

Josefrayn Sánchez-Perry, (he/él)

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EDUCATION

Degrees

- 2021 Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2018 M.A., Religious Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 M.Div., cum laude, Southern Methodist University
- 2011 B.A., Religious Studies, Northwestern College in Iowa

Certificates

- 2023 Faculty Certificate in Engaged Learning, Center for Engaged Learning, Scholarship, and Teaching, Loyola University Chicago
- 2021 Doctoral Certificate in Native American & Indigenous Studies, University of Texas at Austin

EMPLOYMENT

- 2021- *Assistant Professor*, Department of Theology & Religious Studies, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Racial Justice
Faculty Affiliate, Latin American and Latino Studies Program
- 2021 *Lecturer*, Department of Religious Studies, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas
- 2020 *Lecturer*, Department of Religious Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 “What to Call a Tlamacazqui? Nahuatl and Spanish Translations from the Florentine Codex” in *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* (forthcoming May).
- 2025 “Ordinary Things: Classifying Nahua Religion in Colonial Mexico,” special issue on Materialist Methods for Comparing Religion in the Americas in *Religion* Routledge (forthcoming January).

- 2021 “Exclusive Monotheism and Sahagún’s Mission: The Problem of Universals in the First Book of the Florentine Codex,” special issue on Broadening Methodologies in the Writing of Christian Mission Theologies in *Religions* MDPI, volume 12, issue 3, 204-224.

Book Chapters

- “Bathing in Jadestone Her Skirt: The Translatability of Christian Baptism in Colonial Nahuatl Texts” in *The Five Distinctives of World Christianity*, edited by Ryan Ramsey and Anna Wells (accepted in Baylor University Press).
- 2022 “Why Does it Matter How we Translate Religious Concepts in Indigenous Traditions” in *Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes*, edited by Natalie Avalos and Molly Bassett, (Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing), 107-109.

Book Reviews

- 2024 Review of David Tavárez, *Rethinking Zapotec Time: Cosmology, Ritual, and Resistance in Colonial Mexico* (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2022) and Merilee Grindle, *In the Shadow of Quetzalcoatl: Zelia Nuttall and the Search for Mexico’s Ancient Civilizations* (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2023) in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (forthcoming).
- 2023 Review of Allen Christenson (ed.), *The Title of Totonicapán: Transcription, Translation, and Commentary* (Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2022), in *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, volume 42, issue 5, 754-755.
- 2023 Review Essay: “Adjusting to Change: New Interpretations, Old Histories, and the Challenges to Surviving the Colonial Americas” in *Early American Literature*, volume 58, issue 2, 161-176.
- 2021 Review Essay: “Translating Ritual, Politics, and Language in Colonial Mexico” in *Religiology*.
- 2020 Review of Amber Brian, Bradley Benton, Peter Villella, and Pablo García Loaeza (eds.), *History of the Chichimeca Nation: Don Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl’s Seventeenth-Century Chronicle of Ancient Mexico*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2019), in the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, volume 45, issue 3, 441-442.
- 2019 Review of Mary O’Connor, *Mixtec Evangelicals: Globalization, Migration, and Religious Change in a Oaxacan Indigenous Group*, (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2016), in *AAR-Reading Religion*.
- 2018 Review of David Tavárez (ed.), *Words and Worlds Turned Around: Indigenous Christianities in Colonial Latin America*, (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2017), in *AAR-Reading Religion*.
- 2017 Review of Timothy Larsen, *The Slain God: Anthropologists & the Christian Faith*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), in *Journal of Religious & Theological Information*, volume 16, issue 2, 83-84.
- 2017 Review of Mark Wiebe, *On Evil, Providence, and Freedom: A New Reading of Molina*, (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2017), in *AAR-Reading Religion*.

- 2017 Review of Reinhold Gleis and Nikolas Jaspert (eds.), *Locating Religions: Contact, Diversity, and Translocality*, (Leiden: Brill Press, 2017), in *AAR-Reading Religion*.

FUNDING

Awards

- 2022 Spiritual Innovation in the Americas Award (\$2,500), Henry Luce Foundation Project with the University of Texas at Austin.
- 2020 From Primary Source to Publication Workshop Award (\$300), Omohundro Institute and John Carter Brown Library, Brown University.
- 2016 Professional Development Awards (\$2,500), Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2019 Graduate School Continuing Education Award (\$10,000), Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2014 Albert C. Outler Award for Best Essay in Theology (\$500), Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.
- 2014 Alfredo Nañez Award, Perkins School of Theology (\$1,000), Southern Methodist University.
- 2013 Nancy Underwood Graduate Student Leadership & Achievement Award (\$2,000), Student Senate, Southern Methodist University.

Fellowships

- 2024 Long-Term Residential Fellowship (\$45,000), Newberry Library-National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow.
- 2023 Public Scholarship Training Fellowship (\$1,000), Sacred Writes Public Scholarship on Religion and Northeastern University.
- 2023 Short-Term Residential Fellowship (\$3,000), Newberry Library.
- 2022 College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Summer Research Experience Fellowship (\$2,500), Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago.
- 2020 University Graduate Continuing Fellowship (\$30,000), Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2019 Graduate School Fellowship (\$5,000), Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2017 Graduate School Fellowship (\$5,000), Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2016 Recruitment Excellence Fellowship (\$10,000), College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin.

