

**James M. O'Toole**  
**Clough Millennium Professor of History**  
**Boston College**  
**Student Research**

**Doctoral Dissertations, Adviser**

Casey Beaumier, "For Richer, For Poorer: Jesuit Secondary Education in America and the Challenge of Elitism" (2013).

Peter Cajka, "The Rights of Conscience: The Rise of Tradition in America's Age of Fracture, 1940-1985" (2016).

Andrew Finstuen, "Hearts of Darkness: American Protestants and the Doctrine of Original Sin, 1945-1965" (2006).

Bethany Jay, "The Representation of Slavery in Historic House Museums, 1853-2000" (2009).

Joanna Kelly, "Evangelical Television and the Politicizing of the Evangelical Message, 1950-1994" (2019).

David McCowin, "Practicing Catholic Manhood: Faith, Family, and Freedom in Boston, 1900-1960" (2011).

Seth Meehan, "Denominating a People: Congregational Laity, Church Disestablishment, and the Struggles of Denominationalism in Massachusetts, 1780-1865" (2014).

Michael Mezzano, "'Not the Race of Dante': Southern Italians as Undesirable Americans" (2008).

Sarah Nytroe, "Religion and Memory in American Public Culture, 1890-1920" (2008).

Carrie Schultz, "Let the Little Children Come to Me: Catholic Children's Moral Development in the United States, 1920-1965" (2010).

Christopher Staysniak, "'The Volunteer Who Seeks to Help Others Also Helps Himself': Religion, Class, and the Development of Youth Volunteer Service in the United States, 1934-1973" (2017).

Allison Vader Broek, "Rallying the Right-to-Lifers: Grassroots Religion and Politics in the Building of a Broad-Based Right-to-Life Movement, 1960-1984" (2018).

## Doctoral Dissertations, Reader

R. Bentley Anderson, “‘Norman Francis is a Negro’: Race, Religion, and Catholic Higher Education in New Orleans, 1947-1957” (2001).

Laura Baines-Walsh, “Adapting to Dixie: The Southernization of Nineteenth-Century Lutherans in the North Carolina Piedmont” (2010).

Brooke Barbier, “Daughters of Liberty: Young Women’s Culture in Early National Boston” (2009).

John Bieter, “Showdown in the Owyhees: Land, Myth, and Identity in the American West” (2004).

Elizabeth McDonald Bischof, “‘Against an Epoch’: Boston Moderns, 1880-1905” (2005).

Mollie Gallagher Boddy, “Beyond Boston: Catholicism in the Northern New England Borderlands in the Nineteenth Century” (University of New Hampshire, 2015).

Dolita Cathcart, “White Gloves, Black Rebels: The Decline of Elite Black National Political Leadership in Boston, 1870-1920” (2004).

Jenifer Cote, “‘Nobody Ever Paid Me for Anything’: Crafting a Professional Social Work Identity in Progressive-Era Boston” (2007).

Mimi Cowan, “Immigrants, Nativists, and the Making of Gilded Age Chicago, 1835-1893” (2015).

Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan, “Ethnic Patriotism: Boston’s Irish and Jewish Communities, 1880-1929” (2010).

Stephanie Kermes, “New England’s America: Transatlantic Protestantism, Regionalism, and Nationalism in the Early Republic, 1789-1825” (2003).

Bethany Kilcrease, “The ‘Great Church Crisis,’ Public Life, and National Identity in Late-Victorian and Edwardian Britain” (2008).

Krister Knapp, “To the Summerland: William James, Psychological Research, and Modernity” (2003).

William Leonard, “*Vigor in Arduis*: A History of Boston’s African-American Catholic Community, 1789-1988” (1999).

Darren McDonald, “Crisis of Faith: Jimmy Carter, Religion, and the Making of U.S.-Middle East Foreign Policy” (2012).

Grainne McEvoy, “Justice and Order: American Catholic Social Thought and the Immigration Question in the Restriction Era” (2014).

Edward Miller, “Mavericks of the Metroplex: Dallas Republicans, the Southern Strategy, and the American Right” (2013).

Damien Murray, “Progressivism, Ethnic Nationalism, and the Emergence of Catholic Democratic Liberalism in Boston, 1900-1924” (2005).

Christian Samito, “Proof of Loyalty: Irish Americans, African Americans, and the Redefinition of Citizenship during the Civil War Era” (2006).

Kenneth Shelton, “The Way Cast Up: The Keithian Schism in English Enlightenment Context” (2009).

Matthew Sherman, “‘Become What You Receive’: A Transformative, Eucharistic Vision of the Family Engaging the History and Theology of U.S. Catholicism in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries” (Theology Department, 2011).

John White, “The Knock Apparitions and Pilgrimage: Popular Piety and the Irish Land War” (1999).

### **Undergraduate Honors Theses, Director**

William Cody, “Hugh O’Brien: The First Irish Catholic Mayor of Boston, 1885-1888” (2011).

Kevin Gregg, “Tackling Jim Crow: Segregation on the College Gridiron, 1936-1941” (2005).

Jeffrey Hobbs, “A Historical Analysis of the 1970s Campaign Finance Reform Movement” (2002).

Amy Johnson, “The Ethnic Shift of Catholicism in Boston during the Second Wave of Immigration” (2004).

Timothy Lilley, “John A. Ryan, the Social Action Department, and American Catholic Social Thought in the Twentieth Century” (2013).

Christine Lorica, “The Boston Heresy Case: Catholic Identity Formation Between World War II and Vatican II” (Scholar of the College, 2017).

Kelly McMahon, “The Rise of the American Catholic and the Fall of the American Nun” (Scholar of the College, 2002).

Sean McShane, “A Faithful Remnant: Fr. Gommar A. DePauw and the Catholic Traditionalist Movement” (2019).

Scott O’Leary, “Sympathy and Cynicism: American Reactions to the Roman Question” (2005).

Michael Reer, “Before the Irish: Early American Catholic Spirituality” (2010).

Ethan Stevenson, “Beyond Ordination: Shifts in Tradition and Discourse in the Half-Century Surrounding Women’s Ordination in the Episcopal Church” (2011).

Michael Tynan, “Boston College during the Administration of W. Seavey Joyce, S.J., 1968-1972” (2000).

Alexandra Valdez, “German Youth: Ideology and Faith, 1933-1945” (2010; co-directed with Prof. Devin Pendas).

Tara Walsh, “The Transformation of the Catholic Church in Nineteenth-Century Ireland” (2003; co-directed with Prof. Francis Murphy).