**Dr. Susanna De Stradis**

118 Presidents Circle, Mississippi State, MS 39762

[sd1855@msstate.edu](mailto:sd1855@msstate.edu)

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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| 2023- | **Assistant Professor**  Department of History  Mississippi State University |
| 2022-2023 | **Postdoctoral Research Associate**  John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics  Washington University in St. Louis |

**EDUCATION**

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| --- | --- |
| 2017-2022 | **Ph.D. in History, University of Notre Dame**  *Dissertation*: “Making Democracy Safe for Religion: The Catholic Argument for the ‘Nation Under God’ (1939-1965)”  *Committee*: John T. McGreevy (Advisor); Kathleen S. Cummings; Darren Dochuk; Richard W. Garnett (Notre Dame Law School); Sarah E. Shortall |
| 2017-2019 | **M.A. in History, University of Notre Dame**  *Comprehensive Examination Fields:*  Global Approaches to Catholic, US, and World History (Prof. John T. McGreevy)  20th-Century United States History (Prof. Darren Dochuk)  Law and Religion in US History (Prof. Linda Przybyszewski) |
| 2015-2017 | **M.A. in History and Civilization, University of Pisa (Italy) *Summa cum Laude***  *Thesis Project:* “‘In this Sign shall you conquer!’: Francis J. Spellman’s Military Vicariate and the Mobilization of American Catholics in World War II (1939-1945)” |
| 2012-2015 | **B.A. in History, University of Pisa (Italy) *Summa cum Laude***  *Thesis Project:* “The Catholic Corporative Project in Cold War America: The Case of the Industry Council Plan (1945-1960)” |
| 2012-2017 | **Licentiate in History and Paleography, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa (Italy)**  *(Five-year education and research fellowship completed in tandem with B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Pisa).* |

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Book Manuscript***

*Making Democracy Safe for Catholicism: Roman Arguments for the “Nation Under God” (1939-1965)*. Under review with Cornell University Press.

***Refereed Articles and Book Chapters***

“Rome, Catholicism, and the Nation-State in America: Re-Centering a Debate?” In *Religion Compass.* First published: May 19, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12459

“The Catholic Corporative Project in Cold War America. The Debate on the Industry Council Plan (1940-1960).” In *A Christian Revolution: Dialogues on Social Justice and Democracy Between Europe and the Americas (1945-1965)* Edited by Marta Busani and Paolo Valvo. (Roma: Studium, 2023): 83-105.

“Defending the Nation Under God: Global Catholicism, the Supreme Court, and the Secularist Specter (1946-1963).” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 32, no. 2(2022): 267-303.

“Prospettive romane sugli Stati Uniti: I documenti della Congregazione Affari Ecclesiastici Straordinari e del Sant’Uffizio.” In *La Santa Sede, gli Stati Uniti e le relazioni internazionali durante il pontificato di Pio XI: Studi dopo l’apertura degli archivi vaticani (1939-1958)*, edited by Roberto Regoli and Matteo Sanfilippo. (Roma: Studium, 2022): 258-269.

“Devozione a stelle e strisce. Cattolicesimo e americanismo nel Vicariato militare di Francis J. Spellman,” *Archivio italiano per la storia della pietà* 31 (2018): 347-382.

***Book Reviews***

Chris Beneke, *Free Exercise: Religion, the First Amendment, and the Making of America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024). *American Historical Review.* [Forthcoming]

Roberto Regoli, *Beyond the Crises in the Church: The Pontificate of Benedict XVI*. (Religion/Church History). Translated by Daniel B. Gallagher. (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine’s Press, 2024). *Revue d’Historie Ecclésiastique* 120, no. 3-4 (2025). [Forthcoming]

***Public-Facing Writing***

“What’s the Matter with U.S. Catholics? New Perspective on Romanity and Americanism in Dialogue.” *American Catholic Studies Newsletter* 52, no. 1 (2025): 14-25.

“Catholicism: A book discussion with John T. McGreevy.” *American Catholic Studies Newsletter.* Online Edition. January 19, 2023.

<https://cushwa.nd.edu/news/catholicism-a-book-discussion-with-john-t-mcgreevy/>

“Not Quite Silenced: What newly released documents tell us about the censoring of John Courtney Murray.” *Commonweal.* November 22, 2021. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/not-quite-silenced>

“J. C. Murray, the Vatican, and the Lay State Challenge.” *The Immanent Frame.* January 28, 2022.

