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APPOINTMENTS

- 2019– Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
2017–2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College.

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Religion, Columbia University.
2014 M.Phil., with Distinction, Religion, Columbia University.
2013 M.A., with Distinction, Religion, Columbia University.
2008 M.T.S., Islamic Studies, Harvard Divinity School.
2000 B.A., *magna cum laude*, Religion, High Honors, Haverford College.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- In Preparation. *Fire Dreams: Terror, Resistance, and Rebirth*. (expected manuscript completion date December 2019)
In Preparation. *Refusing to Vanish: Muslim Women in a Time of AIDS – from Philadelphia to Cape Town*. (co-authored with Farid Esack, University of Johannesburg)

Edited Collections

- Under Review. “Religio-Racial Identity’ as Challenge and Critique.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Roundtable editor and contributor.
2019. “An Otherwise Anthropology.” Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology (Fieldsites)*. Series co-editor and contributor with Megan Raschig.

Journal Articles

- In preparation. “Moral Medicine: Treatment and Punishment in the Race to Incarcerate Women.”
Under Review. “Theory on the Ground: Studying Religio-Racial Movements to Build the World Otherwise.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
2019. “Insurgent Cartography.” Contribution to “An Otherwise Anthropology” series, Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology (Fieldsites)*.
2019. “‘To Instill Love for My People’: Reassembling the Social in a Time of Mass Criminalization.” *CrossCurrents* 68, no. 1, Special Issue on “Religion, Political Democracy, and the Specters of Race,” ed. James Logan (2019): 179-200.

- 2018 “Front Porch Revolution: Resilience Space, Demonic Grounds, and the Horizons of a Black Feminist Otherwise.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 44, no. 1 (2018): 25-52.
- 2017 “‘There is NO Justice in Louisiana’: Crimes Against Nature and the Spirit of Black Feminist Resistance.” *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Culture, Politics and Society* 19, no. 3 (2017): 261-285.
- 2011 “Education, Empowerment and Community Based Structural Reinforcement: An HIV prevention response to mass incarceration and removal.” *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 34, no. 4 (2011): 295-302. (co-authored with Jeffrey Draine and Philippe Bourgois)

Chapters

- In preparation. “Gendering Punishment, Racing Catholicism: Making Louisiana Carceral Geographies.” In *Race, Colonialism, and Catholicism* working group edited volume.
- Accepted. “You have to build a relationship.” In *Promoting the health of the community: Community health workers describing their roles, competencies and practice*, eds. St. John J, et al. Springer, forthcoming. (co-authored with Ashley Wennerstrom and Catherine Haywood)
- 2018 “‘And Still We Rise’: Moral Panics, Dark Souseveillance, and Politics Otherwise in the new New Orleans.” In *Panic, Transnational Cultural Studies, and the Affective Contours of Power*, ed. Micol Seigel. Routledge.
- 2012 “The War on Drugs is a War on Relationships: Crossing the Borders of Fear, Silence and HIV Vulnerability in the Prison-Created Diaspora.” *Beyond Walls and Cages: Bridging Prison Abolition and Immigrant Justice Movements*, eds. Jenna Loyd, et al. University of Georgia Press, 2012.
- 2009 “HIV, Addiction, and Justice: Toward a Qur’anic Theology of Liberation.” In *Islam and AIDS: Between Scorn, Pity, and Justice*, eds. Farid Esack and Sarah Chiddy. Oneworld, 2009.

Book Reviews

- Accepted. Mary Frances Berry, *Five Dollars and a Pork Chop Sandwich: Vote Buying and the Corruption of Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2016. For *Journal of African American History* (forthcoming).
- 2017 “On Moments, Movements, and Women’s Work.” *Syndicate*, Symposium on Gary Dorrien’s *The New Abolition*.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2010 “HIV/AIDS.” In *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV. Facts on File.
- 2010 “Contraception.” In *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, ed. Edward E. Curtis IV. Facts on File.

