

MARY-JANE VICTORIA RUBENSTEIN

**Wesleyan University
Department of Religion
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Wesleyan University July, 2006 – present
Assistant Professor, Department of Religion
Core Faculty, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

Columbia University
Instructor, Core Curriculum September, 2005 – May, 2006

EDUCATION

Columbia University
Ph.D., Philosophy of Religion, *with distinction* May, 2006
M.Phil., Philosophy of Religion, *with distinction* May, 2004
Certificate, Comparative Literature and Society May, 2004
M.A., Philosophy of Religion, *with distinction* May, 2003

Cambridge University, Emmanuel College
M.Phil., Philosophical Theology, *with distinction* October, 2001
Post-Graduate Diploma, Philosophical Theology, *with distinction* October, 2000

Williams College September, 1995 – June, 1999
B.A., Religion and English, *summa cum laude*

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Caleb T. Winchester Teaching Award, Wesleyan chapter of Psi Upsilon May, 2009
Core Curriculum Award for Teaching Excellence, Columbia University May, 2006
Class Speaker, Columbia University Doctoral Convocation May, 2006
Christianity and Media Working Group, New York University Sept, 2004 – May, 2005
Scholar in Residence, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine May, 2005 – Aug., 2006
Episcopal Church Foundation Doctoral Fellowship February, 2004 – May, 2006
Jacob K. Javits Doctoral Fellowship August, 2001 – May, 2005
Center for Comparative Literature and Society Fellowship, Columbia University

August, 2001 – May, 2006

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, Columbia University
August, 2001 – May, 2006
Theological Studies Prize (M.Phil.), Cambridge University October, 2001
Dr. Herchel Smith Fellowship, Williams College October, 1999 – October, 2001
Member, Phi Beta Kappa Society inducted June, 1999
Member, Gargoyle Honor Society, Williams College inducted May, 1998
Arthur B. Graves Essay Prize in Religion, Williams College June, 1999
Class of 1960 Scholarship in English, Williams College September, 1998 – June, 1999

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Strange Wonder: The Closure of Metaphysics and the Opening of Awe (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).

Articles and Chapters In Progress

“Undone By Each Other: Interrupted Sovereignty in Augustine’s *Confessions*”

Articles and Chapters Accepted for Publication

“The Fire Each Time: Dark Energy and the Breath of Creation,” *Theology and Energy*, ed. Clayton Crockett (Continuum Press, forthcoming), 26 pages.

“Capital Shares: The Way Back into the With of Christianity,” *Political Theology* (forthcoming, July 2009), 24 pages.

Published Articles and Chapters

“Onward, Ridiculous Debaters,” *Political Theology* 10.1 (January 2009): 126-9.

“Dionysius, Derrida, and the Critique of Ontotheology,” *Modern Theology* 24: 4 (October 2008): 726-41. Also to be included in *Re-thinking Dionysius*, ed. Sarah Coakley and Charles Stang (Oxford: Blackwell, 2009), 195-211.

“Anglicans in the Postcolony: On Sex and the Limits of Communion,” *Telos* 143 (Summer, 2008), 133-160.

“Let Freedom Free: Politics and Religion at the Heart of a Muddled Concept,” in *The Sleeping Giant Has Awoken: The New Politics of Religion in the United States*, ed. Jeffrey W. Robbins and Neal Magee, with an introduction by John D. Caputo, and postface by Slavoj Zizek (New York: Continuum Press, 2008), 190-204.

- “Of Ghosts and *Angels*: Derrida, Kushner, and the Impossibility of Forgiveness,” *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 9:1 (Winter 2008): 79-95.
- “A Certain Disavowal: The Pathos and Politics of Wonder,” *Princeton Theological Review* (Fall 2006): 11-17.
- “The Unbearable Witness of Being: On the Essentialist Blind-Spot of Anti-Ontotheology,” in *Theology and the Political: The New Debate*, ed. Creston Davis, John Milbank, and Slavoj Žižek, with an introduction by Rowan Williams (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), 340-49.
- “Pardon Me...,” in *Derrida’s Bible: Reading a Page of Scripture with a Little Help from Derrida*, ed. Yvonne Sherwood (New York: Palgrave, 2004), 295-99.
- “An Anglican Crisis of Comparison: Intersections of Race, Gender, and Religious Authority, with Particular Reference to the Church of Nigeria,” *Journal of American Academy of Religion* 72:2 (June 2004): 341-65.
- “Unknow Thyself: Apophaticism, Deconstruction, and Theology after Ontotheology,” *Modern Theology* 19:3 (July 2003): 387-417. Also to be included in *Apophatic Bodies: Infinity, Ethics, and Incarnation*, ed. Catherine Keller (New York: Fordham University Press, forthcoming).
- “Relationality: The Gift after Ontotheology,” *Telos* 123 (Spring 2002): 65-80.
- “Ecstatic Subjectivity: Kierkegaard’s Critiques and Appropriations of the Socratic,” *Literature and Theology* 16:4 (December 2002): 349-62.
- “Kierkegaard’s Socrates: A Venture in Evolutionary Theory,” *Modern Theology* 17:4 (October 2001): 441-74.

