

# KATE E. SOULES, PhD

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## EDUCATION

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**Boston College, Lynch School of Education** 2019

PhD, Curriculum & Instruction

Dissertation: *The Impact of Professional Development on Public School Teachers' Understanding of Religious Diversity*

**Boston University, School of Theology** 2014

MTS, Summa cum Laude

Thesis: *Learning Across the Church-State Divide: Potential Intersections of Religion and Civic Education in United States Public Secondary Schools*

**Emmanuel College** 2011–2012

Graduate course work (24 credits) in Secondary Education (Masters in Teaching program)

**Wellesley College** 2010

BA, Major: Sociology, Minor: Religious Studies

Thesis: *The Elusive 4<sup>th</sup> R: Religion in the Secondary School Social Studies Curriculum*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Religion & Education Collaborative** 2016–Present

*Executive Director & Co-Founder*

Successfully establish and lead the growth of a professional network of over 140 educators, students, and scholars working at the intersections of religion and education. Lead initiatives to build community through monthly scholarly presentations, the development of an online resource library, and the dissemination of information via regular newsletters and website. Manage membership and scheduling of events. Coordinate with leaders of other organizations to co-sponsor events. Promote the academic field of religion and education at relevant professional conferences.

**Religion and Society Program, Aspen Institute** January 2022–Present

*Fellow for Religious Literacy Evaluation*

Conduct research on the current practices of the assessment and evaluation of religious literacy education. Review empirical and theoretical scholarship about religious literacy evaluation. Write a practitioner-focused report on the status of evaluation in religious literacy and develop a guidebook to introduce evaluation practices into religious literacy programming.

**1791 Delegates and the Foundation for Religious Literacy****April 2022–Present***Research Director, Virtues in the Public Square*

Design, implement, and analyze a mixed-methods research study of the effects of online education on college students' development of civic virtues, empathy, and religious literacy. The research examines the outcomes of the course *Virtues in the Public Square*, a twelve-hour multimedia course for college students, on the ReligionAndPublicLife.org social learning platform. Course and research funded by the Fetzer Institute.

**International Baccalaureate****2019–Present***World Religions Review Team Member (2019–2021)*

Participated in two, multi-day development meetings with an international team of educators and researchers to review and update the IB World Religions course to align with current best practices in religious studies, curriculum design, and teaching and learning. Reviewed and responded to curriculum documents and related course materials.

*World Religions Core Developer (2021–Present)*

Coordinate the continuing development of the revised World Religions course. Advance the development of six priorities regarding learning objectives, content and conceptual scaffolding, and multiple forms of assessment. Design prototype materials for course components and teacher materials. Consult with and facilitate collaborative dialogue among members of the review team and incorporate feedback into prototypes and recommendations.

**Kaur Foundation****2018–Present***Curriculum Developer*

Create and update curriculum materials about Sikhism and the Sikh-American experience for elementary and secondary classrooms, including multimedia lesson plans, graphic organizers, and reading guides. Align materials with relevant state standards, CCSS, and NCSS C3 Framework. Integrate opportunities for differentiation, extended study, and modifications for remote learning. Advise the production of video series “Kaur Youth Voices: The Sikh-American Experience” and design accompanying classroom materials. Update website design to showcase resources and improve ease of access for educators.

*Professional Development Consultant*

Develop an “Introduction to Sikhism for Educators” presentation for use in professional development workshops for K-12 schools. Apply leading pedagogical approaches and theoretical frameworks for teaching and learning about religion to the design of presentations and accompanying materials. Analyze existing survey data from students and educators to identify priorities and learning objectives for future programs. Consult with volunteer regional coordinators engaging with their local school districts to promote education about Sikhism and cultural and religious literacy

**American Academy of Religion****March 2022–July 2022***Religious Literacy Workshop Designer and Facilitator*

Designed a workshop based on the American Academy of Religion’s “Religious Literacy Guidelines: What U.S. College Graduates Need to Understand about Religion.” Created an interactive workbook to accompany the workshop. Delivered seven 90-minute workshops for faculty in religious studies, seminaries and theological schools, humanities and social sciences, STEM, and student affairs.

**Religious Freedom Center of the Freedom Forum Institute, Washington D.C.** **2017–2020**

*Instructor and Curriculum Designer*

Developed and implemented curricular materials about religious liberty and religious literacy for K-12 public school educators. These materials included the development of two graduate-level, online and blended learning courses, “First Amendment Approaches to Religion in Public Schools” and “Histories of Religious Liberty in the United States,” which were piloted in Fall 2017. Designed the structure and content of *Constitution2Classroom*, an online professional development platform with 40+ hours of content on religious liberty, religious literacy, and civil dialogue.

