**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_MITCHEL E. HICKMAN\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Ph.D. Student, Department of Religious Studies

University of California, Santa Barbara

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**EDUCATION**

2021 – present Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

2017 – 2020 M.A., Religious Studies, California State University, Long Beach

Thesis: “Fleeing the Digital Cage: Disenchantment, Being, and Technology in the 21st Century”

2014 – 2016 B.A., Double Major in Religious Studies and Philosophy, University of California, Davis

2011 – 2013 A.A., Double Major in Religious Studies and Philosophy, Santa Rosa Junior College

**TEACHING AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

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2022 – present Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara, Religious Studies Department

Religious Studies Courses: Introduction to Religion and Politics, Introduction to the Study of Religion, Religion and Western Civilization: Modern, Religion and Popular Culture; Environmental Studies Courses: Technoscience and Ecology; Comparative Literature Courses: Creative Chaos

2020 – 2021Assistant Content Creator, Outlier.org

Courses: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Astronomy, Principles of Economics

2019 – 2023 Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Summer

Courses: Human Nature and Technology

2018 – 2020 Graduate Assistant, California State University, Long Beach, Religious Studies Department

Religious Studies Courses: American Religious Diversity

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2020 – 2021 Research Assistant, Dr. Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach, Department of Religious Studies

**SERVICE**

2023 – present Unit Chair, Philosophy of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion, Western Regional

2019 – 2020 Student Mentorship Program, Reading and Writing Theory, California State University, Long Beach, Religious Studies Department

2017 – 2020 President, Religious Studies Student Society, California State University, Long Beach

**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

“Wasting Finitude: On the Ecological Import of Sacrificial Expenditure and Videogame Play,” Envisioning our Future, Religion, Science, and Technology Unit, American Academy of Religious Studies Western Region Annual Meeting, University of Las Vegas, Nevada, March 15-17, 2024

“Playing Carefully: Or, Between Ecological Virtue and the Virtual,” Envisioning our Future, Philosophy of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religious Studies Western Region Annual Meeting, University of Las Vegas, Nevada, March 15-17, 2024

“Playing Deliberately: What Video Games Have to Teach us About Self and World,” After Earth? Religion and Technology on a Changing Planet, International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, February 2-5, 2023

“Solvitur Virtualiter Ambulando: The Self of the Virtual Flâneur,” Geographies of the Fantastic and the Quotidian, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, November 11-13, 2022

“Playing at the Threshold: Sacred Orientation in Virtual Space,” City of God, City of Destruction, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 11-14, 2021

“The Virtual Rite of Character Creation,” Shifting Experiences of Space and Time, Religion, Science, and Technology unit, American Academy of Religion, Western Region Annual Meeting, Claremont Graduate University, March 13-15, 2020

“Virtually Religious: Religion and Ritual in Virtual Worlds,” Spirituality After Darwin and the Future of Dark Green Religion, California State University, Long Beach, March 5, 2020

“Aliens and Memes: The Formations of a Modern Mythology,” 32nd Annual Student Research Competition, California State University, Long Beach, February 21, 2020

“Plato as Revolutionary: A Short Reading of Plato’s Republic,” Writing Revolution: German Paradigms of Legacies of Resistance, California State University, Long Beach, November 21, 2020

“Portraits of Agency: Refugees and Representation in a Secular Age,” Symposium on Religion, Gender and Global Conflict, California State University, Long Beach, January 1, 2019

“Playing with the Sacred: A Study of Video Games, Embodiment, and Religion,” Symposium on Religion and the Body, California State University, Long Beach, May 2, 2018

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

2021 – present Rowny Fellowship, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

2019 – 2020 Best Thesis Award, Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Long Beach

2019 – 2020 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Long Beach

2018 – 2019 Distinguished Graduate Award, Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Long Beach

2016 Dean’s List, Letters and Sciences, University of California, Davis, Fall Quarter

2015 Dean’s List, Letters and Sciences, University of California, Davis, Spring Quarter

2014 Dean’s List, Letters and Sciences, University of California, Davis, Winter Quarter

**LANGUAGES**

English

French

German

**MEMBERSHIPS**

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Member, *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, 2022 – present

Member, *Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association,* 2021 – present

Member, *American Academy of Religion,* 2020 – present

**REFERENCES**

*Available upon request*