

## Michael K. Roemer, Ph.D.

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### EDUCATION

- 2004-2008 Ph.D., Sociology, Univ. of Texas at Austin  
Dissertation: *Religiosity and Subjective and Psychological Well-being in Contemporary Japan*
- 2002-2004 M.A., Asian Cultures and Languages, Univ. of Texas at Austin  
Thesis: *A Healthful Dosage of Festivities: Exploring Religion and Health in Gion Festival*
- 1992-1996 B.A., Japanese and Asian Studies (China and Japan), Connecticut College  
Honors Thesis: *Gion Matsuri: Finding Religion in our Modern Global Society*

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2011-Present *Director of Global Education*, Trinity Valley School, Fort Worth, TX
- 2008-2011 *Assistant Professor of Religious Studies* (Tenure track), Ball State Univ., Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
- 2007-2008 *Assistant Instructor*, Univ. of Texas, Department of Sociology
- 09/2006 *Lecturer*, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA (Block 1)
- 2002-2006 *Teaching Assistant*, Univ. of Texas, Departments of Sociology and Asian Studies
- 1996-1997; *High School Instructor*, St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio, TX  
1998-2002 *High School Instructor and Dorm Parent*, St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio, TX
- 1997-1998 *Coordinator for International Relations*, Japan Exchange Teaching Programme, Kumamoto City Hall, Japan

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Global Education; Religious Studies; Asian Histories & Cultures; Social Justice

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Director of Global Education* Trinity Valley School (2011 – Present)

“Religion in Culture”, “Modern Asia”, “Social Justice”, “Service Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, “Global Leadership,” “World History” & guest teach for a variety of courses in primary through secondary classes on, e.g., Japanese and Chinese histories and cultures, globalization, and cultural awareness

*Assistant Professor* Ball State Univ. (2008 – 2011)

“Introduction to Religion in Culture”, “East Asian Buddhisms”, “Japanese Religions”, “Japanese Religions: Connecting Lived and Virtual Learning Experiences” (Immersive Learning), “Sex, Power, and Ritual”, “Religion, Health, & Mortality” (hybrid), Field Study in Japan on Japanese Religions

*Assistant Instructor* Univ. of Texas (2007 – 2008)

“Gods and the Good Life”

*Lecturer* Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA (Block 1 2006)

“Religion and Psychosocial Health in Japan and the United States”

*Teaching Assistant* Univ. of Texas (Fall 2003-Spring 2006)  
 “Introduction to Research Methods”, “Introduction to Society”, “Sociology and Social Psychology”, “International Relations of Southeast and East Asia”, “Intro. to Japan”

*Guest Speaker* St. Edwards Univ., Austin, TX (Spring 2005)  
 “Japanese Religions,” “Early Japanese History,” “Modern Japan”

*Lab Instructor* Univ. of Texas (Fall 2004)  
 “Introduction to Research Methods”

*Language Teaching Assistant* Univ. of Texas (Fall 2002-Spring 2003)  
 “Introduction to Japanese”

*High School Instructor* Saint Mary’s Hall, San Antonio, TX (1996-1997; 1998-2002)  
 “Asian and African Civilizations”, “Japanese Pop Cultures”, Japanese I-IV, “World History”

#### **REFEREED ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS**

- 2015 “The Internet & Internationalization in Primary through Secondary Schools.” *Journal of the European Teacher Education Network* (10):47-56.  
<http://www.jeten-online.org/index.php/jeten/article/view/66/56>
- 2012 “Thinking of Ancestors (and Others) at Japanese Household Altars” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 26(1):33-45.
- 2010 “Religion and Psychological Distress in Japan” *Social Forces* 89(2):559-584.
- 2010 “Religion and Subjective Well-being in Japan: Do Religious Devotion and Affiliation Affect Life Satisfaction and Happiness?” *Review of Religious Research* 51(4): 411-427. \*Also cited in the *Institute for the Biocultural Study of Religion Research Review* June 2010:15.
- 2010 “Shinto Festival Involvement and Sense of Self in Contemporary Japan.” *Japan Forum* 22(3):491-512. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09555803.2010.533506>
- 2009 “Religious Affiliation in Contemporary Japan: Untangling the Enigma.” *Review of Religious Research* 50(3): 298-320.
- 2009 Ikeda, M. and M. Roemer. “Distorted Medicalization” of Senile Dementia: The Japanese Case.” *World Cultural Psychiatry Research Review* 4(1): 22-27.
- 2008 Woo, H. and M. Roemer. “Immigrant Status, Parenting, and Trajectories of Substance Use” *Korean Journal of Sociology* 42(4): 113-131.
- 2007 “Ritual Participation and Social Support in a Major Japanese Festival.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 46(2): 185-200. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-5906.2007.00350.x>

