

**Curriculum Vita**  
**IRA CHERNUS**

**EDUCATION**

BA, Rutgers University, 1968 (Philosophy)  
MA, Temple University, 1973 (Religion)  
Ph.D., Temple University, 1975 (Religion)

**EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, 1974-1976  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1976-1982  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1982-1990  
Professor of Religious Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1990-present

**PUBLICATIONS** (refereed items marked with \*)

**I. Books**

- \**Mysticism and Rabbinic Judaism* (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter), 1982.
  - \**Dr. Strangegod: On the Symbolic Meaning of Nuclear Weapons* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press), 1986.
  - A Shuddering Dawn: Religious Studies and the Nuclear Age*, edited by Ira Chernus and Edward T. Linenthal, (Albany: SUNY Press), 1989.
  - \**Nuclear Madness: Religion and the Psychology of the Nuclear Age* (Albany: SUNY Press), 1991.
  - \**General Eisenhower: Ideology and Rhetoric* (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2002)
  - \**Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2002)
  - American Nonviolence: The History of an Idea* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004) [German translation forthcoming from Sozio-Publishing, Belme-Vehrte]
  - Monsters to Destroy: The Neoconservative War on Terror and Sin* (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2006)
  - \**Apocalypse Management: Eisenhower and the Discourse of National Insecurity* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2008)
- BOOK IN PROGRESS:** *Something to Fear: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Rise of the National Insecurity State*

**II. Articles** (selected; refereed items marked with \*)

- \*"Mythologies of Nuclear War," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. L, no. 2, Summer 1982, pp. 255-273.
- \*"War and Myth: 'The Show Must Go On,'" *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. LIII, no.3, Fall 1985, pp. 449-464.
- \*"Paul Tillich and the Depth Dimension of the Nuclear Age," *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*, vol. XLI, nos. 3&4, 1987, pp. 1-24.
- \*"Order and Disorder in the Definition of Peace," *Peace and Change*, vol. 18, no. 2, April, 1993, pp. 99-124.
- \*"The Origins of Eisenhower's Ideology in World War II," *Armed Forces and Society*, vol. 23, no. 4, Summer, 1997, pp. 595-613.

- \*"Eisenhower and the Soviets, 1945-1947," *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, vol. 2, no. 1, Spring, 1999, pp. 1-19.
- \*"Toward a Nonviolence History of the Nuclear Age," in Simon Harak, SJ, ed., *Nonviolence for the Third Millennium* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2000).
- \*"George W. Bush's War On Terrorism And Sin," *Political Theology*, vol. 5, no. 4, October, 2004, pp. 411-430.
- \*"Operation Candor: Fear, Faith, and Flexibility," *Diplomatic History*, vol. 29, no. 5, November, 2005, 779-809.
- "Meanings of Peace: The Rhetorical Cold War after Stalin," in Kenneth A. Osgood and Klaus Larres, eds. *The Cold War After Stalin's Death: A New International History* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), pp. 95-114.
- "Competing U.S. Perspectives on Iraq," in Michael Heazle and Iyanatul Islam, eds. *Beyond The Iraq War* (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2006).
- \*"Eisenhower and Dr. King on Peace and Human Nature" *Peace & Change*, vol. 33, no. 1, January 2008, pp. 114-140.
- "Eisenhower" and "Atoms for Peace," *International Encyclopedia of the Cold War* (2008).
- \*"The Iraq War and the Academic Study of Religion," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, December 2008, pp. 844-873.
- "Civil Religion," in Phillip Goff, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010).
- "American Nonviolence," in Andrew Murphy, ed., *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2011).
- "Nonviolence," in Wade Clark Roof and Mark Juergensmeyer, eds., *Encyclopedia of Global Religions* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2011).
- \*"The Wrong King: Apocalypse and Transformation (or not) in the White House," *Political Theology*, December, 2011, vol. 12, no. 6, 870-893.
- "Religion, War, and Peace," in Edward Blum and Paul Harvey, eds. *The Columbia Guide to Religion in American History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012).
- "Le rôle du religieux dans la promotion de la non-violence," *Diogène/Diogenes*, No. 243-244, 2013 / 3-4: *Theories and Practices of Nonviolence*, 65-84 [English translation, "The Role of Religion in Promoting Non-Violence," forthcoming]

### III. Online Publications

"MythicAmerica: Essays": 10 original essays at <http://mythicamerica.wordpress.com/> , 2012-2013

### IV. Reviews (recent)

*Myths America Lives By*, by Richard T. Hughes, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

*Imperial Designs*, by Gary Dorrien and *America Right or Wrong*, by Anatol Lieven, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

*The Truth is Our Weapon: The Rhetorical Diplomacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles*, by Chris Tudda, *International History Review*.

*Religion and American Foreign Policy, 1945-1960*, by William Inboden III, *Journal of American History*.

### V. Popular Press

"MythicAmerica," regular blog on History News Service; regular contributor to [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org), [www.tomdispatch.com](http://www.tomdispatch.com), [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org), [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org).

[www.religiondispatches.org](http://www.religiondispatches.org); guest columnist (op-ed): *Atlanta Constitution*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Miami Herald*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Denver Post*, and many other papers

## **HONORS**

University of Colorado Chancellor's Writing Award in Humanities, 1986  
*Choice* Outstanding Book Award (for *Dr. Strangegod*), 1987  
University of Colorado, 20th Century Humanist Award, 1997  
University of Colorado, Center for Humanities and Arts, Fellow, 2003-2004  
University of Colorado, Center for Humanities and Arts, Distinguished Lecturer, 2008  
University of Denver, Marsico Visiting Scholar, 2009

## **LECTURES (SELECTED)**

Indiana University Colloquium on American Internationalism  
"The Meaning of Peace in Eisenhower's World," 1996  
Atoms for Peace Conference, Livermore Nuclear Laboratory  
"Eisenhower and Atoms for Peace," 2003  
Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia  
invited lecture at conference on "Iraq After Saddam," 2005  
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Annual Meeting  
"The Bush Administration's National Security Strategy," 2006  
Center for American Studies, American University, Beirut, Lebanon  
invited lecture: "The National Insecurity State" 2007  
Gandhi-King Conference on Peacemaking, Memphis, TN  
"Gandhi Versus King on the Meaning of Nonviolence," 2007  
Center for Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University  
keynote address, conference on "The Rhetoric of Peace," 2008  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
invited lecture: "The Use and Uselessness of "American Civil Religion," 2008  
Regina University, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada  
invited lecture: "Apocalyptic Discourse in the White House: From FDR to Obama," 2009  
University of Denver, Marsico Visiting Scholar  
invited lecture: "Mythologies of American Exceptionalism," 2009  
University of Tampere, Finland  
invited lecture, "Apocalyptic Discourse in the White House," 2010  
University of Rovaniemi, Finland  
invited lecture, "American Civil Religion," 2010  
Center for Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University, 2013  
Invited lecture, "War Against Evil: The Religious Foundations of U.S. Foreign Policy"

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)**

American Academy of Religion  
National Co-chair, Religion, Peace, and War Group, 1985-1989  
*Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, editorial board, 2007 - 2013

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE (SELECTED)**

Co-Director, Peace and Conflict Studies Program, 1998-2003

Boulder Faculty Assembly, 1998-2001

Co-Chair, Boulder Faculty Assembly Student Affairs Committee, 1999-2001

Arts & Sciences Council, 1995-1997

Graduate Committee on Arts & Humanities, 1996-1997

Director of Graduate Studies, Religious Studies Department, 1991-2003, 2009-2010