OMEGA GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR RELIGION/SOCIETY STUDIES

Name	School/Advisor	Program	Year	Term
Sandra Anderson	Dr. David Ward Omega GS	PhD/DSL DSL	2024	Spring

LOC/UK RESEARCH TRIP INFO LITERACY/TOPIC FOCUS SELF-ASSESSMENT

©2024 Omega Graduate School, David Ward, DPhil, ThM

Because of the time/cost/commitment involved in a major research trip to a world-class research library, it is important to begin the journey by assessing your readiness to get the expert help you need to be successful. Be realistically honest about your progress and areas where you need to seek help. In addition to the 1 to 5 general stages of progress to mark below, compose <u>concise</u> additional descriptions to the strategic questions to contextualize your research for information experts. Make 1-page 2-sided copies to give experts as you begin a help-seeking encounter to orient them to provide the right help quickly. [*It is like a researcher's version of a healthcare provider's case history to start an appointment!*] 4

Information Literacy Research Skills

Feeling challenged: little knowledge or experience with finding research beyond Google	Basic familiarity with online library catalog searches and online databases	Some experience with Keyword Searching (Distinguish popular & scholarly sources)	Experienced with Keyword Searching (Can translate interests into & relevant topics)	Experienced Researcher (have done academic research successfully before)

What research skills do you need guidance about to move forward?

The skills I need guidance on is how to find and get access to the library's resources.

What information sources (subjects), research systems (physical collections, electronic databases, etc.), or topic experts (in person or virtual) do you need to locate and productively access to move forward? Provide succinct statements for each below.

Information sources (subjects):

Subject: Religious freedom, education, Establishment Clause, Violations of Establishment Clause with Celebrating Ramadan, Diwali

Research systems (physical collections, electronic databases, etc.):

Both

Topic experts (in person or virtual):

Degree of Research Focus

Need help identifying a specific research topic	Have research issue & study target population & goal for doing research	Have Research Problem & need to narrow topic & Research Purpose	Have written Research Prospectus & ID'd study participants	Already have specific research topic and want guidance

My Research Problem and/or Question is:

　　Most Christian educators working in public schools lack the skills necessary to teach in the light of the Kingdom and are unprepared for the challenges they face. Because most Christian educators are not trained on how to use their biblical influence, they are unaware of the impact that implementing biblical principles and reflecting God's character in their work may have on the Kingdom (Marker, 2020). Christians working in the public school system are often overwhelmed with the anti-Christian beliefs that are a part of the curriculum and culture. Most Christians in public schools are uninformed of their constitutionally protected rights to practice their religion. In addition, a lot of Christians feel alone in their schools and are unprepared for the hostile environment in public education, often feeling ostracized and abandoned (Marker, 2020).

Question: What is the best way to provide ongoing training and support through a faith-based support group to equip, empower, and encourage?

Explicit training on Establishment Clause / Free (Equitable) Access with after/before school clubs

Explicit training in Christian Educational organizations

Explicit training on the absolutes in the Word of God / Christian Worldview

Biblical Model: Danielle and his friends (Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego) in Babylon (Daniel 1)

My Research Purpose and/or Hypothesis is: Will participating in a faith-based support group have an impact on equipping, encouraging, and empowering believers to stay in public and secular education?

My research population: My research population included educators in public and secular schools, i.e. teachers, principals, professors, and state and central office administrators.

Topics I need to find research sources on for my Literature Review include:

Religious liberty, Educational trends, Education Support Groups, Religious freedom, adult learning, sociology theory/symbolic interactionism, Court Cases regarding education and parental rights, Atheist Influencers, Islam Influence and Practices in America and Europe/ Schools, Eastern Religious influence and practices in America and Europe/Schools, Syncretism, Nihilism, Faith-Learning Integration

Keywords related to my research include:
Public Schools, Establish Clause, Religion in public schools, separation of church and state, religious liberty, adult learning, parental rights

Seminal authors in my research area include:
Bourke, Robert, Slouching Towards Gomorrah (1996)
Chancey, M. A. (2020). The bible and the curriculum of american public schools (K–12) in the twenty-first century. *The Bible in the American Experience*, *2*, 189.
Frankfurter, D. (2021). Restoring "Syncretism" in the history of christianity. *Studies in Late Antiquity*, *5*(1), 128-138.
Meltzer, B., Petras, J., & Reynolds, L. (2020). *Symbolic interactionism (RLE Social Theory): Genesis, varieties and criticism*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003074311
Ravitch, D. (2020). *Slaying goliath: The passionate resistance to privatization and the fight to save America's public schools*. Vintage.
Reichard, J. D. (2024). Applied and clinical sociology: A christian perspective. *The*

Routledge International Handbook of Sociology and Christianity (pp. 369-379). Routledge.

Scimecca, J. A. (2023). *The not so outrageous idea of a christian sociology*. Taylor & Francis.

Treon, E. (2021). Religion in democracy: Can we succeed without the strict separation of church and state?.

Government policies and court cases pro and against

Bible student guides / Specifically Daniel and Babylon

Theoretical Frameworks or Models used to understand my research area include:

Herbert Blumer's three sociological premises

Pollack's Six Psychological Needs

I need to find Instruments that address the following issues or constructs:

Aggregate Observations of the group as a whole

Structure journal categories to observe or write about