*Program Evaluator*

Advised program directors and staff on the use evaluation for professional development programs about religious liberty and religious literacy for K-12 public school educators. Reviewed and synthesized data from previous evaluation sources, including qualitative and quantitative data. Designed evaluation plan and protocol for future evaluations, including identification of evaluation objectives and constructs, development of an evaluation codebook, construction of template surveys using an online platform, and documentation of procedures for staff to implement the plan.

**Office of Practicum Experiences & Teacher Induction** **2016–2017**

Boston College, Lynch School of Education

*Pre-Practicum Program Supervisor*

Supervised undergraduate and graduate pre-practicum student teachers in two Boston Public Schools, Brighton High School and the Thomas Edison K-8 School.

**Mother Caroline Academy, Dorchester, MA** **2010–2012**

*Teacher*

Teacher at a tuition-free urban middle school preparing girls for competitive high schools: 8<sup>th</sup> grade World Religions, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Latin. Developed and implement new World Religions curriculum.

## **TEACHING**

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**Boston College, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Chestnut Hill, MA**

*Undergraduate Level Courses:*

Secondary Curriculum and Instruction (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

Senior Inquiry Seminar (Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

Teaching Social Studies and the Arts (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

*Graduate Level:* Teaching Social Studies and the Arts (Fall 2018)

**Religious Freedom Center of the Freedom Forum Institute, Washington DC**

*Graduate Level Courses:*

First Amendment Approaches to Religion and Public Schools (Blended Learning), (Fall 2017)

*Co-Instructor* with Lauren Herman, MDiv, JD

Histories of Religious Liberty in the United States (Online) (Fall 2017)

*Co-Instructor* with Eleesha Tucker, MA

## LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

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### **American Education Research Association**

*Chair, Religion and Education Special Interest Group, 2021–2023*

*Assistant Chair/Chair Elect, Religion and Education Special Interest Group, 2020–2021*

*Member-at-Large, Religion and Education Special Interest Group, 2019–2020*

*Graduate Student Liaison, Religion and Education Special Interest Group, 2018–2019*

### **Teaching about Religion (Working Title) Documentary Film**

*Advisory Board Member, 2020–Present*

### **American Academy of Religion**

*Steering Committee, Religion and Public Schools: International Perspectives Unit, 2019–present*

### **Mid-Atlantic Region, American Academy of Religion**

*Co-Chair, Religion and Education Section, 2017–present*

### **Southwest Region, American Academy of Religion**

*Advisor to Religious Literacy Working Group, 2021–present*

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

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*Emerging Scholar Award*, 2021. Awarded by the Religion and Education Special Interest Group on the American Education Research Association

Member of the Religious Literacy Cohort as part of the Powering Pluralism Network, an initiative of the Inclusive America Project at the Aspen Institute, 2020–2021

Inaugural *Religious Literacy Fellow*, The Foundation for Religious Literacy, 2019–2020

Lynch School of Education Research Symposium Faculty Choice Recognition for poster presentation “Teacher Preparation for Religious Diversity: Uncovering What Is and Isn’t Happening in Teacher Education,” 2017

Research Fellow, Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, 2016–2017

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Soules, K.** Beyond Religious Literacy for Educators: Advancing a Model of Pedagogical Content Knowledge about Religion. (Manuscript in Preparation).

**Soules, K.** When Religion Isn’t a Part of Culture: A Review of Religion in Multicultural Education Literature. (Manuscript in Preparation).

**Soules, K.** & Pagnoni, G. (Forthcoming). Understanding Educator Motivations for Participating in Religious Literacy Professional Development. In A. Bodles, E. Bellows, E.E. Saylor, S. An, & L.B. Buchanan (Eds), *Religion, the First Amendment, and Public Schools*. Information Age Publishing

**Soules, K.** (2021). Where do we fit in? Locating conversations about religion and education in academic and professional associations. *Convergence Magazine*, 4:2, 29-35.

