

Sam Gill

Professor Emeritus

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EDUCATION

- B.S., Mathematics (Physics minor), Wichita State University, 1964
- M.S., Business Administration, Wichita State University, 1967
- M.A., History of Religions, The University of Chicago, 1971
- Ph.D., History of Religions, The University of Chicago, 1974

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

- Research Analyst, The Coleman Company, Wichita, Kansas, June 1964 to August 1967
- Systems Analyst, University Administration, The University of Chicago, Fall 1967 to Spring 1973
- Visiting Instructor, Department of Religion, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, Fall 1973
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Religion, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1974-1975
- Assistant Professor, Religious Studies Department, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1975-1980
- Associate Professor, Religious Studies Department, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1980-1983
- Visiting Professor, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, Summer 1981; Aspen, Summer 1984; Spring 1987; Summer 1988
- Visiting Professor, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 1981-1982
- Visiting Professor, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, January Block 1988
- Visiting Professor, Colorado Mountain College, Vail, Summer 1991
- Adjunct Faculty, Naropa University, Fall, 2001 & 2002
- Professor, Religious Studies Department, University of Colorado, Boulder, 1983-2018
- Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado, 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Songs of Life: An Introduction to Navajo Religious Culture*. Leiden: E.J.Brill, 1979
- *Sacred Words: A Study of Navajo Religion and Prayer*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1981
- *Beyond "The Primitive:" The Religions of Nonliterate Peoples*. World Religions Series, Robert Ellwood, Jr., editor. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1982
- *Native American Religions: An Introduction*. Religious Life of Man Series, Frederick Streng, editor. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 1982, revised ed. 2004
- *Native American Traditions: Sources and Interpretations*. Religious Life of Man Series, Frederick Streng, editor. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 1983
- *Mother Earth: An American Story*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987, paper 1991
- *Native American Religious Action: A Performance Approach to Religion*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987
- *Dictionary of Native American Mythology* with Irene Sullivan. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1992. Paperback edition by Oxford University Press, 1994
- *Storytracking: Texts, Stories, and Histories in Central Australia*. Oxford University Press, 1998
- *Dancing Culture Religion*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012
- *Religion and Technology Into the Future: From Adam to Tomorrow's Eve*. Lanham, MD: The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc., 2018
- *Creative Encounters, Appreciating Difference: Perspectives and Strategies*. Lanham, MD: The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc., 2019
- *On Reflection: Vignettes & Images*. Self-published in two-versions, 2019
- *The Proper Study of Religion: Building on Jonathan Z. Smith*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020; winner American Academy of Religion's 2021 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in the category of Analytical-Descriptive Studies
- *Dancing Graffiti: Stories from my Life*. Self-published, 2020
- *Looking Forward in the Rearview Mirror: Travel Journal Selections with Reflection*. Self-published. 2021
- *Travel Writings: The Full Travel Journals: 1993-1994 Australia, Bali, Java, Thailand, Nepal; 1997 Ghana West Africa*. Self-published, 2021
- *On Photography*. No 1 in Aesthetic of Impossibles Series, Self-published, 2021.
- *On Moving: A Biological and Philosophical Account of Human Distinctiveness*. No 2 in Aesthetic of Impossibles Series, 2022 (8.5x11 format). Reprinted with revisions in 5.5x8.5 inch format, 2023
- *The Recipe Book of Lelah Gill: A Commemorative Remembrance of our Mother*, with Karen Sherman & Elaine Burtin, 2022
- *Photo Art Album 2022*
- *Art Album 2023: Photos & Essays*, 2023
- *Reality Under Siege: Explorations of the Creative Role of Difference*. Volume One: *The Charm of the Real*. Volume Two: *The Poetry is in the Difference*. 2024

Editing

- Consulting Editor, *Parabola: Myth and the Quest for Meaning* (a quarterly journal published by the Society of Myth and Tradition, New York City), 1979-1981
- "The Religious Character of Native American Humanities," the proceedings from a conference held at Arizona State University, April 1977
- "We Dance for Rain," (editorial), *Parabola* IV:2 (1971): 2-3
- Area Editor, Traditional Peoples in *Harper-Collins Dictionary of Religion*, Jonathan Z. Smith, General Editor. San Francisco: Harper-Collins, 1995
- Consulting Editor, *Journal of Ritual Studies*
- Consulting Editor, *Journal of Religion and American Culture*
- Consulting Editor, *Mythosphere: A Journal for Image, Myth, and Symbol*
- Series Editor: *Acting: An International Encyclopedia* by Beth Osnes. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2001
- Series Editor: *Turning It Upside Down: Clowns and Tricksters* by Kimberly Christen. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1998
- Editorial Board: *Culture and Religion*
- Editorial Board: *The Journal of Dance, Movement & Spiritualities*
- Editorial Board: *Body and Religion*

