

Sarah M. Pike
Department of Religious Studies
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0740
530-898-6341

WORK EXPERIENCE

July 2001-present: Associate Professor. Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Chico, Chico, CA.

August 1996-June 2001: Assistant Professor. Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Chico, Chico, CA

August 1995-August 1996: Visiting Instructor. Department of Religious Studies, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.

August 1987-May 1995: Associate Instructor. Department of Religious Studies and Women's Studies Program, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

EDUCATION

Ph. D., (with distinction) Religious Studies, Indiana University (Ph. D. minor, Women's Studies), 1998

M. A., Religious Studies, Indiana University, 1989

B. A., cum laude, Religion, Duke University, 1983

COURSES TAUGHT

Religion and America's Ethnic Minorities; American Indian Worldviews; Religion in America; Introduction to Religious Studies; Religion, Nature and Environmentalism in America; A History of Magic; Gender, Family and God; Religion and Culture: Sacred Time and Space; Women and Religion; "Cults" and New Religions; The End of the World; Introduction to Women's Studies; Witches, Seers and Saints.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

New Age and Neopagan Religions in America. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.

"No Novenas for the Dead: Ritual Action and Communal Memory at the Temple of Tears," in *Afterburn: Reflections on Burning Man*, edited by Lee Gilmore and Mark Van Proyen. University of New Mexico Press, forthcoming, 2004.

Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves: Contemporary Pagans and The Search for Community. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2001.

"Desert Goddesses and Apocalyptic Art; Making Sacred Space at the Burning Man Festival" in *God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture*, edited by Katherine McCarthy and Eric Mazur. New York: Routledge, Inc., 2001.

"Neopaganism" and "Neopagan Rites" in *The Encyclopedia of Religion, Second Edition*. New York: Macmillan Publishing, forthcoming 2004.

"Burning Man" and "Pagan Festivals" in *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, edited by Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan. Continuum International, forthcoming 2003.

"New Age" in the *Encyclopedia of Religion and American Culture*, edited by Gary Laderman and Luis Leon. Santa Barbara and Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2002.

"Neopaganism" in *The Encyclopedia of Religion in the South*, 2nd edition, edited by Samuel S. Hill and Charles H. Lippy. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2001.

"Apocalypticism," "Psychic" and "Dowsing" in *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religion*, edited by Wade Clark Roof. New York: Macmillan, 2000.

"A Perspective From Religious Studies" in *Bioethics Bulletin*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Winter 1997).

"Rationalizing the Margins: A Review of Scholarly Research on Neo-Paganism," and "Forging Magical Selves: Gendered Bodies and Ritual Fires at Neo-Pagan Festivals," in *Magical Religion and Modern Witchcraft*, ed. James R. Lewis (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1996).

Review of *Magic, Witchcraft and the Otherworld*, by Susan Greenwood (Oxford and New York: Berg, 2000), in *Culture and Religion*, forthcoming December 2002.

Review of *Ecofeminism As Politics: Nature, Marx and the Postmodern* by Ariel Salleh (London: Zed Books, 1997) in *Nova Religio* (Fall 1998).

Review of *AIDs As an Apocalyptic Metaphor in North America*, by Susan Palmer (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997), in *Nova Religio* (Summer 1998)

Review of *Ecological Resistance Movements: The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism*, by Bron Taylor in *The Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence* (Summer 1998).

Review of *Out in the Field: Reflections of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists*, eds. Ellen Lewin and William L. Leap (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1996), in the *Journal of American Folklore* (Spring 1997).

Review of *The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), in *Religious Studies Review* (Summer 1995)

PRESENTATIONS

Respondent and Presider. "Violating America: Murder and Identity in Modern U. S. Culture and Fiction" at the American Studies Association, 2003 Annual Meeting, Hartford, CT.

"No Novenas For the Dead: Public Rites of Mourning and the Burning Man Festival" in a panel session on "Ritual, Representation and Media in Public" at the American Academy of Religion 2002 Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada

"Spirituality in American Teenagers" at the 2002 Religious Studies in Secondary Education conference in Toronto, Canada

"Ethnographic research and *Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves*," at Princeton University (January 2002)

"After Columbine: Demonic Teens on the Internet, God's Martyrs in the Headlines," in the Religion and Popular Culture Group at the American Academy of Religion, 2001 Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

"Dark Spaces of Consumption: Adolescents and Religion on the Internet," in a session on "Scapes of Technology, Techniques of Space" at the American Anthropological Association, 2000 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA

"Infected By the Devil and Consumed By Darkness: Images of Adolescents in Contemporary America" in a session on "Suffering Childhood in America" at the American Studies Association, 2000 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

Invited panel member, Lilly Endowment Consultation on Children and Religion, Sessions Two and Three, Indianapolis, IN (March and May 2000)

"Sacred Time and Virtual Space at the Burning Man Festival" in a session on "Constructing Identity and Community in Time and Cyberspace" at the American Anthropological Association, 1999 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

"Children of the Devil or Gifted in Magic? The Work of Memory in Neopagan Narrative" for the Nature Religions Scholars Network, American Academy of Religion, 1999 Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

"Dark Teens and the Academic Study of Adolescents" presented at the Lilly Endowment Consultation on Children and Religion, Session One, Indianapolis, IN, October 1999.