Occasional Contributor

- The Immanent Frame*.
- The Revealer: a review of religion and media*.
- Religion in American History*.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2019 Emerging Scholar, Center for the Study of the American South and the Department of American Studies at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2018-2019 “Method-Making in Concert: Toward an Enchanted Method of Flourishing,” Venture Funding, Dartmouth College.
- 2017-2020 Society of Fellows postdoctoral fellowship, Dartmouth College.
- 2016–2017 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.
- 2016–2017 Fellow, Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence, Columbia University.
- 2016 Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion.
- 2015–2016 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.
- 2015 Conference Travel Grant, Columbia University.
- 2014–2015 Teaching Scholar, Columbia University.
- 2014 Conference Travel Grant, Columbia University.
- 2013–2014 Klingstein Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University.
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life.
- 2012–2016 Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University.
- 2011–2015 Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University.
- 2006–2008 Presidential Scholarship, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University.
- 2000 Religion Department Prize for the senior major who presented the best thesis.
- 2000 Martin Foss Award for the Haverford student whose life speaks directly to the lives of others by the powerful harmony of intellect, compassion, and courage.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Florida State University, Department of Religion, Tallahassee, FL

Fall 2019 *Religion, Prisons, & Abolition*

New York University (NYU), Religious Studies Program, New York, NY

Spring 2017 *Religion, Gender, & Punishment in the USA*

Columbia University, Department of Religion, New York, NY

Fall 2014 *Religion on the Move: People, Passages, and Possibilities in America*

2012-2014 Teaching Assistant
Muslims in Diaspora (with Katherine Ewing, Spring 2014)
Religions in America (with Gale Kenny, Fall 2013)
Religions of Harlem (with Josef Sorett and Obery Hendricks, Spring 2013)
Religion in the City (with Courtney Bender, Fall 2012).

Project TEACH (Treatment Education Activists Combatting HIV), Philadelphia, PA

- 2008-2010 *TEACH Inside / TEACH Outside* Co-Founder
Expansion of TEACH Outside model to inside/outside education on the Intake Housing Units of the Philadelphia jails, reaching 100 students annually.
- 2001-2006 *TEACH Outside* Co-Founder
An independent educational venture to address the barriers to information, support, and activism in communities most impacted by HIV and mass incarceration. As Co-Instructor and Program Director, designed curriculum, developed infrastructure, and raised funds to graduate more than 400 students.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2019 “The Struggle Continues: Prisons, Religion, and Abolition.” University workshop, MultiCultural Center, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2019.
- 2019 “Theory on the Ground.” University workshop, Yale Divinity School, October 2019.
- 2016 “‘The System was Designed to Fail Me’: Religion, Incarceration, and the Erasure of Black Women.” University lecture, Religion Department, Bates College, April 2016.
- 2014 “Beyond the Walls: A Conversation on Gender, Race, Religion and Incarceration.” University lecture, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Lehigh University, September 2014.

Panels Organized

- 2019 “Theory and Method 2.0: Decolonizing the Field.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019. Co-organized with Alexis S. Wells-Oghoghomeh.
- 2019 “Emergent Expertise: dialogue, radical acts of listening, and co-authorship with(in) grassroots activist and organizing communities.” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 2019. Co-organized with Keahnan Washington.
- 2018 “Governing Health: Race, Religion, Secularism, and the Healing State.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018. Co-organized with Jamil Drake.
- 2018 “Indigenous, Race-radical & Trans Feminist Responses to Mass Criminalization & the Transcarceral Continuum.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2018. Co-organized with Lena Palacios.
- 2018 “Polyphonies of Repair.” Canadian Anthropology Society CASCA-CUBA, May 2018. Co-organized with Megan Raschig.
- 2018 “Gulf South Geographies of Freedom: Rethinking the Politics and Practices of New Orleans Research in the Geographic Imagination.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 2018. Co-organized with Lydia Pelot-Hobbs.
- 2017 “Racialized Terror, Persistence and the Otherwise: Histories and Horizons of Struggle and Surveillance.” American Anthropological Association Meeting, December 2017. Co-organized with Megan Raschig.
- 2017 “‘Religio-Racial Identity’ as Challenge and Critique.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2017.