Articles

- "We Dance for Rain." *Parabola*. 1971.
- "The Prayer of the Navajo Carved Figurine." *Plateau* 47 (1974): 59-69.
- "The Color of Navajo Ritual Symbolism: An Evaluation of Methods" *Journal of Anthropological Research* 31 (1976): 6-13
- "The Shadow of a Vision Yonder." In *Seeing with a Native Eye: Contributions to the Study of Native American Religion*. Edited by Walter H. Capps. New York: Harper & Row, 1976, pp. 44-57
- "Disenchantment." *Parabola* I:3 (1976): 6-13. Reprinted in *I Became Part of It: Sacred Dimensions in Native American Life*. Edited by D. M. Dooling and Paul Jordan-Smith. New York: Parabola Books, 1989, pp 106-119
- "Hopi Kachina Cult Initiation: The Shocking Beginning to the Hopi's Religious Life." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* XLV 2, Supplement (June 1977), A: 447-464
- "The Trees Stood Deep Rooted." *Parabola* II:2 (1977): 6-12. Reprinted in *I Became Part of It*. Edited by D. M. Dooling and Paul Jordan-Smith. New York: Parabola Books, 1989, pp. 21-31. Reprinted in *The Inner Journey: Views from Native Traditions*, edited by Linda Hogan. Sandpoint, ID: Morning Light Press, 2009, pp. 274-83.
- "Prayer as Person: The Navajo Conception of Prayer Acts." *History of Religions* 17:2 (1977): 143-157

- "Native American Religions: A Review of the Status of the Field." *Council on the Study of Religion Bulletin* 9 (1978): 125-128
- "Whirling Logs and Coloured Sands." In *Native Religious Traditions*. Edited by Earle Waugh and R. Prithipaul. Waterloo, Ontario, Canada: Wilfried Laurier Press, 1979, pp. 151-163. Revised in Gill, *Native American Traditions*, pp. 71-77
- "It's Where You Put Your Eyes." *Parabola* IV:4 (1979): 91-97. Reprinted in *I Became Part of It*. Edited by D. M. Dooling and Paul Jordan-Smith. New York: Parabola Books, 1989, pp. 75-87. Selection used for SAT test by Educational Testing Service, 1994-1995. Reprinted in *The Inner Journey: Views from Native Traditions*, edited by Linda Hogan. Sandpoint, ID: Morning Light Press, 2009, pp. 161-70.
- "Shamanism." *Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981
- "Time." *Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981
- "Navajo Views of Their Origin." *Handbook of North American Indians*, Volume 10 - Southwest. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1983
- "Native American Religions." (12,500 words). *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1987
- "Native American Mythology: North America." (5,000 words). *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1987. Reprinted as "Mythic Themes" in *Native American Religions: North America*. Edited by Lawrence E. Sullivan. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1989, pp. 157-66
- "Shamanism: North American Religions." (2,500 words). *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1987
- "Prayer." (5,000 words). *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1987)
- "Nonliterate Traditions and Holy Book: Toward a New Model." In *The Holy Book in Comparative Perspective: Studies in Origins, Forms, and Functions*. Edited by Frederick Denny and Rodney Taylor. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1985, pp. 224-39. Honorable Mention, University of Colorado, Boulder, Writing Awards, 1986. Published in revised form as "Holy Book in Nonliterate Traditions: Toward the Reinvention of Religion." In *Native American Religious Action*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987, pp. 129-46
- "And He Took Away Their Wings: Story and History in American Folk Traditions." In *Native American Religious Action*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987, pp. 76-88
- "Prayer as Performance: A Navajo Contribution to the Study of Prayer." In *Native American Religious Action*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987, pp. 89-112. Reprinted in *The Anthropology of Performance: A Reader*, Frank J. Korom (ed) John Wiley & Sons, 2013.
- "One Two Three: The Interpretation of Religious Action." In *Native American Religious Action*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987, pp. 147-72
- "Mother Earth Mythology." *World & I* (July 1987): 581-593
- "A Rumor is Afield: Fieldwork Leads to Spreading Rumors.'" *Journal of Ritual Studies* 2/2 (Summer, 1988); 245-256
- "The Power of Story." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 12/3 (1988): 69-84

