

Ben Cater
Curriculum Vitae

Point Loma Nazarene University
3900 Lomaland Dr.
San Diego, CA,
92106
(c): 801-618-7720

Education

- 2012 Ph.D., History, *With Distinction*, University of Utah
 -Major field: U.S. History
 -Minor field I: Latin American Studies
 -Minor field II: American Literature
- 2006 M.A., History, The University of Montana
 -Major field: U.S. History
 -Minor field: European History
- 2002 B.A., History, *Summa Cum Laude*, Point Loma Nazarene University
 -Major: History

Work History

- May 2024- Professor

 Director, Honors Program
- May 2019- Associate Professor

 Director, Honors Program

 Associate Dean of General Education, Point Loma Nazarene
 University
- Aug. 2017- Assistant Professor

 Director, Honors Program

 Associate Dean of General Education, Point Loma Nazarene
 University
- Jan. 2013-June 2016 Assistant Professor of History

Director, Boston Semester Program, Eastern Nazarene College

Aug. 2015-June 2016 Chaplain, Intervarsity Christian fellowship, Harvard University

Aug. 2008-Aug. 2010 Instructor, Department of History, University of Utah

Aug. 2006-Aug. 2008 Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of Utah

Aug. 2004-Aug. 2006 Teaching Assistant, Department of History, The University of Montana

June-Aug. 2001 Intern, U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, National Park Service

Sept. 1999-Dec. 2000 Grader, Department of History, Point Loma Nazarene University

Classes Taught (at PLNU except where noted)

HIS1011 World Civilizations

HIS3035 Surf History and Culture

HIS4090 History of Race

HIS4090 Latin American History and Culture

HON1000 Introduction to Christian Scholarship

HON1050 Honors Abroad

HIS1020: U.S. History to 1900

HON3020: Foundations in the Humanities III

HON3050 Honors Integrative Seminar

LIT2000 Literature and Culture

ENG2060/2065 American Writers I and II

ESI2050: Introduction to Environmental Studies

ESI3010: Seminar in Environmental Studies

ESI4020: Senior Capstone in Environmental Studies

U.S. History (Colonial through Twentieth Century) (ENC)

New England History (ENC)

History of the American West (ENC)

Publications and Works in-Progress

2026 Book Review: M. Rossi, "Capturing Kahanamoku: How A Surfing Legend and a Scientific Obsession Redefined Race and Culture," *Journal of Pacific History*, Vol. 61 Issue 2 (forthcoming)

2025 Guest Editor, "Public Health and Medicine in the Mormon West," *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Spring 2025)

Essay: "The History of Surfing, Ancient to Modern Times," *Degree 33*, January 27, 2025. <https://www.degree33surfboards.com/blogs/gettin-pitted/the-history-of-surfing-from-ben-cater-ph-d>

2024 Book Review: P. Moser, "Waikiki Dreams: How Californians Appropriated California Beach Culture," *Journal of San Diego History*, Fall/Winter 2024, Vol. 70, No. 1 & 2, pp. 181-184.

Chapter: "Surfing Together, Surfing Alone: Surf Tribes and Tribalism in Southern California During the 20th Century" (*Tribal and the Cultural Legacy of Streetwear*, Intellect Books)

Book (in-progress): *Surfing With Jesus: A Waterman's Devotional*

2020 Book Review: "Hopi Runners: Crossing the Terrain Between Indian and American," *Western Historical Quarterly*, Volume 51, Issue 2, pgs. 192–193

2016 Essays: "Sheldon Jackson," "Daniel Tuttle," and "Marcus and Narcissa Whitman," in, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Book Review: P. Willey and Douglas D. Scott, eds., "Health of the Seventh Calvary: A Medical History," *The Journal of Military History* Vol. 80, pgs 1223-1224

Article: "The Religious Politics of Smallpox Vaccination, 1900-1901," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 84, No. 1, pgs. 7-25

- 2015 Book Review: Miranda Wilcox and John D. Young, eds., *“Standing Apart: Mormon Historical Consciousness and the Concept of Apostasy,” Fides et Historia: The Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* Vol. 47 Summer/Fall 2015
- Book Review: J. Spencer Fluhman, *“A Peculiar People”: Anti-Mormonism and the Making of Religion in Nineteenth-Century America,” Fides et Historia: The Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* Vol. 47 Summer/Fall 2015
- 2014 Article: “Segregating Sanitation in Salt Lake City,” *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 82, No. 2, pgs. 92-113
- 2013 Book Review: “Brigham Young: Pioneer Prophet,” *Fides et Historia: The Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* Vol. 46, No. 1, pgs. 117-118
- Book Review: “St. Mark’s and the Social Gospel: Methodist Women and Civil Rights in New Orleans, 1895-1965,” *Fides et Historia: The Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* Vol. 47, No. 1, p. 164
- 2012 Ph.D. Dissertation: “Health, Medicine, and Power in the Salt Lake Valley, Utah, 1869-1945”
- 2010 Article: “Grassroots Healing: The Park City Miners’ Hospital,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* Vol. 78 no. 4, 304-325
- Book Review: “Fort Laramie: Military Bastion of the High Plains,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* Vol. 78 no. 1, 77-78
- 2009 Book Review: “Jesus, History and Mt. Darwin: An Academic Excursion,” *Fides et Historia: The Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* Vol. 41 no. 2, 141-144
- 2008 Book Review: “The Mormon Question: Polygamy and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth Century America,” *Fides et Historia: The Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* Vol. 40 no. 1, 98-99

