

Judith Weisenfeld

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Princeton University, Religion, 1992
M.A. Princeton University, Religion, 1990
A.B. Barnard College, Religion, *cum laude*, 1986

EMPLOYMENT

Academic Appointments

Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion, Princeton University (2014-present)

Associated Faculty, Department of African American Studies
Associated Faculty, Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies

Professor, Department of Religion, Princeton University (2007-2014)

Associate Faculty, Center for African American Studies

Professor of Religion on the William R. Kenan, Jr. Chair, Department of Religion, Vassar College
(2006-2007)

Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Vassar College (2000-2006)

Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Barnard College, Columbia University (1991-2000)
Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University (1996-2000)

Visiting Academic Appointments

Adjunct Assistant Professor of American Religious Studies, Union Theological Seminary (1998-2000)

Lecturer in Church History, Union Theological Seminary (Spring 1998)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

Graduate Mentoring Award, Princeton University (2020)

Elected Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2019)

Elected Fellow, Society of American Historians (2019)

National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship (2018-2019)

Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer (2016-2019)

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (2014-2015)

National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship (2010-2011)

Vassar College Faculty Research Grant, Brink Fund (2006)

Vassar College Faculty Research Grant, Dean's Fund (2005)

American Academy of Religion, Collaborative Research Grant (2005) for *Catholics in the Movies*, Colleen McDannell, Project Director

Emory University, MARBL (Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library) Research Grant (2003)

Faculty Research Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale (2000-2001)

Visiting Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale (1999-2000)

American Academy of Religion, Individual Research Grant (2000) for *The North Star: A Journal of African American Religious History*

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (1997)

The Material History of American Religion Project, Funded by the Lilly Endowment (1996-1999)

Barnard College Faculty Research Grant (1996) for *The North Star: A Journal of African American Religious History*

Ann Whitney Olin Junior Faculty Fellow, Barnard College (1993-1996)

The Fund for Theological Education Black Doctoral Scholars Award (1990-1991)

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for Minorities (1987-1990)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration (New York University Press, 2016)

Winner of the 2017 Albert J. Raboteau Book Prize for the Best Book in Africana Religions

Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion in American Film, 1929-1949 (University of California Press, 2007)

African American Women and Christian Activism: New York's Black YWCA, 1905-1945 (Harvard University Press, 1997)

This Far by Faith: Readings in African American Women's Religious Biography, edited with Richard Newman (Routledge, 1996)

Articles and Book Chapters

"The House We Live In: Religio-Racial Theories and the Study of Religion," in Roundtable: "Religio-Racial Identity" as Challenge and Critique, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88:2 (June 2020): 440-459

"A Rare Human Document": LoBagola's African American Humbug Religion," *American Religion* 1:1 (Fall 2019): 27-48

"Framing the Nation: Religion, Film, and American Belonging," *The Journal of Mormon History* 45:2 (April 2019): 23-48

"Religion and Spirituality: Introduction," in *New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition*, Keisha N. Blain, Christopher Cameron, Ashley D. Farmer, eds. (Northwestern University Press, 2018), 79-82

"New World A-Coming: An Author's Response," Roundtable on *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration*, *Journal of Africana Religions* 6:2 (2018): 308-15

“Race, Religion, and Documentary Film,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*, eds., Kathryn Gin Lum and Paul Harvey, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2018), 288-303

“Real True Buds’: Celibacy and Same-Sex Desire in Father Divine’s Peace Mission Movement,” in Gillian A. Frank, Bethany Moreton, and Heather White, eds., *Devotions and Desires: Histories of Sexuality and Religion in the Twentieth Century United States* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018), 90-112

Honorable Mention, 2015 LGBT Religious Archives Network History Award

“Religion in African American History,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, ed., Jon Butler (March 2015)

<<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-24>>

“Spiritual Complexions: On Race and the Body in the Moorish Science Temple of America,” in Sally Promey, ed., *Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice* (Yale University Press, 2014), 413-428

“On Not Being Jewish . . . and Other Lies,” roundtable on Eliza Slavet, *Racial Fever: Freud and the Jewish Question in Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 96:1 (2013): 3-11

“Invisible Women: On Women and Gender in the Study of African American Religious History,” *Journal of Africana Religions* 1:1 (2013): 133-149

“The Secret at the Root’: Performing African American Religious Modernity in Hall Johnson’s *Run, Little Chillun*,” *Religion and American Culture* 21:1 (Winter 2011): 39-79

“Film,” *Blackwell Companion to Religion in America*, ed. Philip Goff (Blackwell Publishing, 2010), 131-147

Forum on “Whiteness” and American Religion in, *Religion and American Culture* 19:1 (Winter, 2009): 27-35

“The Silent Social Problem Film: *Regeneration* (1915),” in Colleen McDannell, ed., *Catholics in the Movies* (Oxford University Press, 2007), 33-58

“Truths that Liberate the Soul: Eva Jessye and the Politics of Religious Performance,” in R. Marie Griffith and Barbara D. Savage, eds., *Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 222-244