#### **BOOK CHAPTERS AND EDITED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS**

- 2015 “A History of the Sociology of Religion in Japan.” Pp. 353-376 in *Sociologies of Religion*, Anthony J. Blasi and Giuseppe Giordan, eds. Boston: Brill Academic Press.
- 2013 Review of *The Invention of Religion in Japan*, Jason A. Josephson. Chicago, IL: Univ. of Chicago Press. 2012. In *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52(4):852-853.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12070>
- 2012 “Japanese Survey Data on Religious Attitudes, Beliefs, and Practices in the Twenty-first Century.” Pp. 23-58 in *Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Religions*, Inken Prohl and John K. Nelson, eds. Boston: Brill Academic Publishers.
- 2011 “Religion and Health in Japan: Past Research and Future Directions.” Pp. 115-140 in *Toward a Sociological Theory of Religion and Health*, Anthony J. Blasi, ed. Boston: Brill Academic Publishers.

- 2011 Rehnborg, S.J., D. Poole, and M. Roemer. "Leading Volunteers in Nonprofit Organizations." Pp. 354-366 in *Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations: A Reference Handbook*, v. 1, Kathryn A. Agard, ed. Los Angeles: Sage.
- 2010 "Atheism and Secularity in Modern Japan." Pp. 23-44 in *Atheism and Secularity* v. 2, Phil Zuckerman, ed. Praeger.
- 2007 "Gion Festival: An Extravagant Display of Shintō Arts." Pp. 86-97, in *Shintō: In Search of Sincerity. Essays on Shintō* v. 4. Tokyo: International Shintō Foundation.
- 2007 Rehnborg, S.J., M. Roemer, and T. McVey. "Volunteers in US State Government Agencies: Using Texas as a Model." *Vrijwillige Inzet Onderzocht (Voluntary Effort Researched—Holland)* 3(2): 27-40.
- 2006 "Religious Tourism in Contemporary Japan: Kyoto's Gion Festival." Pp. 187-218, in *On the Road to Being There: Studies in Pilgrimage and Tourism in Late Modernity*, William H. Swatos, Jr., ed. Boston: Brill Academic Publishers.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 "Why Religion Belongs in the Classroom—And How to Teach It Sensibly" NAIS *Independent Ideas*, Nov 17, 2017. <https://www.nais.org/learn/independent-ideas/november-2017/why-religion-belongs-in-the-classroom-%E2%80%94-and-how-to-teach-it-sensibly/>
- 2015 Peninger, K. & M. Roemer "Trinity Valley Aims for Students' Emotional Growth, Global Awareness." Pp. 8-9, *School Guide*, Spring 2015. Fort Worth: Fort Worth Business Press.
- 2012- Present Design and administer [tvsabroad.wordpress.com](http://tvsabroad.wordpress.com) to highlight current Trinity Valley School students' and alumni travel experiences
- 2011- Present Created and managed several blogs and discussion boards to facilitate learning and communication between Trinity Valley School students and students from Argentina, Austria, Germany, Greenland, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the UK (London; N. Ireland; Scotland)
- 2011- Present Write articles for Trinity Valley School's Fall and Spring magazines on globalization and education, hosting international students, and related topics.
- 2011 Interviewed for Green, L. "In Secular Japan, Many are Turning to Prayer to Deal with the Crisis" *Fox News*. 18 March, 2011. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/in-secular-japan-many-are-turning-to-prayer-to-deal-with-the-crisis>
- 2010 "Japanese Religions" [jpnreligions.weebly.com](http://jpnreligions.weebly.com) Web site co-authored with students
- 2008 "Religiosity and Subjective and Psychological Well-being in Contemporary Japan." Ph.D. dissertation. Department of Sociology. The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2007 Rehnborg, S.J., M. Roemer, and P. Frumkin. "Lance Armstrong Foundation LIVESTRONG Survivorship Summit: Final Evaluation Report and Codebook." RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service. The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2005 Brick, D. and M. Roemer, Subject Matter Experts. "Expedition to Asia: Religions Across the Continent." [www.edb.utexas.edu/edc385g/fall2005/religion/main.htm](http://www.edb.utexas.edu/edc385g/fall2005/religion/main.htm)