Grants

- 2022 Course Development Grant for “Missionary Print Culture in the Colonial Americas” (\$4,000), Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago.
- 2018 Research Travel Grant (\$3,000), Department of Religious Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2017 Tinker Field Research Grant (\$1,800), Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin [declined].
- 2016 Academic Travel Grant (\$650), Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity & Religions, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.
- 2016 Academic Travel Grant (\$650), Center for Evangelism & Missional Church Studies, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2024 “They are Taken from the Earth: Nahua Collecting in the Early Modern Period” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 23-26).
- 2023 “Life and Labor as Lived Religion in the Nahua World” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 18-21).
- 2022 “Good and Bad Ritual: Adapting Nahua Divination to Colonial Life in Central Mexico” (presentation for The Social Order of Things: Material Religion in the Americas Workshop, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, October 6-8).
- 2022 “Remapping Sacred Time: Calculating Ritual Feasts in Christian Mesoamerican Calendars” (plenary session presentation for the Society for Textual Scholarship, Newberry Library and Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May 26-28).
- 2022 “The Telpochcalli in the Ritual Lifecycles of the Nahua World” (presentation for the American Historical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9 [cancelled]).
- 2021 “Teotihuacan and Tollan in the Hierarchy of Mexica Ritual Specialists” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, November 20-23).
- 2021 “Hands of Fire: Mexica Ritual Specialists and their Objects” (presentation for the Conference of the Latin American Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, May 26-29 [canceled]).

- 2021 “The Academy in Crisis” (roundtable panelist for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, March 6).
- 2020 “Incense and Performance: Teaching Ritual Labor in the Nahua World” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, November 21-24).
- 2020 “Temple and Household Networks: The Social Fabric of Ritual Healing in Late Postclassic Mexico” (presentation for the Conference of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Duke University and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Durham, North Carolina, November 4-8).
- 2020 “Ministers of Idols: The Colonial Semantics of Aztec Ritual Specialists” (presentation for the Conference on Faith and History, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, October 7-10 [canceled]).
- 2020 “The Cihuatlamacazque: Gendered Ritual Offerings in the Nahua World” (presentation for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, February 29 - March 1).
- 2019 “Building to Share: An Open Education Approach to Materials Development” with Sarah Sweeney (presentation for COLING Annual Conference, Austin, Texas, December 12-13).
- 2019 “Remembering the Teopixque: Caretaking the Sacred Spaces of the Nahua World,” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 23-26).
- 2019 “Recording the Mesoamerican Past: Indigenous Religions in the Relaciones Geográficas of 1577-1585” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 23-26).
- 2019 “Migration and Sacrifice: Stories of Creation in Colonial Mesoamerica” (presentation for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, March 8-10).
- 2019 “In the Time of their Gentility: Prehispanic Religion in the Relaciones Geográficas of New Spain and Guatemala, 1577-1585” (presentation for the Central Texas Colloquium on Religion, Austin, Texas, February 23).
- 2018 “Intersecting Religions: Mesoamerican Christianity in the Codex Mexicanus” (presentation for the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 17-20).
- 2018 “Moteuczoma’s Throne: Cultural Memory & the Manipulation of Time” (presentation for the Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association, Austin, Texas, March 1-3).
- 2018 “Translating the New World: Images of Mesoamerica in Early Modern Europe” (presentation for the World Christianity & History of Religions Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, January 18-20).

- 2017 “Visuals of Culture-Contact in the Atzaqualco Pictorial Catechism” (presentation for the Department of Religious Studies & the Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, April 8).
- 2017 “Colonial Mesoamerica as a Source in the Study Missionary Strategies” (presentation for the Southwest Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, March 10-12).
- 2016 “Rituals with El Señor Nácxit: K’iche’ Maya Interpretations of Biblical Narratives” (presentation for the American Society of Missiology, Saint Paul, Minnesota, June 16-18).

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

- 2025 “Nahua Captains, and Religious: Inventing Ancient Customs in Sixteenth-Century Mexico” (invited talk for the colloquium of Religion in the Americas, Department of Religion, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, April 10).
- 2024 “The Translatability of Nahuatl Baptism” (guest lecture for World Christianity, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 6).
- 2024 “Native American Legacies in the History of Community Care” (respondent for the College of Arts and Science and Society Symposium, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, September 18).
- 2024 “Water and Humanity: A Social Lens” (guest lecture for Theology of Healing Earth in Action Institute at the School of Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, June 28).
- 2024 “My Relationship with Water” (guest lecture for Theology of Healing Earth in Action Institute at the School of Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, June 24).
- 2023 “First Encounters of Ritual and Translation in Sixteenth-Century Nahuatl” (guest lecture for Christianity in Latin America, Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, February 20).
- 2021 “Translating Ritual Performance in Colonial Mexico” (guest lecture for Colonial Latin American Art, Department of Anthropology, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, March 31).
- 2021 “Exclusive Monotheism and Sahagún’s Mission” (invited talk for the colloquium of the Department of Theology at Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 11).
- 2021 “Imagining God in the Past and Present” (guest lecture for Introduction to Theology at Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 11).
- 2020 “Mesoamerican Writing Systems” (guest lecture for Lettering Through the Ages, Richard Milburn Academy, Fort Worth, Texas, November 9).