- “Mother Earth: An American Myth.” In *The Invented Indian: Cultural Fictions and Government Policies*. Edited by James A. Clifton. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1990, pp. 129-43
- “Walking with Spirits.” *APA Insight Guide to Native America*. London: APA Publications, 1991, pp. 65-69
- “Religious Forms and Themes.” In *America in 1492*. Edited by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992, pp. 277-304
- “Religion in America in 1492.” *The Newberry Library, D’Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian. Occasional Papers in Curriculum Series, Number 15, America in 1492, Selected Lectures from the Quincentenary Program*, (1992), pp. 28-62
- “Native American Religions.” (8,000 words). *Encyclopedia of North American Colonies*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1993, pp. 643-52
- “Native Americans and Their Religions.” In *World Religions in Today’s America: An Introduction*. Edited by Jacob Neusner. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994. Pp. 11-32. Third revised edition, 2003, pp. 8 - 23
- “The Religions of Traditional Peoples.” *Harper Collins Dictionary of Religion*. Jonathan Z. Smith, General Editor. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1995. Pp. 1087-98
- “The Academic Study of Religion.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. LXII/4(1994): 201-211
- “Linking Human Beings to Nature: Australian Arrarnta Religion.” In *Introduction to Religion: What Religions Do*. Edited by William Scott Green and Jacob Neusner. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press. 1996
- “Territory.” In *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*. Edited by Mark C. Taylor. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, pp. 298-313. Selections reprinted in Gill, *Creative Encounters*
- “No Place to Stand: Jonathan Z. Smith as *homo ludens*, the Academic Study of Religion *sub specie ludi*” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 66/2(1998): 59-88. Reprinted in Gill, *Creative Encounters*
- “The Academic Study of Religion and TheStrip.” With eight graduate students. *Council of the Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 27:1(February, 1998): 7-9
- “To Make Them Speak: Colonialism and the Study of Mythology” *Journal of Religious History*, 22/2 (1998): 168-82
- “Approaches to the Study of Religion.” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*, 11 (1999): 119-126
- “Play.” In *Critical Guide to the Study of Religion*, edited by Russell T. McCutcheon and Willi Braun. London: Cassell, 2000, pp. 451-462. Translation to Greek: *Egheiridio Threskeiologias*. Dimitris Xygalatas (trans.). Thessaloniki, Greece: Vantias Edition, 2004
- “Embodied Theology.” In *Shifting Paradigms: Theology, Religious Studies, and the University*, edited by Delwin Brown and Linell Cady. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002, pp. 81 - 92
- “Dance.” In *Encyclopedia of Religion and American Cultures*, edited by Gary Laderman & Luis León. ABC-CLIO, 2003, pp. 536-538

- “Dancing Ritual, Ritual Dancing: Experiential Teaching.” In *Teaching Ritual*, edited by Catherine Bell. Oxford University Press, 2006, pp. 45-56
- “Dancing: Creative Healthy Teen Activity,” *Dance, Movement & Spiritualities*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2014: 181-207
- “Moving: The Core of Religion,” *Body and Religion*, 1.2, 2018 131-147
- « Jonathan Z. Smith, ou la duplicité nécessaire » *Asdiwal* 13 (2018): 53-60
- “Jesus Wept, Robots Can’t: Religion Into the Future,” *Body and Religion* 4.1, 2020 32-44
- “Jonathan Z. Smith and the Necessary Double-face” In Emily D. Crews and Russell T. McCutcheon (eds.), *Remembering J. Z. Smith: A Career and its Consequences* (Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishers, 2020), 100-108.
- “Forward” to *Native American Myths and Tales* (London: Flame Tree Publishing Ltd., 2020)
- “‘What the One Thing Shows Me in the Case of Two Things’: Comparison as Essential to a Proper Academic Study of Religion” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, 2021 1-19
- “Imagining a Proper Academic Study of Religion Inspired by Jonathan Z. Smith” In *Thinking with J.Z. Smith: Mapping Methods in the Study of Religion*, ed. Barbara Krakowicz (NAASA Working Papers, Sheffield, UK: Equinox Press, 2023), 22-33.
- “The Glory Jest and Riddle: Jonathan Z. Smith and an Aesthetic of Impossibles” *Numen* 70 (2023) 447-472
- “The Poetry is in the Difference: A Long View of Artificial Intelligence and its Future,” Privately published, July, 2023. URL
- “What is Mother Earth? A Name, A Meme, A Conspiracy,” Responses by Bjorn Ola Tafjord, Olle Sundström, Greg Johnson, Matthew Glass, Joseph Wilson w comments by Gill *Journal for the Study of Nature, Religion, and Culture* (forthcoming)
- “Dancing Lessons: A Biological & Philosophical Account of Human Distinctiveness as Relevant to the Proper Study of Religion” with responses by Mary Dunn, Jeanette Solano, Seth Schermerhorn, John Thibdeau, and Hugh Urban in Papers from “Moving Body as Foundational to the Proper Study of Religion: A Response to and Celebration of the work of Sam Gill.” American Academy of Religion/North American Association for the Study of Religion, Denver, November 20, 2022, *Body and Religion* (forthcoming)

