

KATE MCCARTHY

Department of Comparative Religion and Humanities
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0740
kmccarthy@csuchico.edu
(530) 898-4485

EDUCATION

Graduate Theological Union, Ph.D. 1994

Harvard Divinity School, M.T.S. 1986

Colgate University, B.A. summa cum laude, English and Religion, 1984

EMPLOYMENT: California State University, Chico

Chair, Department of Comparative Religion and Humanities, since 2016

Professor of Comparative Religion, since 2006 (Assistant 1994-2000, Associate 2000-2006)

- Teaching assignments: Women and Religion; Christianity; Introduction to Religion; Religious Pluralism in America; Research Seminar in Women's Studies; Feminist Theory and Feminist Theology; Religion and Popular Culture

Interim Director of Faculty Development, 2014-2015

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University Study Abroad Consortium, Madrid, Spain

- Visiting Professor, Summer 2014: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Spain, an undergraduate religion course at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

OpenMinds, Chico, California

- Created and taught a yearlong multi-faith religious education program for Chico area teens, 2009-2010.

Dominican College of San Rafael, San Rafael, CA

- Lecturer, Fall 1993: Contemporary Liberation Theologies, an undergraduate religion course

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA

- Lecturer, Spring 1993: Liberation and Pluralism, a graduate seminar

Graduate Theological Union

- Teaching Assistant, Spring 1992: Twentieth Century Theology

University of California, Berkeley

- Teaching Assistant, Introduction to World Religions, 1990-1991, 1991-1992 (under Huston Smith)

CURRENT RESEARCH

"None, Both, and Maybe: How the Religiously Unaffiliated Are Reshaping Civic and Academic Approaches to Religious Diversity." Sabbatical research project, Spring 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture, Second Edition, co-edited with Eric Mazur. Routledge, 2010.

Interfaith Encounters in America. Rutgers University Press, 2007.

God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture, co-edited with Eric Mazur. Routledge, 2001.

Book Chapters:

"(Inter)Religious Studies: Making a Home in the Secular Academy," in *Toward a Field of Interfaith Studies*, ed. Eboo Patel, Jennifer Howe Peace, and Noah Silverman, Beacon Press, forthcoming.

"Not Pretty Girls? Sexuality, Spirituality, and Gender Construction in Women's Rock Music," in *Feminist Spirituality: The Next Generation*, ed. Chris Klassen. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009.

"Reckoning with Religious Difference: Models of Interreligious Moral Dialogue," in *Comparative Religious Ethics and Interreligious Dialogue*, ed. Bruce Grelle and Sumner B. Twiss, Westview Press, 1998.

Articles:

"Religious Prejudice." *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, ed. Vincent N. Parillo. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2008.

"Pluralist Family Values: Domestic Strategies for Living with Religious Difference," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 612, July 2007.

"Not Pretty Girls? Sexuality, Spirituality, and Gender Construction in 1990s Women's Rock Music," *Journal of Popular Culture* 39:1 (January 2006).

"Mary Daly." *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, ed. Bron R. Taylor. London: Thoemmes Continuum, 2005.

"Bruce Springsteen and the Myth of the American Promised Land," in *God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture*, ed. Eric Mazur and Kate McCarthy, Routledge, 2001.

"Conceiving the Undergraduate Women and Religion Course: Problems and Possibilities," *Religion & Education*, 24/2 (Fall 1997), 49-58.

"Women's Experience as a Hermeneutical Key to a Christian Theology of Religions," *Studies in Interreligious Dialogue*. 6/2, 1996, 163-173. Reprinted in Alan Race and Paul M. Hedges, eds., *Christian Approaches to Other Faiths*. London: SCM Press, 2009.

"Liberation in a Religiously Plural World: The Problem of Normative Claims in Latin American Liberation Theology," *Toronto Journal of Theology* 10/2, 1994, 197-213.

Recent Book Reviews:

Eboo Patel, *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer*. Reading Religion, American Academy of Religion online book review site, March 2017.

Elizabeth M. Bucar, *Creative Conformity: The Feminist Politics of U.S. Catholic and Iranian Shi'i Women*. *Religious Studies Review*. Volume 39, Issue 4, pages 247-248, December 2013.

