

Michael Roemer, Ph.D.

Trinity Valley School
7500 Dutch Branch Rd
Fort Worth, TX U.S.A.

bit.ly/TVSGlobalEd
roermem@tvs.org
+1 817-321-0135

EDUCATION

- 2004-2008 Ph.D., Sociology of Religion, 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
- 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
- 2006-2007 *Research Assistant*, Univ. of Texas, LBJ School of Public Affairs
- 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

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religious Studies; Asian Histories & Cultures; Global Education; 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: Global Ambassadors, Everything Japa;, Co-taught Skills for Tomorrow, World Peace Game

Grades PK-12: guest teach a variety of courses 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)

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

Middle/High School Instructor Saint Mary's Hall, San Antonio, TX (1996-1997; 1998-2002)
Japanese I-IV, Asian and African Civilizations, 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 dozens of countries across the world
- 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.”

AWARDS , GRANTS, CERTIFICATES, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021-22 *Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads*, National Association of Independent Schools
- 2021, *Certificate for School Management and Leadership* Harvard Business School & Graduate School of Education (Leading Schools 2021; Leading People Aug 2023)
- 2020-21 *National Diversity Practitioner Institute*, Glasgow Group
- 2020 *Wilderness First Aid Certificate*, Austin Ascents
- 2018 *Bob Bolen Board Leadership Award*, Fort Worth Sister Cities International

- 2017 *Global Educator of the Year*, DFW World Affairs Council
- 2017 *Youth Mental Health First Aid Certificate*, National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- 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 because I 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
- 2005 *Community Service Award*, City of Austin
- 2002 *Outstanding Teaching for the Humanities* (Honorable Mention), Texas Council for the Humanities
- 1998 *Goodwill Ambassador*, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan
- 1994-96 *Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts Certificate*, Connecticut College

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 Seven-month field study focusing on 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

04/2023 “Resuming International Experiences in Education,” Co-Presenter at *European Teacher Education Network* (Nürnberg, Germany)

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

- 09/2022 Moderator for Global Education panel discussion *Fort Worth Sister Cities International Annual Meeting* (Fort Worth, TX)
- 08/2022 “The Frog Outside the Well – Fort Worth Discovery Tour Part 2” 井戸の外の蛙:フォートワース発見ツアー 大2 *Fort Worth Sister Cities & Nagaoka City International Exchange Association* (Online Co-Presenter, in Japanese)
- 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)
- 03/2021 “A Global Perspective: Japan’s Global Moment” *Fort Worth Sister Cities International International Speaker Series* (Moderator, online)
- 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 2015)

Annual conferences/Trainings: Association of Technology Leaders in Independent Schools (AI in Independent Schools, 4-part series 2023); European Teacher Education Network (Annual Conferences 2012-2019, 2022, 2023); 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 Conference 2016, 2021, 2022); People of Color Conference 2021-22;

TrendTalks 2013); KnowBe4 (Cybersecurity trainings 2021-22); CloseUp School Leader Institute (2021); INDEX (Anti-Racist Discussion series 2020-21); ISAS (Anti-Bias/Anti-racist Schools webinar series 2020-21); Global Youth Leadership Institute (2020); 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: Global Education Benchmark Group (Mental health & overnight travel 2023); National Diversity Practitioners Institute (Strategies for employing BIPOC employees 2022); Independent School Management (Data-enabled strategies to grow enrollment; 4 Data-enabled strategies to increase public school family enrollment; 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

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

Trinity Valley School

Annual Campaign, Faculty Committee Member (Fall 2023)

Student Experience Team (2022-Present)

Risk Management Committee, Coordinator (2022-Present)

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

Co-Chair (2017-20; 2021-22); Student Committee Co-Chair (2022-Present)

ISAS Accreditation Committees (DEIJ, Student Life, Social Studies 2021-23)

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)

Curriculum, Learning, & Instruction (2014-18)

New Hires, Various Committees (2012-Present)

Pedagogy Lunches, Organizer/Moderator (2012-15)

Various Upper School Club Sponsorships (2012-Present)

Ball State Univ.

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

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

Department Salary Committee, Chair (Summer 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 (2021-2022); Board of Directors (2015-18), Nagaoka Committee Chair and Board Executive Committee (2013-15); Member (2012-Present)
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (Hurst, TX) Discernment Committee (2022-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, Executive Committee Board Treasurer (2022-Present); Webmaster (2015-18); ETEN Coordinator (2012-Present)
Global Education Benchmark Group, Member (2014-Present)
Association of Asian Studies, Member (1999-2022)

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 certificate program, worked in Kumamoto City Hall for a year, and have traveled to Japan eight 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, England, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, 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