Book Reviews Accepted for Publication

Aristotle Papanikolaou and George Demacopoulos, eds. *Orthodox Readings of Augustine* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2009). *Modern Theology*, forthcoming.

Book Reviews Published

Aristotle Papanikolaou, *Being with God: Trinity, Apophaticism, and Divine-Human Communion* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2006). *Modern Theology* 23:4 (December 2007): 631-34.

Jean-Louis Chrétien, *The Ark of Speech* (London and New York: Routledge, 2004). *Modern Theology* 21:2 (April, 2005): 340-43.

Amy Laura Hall, *Kierkegaard and the Treachery of Love* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002). *Modern Theology* 20:2 (April 2004): 327-30.

M. Jamie Ferreira, *Love's Grateful Striving: A Commentary on Kierkegaard's Works of Love* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001). *Modern Theology* 19:2 (April, 2003): 295-7.

Francis Clark, *Godfaring: Reason, Faith, and Sacred Being* (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2000). *Modern Theology* 18:1 (January 2002): 127-29.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

"The Fire Each Time: Dark Energy and the Breath of Creation," "Theology and Energy" Conference. University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, 20-22 February 2009.

"Thinking Otherwise: On Secularism and the Limits of Immanence," "Varieties of Secular Experience" Conference. Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 13 November 2008.

"The Way Back into the With of Christianity," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, IL, 3 November 2008.

"Heidegger's Caves: On Dwelling in Wonder," "A Sense of Wonder" Conference. Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, 4 June 2008. Also presented to the Division II Seminar, Wesleyan University, 30 October 2008.

"Putting the 'Pre-' in Postmodern: The Onto-Politics of Radical Orthodoxy," Wesleyan University. Middletown, CT, 8 May, 2008.

"On Not Knowing Where I'm Going: A Response to John Thatamanil," Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium: "Planetarity, Postcoloniality, and the Future of Feminist Theology." Drew University, Madison, NJ, November, 2007.

"The State of the Church: Sex and Gender in Postcolonial Anglicanism," Trinity College. Hartford, CT, October, 2007.

"A Faith in Ends: Sam Harris and the Gospel of Neo-Atheism," Durham, NC Alumni Association of Wesleyan University, June, 2007.

"The Eclipse of the Political: A Response to '[De]Constructing Boundaries,'" "ReStating Religion" Conference. Columbia University, New York, New York, March, 2006.

"Reconciliation and the Post-Colonial Church," St. Luke in the Fields, New York City, 6 November, 2005.

“The Limits of Orthodoxy: A Response to John Milbank,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November, 2005.

“Of Ghosts and *Angels*: Derrida, Kushner, and the Impossibility of Forgiveness,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November, 2005.

“‘But I Was Outside Myself’: Augustine and His Legacy,” Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City, 9 November, 2005.

“Wonder and the Births of Philosophy,” “Religion Unwound: A Graduate/Faculty Colloquium,” Columbia University, New York City, 27 October 2005.

“On Detachment: Meister Eckhart and the Unground of Self-Abandonment,” Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City, 28 April, 2004.

“Freud’s Leonardos/Leonardo’s Freuds: On Identification, Deification, and Disavowal.” Art Students’ League, New York City, March, 2004.

“Liberation and Concealment: The Structure of the Book of Revelation,” Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City, 21 September, 2003.

“‘When the Hour of Danger Comes’: Bonhoeffer and Political Resistance,” Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City, 21 May 2003.

“Kierkegaard’s Attack upon Christendom,” Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City, 7 May 2003.

“Response to Slavoj Žižek’s ‘In What Sense Was Nietzsche a Christian?’” “Engaging Traditions: Ontologies in Practice” Conference. Charlottesville, Virginia, September 2002.

“Revealing Darkness: Toward an Anti-Racist Reading of Revelation,” “Illumination: Reason, Revelation and Science” Conference. St. Stephen’s House, Oxford, July 2002.

“Kierkegaard: Narrativity and the Knight of Faith,” Portsmouth Grammar School, England, Spring, 2001.

“Ecstatic Subjectivity: Kierkegaard’s Critiques and Appropriations of the Socratic,” delivered to the D-Society of Cambridge University, November, 2000.