“Universal in Spirit, Local in Character: The Riverside Church and New York City,” in Peter J. Paris, James Hudnut-Beumler, John W. Cook, Lawrence Mamiya, Nora Tubbs Tisdale, Judith Weisenfeld, *The History of the Riverside Church in the City of New York* (New York University Press, 2004), 179-240

“Projecting Blackness: African-American Religion in the Hollywood Imagination,” in Henry Goldschmidt and Elizabeth McAlister, eds., *Race, Nation and Religion in the Americas* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 305-327; Reprinted in Jolyon Mitchell and S. Brent Plate, eds., *The Religion and Film Reader* (Routledge, 2007)

“My Story Begins Before I Was Born’: Myth, History, and Power in Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*,” in S. Brent Plate, ed., *Representing Religion in World Cinema: Filmmaking, Mythmaking, Culture Making* (Palgrave, 2003), 43-66

“Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: The Nightclub as Urban Menace in 1940s Race Movies,” in John Giggie and Diane Winston, eds., *Faith in the Market: Religion and The Rise of Urban Commercial Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 2002), 155-176

“Teaching Morality in Race Movies,” in Colleen McDannell, ed., *Religions of the United States in Practice* (Princeton University Press, 2001), 131-137

“For the Cause of Mankind: The Bible, Racial Uplift, and Early Race Movies,” in Vincent Wimbush, ed., *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Text and Social Texture* (Continuum, 2000), 728-742

“Difference as Evil,” in Quinton Hosford Dixie and Cornel West, eds., *The Courage to Hope: From Black Suffering to Human Redemption* (Beacon Press 1999), 86-102

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks: Margins, Centers, and Bridges in African-American Religious History,” Harry Stout and Darryl G. Hart, eds., *New Directions in American Religious History* (Oxford University Press, 1997), 417-444

“For Rent: ‘Cabin in the Sky’: Race, Religion, and Representational Quagmires in American Film,” *Semeia* 74 (1996): 147-165; Reprinted in Cornel West and Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., eds., *African American Religious Thought: An Anthology* (Westminster John Knox, 2003)

“The Harlem YWCA and the Secular City, 1905-1945,” *Journal of Women’s History* 6 (Fall 1994):62-78

“‘Who Is Sufficient for These Things?’ Sara G. Stanley and the American Missionary Association,” *Church History* 60:4 (December 1991):493-507

Journals Edited

Religion & American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation (Co-Editor, 2016-present)

The North Star: A Journal of African American Religious History (Founder; Editor, 1997-2005)

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 24: 4 (Summer 1999) on “Institutions, Regulation, and Social Control,” co-editor of special issue with Priscilla Wald and Christine DiStefano

Works-in-Progress

“Spiritual Madness: Psychiatry, Race, and African American Religions, 1880-1940”

Other Publications

“Space, Place,” in *A Universe of Terms, The Immanent Frame*, February 28, 2020
<<https://tif.ssrc.org/2020/02/28/space-place-weisenfeld/>>

“New Religious Movements Embodied,” *Proceedings: Sixth Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*, Center for the Study of American Religion, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, (June 2019), 49-51

“For His People: James H. Cone and Black Theology,” *Black Perspectives*, September 3, 2018
< <https://www.aaihs.org/for-his-people-james-h-cone-and-black-theology/>>

“Writing a New History of Black Religion: An Author’s Response,” September 30, 2017, Online Roundtable on *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration*, featuring Rhon Manigault-Bryant, Emily Clark, Chernoh Sesay, Jr., Danielle Brune Sigler, and Tisa Wenger, *Black Perspectives* < <http://www.aaihs.org/writing-a-new-history-of-black-religion-an-authors-response/>>

“Religion on Display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture,” *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture*, January 3, 2017 <<https://sacredmattersmagazine.com/religion-on-display-at-the-national-museum-of-african-american-history-and-culture/>>

“A Dreadful and Improbable Creature: Race, Aesthetics, and the Burdens of Greatness,” *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture* roundtable on *The Birth of a Nation at 100*, April 21, 2016.
< <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/sacredmatters/2016/04/14/cutting-up-the-birth-of-a-nation/>>

“Religious Cultures Under the Radar: Jews of African Descent,” *Sacred Matters: Religious Currents in Culture*, December 30, 2015 <<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/sacredmatters/2015/12/30/religious-cultures-under-the-radar-jews-of-african-descent/>>

“Whither New Religious Movements,” *Proceedings: Fourth Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*, Center for the Study of American Religion, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, (June 2015), 20-22

"Post-Racial America? The Tangle of Race, Religion, and Citizenship," *Religion & Politics*, October 24, 2012 <<http://religionandpolitics.org/2012/10/24/post-racial-america-the-tangle-of-race-religion-and-citizenship/>>

"Happy S. Love," *frequenci.es: a collaborative genealogy of spirituality*, October 26, 2011

Contributions to TRANS/MISSIONS: Media, Culture, Religion, Society <www.trans-missions.org>