E-Publications

- “Chips from a Cyborg Workshop” (see TheStrip from my personal page located on <http://www.colorado.edu/religiousstudies/> (follow links: Faculty, Sam D. Gill, TheStrip, Features) or www.Sam-Gill.com)
- Series of articles on Salsa Connection www.Sam-Gill.com essay
- “SalsAmigos: Teens Dancing Health and Happiness” 2007 essay
- “The Glory, Jest, and Riddle: Stephen Hawking and *A Brief History of Time*” www.Sam-Gill.com 1988, 2009 Academic essay
- “‘Afro-Brazilian Dance’ or better ‘Euro-American-Afro-Brazilian Dance’” www.Sam-Gill.com 1995, 2009 essay
- “Dancing and the Poetics of Place” www.Sam-Gill.com, 2009 Academic essay
- *Brain, Body, Movement* www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 Academic lecture series, academic book
- *Dancing the Rhythms of Life* www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 Academic book
- “The Look” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2005, 2009 Short fiction

- “Dead Man” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2007, 2009 *Poetry*
- “Dancing as Making” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *Academic essay*
- “Charles Sanders Peirce: Play and the Logic of Discovery” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *academic essay*
- “The Powerful Play Goes On: Friedrich Schiller to Jacque Derrida on Play” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *academic essay*
- “SalsAmigos Dance Project: Presentation Series” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *Six video power point presentation scripts*
- “Encore-Life: An Introduction” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *essay*
- “Go Up Into the Gaps: The Play of Native American Religions” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *academic essay*
- “Play as Pedagogy” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *lecture on teaching*
- “Play and the Future of the Study of Religion ... and the Academy” www.Sam-Gill.com. 2009 *academic essay*

Blogs (selected available on www.Sam-Gill.com)

- “Religion Writer” *September 2012*
- “A Horse is an Automobile without Wheels” *September 2012*
- “Origins and Evolution: Writing in the Long View” *August 2012*
- “I Don’t Want to be a Mystic” *July 2012*
- “Remembering” *May 2011*
- “Christmas Conspiracy” *December 2010*
- “That Little Thing” *December 2010*
- “My Great Awakening” *December 2010*
- “Cowries on an African Bracelet” *December 2010*
- “Spooked on Halloween” *November 2010*
- “The New Education: Digital Media Enables Whole Bodies” *August 2009*
- “Children, Imagination, and Philosophy” *August 2009*
- “Crises and Opportunities” *August 2009*
- “The Canceling Experiences of a Middle-class Old White Guy” *February 2020*

Podcasts (all available on www.Sam-Gill.com)

- Brain Body Movement: a series of fourteen lectures in a graduate course “Brain Body Movement” at the University of Colorado Boulder during Spring term 2009. New updated and revised series Spring 2011.
 - Vol 1: Introduction
 - Vol 2: The Meaning of the Body
 - Vol 3: Tradition and Change: Memory and Neuroplasty
 - Vol 4: Imagination, Theory, Story
 - Vol 5: Color and Reality
 - Vol 6: Phantom and Reality

- Vol 7: Making, Agency, Action, Artifice
- Vol 8: Self and Other: Proprioception and Exteroception
- Vol 9: Consciousness and Emotion
- Vol 10: Touch, Flesh, and Vision
- Vol 11: Emotion, Depth, and Flesh – Part I: Dancing as Pure Depth
- Vol 12: Metaphor, Gesture, Language
- Vol 13: Thought and Cognition
- Vol 14: The Backside of God
- DanceTalk: a series of talks on dance related topics
 - “Dance as Making” vols. 1 & 2 2009
 - “Salsa Connection” Series of 12 talks on blog postings on this aspect of salsa dancing 2008-2009
- Dancing Culture Religion. An entire course with over 50 video podcast lectures with accompanying PDFs and much more. Offered as an online course in summer of 2011 and 2012. Available on www.Sam-Gill.com
- Jonathan Smith remembrance. To be published by NAASR in 2019.

Unpublished Manuscripts (occasional)

- “The Shamanic Powers of Navajo Prayer Acts”
- “Dancing the Faces of the Gods”

Review Articles

- “Native American Religions: A Review Essay.” *Religious Studies Review* 5, 4 (October 1979): 251-258
- “A Review of Karl W. Luckert’s Works on Native American Religions.” *History of Religions* 20:3 (1981): 263-268
- Earth Fire: A Hopi Legend of the Sunset Crater Eruption, by Ekkehart Malotti with Michael Lomatuway’ma.” *Journal of the Southwest* vol 30, no. 3 (August 1988):454-458
- Book reviews have appeared in *Parabola*, *Journal of American Anthropology*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Journal of the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Ritual Studies*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Anthropos* among others