- 2017 “ASA Critical Prison Studies Caucus: Abolitionist Feminisms.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2017. Co-organized with Sarah Haley and Stefanie Jones.
- 2016 “Horizons of an Otherwise: Engaging and ‘Evidencing’ the Politics of the Re*.” American Anthropological Association Meeting, November 2016. Co-organized with Megan Raschig.
- 2016 “Front Porch Strategy: Organizing for Black Women’s Lives at the Intersections of Service, Activism, and Research.” Know Her Truths Conference, Wake Forest University, April 2016. Co-organized with Women With A Vision (WWAV), New Orleans.
- 2015 “‘My Existence is Political’: Black Feminist Freedom Dreams in the Prison Capital of the World.” Re-Visioning Justice Conference, Vanderbilt University, April 2015. Co-organized with WWAV.
- 2014 “Pushing Public Health to the Margins: Aggressive Policing, Aging in Prison, & Gender-Based Criminalization.” American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 2014. Co-organized with Jenna Loyd.
- 2014 “Freedom’s Movements, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Rock the Prison Empire.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2014. Co-organized with Jenna Loyd.
- 2014 “Community Organizing is a Reentry Program.” Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South Conference, University of Mississippi, April 2014. Co-organized with WWAV.
- 2013 “Break Every Yoke: Religion, Power and the Ends of Mass Incarceration.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2013. Co-organized with Vincent Lloyd and Joshua Dubler.

Papers Presented

- 2019 “Theory on the Ground.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2019 “Where’s the Religion?: Decolonizing the Field, Becoming Subjects (Again).” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2019 “What’s Religion Got to Do with It? Medicine, Health, and the Carceral State.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2018 “Moral Medicine: Treatment and Punishment in the Race to Incarcerate Women.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2018 “Front Porch Strategy: Sacred Space and Demonic Grounds.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2018 “Fire Dreams: Toward an Accomplice Anthropology.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2017 “‘There is NO Justice’: Dark Sousveillance and Politics Otherwise.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 2017.
- 2017 “Surveillance and Sabotage: Religio-Racial Identity in the Women’s Carceral Sphere.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2017.
- 2016 “Resurrecting the Dead: Religion, Incarceration, and Revolutionary Love.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016.

- 2016 “Front Porch Strategy: Repairing and Resurrecting a Post-Katrina Otherwise, a Love Song for New Orleans.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2015 “‘In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens’: The Spiritual Work of History-Making in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- 2015 “‘My Existence Is Political’: Black Feminist Freedom Dreams and the Brutal Magic of the State.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- 2015 “When Treatment is Punishment: The Medicalization of Morality in the New War on Sex Workers.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 2015.
- 2014 “Black Gods of the Gulag: Diasporic Religious Imaginaries in the Prison Capital of the World.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- 2014 “Like a Phoenix, We Rise: Relations of Resistance in the Prison Capital of the World.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- 2014 “Are the Gods Afraid?: Crimes Against Nature & the Spirit of Organized Resistance in New Orleans.” Symposium on Global Moral Panics, Indiana University, September 2014.
- 2014 “Born in Flames: Religion, Incarceration, and the Spirit of Grassroots Resistance in New Orleans.” Beyond the Culture Wars, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2014.
- 2013 “‘To Instill Love for Our People’: Recovering Religion in Formerly Incarcerated People’s Movements.” Rethinking Prisons, Vanderbilt University, May 2013.
- 2012 “Chicago’s Transcendent Third: Lived Religion in a Time of Mass Incarceration.” Religion and the Trans..., Northwestern University, October 2012.
- 2010 “Women, Incarceration, and Islam: Towards a Theology of Resilience and Resistance.” Women, Incarceration and Human Rights Conference, Emory University, February 2009.

Roundtables

- 2019 “Medicine, Health, and the Carceral State.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2018 “Gulf South Geographies of Freedom: Rethinking the Politics and Practices of New Orleans Research in the Geographic Imagination.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 2018.
- 2017 “Disrupting Narratives: Myths of the drug policy reform movement.” The International Drug Policy Reform Conference, October 2017.
- 2016 “Race, Reproduction, and American Religion.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “Who Gets to Go Home?: Refusing Innocence.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “Legal versus Just: Employers’ Consideration of Criminal History in the Hiring Process.” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2016.
- 2014 “Theorizing Drugs: What Can Theory & Philosophy Teach Us About Drug Policy Reform?” The International Drug Policy Reform Conference, October 2013.

EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2019 Organizer of *30 Years at the Intersections: Justice, Action, and Black Feminist Struggle* with WWAV's Deon Haywood, hosted by the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth College, in partnership with eight academic departments and five student organizations.
- 2018 Organizer of *Religious Freedom and US Empire* with Tisa Wenger, hosted by the Society of Fellows and the Religion Department at Dartmouth College.
- 2018 Organizer of *Wounds and Worlds: Spiritual Healing as Politics Otherwise in California* with Megan Raschig, hosted by the Society of Fellows and the Departments of Religion and Anthropology at Dartmouth College.
- 2018 Organizer of *Medicalizing the Souls of Black Folk: Public Health and the Governance of Black Religion in the American South* with Jamil Drake, hosted by the Society of Fellows, the Department of Religion, and the Program in African and African American Studies at Dartmouth College.
- 2015 Co-organizer and panelist of *Theory on the Ground* and a panel hosted by the Center for Religion and Media at New York University.
- 2015 Co-organizer and moderator of *Making Time: Discipline and Religion in America's Prisons*, a panel hosted by the Center for Religion and Media at New York University.
- 2014 Graduate Coordinator of *Are the Gods Afraid of Black Sexuality?: Religion and the Burdens of Black Sexual Politics*, the IRAAS annual conference at Columbia University.
- 2014 Co-organizer of the *Graduate Student Workshop on Religion and Incarceration*, hosted by the Central New York Working Group on Religion and Mass Incarceration.
- 2013 Co-organizer of *Religion on the Move: Movement, Migration, Missions and new Media across Religions*, the Columbia University Religion Graduate Students Association's annual conference.
- 2013 Co-organizer of *Migrant Imaginaries: Religion on the Move in the African Diaspora*, hosted in partnership with the Religions of Harlem project at Columbia University.
- 2013 Co-organizer of *Fencing in God*, the Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life (IRCPL) three-part series on religion, incarceration and immigration.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2019– Steering Committee Member, *Afro-American Religious History Section*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2018–2020 Editorial Board Member, *Reading Religion*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2018– Member, *Catholicism Colonialism, and Race in America* working group.
- 2017–2022 Steering Committee Member, *Religions and Families in North America Seminar*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2014– Co-founder of *Religion and Incarceration*, a collaborative forum for activists and academics to explore religion, power and the ends of mass incarceration.
- 2011–2017 Member, *University Seminar on Religion in America*, Columbia University.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE/WORK HISTORY

- 2018– Project Development Consultant and Evaluator, Photography in Collaboration: Migration and Religion, Magnum Foundation in New York, NY.
- 2016– Co-Founder and Associate Director, Front Porch Research Strategy in New Orleans, LA.
- 2015– Advisor, ‘Prisoner to Patient’ Project in New Orleans (a project of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute).
- 2010– Board Member, Men and Women In Prison Ministries in Chicago, IL.
- 2010– Board Member, Reconstruction, Inc. in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2010– Board Member, Women With A Vision, Inc. in New Orleans, LA.
- 2009–2014 Co-Investigator of the NIH-funded research study, “Empowerment-Based Education for HIV Prevention In / Out of Jail,” with Jeffrey Drain (Temple University) and Philippe Bourgois (University of Pennsylvania).
- 2009–2011 Co-Founder and Co-Director, Institute for Community Justice in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2008–2009 Director of Project UNSHACKLE, Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project in New York, NY.
- 2006–2007 Coordinator, Harvard Prison Education Project in Cambridge, MA.
- 2001–2006 Founding Director of Prison Services, Philadelphia FIGHT in Philadelphia, PA.
 - Co-Founder and Co-Instructor, TEACH Outside;
 - Co-Founder and Editor, Prison Health News; and
 - Co-Founder and Coordinator, Beyond the Walls: Prison Health Care Summit.
- 2000–2001 Student Organizer, Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against the Death Penalty in Philadelphia, PA.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion. (*Afro-American Religious History, North American Religions*)
- American Anthropological Association.
- American Historical Association.
- American Studies Association.
- Phi Beta Kappa.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (Advanced Reading, Writing, Speaking)

REFERENCES**Courtney Bender**

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