Papers Given and Speaking Engagements

- 2025 “Human Currents, Ocean Tides: The History of Surfing and Surf Culture, Environmental Studies, and Human Flourishing,” 23rd Annual New Directions in the Humanities Conference, University of Hawaii at Hilo, June 26, 2025

- 2024 Panel Discussion and Interview of Scott Hulet, author of *Flo Violento* (2024) and editor of *The Surfer's Journal*, Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, September 26, 2024
- "Diving Into San Diego's Surfing Culture," Midday Edition, KPBS, Tuesday, April 23
- 2023 "Surfing Together, Surfing Alone: Surf Tribes and Tribalism in Twentieth Century Southern California," The Stoke Sessions: An International Conference on the Culture, History and Politics of Surfing and Skateboarding, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- "The Significance of Gordon and Smith Surfboards to San Diego's Surf History," Interview with Resulting Impact Productions, July 10
- "Deep Thoughts at Low Tide: Surf Studies, Climate Change, and Regional Liberal Arts," Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts, Westmont College
- 2021 "Public Health and the Common Good," 69th Annual Utah State Historical Society History Conference
- 2020 "Anti-Vaccination Among the Mormons," Mormonland Podcast Hosted by the *Salt Lake Tribune*, December 2, <https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2020/12/02/mormon-land-latter-day/>
- 2015 "A Church History Walking Tour of Boston," Overseas Ministries Studies Center, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2014 "Christian Responsibilities to Public Health," Harvard/M.I.T./Boston University Healthcare Fellowship, Longwood Christian Community, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2013 "Public Health Policy as Social Injustice," Academic Symposium, Eastern Nazarene College
- 2012 "The Scourge of Malaria during the Progressive Era," Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah (declined)
- 2011 "Religiosity, Progressive Reform, and the Anti-Smallpox Vaccination Controversy in Salt Lake City, Utah, 1899-1901," The American West Center, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2010 "The Origins of the Park City Miners' Hospital, 1900-1920," The Conference on Faith and History, George Fox University, Newberg,

Oregon

- 2007 "The Care of A Stranger: Episcopalian Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle and the Construction of St. Mark's Episcopal Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, 1872-1886," Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2003 "St. Bernard of Clairvaux and the Problem of Monasticism, 1185-1225," The Conference on Faith and History, Huntington College, Huntington, Indiana
- 1999 "John C. Fremont as Apostle of 'Manifest Destiny,'" Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California

Professional/Guild Service

- 2026 Script Consultant for "G&S: One Long Ride," Resulting Impact Productions
- 2025 Book Reviewer for the *Journal of Pacific History*
- Manuscript Reviewer for the *Utah Historical Quarterly*
- 2024 Guest Editor of the *Utah Historical Quarterly* Special Issue on Public Health and Medicine in the Mormon West
- Book Reviewer for the *Journal of San Diego History*
- Historical Consultant for "G&S: One Long Ride," Resulting Impact Productions
- 2022 Manuscript Reviewer - "Blood in Zion: Mormon Violence and Immigration in Illinois, 1838-1857," *Western Historical Quarterly*
- Professional Consulting - MidAmerica Nazarene College Honors Program
- 2019 Professional Consulting – Simpson University G.E. Reform

University, School, and Department Service

- 2026 Faculty Advisor, Honors Project, Lily Montes De Oca
- Faculty Advisor, Hui O'Hawaii Student Club
- Co-Author, IDS3014: History of Surfing and Surf Culture

	Author, HON3000: Humanities Seminar
	Writing Instructive Training for Seminars at the Intersections of Humanities
2025	Chair, Honors Advisory Board
	Member, Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
	Speaker, Welcome Back Department Chapel, History and Political Science
	Faculty Advisor, Surfrider Foundation PLNU University Chapter
	Spiritual Mentor for TUG Students, Office of Spiritual Development, PLNU
2024	Interim Director and Professor – Environmental Studies Program
	Search Advocate Training (Aug. 21)
	“Embodying Mission: What does it mean to be a liberal arts school?” New Faculty Orientation
	GE Reform Task Force
2023	“Embodying Mission: What does it mean to be a liberal arts school?” New Faculty Orientation
	Spiritual Mentor for TUG Students, Office of Spiritual Development, PLNU
	Faculty Advisor, PLNU Fishing Club
	GE Reform Task Force
2022	“Embodying Mission: What does it mean to be a liberal arts school?” New Faculty Orientation
	Speaker, First Year Chapel, September 30
	Participant, Public Health Minor working group
	Author, Interdisciplinary Studies Major/Minor SEP Brief

	Author, "Soundings," <i>Rooted</i> : the student magazine of MOSAIC
	Speaker, Science and Religion Student Club, "Historical Origins, Evolution, and Cultural Contingency of 'Science'"
2021	Speaker, First Year Chapel, September 17
2020	Author, HIS3035 History of Surfing and Surf Culture
	Author, SOC:3035: Civil Rights Pilgrimage
2019	Participant, Wesleyan Workshop with Rebecca Laird
2018	Member, Wesleyan Summer Reading Group with Mark Mann
2017-	Member, President's Planning Council, PLNU
	Member, Academic Council, PLNU
	Member, Faculty Committee on Diversity
	Member, Environmental Studies Discussion Group
	Member, InterCultural Pathways Review Committee
2013-16	Director, Boston Semester Program, Eastern Nazarene College
	Chairman, Subcommittee on Academic Integrity, Eastern Nazarene College
	Member, Honors Scholar Program Committee, Eastern Nazarene College
	Member, Curriculum Committee, Eastern Nazarene College
	Divisional Representative, Social Science, Common Core Committee, Eastern Nazarene College
	Faculty Sponsor, <i>Veritas: The Student Newspaper of ENC</i> , Eastern Nazarene College

Church and Public Service

2026	Elder-in-Charge, Ladle Fellowship and Food Distribution Center, First Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA
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- Board Member, Super Stoked Foundation (501C3)
- Corporate Ambassador, Gordon and Smith Surfboards, San Diego, CA
- 2025 Guest Speaker, "Passing the Faith to the Next Generation," Palomar
Chrisitan Conference Center, October 25, 2025
- Co-teacher, "Staying in the Sermon," First Presbyterian Church, San Diego
- Teacher, "The Second Mountain," College and Young Adult Sunday
School, First Presbyterian Church, San Diego
- Member, Friends of Sunset Cliffs Habitat Helpers
- Guest Speaker, "Reviving Faith," Lakeside Community Church of the
Nazarene, January 26-27
- Guest Speaker, Surf Fellowship Group, Torrey Pines Church, February 23
- 2024 Elder, Nominating Committee, First Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA
- Volunteer, Ladle Fellowship and Food Distribution Center, 320 Date
Street, 92101
- 2023 Chair, Interim Pastor Search Committee, First Presbyterian Church, San
Diego, CA
- Historical Consultant for documentary on the history of surfing in San
Diego, produced by Gordon and Smith Surfboards and KPBS San Diego
- 2022 Guest Speaker, "Be the Church Out There," Men's Fellowship Group,
Torrey Pines Church, October 20
- 2021-22 Board Member, UrbanSurf4Kids, San Diego
- 2017-19 Teacher, Adult Sunday School, First Presbyterian
Church, San Diego
- Elder, First Presbyterian Church, San Diego

Professional Organizations

Pacific History Association

California Historical Society

Society for the History of Medicine

Western History Association

American Historical Association

Utah State Historical Society

The Conference on Faith and History

Awards and Honors

2026	Netvue Vocation Grant
2018	R.A.S.P. Grant
2017	Dale L. Morgan Award for Best Scholarly Article: "The Religious Politics of Smallpox Vaccination, 1899-1901," <i>Utah Historical Quarterly</i> , Winter 2016
2015	Dale L. Morgan Award for Best Scholarly Article: "Segregating Sanitation in Salt Lake City, 1870–1915," <i>Utah Historical Quarterly</i> , Spring 2014
2010	Nick Yengich Memorial Editor's Choice Award: "Grassroots Healing: The Park City Miners' Hospital," <i>Utah Historical Quarterly</i> , Utah State Historical Society, Fall 2010
2011	Floyd O'Neill Fellowship in Western American Studies, American West Center, University of Utah
2010	Presbyterian Church (USA) Research Grant, First Presbyterian Church, Salt Lake City, Utah
2009	Simmons Media Studies Fellowship, University of Utah
2006	Doctoral Research Travel Grant, University of Utah
2005	A.B. Hammond Fellowship for Western History, The University of Montana
2003	Alumni Research Travel Grant, Point Loma Nazarene University

- 2002 graduated *summa cum laude*, Point Loma Nazarene University
- Phi Delta Lambda Induction for Academic Excellence, Point Loma Nazarene University
- 1998-2002 Three-Quarters Tuition Exemption Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Point Loma Nazarene University