

LAURA MCTIGHE

Florida State University | M06 Dodd Hall | Tallahassee, FL 32306
Email: lmctighe@fsu.edu | Tel: 850.644.1020 | Fax: 850.644.7225 | Web: lauramctighe.com

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

- Out for Review. *Fire Dreams: Theory on the Ground in the new New Orleans*. (currently out for review with Duke University Press, reviews expected December 2021)
In Preparation. *Religion, Prisons, & Abolition*. (expected manuscript completion date September 2023)

Edited Collections

2020. “‘Religio-Racial Identity’ as Challenge and Critique.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88, no. 2 (2020). Roundtable Editor.
2019. “An Otherwise Anthropology.” *Theorizing the Contemporary, Fieldsights*, July 31, 2019. Series Co-Editor with Megan Raschig.

Journal Articles

- In Preparation. “Moral Medicine.” (to submit to *Religion & American Culture*)
In Preparation. “Method Making in Concert.” (co-authored with Yana Stainova)
2021. “Keep the South Dirty and Our Needles Clean.” *Southern Cultures* 27, no. 3: “The Abolitionist South,” co-edited by T. Dionne Bailey and Garrett Felber. (co-authored with Catherine Haywood, Deon Haywood, and Danita Muse, *Women With A Vision*).
2021. “Seeing in the Dark.” *Theorizing the Contemporary, Fieldsights*, “Art and Ethnographic Forms in Dark Times” series, co-edited by Yana Stainova and Sienna Craig.
2021. “Our Relationships Carry the Movement.” *Radical History Review* 2021, no. 140 (2021): 186–196. Special issue “The AIDS Crisis Is Not Over,” co-edited by Emily Hobson and Dan Royles.

2020. "The Ground on Which We Stand: Making Abolition." *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* 23, no. 2 (2020): 98–120. (co-authored with Devin Burns, Lauren Dominguez, Rebekah Gordon, Lydia Moss, and Gabriela Rosario)
2020. "Theory on the Ground: Ethnography, Religio-Racial Study, and the Spiritual Work of Building Otherwise." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88, no. 2 (2020): 407-439. (co-authored with Women With A Vision)
2020. "Introduction: Religio-Racial Identity' as Challenge and Critique." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88, no. 2 (2020): 299–303.
2019. "Insurgent Cartography." Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, "An Otherwise Anthropology" series, July 31, 2019.
2019. "Introduction: An Otherwise Anthropology." Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, "An Otherwise Anthropology" series, July 31, 2019. (co-authored with Megan Raschig).
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," edited by James Logan (2019): 179-200. (co-authored with Reverend Doris Green)
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. (co-authored with Deon Haywood)
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. (co-authored with Deon Haywood)
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

2020. "'You have to Build a Relationship': Reflections on a CHW's Career of Outreach in Communities of Color." In *Promoting the Health of the Community: Community Health Workers Describing their Roles, Competencies and Practice*, edited by St. John J, et al. Springer. (co-authored with Ashley Wennerstrom and Catherine Haywood)
2018. "'And Still We Rise': Moral Panics, Dark Sousveillance, and Politics Otherwise in the new New Orleans." In *Panic, Transnational Cultural Studies, and the Affective Contours of Power*, edited by 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." In *Beyond Walls and Cages: Bridging Prison Abolition and Immigrant Justice Movements*, edited by Jenna Loyd, et al. University of Georgia Press.
2009. "HIV, Addiction, and Justice: Toward a Qur'anic Theology of Liberation." In *Islam and AIDS: Between Scorn, Pity, and Justice*, edited by Farid Esack and Sarah Chiddy. Oneworld Publications.

Book Reviews

2020. "Mary Frances Berry, *Five Dollars and a Pork Chop Sandwich: Vote Buying and the Corruption of Democracy*." *Journal of African American History* 105, no. 1 (2020): 188-190.
2017. "On Moments, Movements, and Women's Work." Symposium on *The New Abolition* by Gary Dorrien. *Syndicate*, April 3, 2017.

Encyclopedia Entries

2010. "HIV/AIDS." In *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV. Facts on File.
2010. "Contraception." In *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV. Facts on File.

Public Writing

2021. "[Abolition is sacred work](#)." In *The Immanent Frame*, January 28, 2021, contribution to forum on "Antiblackness as religion: Black living, Black dying, and Covid-19," co-edited by Mona Oraby and Ahmad Greene-Hayes.
2020. "[How To Make a Mutual Aid Map](#)." 2020. (shared and adapted by hundreds nationwide, reproduced in "Towards an Abolitionist Horizon: A Guidebook for Young Organizers, by Project NIA)
2020. "[HIV Prison Activists Are Leading a Freedom Movement in the Face of COVID-19](#)." In *Truthout*, April 14, 2020. (co-authored with Emily Hobson)
2018. "[Many Hands Make Light Work](#)." In *The Immanent Frame*, "Is This All There Is?" edited by Courtney Bender and Nancy Levine, March 9, 2018.
2017. "[Refusing to Vanish: Muslim Women's AIDS Activism](#)." In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, December 1, 2017.
2016. "[Front Porch Strategy: Sacred Space and Demonic Grounds](#)." In *Religion in American History*, July 31, 2016.
2015. "[Trust Black Women: God is Change](#)." In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, June 24, 2015.
2015. "[Making Time: Religion & Black Prison Organizing, an Interview with Hakim 'Ali](#)." In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, March 27, 2015.
2015. "[Haunted Passages: On Carrying the Past and Envisioning Justice](#)." In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, February 24, 2015.
2014. "[To Take Place and Have a Place: On Religion, White Supremacy & the People's Movement in Ferguson](#)." In *The Revealer: A Review of Religion and Media*, September 14, 2014.

Community Publications

2019. "[Our Existence is Political: 30 Years of Black Feminist Struggle](#)." *Women With A Vision*, December 2019. (co-authored with Andrea Ritchie)

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2021 “The Callie House Project: Religion and Public Health in the Black Experience in the American South.” Henry Luce Foundation. Award: \$250,000 for building a living archive on race, religion, and health with Black women activists and health practitioners across the South. (collaborative project with Jamil Drake)
- 2021 “Reimagining Black Women’s Carceral History in the South.” Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Grant, Florida State University. Award \$20,000 for summer funding to launch my second major research project.
- 2020 “American Prison Newspapers Project,” Robert B. Bradley Library Research Grant. Florida State University. (collaborative proposal with Paul Renfro) Award \$20,000 for digitizing prison newspapers nationwide, including those held in FSU collection.
- 2020 “Gendering Religion and Racializing Punishment in American History.” First Year Assistant Professor (FYAP) Grant, Florida State University. Award \$20,000 for summer funding to complete my first book project.
- 2019 “Making Abolition: The John Horace Bell Memorial Archive,” Robert B. Bradley Library Research Grant. Florida State University. Award \$2,000 for collection-building with original documents produced by QTPOC organizers in/out prison.
- 2018-2019 “Method-Making in Concert: Toward an Enchanted Method of Flourishing,” Venture Funding, Dartmouth College. Award \$20,000 for experimental ethnographic fieldwork across fieldsites. (collaborative project with Yana Stainova)
- 2016–2017 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Award \$20,000 for dissertation completion.
- 2015–2016 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Award \$15,000 to complete dissertation fieldwork.
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life. Award \$5,000 to pilot dissertation fieldwork.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022 Junior Faculty Leave, Spring 2022, Religion Department, Florida State University.
- 2021 Dean’s Travel Grant. Florida State University.
- 2020 Nominated for a Community Engaged Teaching Award (undergraduate and graduate), Florida State University. ***Ineligible to compete because I had not yet completed at least two full years of teaching at FSU.*
- 2019 Provost Travel Grant, Florida State University.
- 2019 Emerging Scholar, Center for the Study of the American South and the Department of American Studies at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2017-2020 Society of Fellows postdoctoral fellowship, Dartmouth College. (left at end of second year to begin faculty position at Florida State University)
- 2016–2017 Fellow, Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence, Columbia University.
- 2016 Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion.
- 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.
- 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

Courses Taught

- REL 3145: *Gender and Religion* (Fall 2021, Spring 2020)
- REL 3128: *Religion, Prisons, & Abolition* (Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019)
- REL 4491: *Hope is a Discipline: The Scholarship and Practice of Abolition* (Fall 2021)
- RLG 5305: *Collaborative Ethnography* (Spring 2021)
- RLG 5305: *Religion in the South* (Fall 2020)
- RLG 5135: *Abolition & Criminalization* (Spring 2020)

Directed Individual Studies

- Imagining Religion Otherwise* (Fall 2021)
- Abolitionist Research Methods* (Summer 2020)
- Prison Chaplaincy* (Fall 2019)

New Course Development

- Developed a three-course series on the intersections of religion and abolition at the undergraduate-level, advanced undergraduate-level, and graduate-level, “Religion, Prisons, & Abolition,” “Hope is a Discipline,” and “Abolition and Criminalization.” (2019-2021)
- Developed a graduate-level American Religious History course, “Religion in the South,” including six primary source modules designed with FSU Special Collections. (2020)
- Developed a graduate-level methods course, “Collaborative Ethnographies,” taught in partnership with Yana Stainova, Department of Anthropology, McMaster University. (2021)
- Developed the undergraduate-level course, “Gender & Religion,” as a flipped-classroom learning experience focused on the histories of religion and gender in Tallahassee. (2021)

Doctoral Committee Member

- Davis, Sarah, doctoral student. [Religion, American Religious History]
- Hudnall, Drew, doctoral student. [English, Rhetoric and Composition]

Perez, Humberto, doctoral student. [Religion, American Religious History]
 Wolff, America, doctoral student. [Religion, American Religious History]
 Gordon, Rebekah, doctoral student. [Religion, Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy].
 Burns, Devin, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]
 Hunter, Darryl, doctoral candidate. [Religion, American Religious History]
 Lovestone, Lauren, doctoral candidate. [Religion, Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy].

Masters Committee Member

McLoughlin, Samantha, masters student. [Religion, American Religious History]
 Burlingame, Delaney, masters student. [Religion, American Religious History]
 Rye, Nik, masters student. [Fine Arts, Multimedia Art]
 Wrobel, Nico, graduate (2020). *Creating Sacred Spaces: An Observance of American Protestant Chaplains in Hospitals and Prisons*. [Religion, American Religious History]

Undergraduate Committee Member

Burgin, Simone, student (2021). *The Prison, the Prophet, and the People: (In)Justice in Senegal*. [International Affairs]
 Jimenez, Alec, student (2021). *Cultural Capital, Social Capital, and Horizontal Stratification among University Undergraduates*. [Sociology]
 Portuallo, Christina, student (2021). *Daily Life and Conditions at Lowell Correctional Institution, 1956 to Present*. [History]

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

Spring 2017 *Religion, Gender, & Punishment in the USA* (undergraduate)

Columbia University, Department of Religion, New York, NY

Fall 2014 *Religion on the Move: People, Passages, & Possibilities in America* (undergraduate)

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).

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING

Leon County Detention Facility, Tallahassee, FL

Spring 2020 *What is Justice?* (pilot) Co-Founder and Co-Professor
 An independent, collaborative educational venture to bring Liberal Arts Education to people awaiting trial in the Leon Country Detention Facility.
 **Program on hold due to COVID-19

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 and Symposia**

- 2021 “Abolition is Sacred Work.” Keynote Speaker, SORCE Undergraduate Religion Symposium, Florida State University, November 2021.
- 2021 “We Spoke Our Truths: refusing gendered criminalization, making abolition feminism geographies.” Distinguished Visitors Program, Guest Lecture and Senior Colloquium, Haverford College, October 2021.
- 2021 “Front Porch Revolution.” Guest Lecture, Black Geographies, University of Tennessee, October 2021.
- 2021 “HIV Is Not Over.” Invited Talk, PRIDE Programming, Oberland, June 2021.
- 2021 “Making Abolition: Principles for Liberatory Praxis.” Guest Lecture, Religion, Punishment, Restoration, Pomona College, April 2021.
- 2021 “Abolition is sacred work.” Sermon, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, March 2021.
- 2021 “Anti-Racism and BLM.” Panel, Graduate Researchers of Geography and the Tallahassee Community Action Committee, March 2021.
- 2021 “Abolition is sacred work.” Guest Lecture, Philosophy & Religious Studies student group, Ball State University, February 2021.
- 2021 “Making Abolition: The Ground on Which We Stand.” Keynote Speaker, Social Change Symposium, February 2021.
- 2021 “Addressing Racism in/and the Academic Study of Religion.” Panelist, Columbia University and Barnard College, February 2021.
- 2020 “Abolitionist Theologies: Religious Resistance to Policing and Prisons.” Webinar Panelist, Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois, August 2020.
- 2020 “Past as Prologue: Storytelling about Resistance to the Brutality of Incarceration.” Webinar Panelist, Survived & Punished NY (S&P-NY) and the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW), May 2020.
- 2020 “What is the Public in Public Scholarship?” Workshop Participant, University of California, Berkeley, May 2020, ***postponed due to COVID-19.*
- 2020 “Theory on the Ground.” University Lecture, Yale Divinity School, March 2020, ***postponed due to COVID-19.*

- 2020 “Religious Studies and Mass Incarceration: Tips for Sharing Scholarship with the Public.” Webinar Panelist, Public Scholars Project, American Academy of Religion and Freedom Forum Institute, February 2020.
- 2020 “African American Religious Studies.” Workshop Participant, Princeton University, February 2020.
- 2019 “The Struggle Continues: Prisons, Religion, and Abolition.” University Lecture, MultiCultural Center, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 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.

Conference Papers Presented

- 2021 “Corona Capitalism, or Another World Is Possible.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 2021.
- 2021 “Seeing in the Dark.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2021.
- 2021 “Morality – Keywords for Medicine, Health & the Carceral State: Creative (Dis-)Connections for Healing & Liberation.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, October 2021.
- 2020 “Corona Capitalism, or Another World Is Possible.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, ***postponed due to COVID-19.*
- 2020 “Morality – Keywords for Medicine, Health & the Carceral State: Creative (Dis-)Connections for Healing & Liberation.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, ***postponed due to COVID-19.*
- 2019 “Theory on the Ground.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2019 “Where’s the Religion?: Decolonizing the Field, Becoming Subjects (Again).” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- 2018 “Moral Medicine: Treatment and Punishment in the Race to Incarcerate Women.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2018 “Front Porch Strategy: Sacred Space and Demonic Grounds.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2018 “Fire Dreams: Toward an Accomplice Anthropology.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2018.
- 2017 “‘There is NO Justice’: Dark Sousveillance and Politics Otherwise.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 2017.
- 2017 “Surveillance and Sabotage: Religio-Racial Identity in the Women’s Carceral Sphere.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2017.
- 2017 “Disrupting Narratives: Myths of the drug policy reform movement.” Panelist at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference, October 2017.

- 2016 “Resurrecting the Dead: Religion, Incarceration, and Revolutionary Love.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “‘Have Faith in Reproductive Justice’: Race, Reproduction, and American Religion.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “New Orleans is a Prison. OPP is a Time Out.?: Refusing Innocence.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- 2016 “Front Porch Strategy: Repairing and Resurrecting a Post-Katrina Otherwise, a Love Song for New Orleans.” Paper presented at 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.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- 2015 “My Existence Is Political’: Black Feminist Freedom Dreams and the Brutal Magic of the State.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- 2015 “When Treatment is Punishment: The Medicalization of Morality in the New War on Sex Workers.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 2015.
- 2014 “Black Gods of the Gulag: Diasporic Religious Imaginaries in the Prison Capital of the World.” Paper presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- 2014 “Like a Phoenix, We Rise: Relations of Resistance in the Prison Capital of the World.” Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- 2014 “Are the Gods Afraid?: Crimes Against Nature & the Spirit of Organized Resistance in New Orleans.” Paper presented at Symposium on Global Moral Panics, Indiana University, September 2014.
- 2014 “Born in Flames: Religion, Incarceration, and the Spirit of Grassroots Resistance in New Orleans.” Paper presented at Beyond the Culture Wars, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2014.
- 2013 “Theorizing Drugs: What Can Theory & Philosophy Teach Us About Drug Policy Reform?” Panelist at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference, October 2013.
- 2013 “‘To Instill Love for Our People’: Recovering Religion in Formerly Incarcerated People’s Movements.” Paper presented at Rethinking Prisons, Vanderbilt University, May 2013.
- 2012 “Chicago’s Transcendent Third: Lived Religion in a Time of Mass Incarceration.” Paper presented at Religion and the Trans..., Northwestern University, October 2012.
- 2010 “Women, Incarceration, and Islam: Towards a Theology of Resilience and Resistance.” Paper presented at Women, Incarceration and Human Rights Conference, Emory University, February 2009.

Conference 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. Co-organized with Matthew Cressler, Jamil Drake, and Megan Goodwin.
- 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 Women With A Vision (WWAV), New Orleans.
- 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.

PUBLIC EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2019 “30 Years at the Intersections: Justice, Action, and Black Feminist Struggle” a week-long series of events with WWAV’s Deon Haywood, hosted by the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth College, in partnership with eight academic departments and five student organizations. Co-organized with Yui Hashimoto, Pamela Voekel, and Bethany Moreton.
- 2018 “Religious Freedom and US Empire,” a Guest Lecture with Tisa Wenger, hosted by the Society of Fellows and the Religion Department at Dartmouth College.
- 2018 “Wounds and Worlds: Spiritual Healing as Politics Otherwise in California,” a Guest Lecture with Megan Raschig, hosted by the Society of Fellows and the Departments of Religion and Anthropology at Dartmouth College.
- 2018 “Medicalizing the Souls of Black Folk: Public Health and the Governance of Black Religion in the American South,” a Guest Lecture 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 “Theory on the Ground: religion and spirituality repressing and redeeming the struggles for justice,” co-organizer and moderator of a panel with Nyle Fort, Deon Haywood, and Josef Sorett, hosted by the Center for Religion and Media at New York University. Co-organized with Kali Handelman.
- 2015 “Making Time: Discipline and Religion in America’s Prisons,” co-organizer and moderator of a panel with Hakim ‘Ali, Tanya Erzen, Robin McGinty, and Angela Zito, hosted by the Center for Religion and Media at New York University. Co-organized with Kali Handelman.
- 2014 “Are the Gods Afraid of Black Sexuality?: Religion and the Burdens of Black Sexual Politics,” Graduate Coordinator for the annual Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS), organized by Josef Sorett, at Columbia University.
- 2014 “Graduate Student Workshop on Religion and Incarceration,” co-organizer and workshop participant, hosted by the Central New York Working Group on Religion and Mass Incarceration. Co-organized with Joshua Dubler, Chris Garces, and Vincent Lloyd.
- 2013 “Religion on the Move: Movement, Migration, Missions and new Media across Religious Traditions,” co-organizer of the Columbia University Religion Graduate Students Association’s annual conference. Co-organized with Elizabeth Tinsley.
- 2013 “Migrant Imaginaries: Religion on the Move in the African Diaspora,” co-organizer of panel with Randal Jelks, Lerone Martin, Frances Negrón-Muntaner, and Carla Shedd, hosted in partnership with the Religions of Harlem project at Columbia University. Co-organized with Josef Sorett.
- 2013 “Fencing in God,” co-organizer of a semester-long series of public talks and film screenings on religion, incarceration, and immigration, hosted by the Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life (IRCPL). Co-organized with Chelsea Ebin. Events included:
- “Guadalupan New York,” a talk by Alyshia Gálvez;
 - *Sin Nombre* film screening;
 - *Broken on All Sides* film screening;
 - “Religion and Incarceration,” a conversation with Winnifred Sullivan and Julio Medina;
 - *Sentenced Home* film screening; and
 - “Immigration Detention,” a panel with Jordan Flaherty, Amy Gottlieb, Rosemary Hicks, and Douglas Thompson.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2022 Member, Program Committee, American Studies Association 2022 Annual Meeting, “[The Roof is on Fire](#),” November 3-6, 2022 – New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2021–2022 Religion Selector, Preliminary Selection Committee, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, the Institute for Citizens & Scholars (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation).
- 2021– Steering Committee Member, *North American Religions Unit*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2020– Member, *Black Religious Studies Working Group*.
- 2019– Steering Committee Member, *Afro-American Religious History Unit*, American Academy of Religion.
- 2018–2021 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 Abolition*, a collaborative forum for activists and academics to explore religion, power, and the ends of mass criminalization.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- 2021–2022 Reviewer, Committee on Faculty Research Support (COFRS) Grant Program, Florida State University.
- 2020– Faculty Advisor, LGBTheology, Florida State University.
- 2020– Member, Departmental Curriculum Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020–2021 Member, Chair Selection Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020– Faculty Co-Advisor, Distance Learning Pedagogy Group, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2020– Member, Allison Elizabeth Overholt Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019– Member, Interdisciplinary Faculty Human Rights Seminar, Florida State University.
- 2019– Faculty Co-Founder and Advisor, Mentoring Group for ARH Women, Trans and Gender Nonconforming Graduate Students, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019– Faculty Advisor, Abolition Club, Florida State University.
- 2019–2020 Member, Executive Committee, Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2019–2020 Advisor, Graduate Symposium, “Policing Identity, Surveilling Religion,” Department of Religion, Florida State University.
- 2011–2017 Member, University Seminar on Religion in America, Columbia University.