**Soules, K.** & Jafralie, S. (2021). Religious Literacy in Teacher Education, *Religion & Education*, 48:1, 37-56, DOI: 10.1080/15507394.2021.1876497

**Soules, K.** (2020) Review: Contextual Considerations for Student-Centered Religious Education, *Religion & Education*, 47:2, 131-134, DOI: [10.1080/15507394.2020.1745990](https://doi.org/10.1080/15507394.2020.1745990)

Marcus, B.P, **Soules, K.** & Callaway, D. (2020) National Summit on Religion and Education: A White Paper. *Religion & Education*, 47:1, 2-18, DOI: [10.1080/15507394.2020.1714403](https://doi.org/10.1080/15507394.2020.1714403)

Russo, C. J., **Soules, K.**, Newman, A., & Douglass, S. L. (2018). Private Religious Schools. In M. D. Waggoner & N. C. Walker (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of religion and American education*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Gardner, G.S., **Soules, K.**, & Valk, J. (2017) The Urgent Need for Teacher Preparation in Religious and Secular Worldview Education. *Religious Education*, 112(3), 242-254, DOI: 10.1080/00344087.2017.1309113

Noble, A., McQuillan, P., Wangia, S., and **Soules, K.** (2017) The Emergence of Student-Centered Teaching in Professional Learning Networks on Twitter: The Role of Choice and Voice in M. Grassetti and S. Brookby (Eds), *Advancing Next-Generation Teacher Education through Digital Tools and Applications* (pp. 179-199). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

## **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### **Building Integrated, Formative School Leadership Programs 2019–2020**

Boston College, Lynch School of Education

PI: Stanton Wortham, Dean of the Lynch School of Education

*Project Manager*

Managed logistics and research for \$19,600 planning grant from the Kern Family Foundation to map existing educational leadership programs at Boston College. Used findings to identify opportunities to improve the preparation of K-12 school leaders and increase the integration of university-wide formative education initiatives. Participated in convenings of the Kern Family Foundation Partners in Character and Educational Leadership.

### **Roche Center for Catholic Education**

**2014–2016**

Boston College, Lynch School of Education

PI: Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Evaluation of the *Emmaus Series: A Leadership Advantage Program for Catholic School Leaders*. Developed and administered surveys for current and incoming participants. Wrote and presented research summaries for program directors. Coordinated with professional development team to deliver workshops and retreats for national cohorts of Catholic school leaders.

**Social Studies Educator Engagement with Professional Learning Networks**

**2015**

Boston College, Lynch School of Education

PI: Patrick McQuillan

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Member of a research team investigating the use of Twitter by secondary social studies teachers for professional development. Conducted interviews and analyzed data using a modified version of consensual qualitative research. Presented results at relevant professional conferences.

***The New Imperatives of Educational Change*, by Dennis Shirley (2016)**

**2014–2015**

Boston College, Lynch School of Education

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Research assistance for *The New Imperatives of Educational Change* by Dennis Shirley (2016). Complied data from international student achievement exams (PISA, TIMSS, & PIRLS). Developed graphical representations of relevant data. Provided editorial feedback on manuscript in progress.

**INVITED TALKS**

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“When are we ever going to use this? Examining Why Teaching about Religion Matters.” November 18, 2022. Pre-conference workshop for the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado.

“A New Framework for Teaching about Religion in the Classroom,” October 13, 2021. Comparative Religion and Humanities Department, California State University, Chico.

“Funding, Research, Publishing, and Teaching in the Field of Religion and Education,” April 6, 2021. Pre-conference mentoring meeting at the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting (Virtual Conference).

“Unpacking the Components of Religious Literacy for Educators,” November 22, 2019. Pre-conference workshop for the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego, California.

“Religious Literacy for Educators, 2.0,” July 22, 2019. Presentation at Religious Literacy for Educators professional development course, Naperville District 203, Illinois.

“Religious Freedom in Catholic Schools—Clarifying Controversies & Finding Common Ground” November 1, 2018. Webinar for the National Catholic Education Association.

“Religious Freedom in Public Schools—Clarifying Controversies & Finding Common Ground” September 18, 2018. Webinar for the National Council for the Social Studies.

“Researching Religion in U.S. K-12 Schools” August 29, 2018. Webinar for Interfaith Youth Core Alumni K-12 Educators Virtual Learning Cohort.

“Introduction to Religious Literacy for Educators,” June 11, 2018. Presentation at Religious Literacy for Educators professional development course, Naperville District 203, Illinois.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Soules, K.** (December 2022) Realistic Religious Literacy for Educators. Presentation at the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Soules, K.** (November 2022) Does religious literacy education make any difference and how do we know? A review of evaluation and assessment practices in religious literacy education. Paper presentation at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

Celidwen, Y., **Soules, K.**, Jones, R.P. (November 2022) Beyond the Academy: Pursuing Jobs Off of the Tenure Track. Panel Convened by the Applied Religious Studies Committee at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

**Soules, K.** (April 2021) No Singular Way: Developing More Complex Conceptions of Religion Following Professional Development About Religious Diversity. Roundtable presentation at the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference.

**Soules, K.** (November 2020) A Foot in Two Worlds but No Real Home: Forging an Interdisciplinary Path in Graduate School. Workshop for the Graduate Student Roundtable at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference.