CONFERENCE PAPERS and INVITED LECTURES

"Toward Core Competencies in Interfaith Studies," Plenary panelist, Interfaith Studies and Core Competencies conference, California Lutheran University, March 14, 2016.

- "American Religious Diversity: New Voices, New Directions," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Chico, CA, October 10, 2012.
- "New Media, Real World Research, and Student Engagement: Mapping Religious Diversity in the Northstate," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 19, 2011.
- "Being Interfaith Now: New Directions in American Religious Pluralism," Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, April 12, 2011.
- "Interfaith in America," California State University, Chico lecture series "Embedded Identities: Religions/Texts/Cultures," May 11, 2007.
- "Reading Religions in Global and Comparative Contexts: How, and More Importantly, Why?" Symposium on Shin Buddhism in Global and Comparative Perspectives, Colgate University, August 6, 2005.
- "Finding God at the Airport Mall: New Intersections of Religion and Popular Culture," Killeen Chair Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI, September 20, 2004.
- "Meeting the Other in Cyberspace: Online Interfaith Dialogue," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, November 25, 2002.
- "Academic, Activist, and Multicultural Women's Studies: An Integrated Program Model" (with Elizabeth Renfro and Molly Heck), National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, June 2, 2002.
- "Feminist Language Analysis in Religious Studies," Excellence in Learning and Teaching Conference, sponsored by The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, California State University, Chico, September 2001.
- "Deliver Me From Nowhere: Bruce Springsteen and the Myth of the American Promised Land," Joint Meeting of the American Culture Association and The Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA, April 12, 2000.
- "Her Life Was Saved By Rock and Roll: Spirituality, Sexuality and Gender Construction in Women's Rock Music," Joint Meeting of the American Culture Association and The Popular Culture Association, San Diego, CA, April 3, 1999.
- Commentary: "How Christianity Secures Life's Meaning," Chapman University Conference: The Meaning of Life in the World's Religions, Orange, California, April 4, 1997.
- "Casing the Promised Land: Rock & Roll and Redemption in American Popular Culture," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 25, 1996.
- "Asian Christians and the Search for a Global Theology," Colgate University Symposium: Learning from our Religious Pluralism, Hamilton, New York, October 18-20, 1996.
- "Assessing CommonSpace: Reflections on Collaborative Writing Technology," Excellence in Learning and Teaching Conference, sponsored by The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, California State University, Chico, September 1996.
- "Why Don't We Have a Course on Men and Religion?' Or the Perils and Possibilities of the Undergraduate Women and Religion Course," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November, 1995.
- "Women's Experience as a Hermeneutical Key to a Christian Theology of Pluralism," American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, Redlands, CA, March, 1995.
- "The Asian Christian Theological Contribution to the Search for a Global Ethos." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November, 1993.
- "Pluralism and Liberation: A Critical Conversation for Global Theology." Second International East Meets West Conference in Cross-Cultural Communication, Comparative Philosophy and Comparative Religion, Long Beach, CA, April, 1993.

"Liberation in a Religiously Plural World: The Problem of Normative Claims in Latin American Liberation Theology." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO, November, 1991.

"A Critique of Emptiness from the Margins." Women and Buddhism Panel, American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA, March, 1990.

"How Shall We Sing the Lord's Song in a Foreign Land?' Reflections on Religion and Culture." Samaritan Lay Missioners Orientation Program, Philadelphia, PA, August, 1987.

MEDIA

"Popular Culture Studies and Bruce Springsteen: Embracing and Escaping Religion," interview on The Religious Studies Project Podcast, March 7, 2016.
<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/popular-culture-studies-and-bruce-springsteen-escaping-and-embracing-religion/>

Featured expert in Carey Wallace, "How to Talk to Your Kids about other Religions," *Time* online. September 28, 2015. <http://time.com/4052046/how-to-talk-about-other-religious-traditions-to-your-kids/>

RECENT GRANTS

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, CSU, Chico, \$5000. Interdisciplinary Faculty Learning Community to develop classroom resources for a certificate in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations. Fall 2015.

Teagle Foundation, \$8000. Faculty Learning Community to support the development of a proposal for a course sequence in Interreligious Studies. AY 2014-15.