### AWARDS , GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 *Aspiring School Heads Institute Fellow*, NAIS
- 2018 *Bob Bolen Board Leadership Award*, Fort Worth Sister Cities International
- 2017 *Global Educator of the Year*, DFW World Affairs Council

- 2012 *Young Professionals Japanese Business Mentorship Program*, Fort Worth Sister Cities International
- 2012 *Center for Japanese Studies Faculty Research Grant*, Michigan Univ. (Co-PI)
- 2011 *Lawhead Teaching Award in General Education*, Ball State Univ. (named but did not receive because I changed jobs)
- 2011 *Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion*, Teaching Workshop and Colloquies (awarded but declined, changed jobs)
- 2009 *Provost's Immersive Learning Initiative*, Office of the Provost, Ball State Univ.
- 2009 *Summer Assessment Grant*, Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research, Ball State Univ.
- 2009 *Workshop on Teaching College Introductory Courses Follow-up Department Grant*, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Wabash College
- 2008 *Faculty Start-up Grant*, Aspire Internal Grant Program, Ball State Univ.
- 2007 *SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in Sociology*, National Science Foundation (Grant No. 0727088)
- 2007 *Constance H. Jacquet Research Award*, Religious Research Association
- 2007 *Mitsubishi Graduate Student Research Fellowship*, Univ. of Texas, Asian Studies Dept.
- 2007 *Student Travel Award*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2006, *Graduate Student Professional Development Award*, Univ. of Texas, Office of Graduate Studies  
2007 & Sociology Dept.
- 2005, *Jack Shand Research Award*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion  
2007
- 2005-2006 *East Asia Graduate Fellowship*, Univ. of Texas, Asian Studies Dept.
- 2005 *Encouraging Prize*, International Shintō Foundation Essay Competition
- 2005 *Gallagher Travel Grant*, Association for the Sociology of Religion
- 2002 *Outstanding Teaching for the Humanities* (Honorable Mention), Texas Council for the Humanities
- 1998 *Goodwill Ambassador*, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan

**SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND FUNDING (Total: \$136,176)**

- 2012 "Japanese Elderly Religion and Health," Co-PI  
*Funded by:* Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan (\$14,948)
- 2007 "Volunteer Champion Initiative: Winning with Executive Directors," Co-PI  
*Funded by:* The National Human Services Assembly (\$60,000)
- 2006-07 "Religiosity and Subjective and Psychological Well-being in Contemporary Japan"  
*Funded by:* NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$7500);  
Jacquet Award, Religious Research Association (\$2850);  
Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (\$3000);  
Mitsubishi Graduate Research Fellowship, Univ. of Texas, Asian Studies Depart. (\$1000)
- 2006-07 "Lance Armstrong Foundation Summit Applicant Assessment," Co-PI  
*Funded by:* The Lance Armstrong Foundation (\$40,000)

- 2005 “Religion and Tourism in Contemporary Japan”  
*Funded by:* Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (\$1078)
- 2003 “Religion and Health in Japanese Festival Participation” (MA Thesis research)  
*Funded by:* Univ. of Texas, Asian Studies Depart. Mitsubishi Fellowship (\$1800) and Asian Studies Summer Study Abroad Scholarship (\$1000)
- 01-07/1995 Long-term fieldwork focusing on seven months of interviews with Shintō priests and participation in and observation of Gion Festival’s rituals and festivities (Honors Thesis)  
*Funded by:* Connecticut College Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (\$3000)

