

Michael 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*
Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts Certificate Program

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2011-Present *Director of Global Education*, Trinity Valley School, Fort Worth, TX bit.ly/TVSGlobalEd
- 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; *Middle/Upper School Instructor*, St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio, TX
- 1998-2002 *Upper School Instructor, Dorm Parent, Asst. Soccer Coach*, 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)

Grade 9-12: “Religion in Culture”, “Social Justice”, “Archeology” (co-teach), “Modern Asia,” “Service Learning in the 21st Century”, “Global Leadership,” “World History”; Grades 5-8: “World Peace Game” (co-teach), “Everything Japan,” “Skills for Tomorrow” (co-teach); Grades PK-12: guest teach for a variety of courses in primary through secondary classes on, e.g., dignity/empathy, Japanese and Chinese histories and cultures, globalization, and cultural awareness

Assistant Professor Ball State Univ. (2008 – 2011; on track for promotion to Tenure but moved to Trinity Valley School)

“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 I-IV, “Japanese Pop Cultures”, “World History”

REFEREED ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 “The Internet & Internationalization in Primary through Secondary Schools.” *Journal of the European Teacher Education Network* (10):47-56. [Stable PDF](#)
- 2012 “Thinking of Ancestors (and Others) at Japanese Household Altars” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 26(1):33-45. [Stable URL](#)
- 2010 “Religion and Psychological Distress in Japan” *Social Forces* 89(2):559-584. [Stable URL](#)
- 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. [Stable URL](#)
 *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. [Stable URL](#)
- 2009 “Religious Affiliation in Contemporary Japan: Untangling the Enigma.” *Review of Religious Research* 50(3): 298-320. [Stable URL](#)
- 2009 Ikeda, M. and M. Roemer. “Distorted Medicalization” of Senile Dementia: The Japanese Case.” *World Cultural Psychiatry Research Review* 4(1): 22-27. [Stable PDF](#)
- 2008 Woo, H. and M. Roemer. “Immigrant Status, Parenting, and Trajectories of Substance Use” *Korean Journal of Sociology* 42(4): 113-131. [Stable PDF](#)
- 2007 “Ritual Participation and Social Support in a Major Japanese Festival.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 46(2): 185-200. [Stable URL](#)

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.
- 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. [Stable URL](#)
- 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 Designed and administer tvsabroad.wordpress.com to highlight current Trinity Valley students' and alumni travel experiences
- 2011- Present Create and manage online discussion platforms to facilitate learning and communication with schools from Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greenland, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the UK (London; N. Ireland; Scotland)
- 2011- Present Write articles for Trinity Valley's Fall and Spring magazines on global education, travel, hosting, global education and DEI, and related topics.
- 2010 "Japanese Religions" 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

AWARDS , GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 *Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads*, National Association of Independent Schools
- 2021 *Certificate for School Management and Leadership* (Leading Schools), Harvard Business School & Graduate School of Education
- 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, 2007 *Graduate Student Professional Development Award*, Univ. of Texas, Office of Graduate Studies & Sociology Dept.
- 2005, 2007 *Jack Shand Research Award*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 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
- 2005 *Community Service Award*, City of Austin
- 2002 *Outstanding Teaching for the Humanities* (Honorable Mention), Texas Council for the Humanities

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

- 04/2022 "How to Pivot to (and Sustain) Virtual Global Exchanges" *Global Education Benchmark Group* (San Diego, CA)
- 03/2022 "The Evolving Relationship between Heads and Boards" Co-presenter at *National Association of Independent Schools* (Annual Conference, online)
- 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 Pruit 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

- 04/2022 “What to do with an English Major?” *Texas A&M University* (Panel Discussant, online)
- 03/2022 “Connecting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Global Education” *National Association of Independent Schools* (Roundtable Host, online)
- 08/2021 “The Frog Outside the Well – Fort Worth Discovery Tour” 井戸の外の蛙：フォートワース発見ツアー *Fort Worth Sister Cities & Nagaoka City International Exchange Association* (Co-Presenter, in Japanese)
- 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 (SINCE 2013)

Annual conferences/Trainings: European Teacher Education Network (Annual Conferences 2012-2019, 2022); Global Education Benchmark Group (Annual Conferences 2018, 2020, 2022; “Regional overnight trip risk management training” 2022–host/co-organizer); National Association of Independent Schools (Annual Conferences 2016, 2021, 2022; People of Color Conference 2022; TrendTalks 2013); KnowBe4 (Cybersecurity trainings 2021-22); Harvard Business School & Graduate School of Education Certificate in School Management and Leadership (Leading Schools 2021); CloseUp School Leader Institute (2021); INDEX (Anti-Racist Discussion series 2020-21); ISAS (Anti-Bias/Anti-racist Schools webinar series 2020-21); National Diversity Practitioners Institute (2020); Global Youth Leadership Institute (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); Border Crossers “Talking about race in the classroom” (2016); Harvard Graduate School of Education “Think Tank on Global Education” (2015)

Webinars: National Diversity Practitioners Institute (“Strategies for employing BIPOC employees” 2022); Independent School Management (“Foster inclusivity: Approaches for white racial identity development” 2022); EducationWeek (“Leadership for racial equity in schools and beyond” 2021); Pachaysana/ISEEN Experiential Education & Social Justice (2020); GLSEN (“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); EducationWeek (“A seat at the table” 2020); Tanenbaum (“The world around us” 2020); National Association of Independent Schools (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)

Equity, Inclusion, & Community Faculty/Staff/Student Committees, Chair (2020-21);

Co-Chair (2017-20; 2021-Present)

ISAS Accreditation Committees (DEIJ, Student Life, Social Studies) 2021-Present

IMPACT Committee Co-Sponsor (2021-Present)

Technology Advisory Committee (2018-Present)

Strategic Planning Committee (Campus Life, 2018-19)

Head of School Selection Committees (2014-16)

New Hires, Various Committees (2012-Present)

Various Upper School Club Sponsorships (2012-Present)

Curriculum, Learning, & Instruction (2014-18)

Pedagogy Lunches, Organizer/Moderator (2012-15)

Ball State Univ.

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

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

Department Salary Committee, Chair (2010)

Asian Studies Minor Co-sponsor (2010-11)

Religious Studies Club Sponsor (2009-11)

Community

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

Fort Worth Sister Cities International, Advisory Board (2018-Present), Youth & Education Committee (2021-Present); Board of Directors (2015-18), Nagaoka Committee Chair (2013-15) / Member (2012-Present)

Fort Worth Japan Society (Member 2018-Present)

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

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

National and International Organizations (Selected)

European Teacher Education Network, Board Treasurer (2022-Present), ETEN Coordinator (2012-Present); Webmaster (2015-18)

Global Education Benchmark Group, Member (2014-Present)

Association of Asian Studies, Member (1999-Present)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

My educational philosophy—*it starts with care*—has been greatly influenced by my administrative, teaching, leadership, 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, worked in Kumamoto City Hall for a year, and have traveled to Japan 8 other times with high school and college groups and for research. Over the years, I have attended conferences and explored education at universities and PreK-12 schools in Austria, Australia, Belgium,

Canada, China, Denmark, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and throughout the U.S. I am passionate about education as a practice and in theories, and I am constantly looking for ways to improve learning—for my students, my colleagues, and for myself.

REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST