**Abel R. Gomez**

PhD Candidate, Department of Religion

Syracuse University

501 Hall of Languages, Syracuse, NY

abgomez@syr.edu

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Native American and Indigenous Religions, Decolonial and Indigenous Feminisms, Latinx Religious Traditions, Social Movements, Place, Race and Ethnicity, Ethnography, Ritual Theory

**EDUCATION**

2021 (expected) Ph.D. Religion – Syracuse University

Certificate of Advanced Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies

Certificate of University Teaching

Comprehensive Exams: History of Religions and Anthropology of Religion; Indigenous Religions and Indigenous critical theory; Race, Place, and Memory

2015 M.A. Religious Studies - University of Missouri, Columbia

Thesis: *Beneath and Above the Worlds of the Spirit Are Alive: Religion, Place,*

*and Ohlone Cultural Revival*

2013 B.A. Philosophy and Religion - San Francisco State University

Minor: Anthropology

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2018 –present, Instructor of Record

Department of Religion, Syracuse University

Religions of the World, Fall 2020

Religions of the World, Spring 2019

Sacred Sites and Indigenous Peoples, Fall 2018

(Meets with Native American and Indigenous Studies 300)

2015 – present, Teaching Assistant

Department of Religion, Syracuse University

Indigenous Religions, Fall 2020

Yoga: Ancient Religion to Modern Practice, Spring 2019

Religion and Hip Hop, Fall 2018

Religion and Sports, Spring 2018

Ancient Greek Religion, Fall 2017

Religion and Regulation of Bodies of Color, Spring 2017

Indigenous Religions, Fall 2016

Religion and Sports, Spring 2016

Judaism, Fall 2015

2014- 2015, Teaching Assistant

Department of Religious Studies, University of Missouri

History of Religion in Post-Civil War America, Spring 2015

Indigenous Religions, Fall 2014

2011-2011, Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology, San Francisco State University

Variations in Human Sexuality, Fall 2011

**PUBLICATIONS**

“(Re)writing, (Re)righting, (Re)riteing Hupa Womanhood: Cutcha Risling Baldy and The Flower Dance Revitalization." Review of *We are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies* by Cutcha Risling Baldy. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2018. *Bulletin for the Study of Religion,* Equinox Publishing Ltd VOL 47, NO 3–4 (2018).

**PRESENTATIONS**

2020 “#SaveTheWestBerkeleyShellmound: Sacred Sites and Indigenous Futures in Ohlone Territory.” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), Toronto, May 8 (Conference canceled due to COVID-19)

2020 “Defending Indigenous Sacred Places: Perspectives from Ohlone Territory/San Francisco Bay Area.” Religion|City Conference, Morgan State University, Baltimore, March 27 (Conference canceled due to COVID-19)

2019 “(En)Gendering Indigenous Ceremonial Revival: Restoring Good Relations,” “Author Meets Critics: Cutcha Risling Baldy’s *We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies*.” American Academy of Religion – Native Traditions in the Americas Section, San Diego, November 22.

2018 “Becoming Brujas: Rise of Women and Queer of Color Witchcraft in the U.S.” American Academy of Religion – New Religious Movements Section, Denver, November 17.

2017 “(Re)Claiming Bruja Feminism: Transnational Flows of Race, Gender, and Magic.” Association of Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, October 7.

2016 “Shellmound Peace Walk: Prayer, Pilgrimage, and Activism in Ohlone Territory.” American Academy of Religion – Native Traditions in the Americas Section, San Antonio, November 21.

2015 “Honor the Past to Shape the Future: Ohlone Women, Spirituality, and Indigenous Revitalization.” 14th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on Religion, Florida State University, February 20.

2014 “Offerings to the Kindreds: Druids, Ritual, and Nature.” Religion and the Natural Elements Graduate Conference, Northwestern University, November 1.

2014 Invited Panelist: “Religion in the Public Sphere: A Discussion of Diversity, Difference, and Civility in an Increasingly Interconnected World.” Missouri Scholars Academy, University of Missouri, June 11.

2014 “The Ancestors Will Return: Ghost Dance as a Ritual of Resistance.” 15th Annual American Indian Studies Association Conference, Arizona State University, February 6.

2013 Invited Panelist: “Indigenous and Queer: Two Spirit Identity in Native America” presentation for Native American Heritage Month and Transgender Awareness Week, University of Missouri, November 11.

2011 “The Holy Queer: Shamans, Healers, Warriors, Dancers, and Ritualists Ancient and Modern.” Western Regional LGBTQQIA Conference. University of California, Berkeley, March 5.

2010 “Through the Gates of Samara: Exploring Death in Buddhism.” Community College Honors Student Research Symposium. University of California, Berkeley, May 1.

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Reading and speaking proficiency)

French (Reading proficiency)

**AWARDS & HONORS**

Research Fellowship, CSRC Research on Relief and Restoration Work – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University (July 2020)

Honorable Mention – Dissertation Fellowship, Center for Engaged Scholarship (May 2020)

Graduate Fellowship – Syracuse University Graduate School, Syracuse University (2019-2020)

Research Grant – Center for the Study of Religion and the City, Morgan State University (June 2019)

Honorable Mention – Dissertation Fellowship, Ford Foundation (March 2019)

Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University (June 2019)

Summer Fellowship – Department of Religion, Syracuse University (June 2018)

Toni Taverone Graduate Paper Prize - “Decolonizing the Chicana Spirit: Indigenous Religion and Chicana Feminism.” - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Syracuse University (May 2017).