<http://tif.ssrc.org/2022/01/28/j-c-murray-the-vatican-and-the-lay-state-challenge/>

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

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| 2023 | Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Graduate School Award in Humanities at the University of Notre Dame ($5,000) |
| 2020 | Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) ($12,878) |
|  | ***Finalist for*** International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) |
|  | Rome Seminar Fellowship, Notre Dame Global Gateway ($3,500) |
|  | Peter R. D’Agostino Research Travel Grant, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism ($4,810) |
| 2019 | Eisenhower Foundation Research Travel Grant ($975) |
|  | Graduate Student Research Award, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts ($4,537) |
| 2018 | Graduate Summer Travel & Research Grant, Nanovic Institute for European Studies ($3,067) |
|  | Graduate Student Research Award, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts ($1,907) |
| 2017 | Five-Year Full Tuition and Stipend, University of Notre Dame Department of History |
|  | International Travel Grant for Archival Research, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa (Italy) (€3,300) |
| 2016 | International Travel Grant for Archival Research, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa (Italy) (€3,030) |
| 2014 | Summer Language Instruction Grant (German), Fondazione Amici della Scuola Normale (€1,500) |
| 2012 | Five-Year Full Tuition and Stipend, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa (Italy) |

**PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

***Conferences***

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| 2026 | Selected Participant. “Between ‘Pro Deo’ and ‘Under God’: Catholic Institutions and America’s Cold War.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. Chicago. January 8-11, 2026 [Forthcoming]. |
| 2025 | Selected Participant. “Organic Communities and Institutional Pluralism: The Catholic Contribution to Mid-Century Conservative Sociology.” Conference “Creativity & Renewal,” Society for US Intellectual History. Detroit. November 6-8, 2025 [Forthcoming]. |
| 2025 | Selected Participant. “Americanism from Heresy to Conciliar Achievement: The Holy Office between 1949 and 1956.” 50th Anniversary Conference of the Cushwa Center for the Study of Global Catholicism, “Catholic Modernity in the Americas: Land, Culture, Politics.” University of Notre Dame. April 10-12, 2025. |
| 2024 | Selected Participant. “A Bridge Between Rome and America: Mid-Century US Catholics and the Resignification of the ‘Nation Under God.’” Conference “Knowledge and Belief,” Society for US Intellectual History. Boston. November 14-16, 2024. |
| 2023 | Selected Participant. “Beyond the Murray Affaire: The Holy See and American Religious Freedom (1945-1958).” Séminaire annuel – Les archives du pontificat de Pie XII: recherches en cours. École Française de Rome. February 8, 2023. |
| 2022 | Invited Participant. “A ‘Vatican Atlantic Alliance’? Pius XII and the Role of US Papal Diplomats in the Cold War.” Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. Rome Global Gateway. Rome (Italy). November 18, 2022. |
|  | Invited Participant. “The Vatican, US Catholics, and the Cold War: New Perspectives.” Conference “Global Religion and American World-Making.” University of Notre Dame. April 8-9, 2022. |
|  | Invited Participant. “The Pius XII Archives: New Roman Sources for the History of Global Catholicism.” Conference “Mapping Rome.” University of Notre Dame. March 17-19, 2022. |
|  | Invited Participant. “Culture War(s) Within to Win the Culture War Without.” American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans. January 6-8, 2022. |
| 2021 | Invited Participant. “The Catholic Debate on the ‘Guilds’ in Cold War America.” European Academy of Religion Annual Conference “Religion and Change,” Münster (Germany). August 30-September 1, 2021. |
|  | Invited Participant. “Roman Perspectives on the US and American Catholicism (1945-1958): Open Questions and New Sources.” Research Meeting “War and Genocide, Reconstruction and Change: The Global Pontificate of Pius XII.” Co-Sponsored by the Deutsches Historisches Institut and the École Française, Rome (Italy). June 14-16, 2021. |
| 2020 | *Canceled due to Covid-19.* Invited Participant. “The Holy See and the United States in the Pacelli Era: New Sources, New Perspectives.” Conference “The Holy See and the US in Pius XII’s Archives: The State of the Question and the Archives.” Co-Sponsored by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (Italy). March 5-6, 2020. |
| 2018 | Selected Participant. “‘In this Sign you shall conquer’: Catholicism and Americanism in the Church’s Mobilization for World War II.” Columbia University Department of Religion Graduate Student Conference “Legitimacy – Mythology – Epistemology: Religion and the Concept of the Political,” New York. April 7, 2018. |
|  | Selected Participant. “‘In this Sign you shall conquer’: Catholicism and Americanism in the Church’s Mobilization for World War II.” Texas A&M University Annual Graduate History Conference “Conflicts and Resolutions,” College Station, TX. March 23-24, 2018. |
| 2017 | *Declined.* Selected Participant. “Fighting for the Catholic Soul of America: Dilemmas and Peculiarities of U.S. Catholic Mobilization in World War II.” European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference. Oslo (Norway). September 6-9, 2017. |