"The Ephemera of Commemoration," September 9, 2011

"Leiby Kletzky and Religious 'Otherness,'" August 17, 2011

"Tabloid Religion," August 1, 2011

"Covering Black Religion and Sexuality," June 2, 2011

"News at 10: Local Stories, Big Picture," November 17, 2010

"GLBT Coverage: It Could Be Better," October 11, 2010

"The Sherrod Effect, Then and Now," September 9, 2010

"Gleek Religion," April 19, 2010

"Fighting With a Camera," March 25, 2010

"Playing Indian," February 8, 2010

"What's Love Got to Do With It?" December 17, 2009

"Disney's Voodoo Princess," November 6, 2009

"Daniel L. Haynes," *African American National Biography*, eds., Henry Louis Gates and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Oxford University Press, 2008)

"Christianity in Film," *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas*, second edition, Colin Palmer, Editor-in-Chief (Macmillan Reference, 2006), 463-467; and reprints of 15 entries from the first edition

"Women, Religion and Film," *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America*, eds., Rosemary Skinner Keller and Rosemary Radford Ruether (Indiana University Press, 2006), 1010-1017

"Film," *Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions*, eds., Gary Laderman and Luis León (ABC-CLIO, 2003), 450-454

"Teaching Religion and Film," American Academy of Religion, *Spotlight on Teaching* 18:3 (May 2003), v

"Reflections on Online Publishing in Religious Studies," *Bulletin of the Council of Societies for the Study of Religion* 31:3 (November 2002), 94-96

"Saints on a Safety Pin," *CultureFront*, Special section on Catholicism in America, (Fall / Winter 1999), 47-48

"Reading Film for Religion, Race, and Gender," *Material History of American Religion News* (Winter 1999):1-5

Entries (31) for *Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History*, ed. Cornel West and Jack Salzman (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1996)

"Harlem YWCA" in Kenneth T. Jackson, Editor-in Chief, *Encyclopedia of New York City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995), 528

"Emma Ransom" in Jessie Carney Smith, editor, *Notable Black American Women II* (Gale Research, 1995), 540-543

"Emma S. Ransom" and "Cecelia Cabaniss Saunders," in *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. Darlene Clark Hine (Brooklyn, NY: Carlson Publishing, 1993), 963-964; 1010

Book Reviews

- Sylvester A. Johnson, *African American Religions, 1500-2000: Colonialism, Democracy, and Freedom* (Cambridge, 2015) for *The Journal of Religion* 97:4 (October 2017): 566-567
- Josef Sorett, *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics* (Oxford, 2016) for *Public Books*, April 26, 2017 <<http://www.publicbooks.org/the-spirit-of-black-modernism/>>
- William D. Romanowski, *Reforming Hollywood: How American Protestants Fought for Freedom at the Movies* (Oxford, 2012) for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 82:4 (December 2013): 1023-1025
- Yolanda Pierce, *Hell Without Fires: Slavery, Christianity, and the Antebellum Spiritual Narrative* (Florida, 2005); Nick Salvatore, *Singing in a Strange Land: C.L. Franklin, the Black Church, and the Transformation of America* (Little Brown, 2005); Marla F. Frederick, *Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith* (California, 2003) for *African American Review* 42: 2 (2008): 360-363
- Marie W. Dallam, *Daddy Grace: A Celebrity Preacher and His House of Prayer* (NYU, 2007) for *The Journal of American History* (September 2008): 599
- Nancy Marie Robertson, *Christian Sisterhood, Race Relations, and the YWCA, 1906-46* (Illinois, 2007) for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 77:2 (June 2008): 501-503
- Terry Lindvall, *Sanctuary Cinema: Origins of the Christian Film Industry* (NYU, 2007) for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 76: 4 (December 2007): 869-670
- Karin E. Gedge, *Without Benefit of Clergy: Women and the Pastoral Relationship in Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (Oxford Press, 2003) for *The Journal of Religion* 85: 1 (January 2005): 138-139
- Tony Carnes and Anna Karpathakis, eds., *New York Glory: Religions in the City* (New York University Press, 2001) and Robert A. Orsi, ed., *Gods of the City: Religion and the American Urban Landscape* (Indiana University Press, 1999) for *Urban Affairs Review* 39:1 (September 2003): 128-131
- Andrew M. Manis, *A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth* (University of Alabama Press, 1999) for *The American Religious Experience Project* (Winter 2000) [<http://are.as.wvu.edu/weisenfeld.htm>]
- Sandy Dwayne Martin, *For God and Race: The Religious and Political Leadership of AMEZ Bishop James Walker Hood* (University of South Carolina Press, 1999) for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 69:1 (March 2000): 232-234
- Nina Mjagki, *Light in the Darkness: African Americans and the YMCA, 1852-1946* (University of Kentucky Press, 1994) for *The American Historical Review* 104:5 (December 1999): 1704-1705
- Milton C. Sernett, *Bound for the Promised Land: African American Religion and the Great Migration* (Duke University Press, 1997) for *Theology Today* 55:3 (October 1998):452-454
- Diana L. Eck and the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, *On Common Ground: World Religions in America* (Columbia University Press, 1997) for *The North Star: A Journal of African-American Religious History* (Fall 1998)
- Susan Hill Lindley, *You Have Stept out of Your Place: A History of Women and Religion in America* (Westminster John Knox, 1996) for *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 65:4 (Winter 1997): 905-907
- Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1920* (Harvard University Press, 1993) for *Evangelical Studies Review* 11:1 (Spring 1994)
- C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence Mamiya, *The Black Church in the African American Experience* (Duke University Press, 1990) for *Gateway Heritage*, Missouri Historical Society (Spring 1992)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Editorial Board Member, *American Religion* (2019-present)

