35-45K annually. Responsible for daily operations and general management, including but not limited to, public speaking (50-100), fundraising, volunteer supervision, connecting survivors to therapy or/and legal aid, and overall strategy.

10/2021-10/2022: City Network Leader: Made to Flourish

Worked to empower faith leaders and their communities to integrate faith, work, and economic wisdom for the flourishing of their communities. Taught preventative spiritual abuse curriculum. Consulted organization leaders on power and abuse within faith systems.

10/2012-8/2018: Youth & College Pastor: Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Worked to create a youth ministry and later a college ministry that met the needs of the community. Assisted with public speaking once a month at all campuses.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1/2020-Present: Honors College Teaching Fellow, Religious Studies Study Abroad Faculty Director, & Adjunct Faculty: School of International and Public Affairs, & College of Arts and Sciences, Florida International University, Miami, FL.

Courses: *REL 4150 Spiritual Power & Spiritual Abuse*

I created the first ever US state university course on the topic of spiritual abuse and power. This course investigates data collected from my research and has students interview survivors that visit the classroom. In addition, this course sees students interview advocates and professionals serving survivors from the fields of psychology, law, sociology, and journalism. Serves as capstone course for Christian Studies Certificate I helped found.

*REL 3066 Race, Slavery, Christianity, & the Caribbean (Undergraduate)**REL 5937 (Cross listed Graduate Section)**(Collaborative Online International Learning-ULACIT, Costa Rica)*

This course I assisted in creating teaches the history of the various ways Christianity was complicit in spiritual abuse in the form of slavery and racial ideas in the colonial Caribbean. The course also covers Christianity as an advocate and liberator for those victimized by religious abuse in the forms of slavery and colonialism. This course is used as part of the collaborative international online learning I lead with ULACIT in Costa Rica. FIU students collaborate with students from Costa Rica to research and publish various pieces of media that address how these historic and religious issues shape modern legal and political realities.

*REL 3583 World Christianity**(Japan Study Abroad & Collaborative Online International Learning)*

This course investigates the influence of Christianity on Japan during the Tokugawa period culturally, politically, and legally. It then traces the influence of this to the postwar period in terms of legal and religious realities. This course applies my theory and definition of spiritual abuse to contend that an independent judiciary is only possible in the absence of coercive spiritual power from government authority. This course is part of a collaborative effort I organized between FIU and University of Kansai that sees students from both institutions work together online throughout the semester, and then participate in two exchange programs via study abroad. In the Fall FIU students' journey to Japan to participate in a winter exchange.

REL 3530 Protestantism & Religious Abuse (Scotland Study Abroad)

This course investigates the role of spiritual abuse in the Protestant Reformation throughout Europe. Students learn the role of abuse and advocacy in the theological, legal, political, and ecclesiastical realities present in Luther, Calvin, Knox, and other major figures. This course concludes with a study abroad trip in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Stirling.

IDH 1001 The Borders of Knowledge and the Knowledge of Borders (Honors College)

Part one of Honors College cohort course taught over two semesters. This course teaches epistemological frameworks, formal and conditional logic, and demonstrates how these concepts relate to legal, cultural, and ideological borders. This is an interdisciplinary course. The course utilizes Plato's 5 Dialogues, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* by Gloria Anzaldúa, and the Merchant of Venice to achieve these ends.

IDH 1002 The Origin of Ideas and the Idea of Origins (Honors College)

Part two of Honors College cohort course taught over two semesters. This course applies the epistemological concepts, logic, and information gathered in the first semester to a variety of contemporary topics and has the students defend various positions using interdisciplinary methods.

RLG 5911 Independent Research (Graduate level)

REL 4910 Independent Research (Undergraduate Level)

ARCH Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors (Honors College)

These courses see individual students develop their research proposals, conduct research, analyze data, draft research journal articles, present those articles, and publish them.

REL 4937 Special Topics: Religious Violence & Abuse

This course investigates how religious ideas and concepts lead to violence throughout history. This course applies my theory of religious power to political, ethnic, and legal realities that lead to violence globally.

REL 2011 Introduction to Religion

This course investigates a pantheon of interdisciplinary thinkers such as Allport, Jung, and Weber to analyze salient theories about the patterns and paradoxes of sacred experiences across religions. This course demonstrates how the sacred shapes global and domestic realities politically, culturally, economically, and legally.