Subject of Articles

- Hugh B. Urban, “Scholartracking: The Ethics and Politics of Studying ‘Others’ in the Work of Sam D. Gill.” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 13 (2001): 110-136
- Janine Gastineau, “Sam Gill: Bringing the World to Boulder,” *The Arts Paper*, vol. 3, no. 2, April/May, 2002, pp. 16 - 17
- Kristian Petersen, “Interview on *The Proper Study of Religion: Building on Jonathan Z. Smith* with Sam Gill,” <https://rsn.aarweb.org/building-jonathan-z-smith-sam-gill> (text and sound), *Religious Studies News*, September 13, 2022

- “Moving Body as Foundational to the Proper Study of Religion: A Response to and Celebration of the work of Sam Gill.” American Academy of Religion/North American Association for the Study of Religion, Denver, November 20, 2022

LECTURES AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS (selected)

- “The Play’s the Thing: Ritual Drama in Southwest Indian Religions.” Museum of Northern Arizona. Flagstaff. August 1975
- “The Color and Direction of Navajo Ritual Symbolism: An Evaluation of Methods.” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. October 1975
- “Prayer as Person: The Navajo Conception of Prayer Acts.” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. October 1976
- “And the Trees Stood Deep Rooted.” Arizona State University conference on “The Religious Character of Native American Humanities.” April 1977
- “Whirling Logs and Coloured Sands.” University of Alberta conference “A Joint International Symposium of Elders and Scholars.” September 1977
- “From Center to Periphery.” University of Arizona lecture series “World Folklore Lecture Series.” December 1977
- “Navajo Sandpainting.” Heard Museum, Phoenix, Arizona. January 1978
- “Native American Religions: A Research Needs Inventory.” Wingspread Conference Center, Racine, Wisconsin. A conference sponsored by the Council on the Study of Religion. February 1978
- “Language of Religious Motif in Navajo Visual and Verbal Art.” American Academy of Religion, Western Regional Meeting. Santa Barbara, California. March 1978
- “Broken Circles: Portals into Navajo Religious Thought.” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. October 1978; American Academy of Religion, Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting. Spring, 1979
- “Showdown at Darwin’s Gulch: The Myth of the Primitive.” American Academy of Religion, Western Regional Meeting. Spring, 1979
- “It’s Where You Put Your Eyes: Perspective on Native American Religions and Art.” Wichita State University public lecture. September, 1979
- “Aristotle and the Indians.” Wichita State University. September, 1979
- “Understanding Prayer: Anthropological Methods with Special Reference to Navajo Tradition.” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting. November, 1979
- “The Invention of Native American Religions.” University of California, Santa Barbara, conference on “The Study of Native American Religions, the Study of Religion, and the Humanities.” January, 1980
- “The Birth of Mother Earth in North America.” Wichita State University, conference on “Cross-cultural Studies and Human Nature.” April, 1981
- “The Shaman, the Wizard, the Physicist: The Old-New Consciousness.” University of Colorado, Boulder, Public Lecture. November, 1981
- “The Living Essence of Indian Art.” Carroll College, Helena, Montana, “The Living Art of the American Indian Symposium.” April, 1982

- "Health and Healing in Native American Religions." University of Montana, Missoula, Public Lecture. April, 1982
- "Holy Book in Native American Religion." American Academy of Religion, Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting. April, 1982
- "Dancing, Praying, and Dying: Native American Religions and the Study of Religion." University of Colorado, Boulder, Public Lecture. April, 1982
- "Mother Earth: The Peculiar History of a Native American Goddess." Harvard Divinity School and the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Public Lecture. November, 1982
- "Smohalla's Dreams and the Origin of a Goddess." American Academy of Religion, Northwest Regional Meeting, Seattle, Plenary Address. April, 1983
- "Mother Earth: The Making of a Goddess." Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Annual Meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Plenary Address. June, 1983
- "Holy Book in Nonliterate Traditions: Toward the Reinvention of Religion." Public Lecture. Reed College, Portland, Oregon. October, 1983
- Presentation on prospects for the Columbia Quincentenary. National Endowment for the Humanities Conference. Santa Fe, New Mexico. November, 1983
- "Words of Life in Navajo Ceremonial Art." Public Slide Lecture. Arts Week. Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan. April, 1984
- "'And he took away their wings:' Story and History in American Folk Tradition." Public Lecture. Arts Week. Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan. April, 1984
- "'And he took away their wings:' Story and History in American Folk Traditions." Public Lecture. School of Religion, University of Kansas. April, 1984
- "It's Where You Put Your Eyes: Perspective on Native American Ritual Arts" and "The Way of the Masks." A workshop for The Mitchell Indian Museum at Kendall College, Evanston, Illinois. October 26, 1985
- "The Power of Navajo Ceremonial Art." A Slide Lecture. The Mitchell Indian Museum at Kendall College, Evanston, Illinois. October 27, 1985
- "Speaking of Action." Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting. Anaheim, California. November 25, 1985
- "Dancing the Faces of the Gods." Seminar Series "Textuality, Hermeneutics, and Poststructuralism." Arizona State University. March 5, 1986
- "Mother Earth Mythology." University of Chicago Divinity School. April, 1987
- "Go Up Into the Gap: The Play of Difference." St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick. November, 1989
- Response to session on Mother Earth. American Ethnohistory Society National Meeting. Chicago, 1989
- "Ritual and Orality." American Academy of Religion, National Meeting, Anaheim. November, 1989
- "Religion *sub specie ludi*." University of Colorado, Department of Religion. February 2, 1990
- Panel. "The Two-Row Wampum: Native American Arts and Identity." North Country Radio, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York. February 18, 1990

