

# 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)

## SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2022-2023)  
Henry Luce Foundation Grant for “The Crossroads Project: Black Religious Histories, Cultures, and  
Communities” (2021-2025) \$1 million with co-PIs Anthea Butler and Lerone Martin  
<https://crossroads.princeton.edu>  
Graduate Mentoring Award in the Humanities, 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)  
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)  
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)

## Selected 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*, edited by Keisha N. Blain, Christopher Cameron, Ashley D. Farmer (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., Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lum (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

"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

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

### **Works-in-Progress**

Book project: “Spiritual Madness: American Psychiatry, Race, and Black Religions”

### **Selected Other Publications**

“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/>>

### **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

### **SELECTED RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED LECTURES, PANELS**

Invited Lecture: “Spiritual Madness: Race, Psychiatry, and African American Religions” (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

Boston University, Georgia State University (Somers Lecture), Haverford College, University of North Carolina, Charlotte (Witherspoon Lecture), Simpson College (Matthew Simpson Lecture), Western Washington University

Invited Lecture: "Race, Religion, and Black Jewish Identity in the Early Twentieth-Century U.S.," Center for Jewish Studies at Fordham, Jewish Studies and Black Studies in Conversation Series, 12 October 2021

Invited Lecture: "Spiritual Madness: Race, Psychiatry, and African American Religions" (Fall 2020-Summer 2021)

Louisville Institute Winter Seminar, University of California at Riverside, University of Kansas, Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society (Conrad Wright Lecture)

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

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

## RECENT COURSES TAUGHT

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