

WHO AM I?

Aspiring religious academic; writer, student, and creative. Experienced in digital humanities at the axes of both the museum field and library sciences. Ultimate career objective is professorship in religious studies concentrating on the plurality of intersections between religious bodies and new technologies.

EDUCATION

BACHELORS, RELIGIOUS STUDIES; MINORS, HISTORY & MIDDLE EAST STUDIES | MAY 2021
North Carolina State University

ASSOCIATES OF ARTS | MAY 2021
Sampson County Community College

SELECTED RECENT EXPERIENCE

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT INTERN | AUGUST 2019—PRESENT | GREGG MUSEUM OF ART AND DESIGN
My responsibilities include: setting up, arranging, and handling objects for the collections education program directed by the registrar; reviewing and editing metadata; assisting in the preparation for exhibitions. During my tenure at the Gregg, I also curated a case show ('Impulse of Aw', examining depictions of 'cute' animal anthropomorphism from around the globe) in partnership with the Arts NC State office. Projects undertaken as part of my shift to remote work during the pandemic include: research, intensive metadata work in our collections database, and classifying portions of our library catalog.

DIGITIZATION ASSISTANT | JULY 2019—PRESENT | HARRY B. LYONS DESIGN LIBRARY
I am responsible for the inventorying and cataloguing of the NC State Design College's positive film slide archive as we digitize and transition to an online image database, LUNA. This process includes creating and maintaining an excel database, photoshop editing of scanned images, and the physical repair of slides.

PARALIBRARIAN | OCTOBER 2017—JULY 2019 | SAMPSON-CLINTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Given the limited staffing within a rural library system, my role here was multi-fold. Although my primary responsibility was in patron assistance and ILS record management, other job responsibilities include: graphic design for programming and promotional materials, technical support, coordinating book rotation schedules, and administrative duties.

EXTRACURRICULAR VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

IAR LIBRARY PLAN | NOVEMBER 2019 | ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF RALEIGH
During a local interfaith organization meeting, a friend of mine mentioned he was having trouble figuring out how to systemize the then-informal library of the Islamic Association where he was serving as a board member & volunteership coordinator—of course I absolutely had to offer my help. I created a project proposal timeline and budgetary outline for the IAR to help structure this endeavor, making a compendium including (but not limited to): necessary supplies, ILS options (alongside projected potential rates for non-profits), introductory guides to managing small-institution volunteer libraries, OCLC web courses, and proposed directions of collection expansion. Something I wanted to be particularly mindful of in designing a 'Masjid Library 101 Launchpad' for my friend was flexibility and accessibility—it needed to be amenable to the unique needs of the community, as the IAR serves not only as a religious and social center for the Raleigh Muslim community, but also is home to Al-Iman, a non-profit K-8 day school; additional factors of consideration included the library's limited budget (operating primarily charitable donations) as well as the volunteer-exclusive staff.

SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY REORGANIZATION | JUNE 2018 | BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
I joined the library committee of my then-local synagogue on a short-term basis as a way to assist during renovations. This process included reorganizing, weeding, and classifying the community's extensive collection.

SPONSORED INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

VISIONS OF INFINITY: KUBA CLOTH | FALL 2019 | NC STATE & GREGG MUSEUM OF ART AND DESIGN

Completed during the first semester of my internship with the Gregg Museum in conjunction with the History department at NC State, with the goal of deepening the institution's information on their collection of Kuba. Kuba cloth, also known as 'Kasai Velvet', is a multifaceted textile of the Bakuba People, primarily from the region that is now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. My research of Kuba for the Gregg was a two-fold pursuit: historiography (encompassing the wider history of Kuba cloth and its multiplicities of ceremonial and commercial contexts, with special attention to the impact of centuries of colonization on the region and its peoples) as well as an aesthetic investigation, with the goal of drawing novel conclusions on the intentions and applications of my institution's particular pieces of Kuba. As part of this project, I was awarded a departmental research grant to travel to Washington DC and visit the research libraries and collections of both the Smithsonian Museum of African Art and Georgetown Textile Museum.

WHITE SUPREMACIST IDENTITARIANISM & NEW TECHNOLOGIES* | FALL 2020 | NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Combining my research concentrations of new technologies and the sociopolitical functions of religion in the 21st century, I proposed an independent research project investigating the activities of white supremacist religious groups in social media and related online communities. My goal with this project is to articulate and attenuate the doctrinal origins and self-construction of this movement from an interdisciplinary basis, drawing additionally from the fields of Philosophy, Sociology, and Media Studies. This project will be completed in Fall 2020.

*Although undertaken during my Undergraduate career at NCSU, this project has been approved for Graduate credit.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

STUDENT AMBASSADOR | FALL 2020 | NC STATE UNIVERSITY

VIKING FUEL | AUGUST 2018—MAY 2019 | SAMPSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

During my tenure of Student President at SCC, my SGA advisor and I formed a food bank to assist financially challenged and food-insecure students.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT & AMBASSADOR | SAMPSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Proficient in library & collections databases such as Polaris, Sirsi-Dynex, and Proficio rediscovery.
- Long-time experience in Excel, the wider Microsoft Office suite, and the Adobe graphics suite.
- Basic conversational & reading proficiency in Arabic (MSA/Fusha).

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

As someone working in the archival and library field without an MLIS/MIS but passionate about the preservation and democratization of information, I'm consistently looking for ways to better my knowledge and skills so I can better serve my institutions.

- Completed SABLE (Supplemental Alternative Basic Library Education)
- Completed OCLC Webjunction Courses & Webinars:
 - Introduction to Digital Preservation, Cataloguing for Non-Catalogers, Introduction to Reference, Getting Started with Digitization, Workflow Maps

REFERENCES

- Dr. Jason Bivins | Department Chair & Professor of Religious Studies, NC State | jcbivins@ncsu.edu
- Jordan Cao | Assistant Registrar, Gregg Museum of Art and Design | jbcao@ncsu.edu
- Dr. Hunter Bandy | Assistant Adjunct Professor of Religions, Elon University | hbandy@elon.edu