National Endowment for the Humanities, \$99,450 (Co-Director with Vincent Biondo, CSU, Fresno). "The California Pluralism Project: A Digital Humanities Archive to Bridge Cultures." Development of an online "Religions in California" college readiness course and additional online resources for California high school teachers and students, 2014-16.

Wabash Center, \$14,984 (Co-Director). "California Local Religion Projects: When the Community is the Classroom," a conference of California religion scholars at CSU, Chico, September 21-22, 2012.

American Academy of Religion (AAR) Regional Grant, \$4000, Director. "World Religions in California Contexts," a two-day workshop for AAR Western Region members to draft the plan for a set of online resources for K-12 educators and others on religious communities in California.

CSU, Chico Student Learning Fee award, \$2,525. Digital Media Lab for the Humanities to support student media production in comparative religion and other humanities disciplines. Fall 2012.

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, CSU, Chico, \$4,900. Faculty Learning Community to develop high impact learning experiences in the Diversity Studies Pathway, Spring 2012.

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, CSU, Chico, \$3000. Faculty Learning Community to develop the Center for the Public Understanding of Religion. Summer 2011.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

"Towards a Field of Interfaith Studies," New York University, January 22-25, 2014. Faculty seminar on teaching interfaith understanding sponsored by Interfaith Youth Core and the Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership.

Interfaith Leadership Institute, Chicago, IL, June 18-21, 2012. Intensive training for student interfaith leaders and faculty/staff allies sponsored by the Interfaith Youth Core.

Diversity Academy, CSU, Chico, July 2011

Academy e-Learning, CSU, Chico, July 2010.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Maggie Award for lifetime achievement, California State University, Chico Women's Center, 2009.

Maggie Award for outstanding woman faculty member, California State University, Chico Women's Center, 2002

Kathleen Gregory Klein Award for best unpublished work in gender and popular culture, 2000

Master Teacher, California State University, Chico, 1999-2001

Presidential Fellowship, Graduate Theological Union, 1988-90

First Prize, AAR Student Paper Competition, Graduate Theological Union, 1991, 1993

Harvard Divinity School Scholarship, 1984-86

Phi Beta Kappa

RECENT CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS

"Making Space for Religious Identity, Difference, and Change." Workshop for EOP staff, CSU, Chico. April 25, 2016.

"Our Religious Heritages: Gifts or Burdens?" Workshop for 17th Annual Women's Conference, CSU, Chico Gender and Sexuality Equity Center. November 8, 2015.

Over 50 additional presentations at CSU, Chico and in the Chico area community since 1995. Details available on request.

CSU, CHICO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

For the Comparative Religion and Humanities Department:

- Chair, 2016-present
- Personnel Committee, 2000-present
- Curriculum Committee 2005-present
- Student Advisor, 1999-present
- Scholarship Committee Chair, 1995-2013
- Affirmative Action Liaison, 1994-2000
- Advisor, Religious Studies Student Society, 1994-1997
- Library Chair, 1994-1995, 1995-1996

For the Multicultural and Gender Studies Program (Affiliate Faculty since 2000)

- Curriculum Committee, 2000-present (Chair 2015-16)
- Assessment Committee, 2000-present (chair 2015-16)
- Personnel Committee, 2000-present
- Women's Studies Program Coordinator, 1999-2009

For the College of Humanities and Fine Arts:

- Keynote Speaker for HFA Symposium, 2014

- Personnel Committee, 2007-2009, 2012-2014
- Faculty Leaves Committee, 2001-2003
- Scholarship Committee, 1997-1999; 2007-2009

For the Office of Diversity and Inclusion:

- “Religious Diversity” session for the Student Employee Diversity Training held each semester, since 2013.
- “What’s Different about Religious Diversity?” 3-hour workshop for the Diversity Certificate Program, summer 2012, spring 2013, 2014, 2015.
- Conversations on Diversity Planning Committee, 2004-present

For the University:

- Interim Director of Faculty Development, 2014-2015 (full time, 12-month appointment)
 - Directed Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (annual conference, grants, workshops and trainings, faculty write/work space, pedagogical consultation, awards)
 - Directed planning and implementation of Academy e-Learning summer institute
 - Served as Campus Coordinator of Chancellor’s Office Course Redesign programs (secured \$180,000 in campus grants)
 - Redesigned and facilitated New Faculty Orientation for tenure track faculty
 - Created and facilitated new Lecturer Orientation program for part time faculty
 - Created and facilitated mentoring programs for tenure track and temporary faculty
 - Created and facilitated Women’s Leadership Roundtable series
 - Worked with AVP for Faculty Affairs to develop mission and vision for a new Faculty Development program, including organizational infrastructure, programming, and space planning.
- Curriculum Advisory Board, 2012-present
 - Chair, 2012-2014
 - Critical Thinking Assessment committee chair 2015-16
- Diversity Studies Pathway Coordinator, 2011-present
- Faculty Recognition and Support Committee, 2014-2015, 2016-2018
- Academic Assessment Committee, 2014-2015
- Advisor, Religious Diversity Association, 2012-present
- General Education Implementation Team, 2010-2012
- Upper Division Theme O (Women’s issues) Coordinator, 2004-2012
- Research and Sponsored Programs Committee 2002-2007
- Advisory Board member, AS Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (formerly Women’s Center), 2003-present
 - Offer “Feminist Perspectives” workshop for GSEC Interns, every semester since 2013.
- GE Program-level Writing Assessment (essay reader), spring 2006
- University Affirmative Action Committee member, 2001-2006
- Minority Recruitment and Retention Task Force 2004-2005
- Co-founder and planning committee member, The Red Tent: A Gathering of Women, annual campus and community event for women, 2003-2010
- Master Teacher, 1999-2001
- Advisor, Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, 1996-2001
- Writing Effectiveness Screening Test Reader, 1994-1999

- Faculty Marshal, University Commencement Ceremony, 1995, 1996

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

External Reviewer, San Jose State University General Education program, April 13-14, 2017

Co-director (with Vincent Biondo, CSU, Fresno), California Pluralism Project, 2014-2017

(www.californiapluralism.org), a non-profit, nonpartisan educational resource for teaching about California's religious and ethnic diversity to engage students, improve literacy, and foster civic participation.

Consultant, TCI Publishing. Reviewed chapters for middle school social studies text, *History Alive: The Ancient World*, December 2015.

Consultant, W.W. Norton and Co., Publishers. Reviewed proposal and development of introductory religion textbook by Stephen Prothero, including face-to-face meetings November 2011 and November 2014.

Subject Matter Expert, Global Z Recording Project (<http://www.globalzrecording.org/our-people/>)

Organizer (with Micki Lennon), "When the Community is the Classroom: California Local Religion Projects," conference for California religion scholars held at CSU, Chico, September 21-22, 2010.

Consultant, ACLU Religious Freedom and Reproductive Justice Convening, Sacramento, California, August, 2009.

Masters thesis committee, Maureen Day, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Spring 2005.

Manuscript review: Tamara Agha Jaffar, *Women and Goddesses in Myth and Sacred Text* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2005).

Manuscript Review: Robin Sylvan. *Traces of the Spirit: Religious Dimensions of Popular Music*. (New York: New York University Press, 2002).

Manuscript Review: Brian Wilson, *Christianity*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Inspire School of Arts and Sciences, Board of Directors, 2016-present

Chico Area Interfaith Council, Member since 2004

Celebration of Abraham, a committee of the Chico Area Interfaith Council (help plan and regularly serve as a speaker/facilitator at Annual Dinner promoting understanding among local Jews, Christians, and Muslims), Member 2004-2009.

Fifth Street Neighbors, a community group that prepares and serves a monthly meal at the Torres Community Shelter, founder and organizer, 2007-present

Chico Country Day School

Board of Directors, 2010-2012

WASC accreditation team (parent representative), 2009-2010

Strategic Planning Committee, 2004-2005

St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center

Lector and Sunday School Teacher, 2003-2007

Habitat for Humanity of Chico, Board of Directors, 1996-2001

Harvard-Radcliffe Alumni Admissions Council of Sacramento, Admissions Interviewer, 1996-1999

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

National Women's Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of Greek, French, German, Spanish

REFERENCES

Wenshu Lee, Assistant Vice President for Faculty Affairs
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0120

Jed Wyrick
Department of Comparative Religion and Humanities
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0740

Joel Zimbelman
Department of Comparative Religion and Humanities
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0740

Huston Smith
Professor of Religion Emeritus
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720