- "The Play of Native American Religions." Hood College, Frederick, Maryland. March 15, 1991
- "Navajo Healing Rituals." Western Maryland College, Westminster. March 15, 1991
- "Native American Religions in 1492." The Newberry Library, Chicago. February 8, 1992
- "Songlines in the Academic Study of Religion." 1992 International Congress in Melbourne, Australia. July 16, 1992
- Participant in Points of Contact Conference "Performance, Ritual & Shamanism." Centre for Performance Research, Cardiff, Wales. January 8-10, 1993
- "Storytracks: An Exploration of Comparison." Religious Studies Faculty-Graduate Student Colloquium. University of Colorado at Boulder. September 30, 1994
- "Storytracking the Australian Arrernte Through the Academic Bush." University of California, Riverside. March 13, 1995
- "Making Them Speak: The Biological Impact on the Study of Mythology as Exemplified by Baldwin Spencer's Study of the Arrernte." Conference Paper. "The Explanation of Nature: Biology and the Ethnographic Record." The Woodrow Wilson Center. November 13-14, 1996
- "Making Them Speak: Colonialism and the Study of Mythology". American Academy of Religions, Annual Meeting. New Orleans. November 23-26, 1996
- "Shadow Play: A Javanese Inspired Theory of Dancing." Grinnell College. April 15, 1999
- "Tracking Bodies in Central Australia." Arizona State University. February 19, 2000
- "Dancing Flesh." Emory University. September 25, 2001
- "Dance and Globalization." AAR. Toronto. November, 2002
- "Dancing and Religion." Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara. January, 2003
- "Dancing and Religion." Plenary Address. AAR Rocky Mountain Regional. April, 2003
- "The Seduction of Bolero." Vernacular Conference, Puebla, Mexico. October, 2003
- "Dancing and the Poetics of Place." Berry College, Rome, Georgia. April, 2004
- "Play as Pedagogy." University of Colorado. February, 2009
- "Creativity in Classroom Teaching" CU Graduate Teachers, January 2011
- "'They Jump Up of Themselves': Gesture and Identity in Central Australia." Wichita State University Seminar Lecture. March 2011
- "Primacy of Dancing to Culture and Life." Wichita State University Jackson Lecture Series (the series inaugural lecture). March 2011
- "To Become Visible: Issues of Australian Aboriginal Identity." Regatta Cruise Ship. Australia and New Zealand. March 2012
- "Power of Dancing in Cultures Around the World." Regatta Cruise Ship. Australia and New Zealand. March 2012
- "Gesture Posture Prosthesis: Religious Studies in the Digital Age." Stanford University. May 2013
- "Moving and Gesturing: Shaping the Study of Religion." University of Florida. April, 2014.
- "As Prayer Goes So Goes Religion." Why Prayer? A Conference on New Directions in the Study of Prayer" Columbia University, February 2015.

- “Moving: The Core of Religion” Keynote Lecture for “Sexing Bodies” Conference. University of Florida. January 2017.
- “Tomorrow’s Eve and the Next Gen Study of Religion,” Regional AAR, University of Colorado, Boulder, March 2017.
- “Jonathan Z. Smith and the Necessary Double-face,” invited presentation in honor of Jonathan Z. Smith, North American Society for the Study of Religion (NASSR), November 2018.
- “The Glory, Jest, and Riddle: Jonathan Z. Smith and an Aesthetics of Impossibles” conference in Trondheim Norway “When the Chips are Down” June 3-4, 2019
- “Indigenous Religions: a Consultation” The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, June, 8, 2019.
- “What is Mother Earth? A Name, A Meme, a Conspiracy” Umeå University Sweden, October 8, 2019
- “What the One Thing Shows Me in the Case of Two Things’: Comparison as Essential to a Proper Academic Study of Religion,” Umeå University Sweden, October 9, 2019
- “Dancing Lessons: A Biological & Philosophical Account of Human Distinctiveness as Related to the Proper Study of Religion,” In “Moving Body as Foundational to the Proper Study of Religion: A Response to and Celebration of the work of Sam Gill.” American Academy of Religion/North American Association for the Study of Religion, Denver, November 20, 2022