Biondo, V., Moore, D., Pagnoni, G., **Soules, K.**, Ibrahim, C., Earley, D. (November, 2020) Religious Literacy and K-12 Education: Opportunities for Successful Partnerships. Panel convened by the Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference.

**Soules, K.** (April 2020) Becoming Less Scared: An Introduction to Religious Diversity and Religious Literacy for Educators. Clinic for the Northeast Regional Conference for the Social Studies, Boston, MA, [Conference Canceled]

**Soules, K.** (April 2020) What Do Teachers Need to Know About Religion? Describing Pedagogical Content Knowledge About Religion Roundtable Session at AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA, <http://tinyurl.com/sn2trpg> [Conference Canceled]

Fowler, M., Goldschmidt, H., Marcus, B., **Soules, K.** (March 2020) Advances in the Field of Religion and Education: Reflecting on the National Summit on Religion and Education. Panel Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Princeton, NJ. [Conference Canceled]

**Soules, K.** (November 2019) A Change in Perspective: Turning from the Failures of Education about Religion in the United States to an Exploration of the Successes. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Owens, E., Berglund, J., Grelle, B., Marcus, B., Sheena, M.K., **Soules, K.**, Walker, N. (November 2019) Teaching About Religion in Public Schools: A Roundtable for K-12 Teachers and Teacher Educators. Panel convened by the Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

**Soules, K.** (April 2019) Combating Stereotypes through Direct Experiences: Impacts of Professional Development about Religious Diversity through Site Visits. Roundtable presentation at the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

**Soules, K.** (November 2018) Religion through the Eyes of a Real Person with Feelings: The Impacts of Experiential Learning in Professional Development about Religion. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

**Soules, K.** (March 2018). Learning to Teach about Religion: Religious Literacy Professional Learning and Development for K-12 Educators. Paper presented at the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, New Brunswick, NJ.

**Soules, K.** (November 2017). When Religion Isn't a Part of Culture: Reviewing the Relationship between Religion and Multicultural Education. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

**Soules, K.** (November 2017). When Does Religion Count in Conversations about Diversity?: The Inadequate Discourse about Religion in Multicultural Education. Paper presented at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.

**Soules, K.** (April 2017). Teacher Preparation for Religious Diversity: Uncovering What Is and Isn't Happening in Teacher Education. Poster presented at the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Keefe-Perry, L.C., **Soules, K.** & Walker, N. (March 2017). Religion and Public Education: A View from the Ground Up. Panel convened at the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, New Brunswick, NJ.

**Soules, K.** (November 2016). The Essential Role of Teacher Education in Improving U.S. Religion Curricula. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.



Gardner, R., **Soules, K.**, & Valk, J. (November 2016). The Urgent Need for Teacher Preparation in Religious and Secular Worldview Education. Paper presented at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, PA.

**Soules, K.** (October 2016). Public Schooling, Religion, and American Values: Legal Battles around Religion on the Public School Stage. Paper presented at the Boston University Graduate Conference on Religious Studies, Boston, MA.

**Soules, K.** (April 2016). Understanding Pre-Service Teachers' Formal and Informal Preparation to Teach about Religion in the Secondary Social Studies Classroom. Roundtable presented at the New England Educational Research Organization Annual Meeting, Portsmouth, NH.

Noble, A., Wangia, S., and **Soules, K.** (April 2016). Building Teacher Capacity for Pedagogical Change Through Online Professional Learning Networks. Paper presented at the New England Educational Research Organization Annual Meeting, Portsmouth, NH.

Noble, A. and **Soules, K.** (April 2016). The Role of Student-Centered Teaching in Professional Development Networks on Twitter. Roundtable presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.

**Soules, K.** (April 2016). 'I Probably Wouldn't Know the Answer': Understanding Pre-Services Teachers' Perspectives on Religion in the Public School Classroom. Paper presented at the New England & Canadian Maritimes American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Boston, MA.

Noble, A. and **Soules, K.** (October 2015) Choice and Voice: The Emergence of Student-Centered Teaching in Professional Learning Networks on Twitter. Paper presented at the International Research Symposium: Toward the Fusion of Horizons—Critical Dialogue for Increased Understand: Beyond Epistemological Nationalism, jointly sponsored by the University of Agder (Norway), the Boston College Lynch School of Education, and the Journal of Educational Change, Chestnut Hill, MA.

**Soules, K.** (March 2015). Teaching about Religion in Changing Contexts of Religious Diversity: A Review of Empirical Literature. Paper presented at the New England & Canadian Maritimes American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Boston, MA.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Academy of Religion  
American Education Research Association  
National Council for the Social Studies