“Repetition and Ordeal,” Job Reading Group, Peterhouse College, Cambridge University, Michaelmas, 2000.

“God, Gender, and the Fall: Working through Kristeva’s ‘*Stabat Mater*,’” Adam and Eve Reading Group, Peterhouse College, Cambridge University, Michaelmas, 1999.

INTERVIEWS

“Faculty Lounge,” Wesleyan University FM, 18 April, 2008
(facultylounge.mypodcast.com)

“The Anglican Crisis: An Interview with Mary-Jane Rubenstein,” *TELOSscope*
(http://www.telospress.com/main/index.php?main_page=news_article&article_id=265).

TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Wesleyan University

RELI 125: “Unthinkable Suffering: The Problem of the Problem of Evil”

Syllabus includes: the book of Job, Cicero, Epictetus, Julian of Norwich, Friedrich Nietzsche, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Hannah Arendt, Emmanuel Levinas, Elie Wiesel.

RELI 214: “Reason and Revelation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion”

Syllabus includes: Anselm, Aquinas, René Descartes, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich G.W.F. Hegel, Søren Kierkegaard, Sigmund Freud, Emmanuel Levinas, Luce Irigaray, Jean-Luc Nancy, Jacques Derrida.

RELI 220: “Modern Christian Thought”

Syllabus includes: St. Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Teresa of Avila, Soren Kierkegaard, Karl Barth, Paul Tillich, Martin Luther King, James Cone, Katie Cannon, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Mark Jordan, Catherine Keller.

RELI 291: “Political Theologies: Engaging Christianity in the Public Sphere”

Syllabus includes: St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Soren Kierkegaard, Martin Luther King, Daniel Bell, David Chidester, Stanley Hauerwas, Catherine Keller, Slavoj Zizek, Jean Baudrillard.

RELI 304: “God after the Death of God: Premodern Echoes of Postmodern Thought”

Syllabus includes: G.W.F. Hegel, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Jacques Derrida, Pseudo-Dionysius, Marguerite Porete, Meister Eckhart, John of the Cross, Jean-Luc Marion, Mark C. Taylor, John Caputo, Richard Kearney.

RELI 310: “Christianity and Sexuality”

Syllabus includes: Genesis, Romans, Augustine, Aquinas, Jerome, Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, John Boswell, Mark Jordan, Elaine Pagels, Phyllis Trible, Daniel Boyarin, Marcella Althaus-Reid, Rosemary Radford Ruether

Theses advised:

Evan Morse, "Thinking Particularity: Scotus and Heidegger on Metaphysics," 2008

Leah Campbell, "Out of Order: Chaos, Sovereignty, Subject," 2009.

Jason Harris, "Toward the 'One New Human': Undoing the Racial-Religious Bipolarity of American Evangelicalism," 2009.

Aaliya Zaveri, "The Praised and the Damned: Muslim Women and the Politics of Adultery," 2009.

Columbia University

Instructor, "Contemporary Civilization" 2005 - 2006

Explores Western political philosophy from the Hebrew Bible and Plato through Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida.

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City

Lecturer for the Cathedral's Adult Education Series in Theology

Oxbridge Academic Programmes

Guest lecturer in philosophy Summer, 2000

Subject: George Berkeley

Williams College

Instructor, "Rhetoric and the Essay" Spring, 1999

UNIVERSITY SERVICE, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Committees

Tenure-track Representative, Academic Council September 2007 – present

Tenure-track Representative, Executive Committee September 2007 – present

Board of Directors, Center for the Humanities September 2007 – present

Member, Social Sciences Computing Committee September 2006 – present

Other activities

Lecture: "Faith, Nonviolence, and Political Action," delivered with Don Moon to Alpha Delta Phi, 2 April 2008

Panelist, "The Politics of Jesus in Retrospect," 5 February, 2008.

Panelist, New Faculty Orientation, 29 August, 2007.

Advisor, InterFaith House

Member, Critical Studies Faculty Seminar

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Journals and professional associations

Member of editorial board, *Modern Theology*

Member of local advisory board, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*

Member of steering committee, Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group, American Academy of Religion

Manuscript reviewer, *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*
Manuscript reviewer, Fordham University Press

Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary

Co-coordinator, "Religion Unwound" Colloquium September, 2005 – May, 2006
Coordinator, Theology and Continental Philosophy Reading Group Spring, 2003
Tutor, West Harlem After-School Program September, 2001 – May, 2002

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City

Director, Forum Series on Religion and Public Life May, 2005 – June, 2006

Associate Director, Ministry for Education September 2001 – June, 2006
Co-Chair, Education Committee January, 2003 – May, 2006

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

The American Academy of Religion
The American Philosophical Association
The Association for Political Theory
The Theology and Philosophy Cooperative