

ELISHA CHI

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Villanova University, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, 2024
Dissertation: "Stories and Silence: Issues and Methods Supporting the Decolonization of the Catholic Church"
- M.TS Villanova University, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, 2018
- B.A. Seattle University, Liberal Studies, 2010 (*Cum Laude*)
- A.A. North Seattle Community College, 2008 (President's List; Vice President List)

EMPLOYMENT

2026

Assistant Professor: University of California San Diego Ethnic Studies Department

2024-2026

President's Postdoctoral Fellow: University of California Santa Barbara Department of Religious Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Elisha Chi and Dana Lloyd, "Kinship: A Review Essay" *Indigenous Religious Traditions*, 3, no. 1 (October 14, 2025): 49-61, <https://doi.org/10.1558/irt.33238>

Elisha Chi, "Catholicism as Berry People: An Inupiaq (Re)story," *Political Theology*, Online (July 4, 2025): 1-21, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1462317X.2025.2524790>

Elisha Chi, "Ethno-Apophysis: An Ethnographic Theology of Thinness and Refusal," *Ecclesial Practices* 10, no. 2 (December 28, 2023): 202-27, <https://doi.org/10.1163/22144471-bja10050>.

Currently Under Review

Tamara Ho, Himanee Gupta, Eleanor Craig, SueJeanne Koh, Dana Lloyd, Elisha Chi, "Mycorrhizal Networks: Meditations on Land, Spirituality, and Food," Submitted to *Amerasia Journal* on April 1, 2024 (under review as of 10/25/24).

Elisha Chi, Abelardo de la Cruz, Sarah Dees, Abel Gomez, Dana Lloyd, Anthony Trujillo, "Teaching with Native American Religions," Submitted to *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* on January 17, 2025.

Other Publications

- 2024 "It's time for the Catholic Church to return Indigenous land," *National Catholic Reporter*
<https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/viewpoints/its-time-catholic-church-return-indigenous-land>
- 2024 "Indigenous reactions mixed after US bishops' apology: 'They won't ever forget,'" *National Catholic Reporter*:
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/indigenous-reactions-mixed-after-us-bishops-apology-they-wont-ever-forget>
- 2024 "An Ethics of Accountability," *A Matter of Spirit*, Summer 2024.
https://issuu.com/ipjc/docs/an_ethics_of_accountability_by_elisha_chi?fr=sMDMxMTcwOTE5NzU
- 2023 "A Love Letter to My Aunties," *Political Theology Network*
<https://politicaltheology.com/educating-family-indigenous-and-catholic-political-formations/>
- 2023 "Decolonizing the Tabernacle" *Contending Modernities*
<https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/decolonizing-the-tabernacle/>
- 2023 "In repudiation of its devastating doctrine of discovery, Vatican masks the history and responsibility of the Catholic church," *Religion Dispatches*
<https://religiondispatches.org/in-repudiation-of-its-devastating-doctrine-of-discovery-vatican-masks-the-history-and-responsibility-of-catholic-church/>
- 2023 "Refusal" *Political Theology Network*
<https://politicaltheology.com/refusal/>

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- 2024 Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools Outstanding Dissertation Award: Nominee
- 2024-2025 Louisville Institute: Postdoctoral Fellow Semi-Finalist
- 2023-2024 Forum for Theological Exploration: Dissertation Fellowship for Students of Latino/a, Asian, and First Nations Descent
- 2023 Villanova Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship
- 2023-2024 Louisville Institute: Honorary Dissertation Fellow
- 2023-2024 APARRI, "Asia Pacific American Religions and Native North American Religions: A Dialogue on Spirituality, Land, and Food," Co-PI
- 2022-2023 Beringia Settlement Trust: Descendent Scholarship for registered descendants of the Bering Straits Native Corporation (also awarded in 2007 and 2009–2010)

2018 Rania and Nadim Muasher Endowed Fund Travel Grant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Haverford College, Department of Peace, Justice, and Human Rights

Spring 2023 Indigenous Sovereignty, Refusal, and Land/#landback (instructor)

Villanova University, Department of Theology and Religious Studies

Spring 2022 Faith, Reason, and Culture (instructor)

Spring 2016 Faith, Reason, and Culture (teaching assistant)

PRESENTATIONS

2025 "Refusing the Land/Soul Binary," Invited talk, *University of California Riverside, Religious Studies Department*, February 13, 2025

2025 "Theorizations of Indigenous Landback," (Panelist), Forthcoming, *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, annual conference, Santa Barbara, CA

2025 "Teaching Indigenous Religion Roundtable" Forthcoming, *Native American Indigenous Studies Association*, annual conference, Oklahoma City, OK

2024 "Teaching with Native American Religions for Social Justice: Indigenous Story," *American Academy of Religion* annual conference, San Diego, CA

2023 Roundtable discussion of Dana Lloyd's *Land Is Kin: Sovereignty, Religious Freedom, and Indigenous Sacred Sites*, Falvey Library, Villanova University

2023 "White Christian Desire for the Indigenous: Catholic Political Theology and Kateri Tekakwitha," *The Religious Origins of White Supremacy*, Syracuse University

2023 "Catholic Anthropologies and the Doctrine of Discovery: Gender and Land Dispossession," *American Academy of Religion* annual conference, San Antonio, TX

2023 "Indigenous Storytelling," Center for Political Theology, Villanova University

2023 "Indigenous Lands and Indigenous Bodies: A Catholic Political Theology of the Anthropocene," *Political Theology Network* annual conference, Philadelphia, PA

2022 "Decolonizing the Tabernacle: A Prescription for the Propagation of the Doctrine of #landback for the Catholic Church," *Defending the Land*, Villanova University

- 2019 “What is the Difference Between a Peacemaker and a Prophet,” *American Academy of Religion* Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, Princeton, NJ
- 2017 “Poetry and Paradox,” *Graduate Student Conference*, Villanova University

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2023 “Dwelling with Pedagogy: Religion, Ecology, and the Craft of Teaching,” *American Academy of Religion* (panel presider)
- 2021-2023 Assessment Committee, Villanova University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Graduate Student Representative
- 2022 Freedom School, Villanova University Center for Peace and Justice Education, co-presenter on Native American Boarding Schools
- 2022 Villanova University, co-organizer of campus-wide reading group on Native American Boarding Schools
- 2021 Political Theology Network Mentoring Initiative Webinar, moderator of panel on “Developing Inter- and Anti- Disciplinary Research Methods”
- 2015-2017 Women’s Group, Villanova University Department of Theology and Religious Studies, co-founder and Coordinator
- 2016 *CONCEPT: Villanova University Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, Peer Reviewer

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2023-2024 “Teaching Native American Religions for Social Justice,” Wabash Center, working group member
- 2023 Digital Scholarship Research Institute, TriCo Digital Scholarship Group, workshop participant
- 2022-2023 “Theories of Land,” Social Science Research Council, working group member
- 2019 Association for Clinical Pastoral Education: Level I, Lankenau Medical Center, Wynnewood, PA
- 2019 Eastern Mennonite University: Summer Peacebuilding Institute, Harrisonburg, VA
- 2017 “Indigenous Ways of Teaching and Learning,” Villanova University and Wabash Center, pedagogical workshop participant