DANCE RELATED WORK (outside academia)

- Bantaba World Dance & Music (1999 to 2007): founder, owner, director, dance teacher
- SalsAmigos (2006 to 2010): founder, owner, director, dance teacher, coach for women’s performance and competition group, the Salseritas
- Salsa teacher, New Vista High School, 2 quarters per year 2003-2012
- Latin American dance teacher (2002 to 2020): Salsa, Rueda de Casino, Bolero, Bachata
- Extensive writing on www.Sam-Gill.com
- “Dancing with the Boulder Stars” YWCA fundraiser, professional dancer 2008, 2009, 2017, judge 2010, 2012, 2013
- Choreographer and dancer of *rueda de casino*. “Latination.” November 2011
- Choreographer, instructor, director of *Los Casineros*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- American Academy of Religion, Chairperson of Native American Traditions Group, 1977-1980; Steering Committee representative for Native American Religions, North American Religions Sections, 1980-1982, 2022-2023
- Convener and Chairperson, “The Religious Character of Native American Humanities,” an interdisciplinary conference, Arizona State University, April 1977
- Wingspread Conference, an evaluation of the academic study of religion sponsored by the Council on the Study of Religion, Racine, Wisconsin, March 1978
- Director, “Native American Religions Seminar,” an International Seminar, University of Colorado, Boulder, July 5-16, 1982
- Director, “Ritual Studies Conference,” University of Colorado, Spring, 1993

CONSULTATION

- KAET Channel 8, Tempe, Arizona, Navajo Film Project, 1977-1979
- KAET Channel 8, Tempe, Arizona, Oral Traditions Project, 1979
- Advisory Board, Society for the Study of Myth and Tradition, 1979-1981 Native American Theological Association, 1979
- "The Circle of Life" - A publication series, 1990-91
- Grinnell College. Creation of Introduction to Religion course. May, 2000, and May, 2001

GRANTS RECEIVED (academic)

- American Philosophical Society Research Grant, 1973 and 1974
- Museum of Northern Arizona Research Grant, 1974
- College of Fine Arts, Arizona State University, Research Grant, 1979
- Arizona State University Faculty Grants, 1977, 1979, 1980
- Arizona State University, College of Liberal Arts, Dean's Research Grant, 1981
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 1981
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Summer Seminar Grant, 1982
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Enrichment Funding, 1983-84, 1984-85
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Program Support by College of Arts and Sciences, 1985-86
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Council on Research and Creative Work, Faculty Fellowship, 1988-89
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Research Grant, Bibliographic Research for Dictionary of Native American Mythology, 1991-92
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Travel Grant, Australian Religions and the Academic Study of Religion, 1992.
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Travel Grant to Zuni and Hopi, 1992-1993
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Council on Research and Creative Work, Faculty Fellowship and Grant-In-Aid, 1993-94
- University of Colorado, President's Fund for the Humanities, "Ritual Studies Conference," 1993
- University of Colorado, Graduate Committee on Arts and Humanities, Special Projects Grant, "Ritual Studies Conference," \$3,000, 1993
- University of Colorado, Committee on Research and Creative Work, Research Assistant, Bibliography for Religion and Dance, 1994-95. \$600
- University of Colorado, Dean of Arts and Sciences. Bibliography for Religion and Dance, 1995. \$1,000
- University of Colorado, Dean of Arts and Sciences. Research Assistant, 1995-1997
- University of Colorado, Committee on Research and Creative Work, clerical support for Bibliography for Religion and Dance, Spring, 1997, \$600
- University of Colorado, Committee on Research and Creative Work, Balinese Dancing, Summer, 1998, \$2,500

- University of Colorado, Dean of Arts and Sciences. Post-tenure Review Reward, 1998. \$3,000
- University of Colorado, Dean of Arts and Sciences. Research and Program Award, 1999. \$12,000 a year for 5 years
- City of Boulder. SalsAmigos Dance Project. 2007-2009.