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 04/2014 “The Internet and Internationalization” *European Teacher Education Network Conference* (Leipzig, Germany)
- 04/2011 “Using Emerging Media to Teach Japanese Religions” *Mid-West American Academy of Religion Conference* (Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois)
- 10/2010 “Comparing Religious Apples and Oranges: Concerns with Survey Data in Global Research on Religion” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (Baltimore, MD)
- 11/2009 “Venerating Ancestors (and Others) at Japanese Household Altars” *American Academy of Religion* (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)
- 10/2009 “Secularism in Japan: Zen Atheists and Other ‘Contradictions’” *Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs* (Oxford, OH)
- 11/2007 “Religion in Context: Exploring Religiosity and Well-Being in Contemporary Japan” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (Tampa, FL)
- 08/2007 “Untangling the Enigma of Religious Affiliation in Contemporary Japan” *American Sociological Association* (New York, NY)
- 03/2007 “Religion, Gender, and Aging in Contemporary Japan: New Quantitative Findings” *Association of Asian Studies* (Boston, MA)
- 10/2006 “Are Japanese ‘Spiritual’? A Multi-Methodological Exploration” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (Portland, OR)
- 08/2006 “Do Religious Beliefs and Membership Affect Life Satisfaction and Happiness in Japan?” *American Sociological Association* (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)
- 08/2006 “Religion and Gender in Japan: The Effects of Household Involvement and Networks.” (w/ Matt Bradshaw) *Association of the Sociology of Religion* (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)
- 11/2005 “Contemporary Christianity in Japan: Speculating on its (Small) Role in Japan’s Religious Market.” *Baylor University Pruitt Memorial Symposium* (Waco, TX)
- 08/2005 “Religious Tourism in Contemporary Japan: Kyoto’s Gion Festival.” *Association of the Sociology of Religion* (Philadelphia, PA)
- 10/2004 “Exploring the Religion-Health Relationship in Japan: Social Networks in a Major Urban Festival.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (Kansas City, MI)
- 10/2004 “Japanese Religiousness and Religious Salience in Gion Festival.” *Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference* (Austin, TX)
- 02/2004 “Gion Matsuri: A Healthful Dosage of Festivities.” *Japan Seminar Series* (Austin, TX)

## INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 10/2020 “Developing Empathic Leaders Among Fort Worth’s Top High School Students” *Fort Worth Rotary Club* (Webinar Discussant)
- 02/2016 “Internationalizing Your Life” *Tarleton State University* (Stephenville, TX)
- 07/2014 “Travel and Transformation” *Western Rotary Club* (Fort Worth, TX)
- 02/2012 “My Experiences Living in Japan” *Fort Worth Japanese Society* (Fort Worth, TX)
- 02/2012 “Minnesota Muslims, Japanese Jews, and Communist Christians: The Effects of Globalization on Religions” *Trinity Valley School Touch of TVS Series* (Fort Worth, TX)
- 10/2009 “Festivals: Fun and Fantastic in Modern Japan” *Ball State University Rinker Center for International Programs* (Muncie, IN)
- 10/2008 “Diversity in Religion: Japan as a Model” *Ball State University Office of Institutional Diversity Seminar Series* (Muncie, IN)
- 08/2005 “Gion Festival” *Japan-America Society of Greater Austin* (Austin, TX)
- 06/2005 “Japanese (Pop) Culture: How the Past Has Influenced the Present.” *Hemispheres Summer Institute* (Austin, TX)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Annual conferences/Trainings*: NAIS “Aspiring School Heads Institute” (2021-22); Close-Up “School Leaders Institute” (2021); Education Week “Leadership Symposium” (2021); INDEX “What does it mean to be an anti-racist organization” (2020-21); National Diversity Practitioners Institute (2020); Global Youth Leadership Institute (2020); European Teacher Education Network (2012-2019, 21); Global Education Benchmark Group (2018, 2020); Wilderness First Aid (2019); Whitsunday (Australia) “Litchat for Educators” (2019); St. Stephen’s Episcopal School (Austin, TX) “Radical Hope” (2018, 2019), “Navigating Liberation” (2019); Lodestone Risk Management (2018); DFW World Affairs Council “Global Classrooms” (2012-15, 2018); Independent Schools Experiential Education Winter Institute (2018); Youth Mental Health First Aid certificate (2017); World Affairs Council Annual Conference (2017); Where There Be Dragons Rocky Mt. Seminar (2017); Teaching Tolerance “Teaching Civil Rights” (2017); NAIS (TrendTalks 2013; Annual Conference 2016); Border Crossers “Talking about race in the classroom” (2016); Harvard Graduate School of Education “Think Tank on Global Education” (2015)