Jury Member, Research Grants Jury, American Academy of Religion (2016-2019)

Editorial Advisory Board Member, Africana Religions Series, Penn State University Press (2015-present)

Panelist on Grants Selection Committee, Faculty Fellowships, National Endowment for the Humanities (2013)

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Africana Religions* (2011-present)

Jury Member, Historical Studies Book Award, American Academy of Religion (2008-2011)

Curator of poster exhibit, *Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Black Religion in Film*, for The Separate Cinema Archive

Editorial Board, *Religion and American Culture* (2008-2016)

Steering Committee, Afro-American Religious History Group of the American Academy of Religion (2007-2010)

Peer Reviewer, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship Program (2005; 2007; 2008)

American Studies Association Crossroads Advisory Board (2005-2008)

Steering Committee, Religion and Popular Culture Group of the American Academy of Religion (2005-2009)

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2005-2010)

Seminar Leader, Young Scholars in American Religion Program, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (2005-2006)

Jury Member, Annual Best Paper Prize Committee, Religion and American Culture Caucus, American Studies Association (2004)

Panelist on Grants Selection Committee, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities (2003)

Co-Chair, Steering Committee of the North American Religions Section of the American Academy of Religion (1999-2002)

Panelist on Grants Selection Committee, Humanities Focus Grants, National Endowment for the Humanities (2001)

Steering Committee of the North American Religions Section of the American Academy of Religion (1996-1999)

Chair, Columbia University Seminar on Religion in America (1998-1999)

Advisory Board Member, African Americans and the Bible Project, Union Theological Seminary (1997-1999)

Steering Committee Member, Women and Twentieth-Century Protestantism Project (1996-1998)

Co-Chair, Steering Committee of the Afro-American Religious History Group of the American Academy of Religion (1992-1994)

Co-Convener of the Northeast Seminar for the Study of Black Religion (1992-1994)

Reviewer of manuscripts for *African American Review*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Religion and American Culture*, Columbia University Press, Duke University Press, New York University Press, Palgrave, Routledge, Rutgers University Press,

Westview Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, University of North Carolina Press, University Press of Florida, University of Tennessee Press

Dissertation Committees: Columbia University (English; History; Religion); Drew University (Religion); General Theological Seminary; Union Theological Seminary

CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED LECTURES, PANELS

Organizer and Panelist: "African American Religious History: The State and Future of the Field," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association and the American Society of Church History, New York City, January 2020

Conference Paper: "Excessive Religious Excitement: Black Religions in the American Asylum," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2019

Panelist: "Africana Religious Studies: Fifty Years Since the Black Revolution on Campus," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2019

Invited Lecture: "Race and Religion in America," University of Rhode Island Honors Colloquium, 5 November 2019

Invited Lecture: "Spiritual Madness: Race, Psychiatry and African American Religions," University of Iowa, 3 October 2019

Invited Lecture: "Apostles of Race: Religion and Black Racial Identity during the Great Migration," University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 8 April 2019

Invited Lecture: "Spiritual Madness: Race, Psychiatry and African American Religions," Sacramento State University Festival of the Arts, 2 April 2019

Panelist: Roundtable: *The Oxford Handbook of Race and Religion in America*, Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Chicago, January 2019

Panelist: "Reimagining the Archive," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 2018

Invited Lecture: "An Authentic, Incontestable Celluloid Document': Race, Religion, and Documentary Truth," O. Meredith Wilson Symposium in History, University of Utah, 26 October 2018

Invited Lecture: "Spiritual Madness: Race, Psychiatry and African American Religions," James and David Orr Lecture on Culture and Religion, Dartmouth College, 9 October 2018

Invited Lecture: "Spiritual Madness: Race, Psychiatry and African American Religions," Lerner Workshop in Religion and Society, New York University, 3 October 2018

Panelist: "Beyond Identity Politics" and "New Visions for the Study of American Jews: North American Religions Revisited," Fractured Paradigms: Rethinking the Study of American Jews, 2018 Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History, Philadelphia, 17 June 2018

Invited Lecture: "Framing the Nation: Religion, Film, and American Belonging," Smith-Pettit Lecture, Annual Meeting of the Mormon History Association, Boise, June 2018

Respondent: Seminar in American Religion, *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration*, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame, 24 March 2018

Invited Lecture: "Apostles of Race: Religion and Black Racial Identity during the Great Migration," Armstrong Lecture, Kalamazoo College, 5 March 2018

Invited Lecture: "Apostles of Race: Immigration, Religion and Black Racial Identity during the Great Migration," Princeton Adult School, 27 February 2018

Invited Lecture: "Apostles of Race: Religion and Black Racial Identity in the Urban North," Colloquium on History and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, 19 February 2018

Conference Organizer: *Religion and the American Normal*, Princeton University, 9-10 February 2018