FOREIGN TRAVEL AND FIELD RESEARCH

- Navajo Reservation, Summer 1973 and Summer 1977
- Australia (Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney), July-August, 1992
- Australia (Sydney, Canberra, Cairnes, Alice Springs, Darwin), September-October, 1993
- Indonesia (Bali and Java), October and November 1993
- Thailand, November and December 1993
- Nepal, December 1993 and January 1994
- Ghana, West Africa, July and August 1997
- Bali and Java, Indonesia, July-August 1998
- Costa Rica, January, 2001
- Mali West Africa, June, 2001
- Bali, Indonesia, August, 2001
- Costa Rica, January, 2002
- Dominican Republic, December 2006-January 2007
- Puerto Rico, December 2007-January 2008
- Australia and New Zealand, hosting and lecturing for a CU Alumni Association sponsored trip, February-March 2012
- Norway and Iceland, June, 2019
- Sweden and Iceland, October, 2019

TEACHING

Coursed Taught (more or less in historical order)

- Native American Religions (taught with many different emphases: e.g., shamanism; children, women, and goddesses; masks and masking)
- Native American Mystical Traditions
- Native American Religions and the Visual Arts
- Native American Religions and the Verbal Arts
- Women, Goddesses, and Native American Religions
- Navajo World Views through Myth, Ceremony, and Art
- Ritual: The Creative Process
- Ritual, Symbol, Myth
- Ritual Drama (a performance course)
- Religions of Nonliterate Peoples
- Time and the Religious Man
- Time, Space, and Religion

- Methods and Theories in Religious Studies
- Primitivism, Primitive Religions, and Beyond
- Native American Mythologies
- Navajo Religion
- Native American Goddesses
- The Way of the Mask
- Religious Dimensions in Human Experience
- Creativity and Criticism
- Bottom Side of Religion: Play and Laughter in Religion
- Humor and Humanity
- Religion by Abduction: Native American Religions and the Academic Study of Religion
- Play Elements in Native American Religions
- Religions of Traditional Peoples
- Religion and Play (a critical skills course)
- Australian Religions
- Creativity, Comedy, and Laughter
- Religion and Dance
- Religion and Dance Studio
- Religion and Dance Studies
- Comparison, Theory, and Criticism
- Approaches to the Study of Religion aka Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion
- Religion and the Minded-Body
- Advanced Writing
- Religion and the Internet
- Dancing and the Academic Study of Religion
- Presentation and Re-presentation of Dance in Film and the Arts
- Religion and Dance taught to 90 students every semester since the mid-'90s was divided beginning Fall, 2001 with the first semester subtitled "Africa to America to Africa" and the second semester subtitled "India to Ballet"
- Dancing in Film
- Religious Dimensions in Human Experience
- Color, Culture, and Religion
- Theoretical Issues Music and Dancing Raise for the Academic Study of Religion
- Dancing, Religion, and Culture
- Brain, Body, Movement
- Religion and the Senses
- Gesture and Touch in Religion and Culture
- Seminar on Jonathan Z. Smith
- Religion and Body
- Religion Into the Future

Teaching Citations

- Vice Chancellor's citation for teaching excellence, Spring 1987
- Nomination for teaching excellence, 1989-90

Teaching Related Publication

- "The Continuity of Research and Classroom Teaching, or How to Have Your Cake and Eat It Too." In *On Teaching*. Edited by Mary Ann Shea. Boulder: University Learning Center, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1987, pp. 67-76
- "Dancing: Creative Healthy Teen Activity," *Dance, Movement & Spiritualities*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2014: 181-207

Teaching Related Grant Funding

- University of Colorado, Boulder, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Visiting Resource Grant, Hopi Tribal Chairperson Vernon Masayesva, Spring, 1992
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Visiting Scholar Grant, Ronald L. Grimes, 1992-1993
- University of Colorado, Boulder, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Lecture and consultation by Ronald L. Grimes, 1993
- University of Colorado, Arts and Sciences, "Writing Religion," for Religious Studies to teach Writing Improvement Course, 1993 ongoing
- University of Colorado, Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Enhancing Faculty-Student Interaction, for Religious Studies Department annual retreat and student program, 1993, \$5,000 ongoing
- University of Colorado, Funding Committee for Multi-Disciplinary Course, "Religion and Dance Studio," Fall, 1997, \$2,000; Spring, 1998, \$2,000; Fall, 1998, \$2,000; Spring, 1999, \$1,000
- University of Colorado, Faculty Teaching Excellence Program, Teaching with Technology Grant, \$2,000, 2000-2001 for ethnographic film making
- University of Colorado, Faculty Teaching Excellence Program, Teaching with Technology Grant, \$2,000, 2001-2002 for ethnographic film making

ADMINISTRATION

- Administration of Native American Religions Program under a grant from the Eli Lilly Endowment, Arizona State University, 1975-1978
- Director of Graduate Studies, Religious Studies Department, University of Colorado, 1984-1987, 1990-1991, 1993-1997
- Dean's Tenure and Promotion Review Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado. 1984-1988
- Sewall Residence Hall Academic Program Board, University of Colorado, 1989-1991
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Religious Studies Department, University of Colorado, 2003-2007, 2011-2012