- *Webinars*: “Supporting Women in School Organizations” (PresenceLearning, 2021); Pachaysana/ ISEEN Experiential Education & Social Justice” (2020); ISAS “Racial Literacy 101” (2020); glsen.org (“LGBTQ+ Student Safety”); Schoolsafety.gov (“Take action to make your school safer” 2020); Harvard University (“Teaching to navigate challenges” 2020); Cambridge School of Weston (“How Taiwan’s Schools are Getting through the COVID-19 Pandemic” 2020); AFS (“Standing up to bias” 2020); Brookings Institute (Civic engagement 2020); Fort Worth ISD (“Ally to Conspirator” 2020); International Experiential Education Network (COVID-19 reflection Meetups 2020); Busboys and Poets (“Being anti-racist” w/ Tim Wise 2020); Education Week (“A seat at the table” 2020); Tanenbaum (“The world around us” 2020); NAIS (Diversity & Global Education Meetups, Trend Reports, “How to Talk About Racial Inequality and Support Faculty and Staff of Color During a Period of Civil Unrest”, “Practical tools for scenario planning,” “Healthcare & well-being in an emergency” 2020, “Using the Intercultural Development Instrument” 2017); Independent Curriculum Group (“Hiring and retaining faculty of color” 2019; “Beyond AP” 2017; “Sandia Prep’s Odyssey Scholars Program” 2016); Association for Experiential Education (“How educators can promote courageous compassion” and “Managing risk in Social Justice training” 2017)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

### *Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer (Abridged)*

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion; Review of Religious Research; Sociology of Religion

### *Trinity Valley School (Abridged)*

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Faculty/Staff/Student Committees, Co/Chair (2017-Present)

Technology Committee (2018-Present)

Strategic Planning Committee (2018-19)

Head of School Selection Committee (2014-16)

Pedagogy Lunches, Organizer/Moderator

New Hires, Various Committees

### *Ball State Univ. (Abridged)*

College Promotion and Tenure Committee, Member (2010-2011)

Department Promotion & Tenure Committee, Chair (2010-2011), Acting Chair, Secretary

### *Governance/Community*

Dallas-Fort Worth World Affairs Council, Global Young Leaders Steering Committee  
(2018-Present)

Fort Worth Sister Cities International, Educational Task Force (2021-Present); Advisory  
Board (2018-Present), Board of Directors (2015-18), Executive Board Member/Nagaoka  
Committee Chair (2013-15); Outstanding Board Leadership Award (2018)

Japan-America Society of Austin, Board Member and Membership Chair (2004-2006)

--City of Austin Community Service Award (2005)

Japan-America Society of San Antonio, Board Member (2000-2002)

### *National and International Organizations (Selected)*

Global Education Benchmark Group, Member (2014-Present)

European Teacher Education Network, ECO Member (2011-Present)

Association of Asian Studies, Member (1999-Present)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

My educational philosophy—*it starts with care*—has been greatly influenced by my administrative, leadership, teaching, and research experiences, as well as my time living and working in Japan—I lived in Japan as a second grader, studied as an undergraduate at Doshisha University while participating in the Associated Kyoto Program as a home-stay student and Connecticut College's Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts language/research program, and worked in Kumamoto City Hall's International Relations Office from 1997-98. Over the years, I have attended conferences and explored education at universities and PreK-12 schools in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. I am passionate about education as a practice and in theories, and I am constantly looking for ways to improve learning—for my students and for myself.