Respondent: "Religio-Racial Identity' as Challenge and Critique," session on *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2017

Invited Lecture: "An Authentic, Incontestable Celluloid Document': Race, Religion, and Documentary Truth," Center for the Study of Religion, The Ohio State University, 25 October, 2017

Conference Paper: "Race, Religion, and the Normal Mind," Taking Exception: Queering American Religion, Indiana University, March-April 2017

Seminar Paper: "Real True Buds: Celibacy and Same-Sex Desire Across the Color Line in Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement," Faculty-Graduate Seminar on Sexualities in African American Communities and Cultures, 14 March 2017

Seminar Paper: "African American Religion and Early Twentieth-Century Psychiatry," Columbia University Seminar on Religion in America, 6 February 2017

Conference Paper: "Holy Precipitator of Psychosis: African American Religion and Early 20th Century Psychiatry," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2016

Panelist: "Such You Are Called to See: Nate Parker's *The Birth of a Nation* Among the Religionists," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2016

Invited Lecture: "Black Gods, Prophets and Utopian Visions: Religion and Racial Identity in Early 20th Century America," Princeton Public Library, 28 September 2016

Conference Paper: "Sites and Sources for the Study of the African American Religious Past," The Future of the African American Past, Washington, D.C., 19-21 May 2016

Invited Lecture: "Apostles of Race: Religion and Black Racial Identity during the Great Migration," University of Missouri, Annual Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Public Life, 12 April, 2016

Conference Paper: "Holy War!: Black Gods of the Metropolis, Religious Leadership, and the Black Press," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Providence, April 2016

Conference Paper: "A Dreadful and Improbable Creature': Race, Aesthetics, and the Burdens of Greatness," in *The Birth of a Nation* a Century Later, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 2015

Discussant, *A Time for Burning*, "Religion and Social Change on Film," Yale University, 5 November 2015

Panelist, "City as Home," Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities," 23 September 2015

Panelist, "Whither New Religious Movements?" Fourth Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, 4-7 June 2015

Invited Lecture: "Real True Buds: On Race, Sex, and Celibacy in the Kingdom of Father Divine," Bowdoin College, 22 April 2015

Conference Paper: "Harlem is Heaven: Mapping the Kingdom of Father Divine," Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History," New York City, January 2015

Seminar Paper: "Real True Buds: Celibacy and Same-Sex Desire Across the Color Line in Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement," *Endeavors Colloquium*, Department of African American Studies, Yale University, 30 October 2014

Invited Lecture: "Apostles of Race: Religion and Black Racial Identity in the Great Migration," Institute of Sacred Music, Yale Divinity School, 29 October 2014

Keynote Address: "Apostles of Race: Religion and Black Racial Identity in the Great Migration," *Remixing Religion: New Models for the Study of Religious Synthesis*, University of Texas at Austin, 4 April 2014

Conference Organizer: *Race and Religion in American History*, Princeton University, 7-8 March 2014

Seminar Paper: "Religious Faith and Same Sex Desire in the Early Twentieth-Century," Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 14 November 2013

Seminar Paper: "'Our God Given Name': Narratives of Religio-Racial Identity," American Religions Workshop, Stanford University, 15 April 2013

Conference Paper: "From Father in Me': Celibacy and Same-Sex Desire Across the Color Line in Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, San Francisco, April 2013

Conference Paper: "From Father in Me': Celibacy and Same-Sex Desire in Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 2012

Panelist: "Author Meets Critics: Tracy Fessenden's *Culture and Redemption: Religion, the Secular, and American Literature*," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 2012

Seminar Paper: "'Our God Given Name': Narratives of Religio-Racial Identity," Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, October 2012

Panelist: "Theory and Method in the Study of Race and Religion in Twentieth Century America," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 2011

Panelist: "Devotional Bodies," Conference on Sensational Religion: Sense and Contention in Material Practice, Yale University, November 2011

Respondent: "Three Documentaries: Emergent Discursive Strategies from a Conservative Activist American Religious Movement," Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, October 2011

Invited Lecture: "Black Prophets, Gods, and Utopian Visions: Religion and Racial Identity in Early Twentieth Century America," Northwestern University, 10 October 2011

Invited Lecture: "Black Prophets, Gods, and Utopian Visions: Religion and Racial Identity in Early Twentieth Century America," Frederick C. Wood Lecture, Vassar College, 13 April 2011

Paper Workshop: "Black Prophets, Gods, and Utopian Visions: Religion and Racial Identity in Early Twentieth Century America," New York University American History Workshop, 18 February 2011

Respondent: "Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women, Part 1: Black Women and Religious Leadership: A Transnational Perspective," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, January 2011

Paper Workshop: "Black Gods, Prophets, and Utopian Visions: Religion and Racial Identity in Early Twentieth Century America," Columbia University Seminar on Religion in America, 8 November 2010

Panelist: "How Has Orsi's *Madonna of 11^{5th} Street* Affected the Way we Think About Religion?" Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, October 2010

Conference Paper: "'Something No White Man Has Ever Seen': Race, Religion, and the Ethnographic Gaze in 1930s American Film," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, October 2010

