

KATE McCARTHY

Department of Religious Studies
California State University, Chico
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EDUCATION

Graduate Theological Union, Ph.D. 1994

Dissertation: "Pluralism and Liberation: A Critical-Constructive Conversation for Postmodern Christian Theology"

Harvard Divinity School, M.T.S. 1986

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

AREAS OF TEACHING INTEREST

Primary: Modern and Contemporary Christian Thought; Liberation Theologies; Feminist Theologies; Religious Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue; Women and Religion

Secondary: Introduction to Religion; Western Religious Traditions; Religion and Popular Culture; Feminist Theory

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, California State University, Chico. since 1999.
(Assistant Professor, 1994-99)

Current and recent teaching assignments: Women and Religion; Christianity; Religion and Popular Culture; Research Seminar in Women's Studies; Feminist Theory and Feminist Theology; Introduction to Religious Studies; Religions of Western Civilizations; Third World Liberation Theologies

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Domincan College of San Rafael, San Rafael, CA

Lecturer, Fall, 1993: Contemporary Christian 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

Assistant to the Convener, Area III (Systematic and Philosophical Theology), 1991-93

University of California, Berkeley

Reader, Introduction to World Religions, 1990- 1992 (under Huston Smith)

Reader, Methods in the Study of Religion, Spring, 1992 (under Nancy Martin)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Kathleen Gregory Klein Award for best unpublished work in gender and popular culture, 2000

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

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

Faculty Development Award, California State University, Chico, 1997-98

Presidential Fellowship, Graduate Theological Union, 1988-90

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

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

Harvard Divinity School Scholarship, 1984-86

Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

"Not Pretty Girls? Sexuality, Spirituality, and Gender Construction in 1990s Women's Rock Music," forthcoming in the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

"Mary Daly." Entry in *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, Ed. Bron R. Taylor. London: Thoemmes Continuum, 2005.

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

"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.

"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.

"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.

"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.

Book review: Elsa Tamez, *Against Machismo*. *Pacific Theological Review*, Fall and Spring, 1990, Volume XXIII, 101-103.

CONFERENCE PAPERS and INVITED LECTURES

“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, Wisconsin, 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.

GUEST LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS

At California State University, Chico:

Facilitator, "You Just Don't Get [My] Religion," Conversation on Diversity, sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies, March 9, 2004.

Panelist, "Things Were Fine Until the Women Took Over," Conversation on Diversity, sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies, November 11, 2004

"Elegant Acts of Insurrection," Maggie Awards Keynote Address, May 1, 2003.

"Mothers, Sisters, Daughters," Keynote Address, Red Tent, April 25, 2003

"Sensuous Spirituality: Reconnecting Body and Soul," Fifth Annual Women's Center Conference, April 12, 2003.

"Thinking about Religious Diversity," Wellness Center Forum, October 28, 2002.

"The 'Problem' of Women in Christianity," RS 132, December 6, 2001

"Beyond the Veil: Women and Islam," RISE Institute, December 5, 2001

"Bruce Springsteen and the Soul of America," AMST 50, October 12, 2001

"Notes on Religion and Popular Culture," RS 170, February 20, 2001,(repeated February 25, 2002)

"In the World *and* Of It: Understanding Roman Catholicism, RISE Institute, February 2, 2001

"Religious Studies Meets Popular Culture: Rock Music and American Spirituality," AMST 50, September 14, 2000

- “Conflict and Continuity in Christianity,” RISE Institute, March 10-11, 2000
- “Feminist Pedagogy/Feminist Methodology/Feminist Study,” Fifth Annual Conference on Learning and Teaching, with Carol Burr and Elizabeth Renfro), September 24, 1999
- “Religion and Politics: Peeling Back Veils,” International Forum, March 9, 1999.
- “Giving as Good as We Get: A Women’s Spirituality Potlatch,” CSUC Women’s Center Conference Workshop, March 7, 1999
- “Religious and Feminist Perspectives on Assisted Reproductive Technologies,” Center for Applied and Professional Ethics Forum, March 3, 1999.
- “Interreligious Dialogue and Conflict Resolution,” International Forum, November 10, 1998.
- “The Women/Nature/Religion Connection,” Environmental Affairs Council, May 5, 1998.
- “Women’s Spiritual Empowerment,” Women’s Center Conference Workshop, March 15, 1998.
- “Reckoning with Religious Difference: Global Ethics and Interreligious Dialogue,” RS 148, September 2, 1997.
- “The Virgin of Guadalupe: De- and Re-Constructing a Religious Symbol,” WMST 10, May 9, 1997
- “Sacred Space and Popular Culture: Bruce Springsteen and the Myth of the American Promised Land,” RS 10, April 21, 1997
- “Memory and the McDonalidization of Culture,” Keynote address, College of Humanities and Fine Arts Symposium, April 10, 1997.
- “Women’s Spiritual Empowerment,” Wellness Center Workshop, April 9, 1997.
- “Women in American Religious History,” RS 146, February 10, 1997.
- “Myth, History and *Jesus Christ Superstar*,” Presentation to CSUC Freshman Honors Forum, Dr. Sally McNall, September 11, 1996
- “Issues in Jewish Feminism,” RS 130, May 9, 1996
- “What Is Religious Studies?” “Shadow Day” Presentation to regional migrant high school students, February 29, 1996
- “Women and Spirituality,” CSU Chico Women’s Faculty Association, May 12, 1995
- “Dimensions of the Spiritual Quest,” Campus Wellness Center, May 1, 1995
- “The Theological Problem of Religious Pluralism,” guest lectures in RS 190, Methods in the Study of Religion, Dr. Bruce Grelle, April 28, 1995, April 22 and 24, 1996
- “In the Game But Not of It: Athletics and the Judeo-Christian Tradition,” guest lecture in PHED 147, Sports, Games and Play in Socio-Cultural Perspective, Dr. Don Chu, March 15, 1995
- “Exploring Religious Prejudice” Council on Lifestyles and Diversity, Lassen Hall, November 15, 1995

