



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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Research Statement

My broad areas of interest are religion and popular culture, ritual and performance, religion and media, and new religious movements. I am interested in how contemporary religions are born within and respond to their enveloping social and historical context, and exhibit their self-understanding through various media: text, ritual, sound, food, dress, and other forms of expression. My specialization is in the modern magical and esoteric worldviews of self-identified Satanists, Witches, and Vampires. My dissertation is an ethnographic study on members of the Church of Satan. It discusses how Satanists use imagery, sound, and scent as magical tools to create their total environments, and presents Satanism as an actively lived religion.