Invited Lecture: "Projecting Blackness: African American Religion in Early 20th Century American Film," Middlebury College, October 2010

Presider and Organizer: "Teaching Religious History: Challenges and Strategies," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, D. C., April 2010

Respondent: "Race as Analytical Category in the Study of Religion," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Canada, November 2009

Panelist: "Expanding the African American Diaspora" African American Civil Rights and Germany in the 20th Century, German Historical Institute and Vassar College, October 2009

Plenary Talk: "'The Secret at the Root': Constructing and Contesting African American Religious and Racial Identity in early 20th Century American Film," "The Spirit and the Flesh: Transregional Perspectives on Religion, Race, and Gender in History, University of Erfurt, 17-18 June 2009

Discussant: *City Cinematheque*, CUNY-TV, episode on Julie Dash, *Daughters of the Dust*, February 2009

Conference Paper: "A Fairer Paradise: Eva Jessye's Spirituals and Racializations of Christian Narrative," Winter Meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 2009

Conference Paper: "'Ride On, King Jesus': *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained* in Negro Spirituals," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 2008

Invited Lecture: "A Mighty Epic of Modern Morals: Religious Race Movies of the 1940s," University of Rochester, 29 January 2008

Discussant: "A Conversation with Bill Viola: AAR Religion and the Arts Award Winner, 2007," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2007

Conference Paper: "Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion in American Film, 1929-1949," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2007

Invited Lecture: Session on *Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion in American Film, 1929-1949*, Bay Area American Religion Research and Teaching Symposium, Santa Clara University, 2 November 2007

Invited Lecture: "Projecting Blackness: African American Religion in American Film," Series on Religion and Diversity in American Public Life, University of Texas at Austin, 10 April 2007

Invited Lecture: Black History Month, Macon State College, 26-27 February 2007

Invited Lecture: "Projecting Blackness: African American Religion in American Film," F. Ross Johnson Distinguished Speaker Series, Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Toronto, 16 February 2007

Conference Paper: "The Politics of African-American Religious Performance: Eva Jessye's Dramatizations of Negro Music," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 2006

Invited Lecture: "Sacred Performances: On African American Religion and Cultural Production," Religion in American History: New Directions in Research Lecture Series, Washington University in St. Louis, 2 March 2006

Conference Paper: "Progressive Era Religion, Politics and the Social Problem Film," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, November 2005

Respondent: "Religion and Culture in the Post-War Era," Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Washington, D.C., November 2005

Address: "On Religion, Race, and American Identity," Vassar College, Fall Convocation, 7 September 2005

Invited Lecture: "A Mighty Epic of Modern Morals: Religious Race Movies of the 1940s," University of Delaware, Department of History Workshop in Technology, Society, and Culture, 5 April 2005

Invited Lecture: "A Mighty Epic of Modern Morals: Religious Race Movies of the 1940s," Kenyon College, 3 February 2005

Discussant: *City Cinematheque*, CUNY-TV, episode on Spencer Williams, *The Blood of Jesus*, January 2005

Invited Lecture: "The Religious Right and Politics," Rotary Club of Poughkeepsie, December 2004

Respondent: "Being and Doing: Best Paper Proposals 2004," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2004

Respondent: "Race, Religion, and Identity in African American Fiction," Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Atlanta, November 2004

Invited Lecture: "Projecting Blackness: African American Religion in American Film," Distinguished Lecture, Center for Religion and Media, New York University, 14 October 2004

Conference Paper: "Truths that Liberate the Soul: Eva Jessye and the Politics of African American Women's Religious Performance," Women and Religion in the African Diaspora Conference, Princeton University, April 2004

Invited Lecture: "Eva Jessye and the Politics of African American Women's Religious Performance," Committee on Social Theory, University of Kentucky, 2 April 2004

Conference Paper: "*The Negro Soldier* and the Sacralization of Military Service," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 2003

Panelist: "Women's Religious Thought: A Conversation on Mary F. Bednarowski's *The Religious Imagination of American Women*," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 2003

Respondent: "Violence Seen and Unseen: The Production of African American Bodies in Hollywood and the Race Film, 1920-1929," Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Hartford, October 2003

Conference Paper: "Pageant and Performance: African American Women's Religious Drama in the 1920s and 1930s," Women and American Religion: Reimagining the Past, Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago Divinity School, October 2003

Invited Lecture: "Pageant and Performance: African American Women's Religious Drama in the 1920s and 1930s," Columbia University Seminar on Religion in America, September 2003

Respondent: "The Bridge That Was Their Backs: African American Women Traversing the Sacred and the Secular, 1880-1930," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, January 2003

Invited Lecture: "Religion and Race Movies," University of Dayton, 10 July 2002

Invited Lecture: "Time and Memory in Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*," Princeton University, Department of Religion, 25 April, 2002

Invited Lecture: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Narratives of Black Religious Leadership and Communal Identity in 1930s and 1940s Race Movies," Fairleigh Dickinson University, 7 February 2002

Conference Paper: "Teaching Religion and American Film" at a conference on "Teaching the New American Religious History," Vanderbilt Divinity School, June 2001

