

Acknowledgments

About midway through this project, one of my daughters was diagnosed with a terminal health condition. Through an extraordinary feat of intelligence and perseverance, my husband saved her life. This book is dedicated to him, with my eternal gratitude, and to both my daughters, with so much love.

Given the interdisciplinarity of this work, I find myself especially indebted to the work of other scholars, especially in the fields of history, political science, and sociology. Among scholars of evangelical environmentalism, I am particularly indebted to the work of Laurel Kearns, whose insightful analyses of evangelical environmentalism are an incomparable resource; Katharine Wilkinson, whose book *Between God and Green* went with me nearly everywhere; and Lydia Bean and Steve Teles, whose report “Spreading the Gospel of Climate Change” crystallized so much for me about the backlash against climate change activism within the evangelical world. I have found myself equally indebted to and absorbed by the work of historians, most especially Daniel K. Williams, Matthew Avery Sutton, and George Marsden. Within environmental studies, Kari Norgaard’s book *Living in Denial* vastly expanded my horizons when it came to understanding how the social world affects our conceptualization of climate change. It was an inspiration for everything I have subsequently written. From the world of sociology, Christian Smith and his colleagues’ book *American Evangelicals: Embattled and Thriving* was equally transformative, as the following pages make clear.

The process of book writing has immeasurably deepened my appreciation for these insightful and meticulous works, as well as the many others I have been fortunate to be able to draw upon.

I wish to thank the scholars who corresponded with me personally. I thank Jean Blocker, Matthew Sutton, Robert Booth Fowler, Mark Silk, David Hackett, and Jacob Mauslein for answering my questions about aspects of their research or expertise that intersected with my own. Mark Ward Sr. generously shared his immense knowledge of the evangelical mass media with me. Theo Calderara offered insightful comments early in the book's gestation.

I was also fortunate that a number of scholars read and critiqued various chapters. Mark Peterson waded through a much longer version of chapter 1 with good spirit. Jim Proctor pushed me to sharpen the argument in chapter 2. Michael McVicar provided eloquent and thought-provoking commentary on chapter 4. Dara Wald bravely tackled a fifty-page version of chapter 7. Laurel Kearns sharpened the argument in chapter 8 immeasurably. Chapters 1 through 3 are improved and, I hope, less repetitive thanks to Sarah Pike's editorial guidance. Rachel Globus, my literal better half in this regard, is responsible for any liveliness readers may detect in the opening pages of the introduction and for the epilogue's coherence. Lucas Johnston provided keen comments on aspects of how my work related to the wider field of religion and nature, as well as comments on the epilogue. Leah Sarat and Bernard Zaleha have been invaluable sounding boards at various stages of the research process. Darren Sherkat, Gordon Globus, and two anonymous reviewers shared detailed and immensely useful comments on the entire manuscript. To all of you, thank you. I hope someday I can return the favor.

Throughout my time in academia, Bron Taylor has been a champion, guide, mentor, and friend. I am so glad you persuaded me to study at the University of Florida. Thank you for the many ways you have helped me since then. In addition to reading my work in dissertation form, Katrina Schwartz encouraged me to get over my fear of book writing. I thank Ken Wald, David Hackett, and Charles Wood for their mentorship and invaluable advice at the dissertation stage. To my fellow graduate students at UF, thank you for your energy, insight, and support.

As for research assistance, I was incredibly fortunate to have Stephanie Koontz at my side as I conducted field research in Georgia. Natalie Whitis provided indispensable and astute assistance with media analysis when I was at Iowa State. I also thank Keiame Lee Chong and Manual Grajales for assistance once I moved to Texas A&M.

I could not have completed this book without the support of my wonderful colleagues at Iowa State University. I especially thank Heimir Geirsson, Hector Avalos, Rose Caraway, Anne Clifford, Christopher Chase, Travis Chilcott, Kate Padgett Walsh, Cullen Padgett Walsh, and Janet Kregel for providing a stimulating and collegial academic home.

Two fellowships were essential to the completion of this project. The Tedder Family Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Florida provided support at the dissertation stage. A research grant from the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities at Iowa State University also provided me with time to focus on turning the dissertation into a book manuscript.

In addition to family members already mentioned, I thank my mother, Maria Globus, for encouragement throughout the process, and James and Lorraine Veldman for countless hours of babysitting and for sharing your home with us so many times over the years. And Joseph, thanks for the many hours of conversation, debate, and editing. If you're not careful, I'll rope you into helping with the next book, too.

I thank Eric Schmidt, my editor at UC Press, for believing in this project and helping guide it to completion.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to the people I met in Georgia who generously shared their time and world with me, and to Jim Ball and Jonathan Merritt for permission to reprint "Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action" and "A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change."

Chapter 6 is a reprint of "What Is the Meaning of Greening? Cultural Analysis of a Southern Baptist Environmental Text," by Robin Globus Veldman. It was originally published in the *Journal of Contemporary Religion* issue 31, no. 2 (May 2016), and is reprinted here by permission of Taylor & Francis Ltd (<http://www.tandfonline.com>).