REL 3308 Studies in World Religion

This course covers living religious traditions of the world: Native American Religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Their major teachings are discussed within their historic presentations and realities.

REL 3505 Intro to Christianity

This course offers an overview of the Christian tradition, from the times of Jesus to the contemporary period. It is intended to provide students with knowledge of the history, the major

branches and theological developments, emphasizing its diversity, complexity, and its influence on Western culture. Using a variety of social science disciplines and methods, this course includes both an historical examination and study of current issues of religion in the public square such as “faith and politics” and church and state.

SPC 2608 Public Speaking

This course takes an academic approach to speech communication. The course examines the basic elements of research, construction, and delivery of original public presentation. This course gives students the opportunity to hone their public speaking skills through real feedback provided by the instructor.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1/2020-4/2024: Primary Investigator: Spiritual Abuse in Latiné Protestantism

Data collection and analysis of Spiritual Abuse survivors within South Florida Latiné Protestantism. Florida International University, Miami, FL.

Responsibilities: Designed research instruments, sought and obtained Institutional Review Board approval to conduct research, recruited subjects for qualitative and quantitative analysis, interviewed subjects, compiled and analyzed data, and produced thesis and college course presenting findings.

Committee: Jose Miguel Cruz, PhD, Erik Larson, PhD, and Ana Maria Bidegain, PhD

8/2023-Present: Co-Investigator: Study on Latin Youth Civic Engagement (SLYCE)

Study to understand how Latiné youth take action to address social issues and how that action is supported or hindered through their relationships, religious identity, and other factors. University of Michigan/Florida International University.

Responsibilities: Subject recruitment, data analysis, first author on religion publication.

Project Lead: Wendy De Los Reyes, PhD

PUBLICATIONS

Isaac E., Holbrook, J.W. (2024). The Boom of Pentecostalism in Latin America. In *Religions in Contemporary Latin America and the Caribbean*. London: Routledge.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Isaac E., (2024, June). *Towards a Non-Eurocentric Definition of Spiritual Abuse*. Latin American Studies Association, Religión, Colonialismo y Resistencia.

Isaac E., (2023, March). *Spiritual Abuse in Early Caribbean History*. American Academy of Religion, Western Region.

Isaac E., (2022, March). *Women and Spiritual Abuse in Protestantism*. Tri-University Conference of Latin America & the Caribbean.

Isaac E., (2021, March). *Spiritual Abuse & Latinx Identity in South Florida*. Tri-University Conference of Latin America & the Caribbean.

PRESENTATIONS/APPEARANCES

Isaac E., (2025, February). *Tainted Love*, Netflix. Louie Psihoyos, Dr. Shauna Swan.

- Isaac E.**, (2024, October). *ATBS: Spiritual Abuse: Defining it, How to Reduce it W/ Professor Eric Isaac*. Bodies Behind the Bus Podcast.
- Isaac E.**, (2023, September). *Interfaith Experiences of Spiritual Abuse*. Theta Alpha Kappa, Religious Studies Honors Society, Florida International University.
- Isaac E.**, (2023, January). *Spiritual Abuse and Modern Evangelicalism*. Florida International University, Course: American History
- Isaac E.**, (2022, November). *God Forbid: The Sex Scandal that Brought Down a Dynasty*. Florida International University. (I was asked to participate in a panel discussion with the director and executive producer as an expert on the topic of spiritual abuse)
- Isaac E.**, (2022, August). *FIU Professor and Pastor Eric Isaac on Christianity and Spiritual Abuse*. Pan Con Podcast.
- Isaac E.**, (2022, January). *Religious Violence and the Holocaust*. Somerset Academy.
- Isaac E.**, (2021, January). *Effectiveness in the Four Ways of Instruction*. Florida International University Faculty Town Hall. (Presented my method of teaching to entire faculty at request of provost)