Respondent: "Religion and Film in the United States," Religion and Cinema Conference, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, March 2001

Invited Lecture: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Narratives of Black Religious Leadership and Communal Identity in 1930s and 1940s Race Movies," Mead-Swing Lecture, Oberlin College, 19 March 2001

Conference Paper: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Narratives of Black Religious Leadership and Communal Identity in 1930s and 1940s Race Movies," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, January 2001

Conference Paper: "Religion and Race in American Film," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, November 2000

Conference Paper: "The Negro Soldier and the Sacralization of Military Service," Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Detroit, October 2000

Moderator: Flashpoints Panel, "Whose Millennium? Religion, Sexuality, and the Values of Citizenship," Center For Lesbian and Gay Studies, City University of New York, April 2000

Commentator: Symposium on "Radio, Race and Religion in the World War II Era," Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, April 2000

Invited Lecture: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Religion in 1930s and 1940s Race Movies," November 1999, Smith College; 25 January 2000, University of Utah Tanner Lectures; February 2000, Du Bois Institute, Harvard University

Panelist: "Diversity in the African-American Religious Experience: What Does the Future Hold?" panel at the Stanford University Conference on Race, November 1999

Conference Paper: "Southern Religion and American Popular Culture" panel at Religion in the American South: Toward a Renewed Scholarship, *Journal of Southern Religion* Conference, Emory University, October 1999

Conference Paper: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Race Movies and Representations of African-American Women," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, University of Rochester, June 1999

Conference Paper: "Funny, You Don't Look Jewish: Seeing Religion, Seeing Race in American Film," Religion and the Senses, An International Conference at the Princeton Center for the Study of Religion, 22 May 1999

Invited Lecture: "Religion, Race, and Social Reform in Early Twentieth Century New York," Feminist Studies Colloquium Series, Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, University of Minnesota, 19 April 1999

Conference Paper: "The Bible in Early Race Movies," African Americans and the Bible International Conference, Union Theological Seminary, 9 April 1999

Invited Lecture: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Religion in 1930s and 1940s Race Movies," University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies Department 17 February 1999

Invited Lecture: "Saturday Sinners and Sunday Saints: Religion in 1930s and 1940s Race Movies," Invited Black History Month Speaker, Villanova University, 18 February 1999

Plenary Speaker: "Not of One Blood: Religion, Race, and American Identity," Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, Arlington, VA, February 1999

Respondent: "Dangers Yet Untold": Strains of Anti-Catholicism among African-American Protestants, 1865-1975," Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 1999

Conference Paper: "Projecting Post-War Pluralism: Hollywood Constructions of Religion and Race," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, November 1998

Respondent: "African American Churches and the Uses of Social Power," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, November 1998

Conference Paper: "Religion, Race, and Gender: Films in Historical Perspective," at the Scholar and the Feminist XXIII, Women in Film: Images and Image Makers, Barnard College, 28 March 1998

Panelist: "Historical Perspectives on Women and Leadership," *The White House Project*, 17 September 1997

Panelist: "Author Meets Critic: John T. McGreevy's *Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Urban North*," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 1997

Panelist: "African Americans and the Bible: An Interdisciplinary Research Project," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 1997

Panelist: “Epistemological Contests,” The Politics of Interdisciplinary Location: Teaching and Learning in the Intersections, The Coalition of Programs in Gender and Women’s Studies in the Greater New York Area, Columbia University, 7 November 1997

Invited Lecture: “The Fetish and the Femme Fatale: Religion, Race, and Women’s Sexuality in *Blonde Venus*, *White Cargo*, and *Cobra Woman*,” Columbia University Seminars, Women and Society, April 1997

Invited Lecture: “Reforming the Private, Redeeming the Public: African-American YWCA Women’s Strategies for Urban Living, 1905-1913,” Rutgers University, Newark, Women’s History Month, March 1997

Conference Paper: “Reforming the Private, Redeeming the Public: African-American YWCA Women’s Strategies for Urban Living, 1905-1913,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, November 1996

Invited Lecture: “At Home in New York: African-American YWCA Women, Private Spheres and Public Spaces, 1907-1913,” at Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 15 February 1996

Panelist: “Xenophobia and Racism: Women and Other Strangers,” Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University, 26 October 1995

Conference Paper: “African-American Religion in American Film: The Quicksands of Representation,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 1994

Conference Paper: “‘Almost Gone From the Earth’: African-American Religion and Community in Spencer Williams’ film *Blood of Jesus*,” Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, March 1994

Conference Paper: “Black Protestants in White America: Myths of A Spiritual Past,” Conference on “New Directions in American Religious History: The Protestant Experience,” Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals and the Johnson Foundation, Wingspread Center, 21-23 October 1993

Invited Lecture: “Black Women’s Activism in 1930s Harlem,” Barnard College Center for Research on Women, 21 September 1992

Invited Lecture: “Holding Down the Fort: The Harlem YWCA and the Secular City” Center For American Culture Studies at Columbia University, 4 February 1992

Invited Lecture: “The Harlem YWCA and the First World War” the Northeast Seminar for the Study of Black Religion,” Union Theological Seminary, 7 December 1991