***Invited Talks and Workshops***

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| 2022 | Workshop Presenter. “Winning the War, Winning the Peace: Some Crusaders at Last?” Meeting of the Midwest Intellectual History Group. The University of Chicago. October 20-21, 2022. |
| 2021 | Invited Speaker. “Roman Arguments for the Nation Under God: The US Catholic Church from *Everson* Through *Engel.*”Freedom of Religion Seminar, Notre Dame Law School. October 25, 2021. |
| 2020 | Invited Speaker. “Roman Arguments for the Nation Under God:  The US Catholic Church from *Everson* Through *Engel*.” Church, State, and Society Colloquium, Notre Dame Law School. February 24, 2020. |
| 2019 | Invited Presenter. “Roman Arguments for the Nation Under God: Cardinal Spellman and the US Church from *Everson* through *Engel* (1947-1962).” 10th Annual Law and Religion Roundtable. Toronto (Canada). June 20-21, 2019. |
| 2018 | Invited Presenter. “‘America Fights for God-Given Rights:’ A Catholic Reading of American Freedoms in World War II.” 9th Annual Law and Religion Roundtable. Philadelphia. June 21-22, 2018. |

**TEACHING**

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| 2023- | **Instructor of Record, Mississippi State University**  HI 1073 “Modern US History” (Fall 2023, Spring 2025)  HI 4253 “History of Religion in America” (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)  HI 3893 “Twentieth-Century World History” (Spring 2024)  HI 8803 “Graduate Colloquium in American Religious History” (Spring 2024)  HI 8963 “Graduate Colloquium in US History Since 1945” (Fall 2024)  HI 3903 “Historiography and Historical Methods” (Spring 2025) |
| 2023 | **Instructor of Record, Washington University in St. Louis**  L57 252 “Catholicism Confronts Modernity: A Global History from the French Revolution to Pope Francis” (Spring 2023) |
| 2018-2020 | **Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame**  HI 30603 “The New American Nation, 1787-1840” (Dr. James M. Lundberg, Fall 2018)  HI 15959 “History of Modern Africa” (Dr. Paul Ocobock, Spring 2019)  HI 10350/30350 “History of Global Catholicism” (Dr. John T. McGreevy, Fall 2019)  HI 30554 “Catholicism Confronts Modernity” (Dr. Sarah E. Shortall, Spring 2020) |
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**DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

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| 2025-2026 | Common Examiner for Modern US History |
| 2024-present | Organizer of the Faculty Works-in-Progress Workshop |
| 2023-2025 | Co-Organizer of the Symposium for History Undergraduate Research (SHUR) |
| 2022-present | Dissertation Committee Member for:   * Jenifer Ishee (“A Cloud of Witnesses: Captivity Among the Society People of Colonial Pennsylvania,” Defended December 2024) * Laurie Miriam Drake (“To Duke Street and Beyond: The Assimilation of an Eighteenth-Century Jewish Family”) * Aiden Daly (“To Save the Palisades: The Politics of Urban and Rural Conservation, 1880-1960”) * Tucker M. Shope |

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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| 2025- | Co-Organizer with David Lantigua (Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame). Symposium “Modern Catholic Social Teaching in the American Anthropocene: Theological and Historical Perspectives on Labor and Land.” Rome, June 3-5, 2026 [Forthcoming]. |
| 2025- | Peer Reviewer for:   * *Church History* * *Jesuit Educational Quarterly* * Edizioni Studium (Publishing house based in Rome, Italy) |
| 2025 | Consultant on US Catholicism. Committee on “The New Martyrs: Witnesses of the Faith.” Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Roman Curia of the Holy See. Vatican City. |
| 2024- | Member. Rome Advisory Committee of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. |
| 2024- | Editorial Board Member. *Bollettino dell’Archivio per la Storia del Movimento Sociale Cattolico in Italia: Research in Social and Economic History.* |
| 2021-present | Participant. Midwest Intellectual History Group. |
| 2021-present | Participant. International Research Project “Occidentes. Horizons and Projects of Civilization in the Church of Pius XII.” Co-Sponsored by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan (Italy); Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (Italy); University of Navarra (Spain); Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon (Portugal). <https://occidentes.hypotheses.org> |
| 2020-2022 | Planning Committee Member. Conference “Global Religion and American World-Making.” University of Notre Dame. April 8-9, 2022. |
| 2019 | Steering Committee Member. Conference “Global History and Catholicism.” University of Notre Dame. April 4-6, 2019. |
| 2018-2020 | Co-Director. Colloquium of Religion and History. University of Notre Dame.  *Organizing and leading a weekly workshop attended by faculty, graduate students, and guest presenters working on any topic in religious history.* |

**LANGUAGES**

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| Native or near-native fluency | Italian, English |
| Reading comprehension | French, German, Spanish, Latin, Ancient Greek |
| Elementary knowledge | Russian |

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association

American Catholic Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Society for United States Intellectual History