

MELANI MCALISTER

Current Position

Professor of American Studies and International Affairs, George Washington University

Education

Ph.D. American Civilization, Brown University, May 1996.

B.A., summa cum laude, International Studies (Middle East), UNC - Chapel Hill, 1984.

Awards and Honors (selected)

Harvard Radcliffe Fellow, 2023-24.

National Humanities Center Fellow, 2023-24 (declined).

American Philosophical Society Research Award, spring 2023.

GW Humanities Center Fellow, 2020-21.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2017-18.

Organization of American Historians, Distinguished Lecturer, 2013-2019.

Columbian College Dean's Research Chair, 2015-2017.

Distinguished Faculty speaker, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences graduation, GWU, 2014.

Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School of Communication, spring 2010.

Visiting Fellow, Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, fall 2007.

Visiting Fellow, Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion, 1998-99.

Books & Special Journal issues

Promises, then the Storm: Notes on Memory, Protest, and the Israel-Gaza War. London: MACK press, fall 2024.

[*The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals.*](#) New York: Oxford University Press, 2018, updated paperback edition, 2022.

Co-editor with John Corrigan and Axel Schäfer, [*Global Faith and Worldly Power: Christian Encounters with US Empire.*](#) Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2022.

Co-editor with David Engerman and Max Friedman, [*Cambridge History of America in the World, Volume 4 \(1945-2010\).*](#) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Co-edited with R. Marie Griffith, [*Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States.*](#) Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2008. Originally a special issue of *American Quarterly*, 2007.

[*Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945.*](#) Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, o. 2001. Revised and expanded edition, 2005.

Co-editor, with Christopher Lee, of *From Anarchy to Chaos: Generation(s) of Empire*, a special issue of *American Quarterly*, September 2022.

Current: *Book Manuscript in progress: "The Art of Solidarity: The US Market for Third World Culture in the Late Cold War."*

Digital Humanities Projects:

[GWU COVID and Culture Documentary Project](#). This project, developed in collaboration with the GW University Archives, involves oral histories with GW students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and a collection of materials such as photographs and journal entries.

[Remembering Biafra: History, Memory, and the Global Response to the Nigeria-Biafra war](#). This NEH-funded multiple-year project developed a detailed and comprehensive timeline and digital repository of primary documents that highlight the global impact of the war that launched modern-day humanitarian politics.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters: Recent and selected

"Notes on the Gaza Wars," *American Historical Review*, forthcoming Sept. 2024.

"Narrative Disorders: Surveillance, Truth, and Democracy in Malka Older's Centenal Cycle." *American Literary History* (June 2023), pp 305-319.

Honorary Mention, *1921 Award* from the American Literature Society, for best article in 2023.

"Evangelicals and the International Politics of Human Rights." In [Reclaiming Human Rights in a Changing World Order](#), ed Christopher Sabatini. Chatham House & Cambridge University Press, 2022, pp 149-181.

"Introduction: Evangelicals at the Global Scale," co-authored with Axel Schäfer and John Corrigan, in *Global Faith, Worldly Power*, 2022, pp 1-48.

"Introduction: Generations of Empire." Authored with Christopher Lee. *American Quarterly*, September 2022, pp. 477-497.

"Not Just Churches': American Jews, Joint Church Aid, and the Nigeria-Biafra War." In [Ideologies and US Foreign Relations](#), ed. Christopher Nichols and David Milne. Columbia Univ. Press, 2022.

[Analyzing Actants.](#) *Diplomatic History* special forum on impact of Covid on research and teaching, June 2021.

[Established Authorities: Theology, the State, and the Apartheid Struggle.](#) In *At Home and Abroad: Religion and Secularism on a Global Stage*, ed. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd and Winnifred Sullivan. Columbia Univ. Press, 2021, pp. 249-272.

[The Global Conscience of American Evangelicalism: Internationalism and Social Concern in the 1970s and Beyond.](#) *Journal of American Studies* 51:4 (Fall 2017): 1197-1220.

[Queering Diplomatic History: A Colloquium.](#) Co-authored with six other contributors. *Diplomatic History* (winter 2016): 1-62.

[A Virtual Muslim is Something to Be.](#) *American Quarterly* (June 2009): 221-31.

"What Would Jesus Do? Evangelicals, the Iraq War, and the Struggle for Position." In *America and Iraq: Policy-making, Intervention and Regional Politics*. Ed. David Ryan and Patrick Kiely. Routledge, 2009.

General Interest publications (recent and selected)

[Picturing the War 'No One Cares About'](#), Humanities magazine of the NEH, May 18, 2023.

[War in Ukraine is testing some American evangelicals' support for Putin](#), *The Conversation*, April 6, 2022.

[Why Billy Graham was Determined to Globalize Evangelism](#), *The Atlantic*, February 21, 2018

Professional Activities

Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), President-elect, 2024-2025.

American Council of Learned Societies, Board of Directors, 2019-27. Treasurer, 2023-2027.

Editorial Board, *American Historical Review*, 2023-2027.

Editorial Board, *Modern American History*, 2016-present.

Editorial Board, *Diplomatic History*, 2019-present

Historical Advisory Committee, US Department of State, 2020-23.

Co-Convener: "From Tahrir Square to Zuccotti Park: The Arab Spring and the Decentering American Studies." Co-organized with Prof. Eid Mohamed, Doha Institute. January 8-11, 2018, Doha, Qatar

Primary Organizer, "Remembering Biafra: History, Memory, and the Global Impact of Nigeria's Civil War," international conference at George Washington University, April 20-21, 2017.

Editorial Board, *Journal of American History*, 2012-2015.