Conference Paper: “Black Women vs. White Women in the New York City YWCA: Patterns of Conflict Before and After the Great War,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Kansas City, November 1991

Conference Paper: “Black Women in White Institutions: The Case of the Harlem YWCA,” Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region American Academy of Religion, March 1991

Invited Lecture: “Black Women in White Institutions: The Case of the Harlem YWCA,” Princeton University Afro-American Studies Works in Progress Series, November 1990

Conference Paper: “‘Often Weary in Flesh and Spirit but Abounding in the Work of the Lord’: The Life and Work of Sara Stanley,” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, San Francisco, December 1989

TEACHING

Princeton University

African American Religious History

African American Women and Religion (Graduate)

American Religious Utopias and Communitarian Experiments (Graduate)

Black Gods and Utopian Visions (Graduate)
Catholics in America
“Cult” Controversies in America
Junior Colloquium: Religious Visual and Material Culture
Race and Religion in America
Religion and American Film
Religion and American Society
Religion in Twentieth Century America (Graduate)
Space, Place, and Religion in America (Graduate)
The Visual and Material Cultures of American Religions (Graduate)
Women and Religion in America

Vassar College

Advanced Methods in the Study of Religion
African American Religion
America in the World
Evangelicalism in America
Gods of the City: Religion in New York
Religion and American Film
Religion and the Civil Rights Movement
Religion and Constructions of Race
Religion in America

Barnard College, Columbia University

African American Religious History (Undergraduate and Graduate)
Black Women in America
Black Women’s Religious Experiences
Religious Worlds of New York
Introduction to African American History and Culture
Introduction to the Study of Religion
Paradigms in Feminist Inquiry: Black Feminisms in the Americas (Graduate)
Religion and American Film
Religion and Culture Contact: The Colonial Americas
Religion and Social Constructions of Race
Workshop in Women’s Studies Pedagogy (Graduate)

Union Theological Seminary

African American Religious History

Dissertations Advised

Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, “Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic Practice in Williamsburg, Brooklyn” (Princeton, 2018)

Irene (Beth) Stroud, “A Loftier Race: American Liberal Protestants and Eugenics, 1870-1929” (Princeton, 2018)

Leslie Ribovich, “Moral Education in Devotion’s Wake: A History of Teaching Religion, Morality, and Race in 1950s and 1960s New York City Public Schools” (Princeton, 2017)

Kurt F. Adams, “How Firm a Foundation: ‘The Methodist Building’ and Constructions of Public Protestantism, 1916-1936” (Princeton, 2017)

Vaughn A. Booker, “Is That Religion?’ The Jazz Profession and Afro-Protestant Cultural Representation” (Princeton, 2016)

Rachel Beth Gross, “Objects of Affection: The Material Religion of American Jewish Nostalgia” (Princeton, 2014)

Ryan P. Harper, “A Sort of Homecoming: The Gaithers and Southern Gospel into the Twenty-First Century” (Princeton, 2013)

Rachel McBride Lindsey, “A Communion of Shadows: Vernacular Photography and the Material Archives of Nineteenth-Century American Religion” (Princeton, 2012)

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Departmental

Chair, Department of Religion (2019-present)

Acting Director, Program in American Studies, Princeton University (Fall 2017)

Acting Chair, Department of Religion, Princeton University (2016-2017)

Chair, Religion in America Search Committee Department of Religion, Princeton University (2013-2014)

Acting Chair, Department of Religion, Princeton University (2011-2012)

Chair, Religion in America Search Committee, Department of Religion, Princeton University (2009-2010)

Departmental Representative (Advisor to Religion Majors), Department of Religion, Princeton University (2008-2010)

Chair, Department of Religion, Vassar College (2002-2006)

Acting Director, Africana Studies Program, Vassar College (2002-2003)

Acting Director, Pan African Studies Program, Barnard College (1993-1994; 1995-1996)

College and University

Faculty Coordinator, Princeton Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (2012-2017)

Member, Task Force on American Studies (2016)

Executive Committee, Center for the Study of Religion (2012-present)

Executive Committee, Council of the Humanities (2012-2016)

Executive Committee, Program in American Studies (2010-present)

Executive Committee, Committee for Film Studies (2010-2014)

Executive Committee, Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies (2009-2013)

Priorities Committee, Center for African American Studies (2007-2009)

Mentor, Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (2007-2009)

Committee on Research, Vassar College (2005-2007)

American Culture Program Steering Committee, Vassar College (2005-2007)

Jewish Studies Steering Committee, Vassar College (2002-2006)

College Regulations Panel, Vassar College (2001-2002)

Africana Studies Steering Committee, Vassar College (2000-2007)

Committee on Difference and Diversity, Vassar College (2000-2002)

Women’s Studies Coordinating Committee, Barnard College

Committee on Pan African Studies, Barnard College

First Year Student Advisor, Barnard College

Mentor, Columbia Minority Summer Research Program (1992; 1994; 1997)

Barnard College Honor Board (1992-1994)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African American Intellectual History Society
American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Religion
American Historical Association
American Society of Church History
American Studies Association
Association of Black Women Historians
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
Organization of American Historians
Society of American Historians