"Sacred Space and Apocalyptic Art at the Burning Man Festival" for the Religious Studies Department at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, November 1999.

Organized and presided on panel, "'Nature Religion' as a Theoretical Construct," joint session of the New Religious Movements Group and the Comparative Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, 1998 Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.

"Playing With the Female Body: Art, Eroticism and Religion," California State University, Chico Women's Center conference, "Women's Lives: Past, Present, and Future" (Spring 1998)

"Lived Experience and the Seduction of Stories," Keynote Address, College of Humanities and Fine Arts Student Symposium (Spring 1998)

"Evil in Your Back Yard: Strange Cults and America's Struggle With Religious Diversity," for lecture series "Conversations on Diversity," sponsored by California State University Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies (Fall 1997)

"Blood That Matters: Neo-Pagan Borrowers and Native American Others," Humanities Lecture Series, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT (Spring 1997)

"Forging Magical Selves: Gendered Bodies and Ritual Fires at Neo-Pagan Festivals" presented in the New Religious Movements Group, American Academy of Religion, 1993 Annual Meeting, Washington D. C.

"Reinventing the Female Body: 'Sex Magic' in Contemporary Goddess Religion" presented in the Gender and Religion Section, American Folklore Society, 1992 Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, Florida.

"Like Lambs to the Slaughter: Christian Fundamentalism, New Age Religion and the Purity of Children" presented in the North American Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, 1992 Annual Meeting, San Francisco.

GUEST LECTURES AND CAMPUS-WIDE PANELS AT CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY, CHICO

"Tolkien and Contemporary Paganism" for RS 144, "Religious Dimensions of Literature"

Panel member, Center for Applied and Professional Ethics Forum on "Evil" (Spring 2002)

Panel member, Environmental Affairs Council panel on "Religion and the Environment" (April 2001)

Moderator for "Religions of the Great Basin," for the Anthropology Forum (Spring 2001)

"After Columbine: Christian Martyrs in the Headlines, Demonic Teens on the Internet" for the Anthropology Forum (Fall 2001)

"Contemporary Religious Festivals" for RS 10, "Introduction to Religious Studies" (Spring 2000)

"Contemporary Paganism" for Multicultural and Gender Studies 198, "Research Seminar" (Fall 1999)

"Contemporary Paganism" for Anthropology 40, "Magic, Witchcraft and Religion" (Spring 1998)

"Education and American Indians" for RS 210, "Teaching About Religions in American Public Schools" (Spring 1998)

"The Religious World of Mexican-Americans" for RS 210, "Teaching About Religions in American Public Schools" (Spring 1998)

"Participant Observation and Ethnographic Methods for the Study of Religion" for RS 190, "Methods in the Study of Religion" (Spring 1997)

'Ethnographic Research Methods' for WST 290, 'Research Seminar in Women's Studies' (Spring 1997)

'Serious Playing With the Self: Gender and Body Art at Contemporary Pagan Festivals' for the Anthropology Forum (Spring 1997)

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Summer 2004 CSU Research Grant (\$10,000) for research project, 'Dark Teens: Adolescents on the Margins of American Culture.'

Fall 2002 Sabbatical leave for one semester to complete book manuscript, *New Age and Neopagan Religions in America*.

Summer 2001 Summer Scholars Grant (\$4000) for 'Dark Teens: Adolescents on the Margins of American Culture'

Fall 2000 Faculty Development Grant for one course release time from California State University, Chico to work on book project 'Dark Teens: Adolescents on the Margins of American Culture'

Summer 1999 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (\$4000) for research project, 'Dark Teens: Adolescents on the Margins of American Culture'

January-May 1999 California State University, Chico Research Grant of a full semester release from teaching to finish *Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves: Contemporary Pagans and The Search for Community*.

January-August 1999 American Academy of Religion Individual Research Grant (\$2000) to aid in publication of *Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves*.

August 1998-December 1998 Faculty Development Grant for one course release time from California State University, Chico.