Theta Chi Beta ΘΧΒ Honors Society - Syracuse University (May 2017).

Graduate Teaching Assistantship – Syracuse University (Fall 2015 – Spring 2019)

Thurgood Marshall Graduate Fellowship – University of Missouri Graduate School (Fall 2013 –2015)

Travel Award – Department of Religious Studies at the University of Missouri (February 2014)

Travel Award – Graduate Professional Council of the University of Missouri (February 2014)

Dean of Students Social Justice Award (nominee) – Dean of Students Office at San Francisco State University (May 2013)

Community Leadership Award – Queer Resource Center at San Francisco State University (May 2013)

Dedicated Member Award – La Raza Student Organization at San Francisco State University (May 2013)

**PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

“Disease, ‘Discovery,’ and Survival in Native California.” Public talk for Mother Earth‘s Pandemic: The Doctrine of Discovery (virtual conference) hosted by Indigenous Values Initiative and American Indian Law Alliance. August 13, 2020.

“Statues topple and a Catholic church burns as California reckons with its Spanish colonial past.” *The Conversation* (2020). https://theconversation.com/statues-topple-and-a-catholic-church-burns-as-california-reckons-with-its-spanish-colonial-past-142809

“Land Acknowledgements in Neo-Pagan Rituals: Perspectives from Ohlone Territory.” Co-written with Claire Chuck Bohman and Corrina Gould. *A Beautiful Resistance* (2020). https://abeautifulresistance.org/site/2020/1/19/land-acknowledgments-in-neopagan-ritualsnbspperspectives-from-ohlone-territory

“Intro to Indigenous Religions.” *YouTube*, uploaded by ReligionForBreakfast, 30 January 2019, https://youtu.be/izuL0Wquvkw. Short educational YouTube video created through media partner with Sacred Writes and Religion for Breakfast, an initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

“San Francisco Pride, Nation’s Largest LGBT Celebration, Takes Place on Indigenous Ohlone Land.” *Medium.com –Noteworthy – The Journal Blog*. (2019). https://blog.usejournal.com/san-francisco-pride-nations-largest-lgbt-celebration-takes-place-on-indigenous-ohlone-land-dd4475f47fd5

**LEADERSHIP/SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING**

KIAROS Blanket Exercise: Witness to Injustice Facilitator Training [An interactive exercise that introduces Indigenous and U.S./Canada relations]

April 2019. Buffalo, NY.

Collaborative Leadership Training with Suzanne Sterling and Ravyn Stanfield. March 2011 – March 2012. San Francisco, CA.

Permaculture Design Certification. Earth Activist Training with Starhawk and Erik Ohlsen. January 2009. Cazadero, CA.

**INTERVIEWS**

It’s Just a Talk Podcast, “Episode 020-- Two Spirit People Pride featuring Abel R. Gómez.” Apple Podcasts. (2019). https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-020-two-spirit-people-pride-featuring-abel-r-gómez/id1436570379?i=1000442131480&fbclid=IwAR1V54A73Lix02CqZY3wSsIHDZpciIg4\_AkB-3PcH8hUlgG9I1fuI\_uoMjg

Winegarner, Beth. *The Columbine Effect: How Five Teen Pastimes Got Caught in the Crossfire and Why Teens are Taking Them Back*. Lulu, 2013. Print.

*De Colores Spirit Warriors*. Dir. Berenice Dimas. Queer Woman of Color Film Festival. June 2012. Film.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Steering Committee, Native Traditions in the Americas Unit (2019 – present)

Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS)

Powwow Committee (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)

Religion Graduate Organization (Syracuse University)

Member (Fall 2015 – Spring 2019)

Admissions Representative (Fall 2018 -Spring 2019)

Undergraduate Representative (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017)

Xicanxs Empowering Xicanxs (XeX) (Syracuse University)

Member (Spring 2017- Spring 2019)

Religious Studies Graduate Student Organization (University of Missouri)

Co-founder

Vice President (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015)

Organizer, Religious Studies Graduate Student Professional Development Series (Fall 2014)

Latina/o Graduate Professional Network (University of Missouri)

Vice President (Fall 2014 –2015)

Member (Fall 2013 –2015)

Associated Students, Inc. (San Francisco State University)

Representative at Large (May 2012 –April 2013)

Internship Coordinator (February 2013 –April 2013)

Movimiento Estudiantil Chican@ de Aztlan (MEChA) (San Francisco State University)

Member (March 2012 – May 2013)

Associated Students, Inc. Queer Resource Center (San Francisco State University

Co-founder/organizer

Interim Assistant Director (September 2012 - October 2012)

La Raza Student Organization (San Francisco State University

Member (October 2011 – May 2013)

Dia de la Cruz, Chair (May 2012)

Dia de los Muertos, Chair (October 2012)

Queer Yo’ Mind Conference (San Francisco State University)

Organizer, Publicity Committee (March 2011 – October 2011)

Pride Committee (San Francisco State University)

Member (May 2011 – May 2013)

Jumpstart for Early Education Club (San Francisco State University)

Member (February 2011 – May 2011)

Gay-Straight Alliance (Skyline College)

Member (October 2008 – December 2010)

Student Adviser (August 2010 – December 2010)

Environmental Club (Skyline College)

Member (October 2009 – May 2010)