ACTIVIST EXPERIENCE/WORK HISTORY

- 2020– Founding Member, Tallahassee Bail Fund, Tallahassee, FL.
- 2020– Founding Member, Free Them All Coalition, Tallahassee, FL.
- 2018–2020 Project Development Consultant and Evaluator, Photography in Collaboration: Migration and Religion, Magnum Foundation, New York, NY.
- 2016– Co-Founder and Associate Director, Front Porch Research Strategy, New Orleans, LA.
- 2015–2018 Advisor, ‘Prisoner to Patient’ Project, New Orleans, LA (a project of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute).
- 2015 Volunteer Coordinator, “Ecohybridity – Love Song for NOLA,” a Black feminist visual opera for the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina), New Orleans, LA.
- 2010– Board Member, Transforming Reentry Services (formerly Men & Women In Prison Ministries), Chicago, IL.
- 2010– Board Member, Reconstruction, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- 2010– Board Member, Women With A Vision, Inc., 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, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2008–2009 Director of Project UNSHACKLE, Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project, New York, NY.
- 2006–2007 Coordinator, Harvard Prison Education Project, Cambridge, MA.
- 2001–2006 Founding Director of Prison Services, Philadelphia FIGHT, 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, Philadelphia, PA.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion.
Afro-American Religions History Unit
North American Religions Unit
Religion and the Economy Unit
- American Anthropological Association.
- American Historical Association.
- American Studies Association.
- Phi Beta Kappa.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (Advanced Reading, Writing, Speaking)

REFERENCES

Courtney Bender

Professor of Religion
Columbia University
80 Claremont Ave.
New York, NY 10027
212-851-4134
cb337@columbia.edu

Mary Frances Berry

Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought Emerita
University of Pennsylvania
College Hall 216E
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6214
215-898-9587
mfberry@sas.upenn.edu

John L. Jackson, Jr.

Richard Perry University Professor of Communications, Africana Studies and Anthropology
University of Pennsylvania
3701 Locust Walk, Caster Building
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6214
215-898-5512
jjackson@upenn.edu

Bethany Moreton

Professor of History
Dartmouth College
411 Carson Hall, HB 6107
Hanover, NH 03755
603-646-2141
Bethany.E.Moreton@Dartmouth.edu

Josef Sorett

Professor of Religion and African American and African Diaspora Studies
Columbia University
80 Claremont Ave.
New York, NY 10027
212-851-4141
js3119@columbia.edu

Judith Weisenfeld

Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion
Princeton University
1879 Hall Washington Road
Princeton, NJ 08544
609-258-8409
jweisenf@princeton.edu