PROJECTS & ADVOCACY

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

- Founding Faculty & Board Member: Certificate in Christian Studies*. (2022-present)
 This certificate I helped found provides students with the opportunity to develop expertise in how Christianity has played a major role in world affairs and how it continues to influence politics, law, social organization, art, literature, and more.
Responsibilities: Creating certificate proposal, creating and maintaining relevant interdisciplinary course list, student recruitment, teaching most of the courses to meet the requirements, fundraising, overall strategy.
- Juliana Isaac Fund for the Study of Christianity, Power, and Abuse*. (2023-present)
 I started this fund account at the university to provide funding for the study of Christianity and for the awareness of spiritual power and abuse within the religion in honor of my partner who survived abuse.
Responsibilities: Donating initial seed money, fundraising strategy, goals, and execution. Account management and disbursement of funds for teaching assistants, study, scholarships, etc.
- Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL): ULACIT & University of Kansai* (2022-present)
 Collaborative online international learning is a program that sees the integration of international faculty and students into university courses and curricula. COIL engages students and faculty in significant intercultural interactions through applied and project-based learning, thereby bringing international experiences and their attendant skills development into the reach of all students, at any institution.
Responsibilities: My role has been to form and manage partnerships with ULACIT in Costa Rica, and University of Kansai in Osaka, Japan, that support the study of spiritual abuse that occurs at FIU. This led me to travel to Osaka, to propose a first of its kind course that blends study abroad and COIL to look at how Christianity and Christian abuse shaped Japanese law and culture from the Edo period to the postwar period.

Study Abroad: Scotland, Japan (2022-Present)

Responsibilities: Propose and create courses relevant to the regions we are visiting that focus on spiritual power and abuse, design program with vendor, propose and manage budget, recruit students, teach courses, execute study abroad in country.

Global First Year Cohort Instructor (2022-present)

I was asked by the chair of my department to teach global first year courses, which are cohorts of exclusively international students, (F1/J1 Visa), from around the world during their first year of courses in the United States. I am responsible for teaching REL 2011 & SPC 2608 to these students in a way that acclimates them to culture in the United States, but also respects and honors their diverse backgrounds, cultures, and vocational goals.

Responsibilities: Classroom instruction, class scheduling, student cohort mentorship

International Coaching Federation FIU Partnership Liasson (2022-2023)

To serve the global first year international students, I created a yearlong partnership between the ICF and FIU that saw selected students receive free coaching from a certified coach with a background analogous to theirs.

Responsibilities: Student recruitment and selection, coach to student matching, FIU representative in ICF strategy meetings.

Tri-University Conference Organizer (2021 & 2022)

I led the organization of the Tri-University conference between University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida International University.

Responsibilities: Schedule and organize zoom and in-person presentations, work with representatives from both other institutions to decide call for papers and conference topic.

ADVOCACY*Sacred Wilderness Advisory Board Member (2024-present)*

A non-profit that provides resources and funding for licensed mental health care for those who have been spiritually abused within their church or faith setting.

Responsibilities: Provide academic expertise to the president and other officers, as well as academic expertise to the legal, psychological, and other professionals on the advisory board.

Neighborhood Church Miami Mercy Fund Distribution (2018-present)

Neighborhood Church Miami offers half of its total gross revenue to those in need within the neighborhood it gathers in. This has amounted to 35-45k annually. While the mercy fund exists to meet any need, such as medical expenses, due to neighborhood church's reputation and foundation as an anti-spiritual abuse space a majority of giving goes to spiritual abuse survivors.

Responsibilities: Approval of financial requests, networking to find psychologists that can treat spiritual abuse survivors, networking to find legal help for those needing the resource.

AFFILIATIONS AND TRAININGS**TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

Certification of Completion: *Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course.*

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (2020-Present)

Fundamentals of Collaborative International Online Learning Design and Facilitation for FIU Faculty and Partners

6 Week Training and supervision by Stephanie Doscher Ed. D. (2023, November)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion Member (2023-Present)
- Latin American Studies Association Member (2024-Present)

OFFICES AND SERVICE IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

MALOKA (Latin American Studies Graduate Student Organization), Florida International University. *President* (2021-2022); *Member* (2020-2021)

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY SERVICE

AP Research Mentor, City of Hialeah Educational Academy

Serves as a discipline-specific ‘expert adviser’ to underserved high school seniors as they conduct original research on a topic of their choice using qualitative or quantitative social science methods. (2022-present)

REFERENCES

Available upon request