June 1997-August 1997 Summer Scholars Grant (\$3500) for *Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves* from California State University, Chico.

SELECTED SERVICE ACTIVITIES AT CSU, CHICO

Faculty Advisor for Honor's project on 'Rastafarianism and White Reggae Fans' (2003-2004)

Faculty Advisor for Master's thesis on "Traditional Maidu Spirituality and Foresty Practices" (2003-2004).

Member, Research, Tenure and Promotion (RTP) Departmental Committee (2002-2004)

Board member, Humanities Center (1999-2004). Organized series of faculty colloquia and reading groups, obtained funding and planned visits of scholars including Richard Rorty, Russell Jacoby, Susan Haack and Roger Shattuck.

Member, Committee of Arts and Lectures (1999-2003). Screened proposals and funded visiting lecturers and performers.

Member, Women's Center Advisory Board (2000-2002) Advised and supported student organization in running internships and planning workshops and conferences.

Member, American Studies Program Committee (1999-2002). Worked on curriculum, program requirements, and evaluation of program.

Keynote speaker for the California State University, Chico Student Affairs Council conference on "The Millennials"

Faculty Advisor for the Summer Orientation Program (2002)

Moderator, "Women's Journeys" for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Symposium (2001)

Library: Religious Studies Book Chair (1998-2000)

Member, Women's Studies Advisory Committee (1998-2000)

Member, Search Committee for Islam and East Asian Religions positions (2001-2002)

Member, Search Committee for East Asian Religions position (2000-2001)

Judge, Jen O'Hare Women's Studies Scholarship (2000-2003)

Affirmative Action Liaison Officer on the Search Committee for Religion and Society position (1999-2000)

Participated in Upper Division Theme A, "American Identities and Cultures," Fall 1996-Fall 2003

Participated in development of new Upper Division Theme, "Catastrophes and Humanity" (1998-1999)

Faculty panel member for student taught course, Multicultural and Gender Studies 198C: Woman/Goddess/Nature (2000).

Co-coordinator of bimonthly series, "Conversations on Diversity," sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies (1997-1999)

College of Humanities and Fine Arts Representative, University Affirmative Action Committee (1998-1999)

Faculty Advisor, American Indian Club (1998)

Co-facilitator, "Religion and the Performance of Gender" reading group (Fall 1998) offered as part of the "Gender As Performance" conference.

Committee Member, Senior Honor's Thesis, 1998-99.

Committee Member, Senior Honor's Thesis, 1996-97.

Faculty mentor, "Getting Connected" for new students

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair, New Religious Movements Group, American Academy of Religion (beginning December 2002)

Member, American Academy of Religion's Committee for the Public Understanding of Religion (2003-2005)

Outside Doctoral Committee Member for Lee Gilmore, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.

Member, editorial board, *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* (Continuum International, forthcoming 2004).

Reviewed manuscript, "Neopaganism in the United States," by George Lundskow for Greenwood/Praeger (February 2002)

Member, Organizing Committee for the Nature Religions Consultation (American Academy of Religion, 1998-2000).

Reviewed manuscript, "Understanding Paganism," by Michael York for New York University Press (Summer 2001).

Reviewed book proposal, "Sex and Religion," for Wadsworth Publishing (October, 2000).

Reviewed manuscript, "Spiritual But Not Religious: Understanding Unchurched America," by Robert C. Fuller for Columbia University Press (September 2000).

Reviewed manuscript, "One Nation under Many Gods," for Wadsworth Publishing (1998)

Member of the following professional societies: American Academy of Religion, American Anthropological Association, American Studies Association.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Presentations on "New Religions" and "Pagan Festivals" for the World Religions class at Trinity United Methodist Church, Chico (Spring 2002)

Expert witness on "contemporary spirituality" for Black Rock City LLC dba Burning Man v. Voyeur Video, Inc.

Presentation on "What New Religious Movements Indicate for the New Millennium," at the Unitarian Fellowship of Chico (January 23, 2000)

Member, Chico High West Parent Advisory Board Committee on Community Service (2000).

Presentation on "Native Americans and European Colonialism" for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at Hooker Oak Elementary School, Chico, CA (Spring 2000)

Panelist for "The Anthropologists Talk Back," a session organized by CSU, Northridge folklorist Sabina Magliocco at New Age conference "Panttheon," San Francisco, CA, February 1999.

Presentation on "Why Are There So Many Religions in America?" at the Unitarian Fellowship of Chico, February 1999.

Presentation on "Pueblo Indians on the Rio Grande," "Big Rivers" Institute for public school teachers (1998)

Fundraiser for Chico Youth Soccer League (1996--2001).