In the Chico Area Community:

- “Feminist Theology: Resources and Challenges for a Whole Church.” First Congregational Church of Chico, April 28, 2005
- “Dialogue for a Dark Time.” United Methodist Women Annual Meeting, Chico, March 8, 2005.
- “*The DaVinci Code*: Facts, Fictions and the Differences They Make,” Redding Record Searchlight Book Club, January 19 (repeated for overflow crowd February 19), 2004.

“The Passion and Death of Christ,” Good Friday Ecumenical Service, St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Catholic Community, April 9, 2004.
“Mothers and their Boys: The Work of Incarnation,” guest sermon, First Baptist Church of Chico, December 28, 2003.
“Christian Feminism: Concerns, Response, Challenge,” Faith Lutheran Adult Christian Education, April 7, 2002
“The Protestant Reformation,” Spiritual Enrichment Center, March 20, 2002
“Women, Islam, and Cross-Cultural (Mis-) Perception,” Caribou Women’s Organization, February 27, 2002
“In the Beginning Was the Goddess: Female Symbols and the Origins of Religion,” Faith Lutheran Sunday School program, November 4, 2001
“Bits and Pieces: The Radical Patchwork of Feminist Spirituality,” Yuba College Re-Entry Center, October 14, 2000
“Jubilee 2000: Season of Hope?” Newman Center, Chico, October 11, 1999
“Faith in the Body,” guest sermon, Congregational Church of Chico, June 6, 1999.
“Spirituality from the Bottom Up: Poor Women Re-inventing Religion,” Yuba Community College, March 18, 1998.
“The Elusiveness of Jesus,” guest sermon, Congregational Church of Chico, June 28, 1998.
“Why Do Women Hate ‘Religion,’ But Love ‘Spirituality?’” Unitarian Fellowship of Chico, March 17, 1996
“The Genealogy of Christmas,” Paradise Genealogical Society, December 15, 1994.

CSU, CHICO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

For the Religious Studies Department:

Student Advisor, 1999-present
Personnel Committee, 2000-present
Advisor, Religious Studies Student Society, 1994-1997
Library Chair, 1994-95, 1995-96
Scholarship Committee Chair, 1995-present
Affirmative Action Liaison, 1994-present

For the College of Humanities and Fine Arts:

Faculty Leaves Committee member, 2001-03
Scholarship Committee 1997-99

For the University:

Theme O Coordinator, 2004-present
Research and Sponsored Programs Committee 2002-05
University Affirmative Action Committee member, 2001-06
Minority Recruitment and Retention Task Force 2004-05
Co-founder, Red Tent: A Gathering of Women, semi-annual campus and community event for women, since Spring 2003
Master Teacher, 1999-2001
Chair, Women’s Studies Advisory Committee, 1996-present
Advisor, Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, 1996-2001
Member, Faculty Focus Group, WASC Accreditation Visit, March, 1996
Writing Effectiveness Screening Test Reader, 1994-99

Faculty Marshal, University Commencement Ceremony, 1995, 1996

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Manuscript review: Tamara Ahga 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

Lector, St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, 2003-present

Member Strategic Planning Committee, Chico Country Day School, 2004-present

Member, Celebration of Abraham planning committee, 2004-present

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

Interviewer, Harvard-Radcliffe Alumni Admissions Council of Sacramento, 1996-99

Conversation Leader, "The American Dream: Unity in Diversity," Community Conversation Series sponsored by Butte College, CSU, Chico and numerous community organizations. Funded in part through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

National Women's Studies Association

Popular Culture Association

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of Greek, French, German, Spanish

REFERENCES

Joel Zimbelman, Chair
Department of Religious Studies
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0740

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

Claude Welch, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Historical Theology
Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709