- 2019 “The Reducción of Indigenous Languages in New Spain” (guest lecture for Faith and Fighting in Colonial America, Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa, June 27).
- 2019 “Indigenous Origins and Settled Borders” (invited talk for the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas, January 3).

Department Talks & Workshops

- 2023 “A Method to Historiographical Research Patterns” (workshop for the Theology Tertulia at Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, September 14).
- 2020 “Mesoamerican Directions in Colonial Context: Analyzing City, Symbol, and Space in the Relaciones Geográficas of New Spain and Guatemala” (workshop for the Mesoamerica Meetings, Austin, Texas, January 14-18).
- 2019 “Nahuatl Language Workshop” (workshop for the Central American Students Association, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, October 2).
- 2018 “Baptizing Aztec Divination: Intersecting Religions in the Codex Mexicanus” (invited talk for the Tertulia of the Mesoamerica Center, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, March 29).
- 2018 “El Códice Borgia” (Spanish-speaking presentation for the Art & Art History Department, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, February 15).
- 2017 “Reading the First Books” (panelist for LILLAS-Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, May 30).

TEACHING

Instructor of Record (Graduate)

Loyola University Chicago: Health, Science, and Religion in Mesoamerica; History of Christianity-Ancient to Medieval; History of Christianity-Renaissance to Modern

Instructor of Record (Undergraduate)

Loyola University Chicago: Introduction to Religious Studies; Health, Science, and Religion in Mesoamerica; Missionary Print Culture in the Colonial Americas; Christianity through Time; History of Christianity-Ancient to Medieval; History of Christianity-Renaissance to Modern

Newberry Library Seminar: Medicines, Poisons, and Landscapes of Care in the Early Americas

DIGITAL PROJECTS

- 2022 Principal Investigator
Project: Nahua Ritual Specialists Project
<http://ctsdh.org/nahuatl/>
Loyola University Chicago
- 2019-20 Graduate Research Assistant
2017-18 Project: Open Access Language Curriculum of Huasteca Nahuatl
<https://tlahtolli.coerll.utexas.edu/>
LLILAS-Indigenous Languages Initiative
University of Texas at Austin
- 2018 Digital Scholarship & Special Collections Intern
Project: Relaciones Geográficas of México & Guatemala, 1577-1585
<https://fromthepage.lib.utexas.edu/llilasbenson/relaciones-geograficas-of-mexico-and-guatemala>
LLILAS-Benson
University of Texas at Austin
- 2017 Digital Technician
Project: Sharing “Gabo” with the World—Gabriel García Márquez Online Archive
<https://hrc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/custom/ggm>
Harry Ransom Center
University of Texas at Austin

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Professional

Reviewer

- 2023 Reviewer for Short-Term Fellowships in the Americas, Newberry Library
2019-22 Reviewer for Graduate Student Roundtable Sessions, American Academy of Religion

Officer

- 2024-29 Steering Committee Member for the Religion in Latin America Unit, American Academy of Religion
2019-22 Graduate Student Director for the Southwest Region of the American Academy of Religion

Loyola University Chicago

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- 2021- Associate Member of the Graduate School
2023- Committee Member of the Native American & Indigenous Studies Group
2021-22 Reviewer for the Crown Fellowship at the Graduate School

Department of Theology & Religious Studies

- 2022- Chair of the Website Development Committee
- 2023- Member of the Department Advisory Committee
- 2022- Coordinator of the Theology Tertulia
- 2022-23 Member of the Recruitment of Majors and Minors
- 2021-22 Member of the Undergraduate and Core Learning

University of Texas at Austin

- 2017-21 Graduate Student Representative for the Department of Religious Studies
- 2018-20 Graduate Coordinator of the Mesoamerica Tertulia for the Mesoamerica Center
- 2017-18 Volunteer for University of Texas Explore Program

ADVISING SERVICE

Master's Theses

- 2024 Committee Member for Dyna Arriaga's "Whose Lady of Guadalupe? Dispelling Myths of Colonial Ownership and Reclaiming a Queer 'Heaven' in Queer Art" (withdrawn), Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2023 Chair for Kacie Barrett's "It's Good to Doubt Saints, Vladim: Medieval Constructions of Sainthood, Their Histories, and Their Cults in Leigh Bardugo's Shadow and Bone," Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Master's Comprehensive Exams

- 2022 Chair for Chi Nhan Nguyen's Historical Theology Exam, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (speaks, reads, and writes fluently)
English (speaks, reads, and writes fluently)

Modern Huasteca Nahuatl (speaks, reads, and writes at intermediate level)
Colonial Nahuatl (reads with dictionary)
Modern Maya K'iche' (speaks, reads, and writes at elementary level)

Latin (reads with dictionary)
Koinē Greek (reads with dictionary)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion