Jim Alexander

Research Interests:

- Water privatization in developing countries
- The study of interfaith coalitions, LGBTQ religious communities, and religious communities for individuals with disabilities
- The study of how early Christian communities (50 CE-500 CE) understood the relationships between faith, religious obligation, and the distribution of wealth

Research Methodologies:

- My methodologies will most likely center around historical research as well as various qualitative sociological methods.

Tentative Dissertation Title: TBD

Primary Advisor: Dr. Gregory Witkowski

Research Statement:

At this point in time, I am focusing more on the study of water privatization in South Africa, which is an extremely complex issue. I begin with using three-failures theory to contextualize the relationship between the public, private, and nonprofit sector in the delivery of freshwater and sanitation services. An understanding of water as a commodity is pervasive in the public and private sectors of South Africa. However, nonprofit advocacy organizations and various voluntary associations advocate for water as human right. I would like to investigate how the social capital of religious organizations in the region may be useful in leveraging a compromise between both perspectives to ensure a higher quality of water service to impoverished households.

Personal Info:

My educational background includes degrees in education, religion, and a Masters of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School. I currently lecture at Franklin College in the Philosophy and Religion Department in topics ranging from the intersection of religious and environmental studies, disability studies, and courses exploring the relationship between privilege and oppression in American culture. However, my wife, Katy, and I are new students to the world of parenting and our daughter, Zuma, is the educator.