

RACHEL WHEELER

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017- Assistant Professor of Theology (Spirituality)
University of Portland, Portland, OR
Courses Taught: *Bible, Past and Present; Christian Spirituality (graduate-level course); Spirituality in a Time of Ecological Crisis*
- 2016-2017 Visiting Assignment Professor of Theology (Spirituality)
University of Portland, Portland, OR
Courses Taught: *Bible, Past and Present; Responding to God: An Introduction to Spiritual Practice; Introduction to Christian Spirituality*
- 2014 Instructor
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Course Taught: *Desert Spirituality*
- 2013 Teaching Assistant
Franciscan School of Theology, GTU, Berkeley, CA (now of Oceanside, CA)
Course: *Gender and Mysticism*

EDUCATION

- 2017 Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Doctor of Philosophy in Theology and Religious Studies (Area: Christian Spirituality)
- 2012 Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary, Collegeville, MN
Master of Arts in Theology (Area: Monastic Studies)
- 2005 Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
Bachelor of Arts in Music
- 2004 Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
Master of Arts in English
- 1997 Linfield College, McMinnville, OR
Bachelor of Arts in English, with honors

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Ecospiritual Practices: Asceticism in Response to Social and Ecological Injustice,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. November, 2018 [scheduled]

“Rival Functions of Motherhood in the Christian Desert Tradition” for the Northwest Early Christian Studies Seminar in Portland, OR. April 14, 2018

“Hidden Kindness: Strategies of Spiritual Care and Communication in the Christian Desert,” American Academy of Religion Western Region Conference, Berkeley, CA. March 24, 2018

“Determination in the Desert: Encountering Language of Force in *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*,” Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Biennial Meeting, Kappel, Switzerland. June 28, 2017

“Of Trash and Treasure: A Spirituality of Zero Waste,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 21, 2016

“Anxiety in Contemplative Practice: Stories from the Christian Desert,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 19, 2016

“Holy Feigning in *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*,” Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa. May 21, 2015

“Rumi and the Desert Fathers: Paradigms of Encounter and Transformation,” Ibn ‘Arabi Society Annual Conference, Berkeley, CA. November 15, 2014

“Growing Wings like Eagles: Women’s Bodies and Women’s Work in *The Life of Syncretica*,” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. May 9, 2014

“Invitation to Convers(at)ion: Judges 13 on What it Means to be in Relationship with God and Others,” Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Conference, Notre Dame, IN. July 2, 2013

“Competitive Asceticism: The Gendered Other as a Source of Self-Revelation in Palladius’s *Lausiac History*,” Women and Religion Student Conference, Berkeley, CA. March 1, 2013

OTHER PRESENTATIONS, BY INVITATION

“Desert Spirituality: Exploring the Roots of Contemplative Prayer” at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Milwaukie, OR. March 7, 2018

Preaching at Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Portland, OR. February 18, 2018

“Greening the Desert: Reading the Desert Fathers and Mothers in a Time of Ecological Crisis,” for the University of Portland Theology Thursday presentations. February 15, 2018

Preaching at Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Portland, OR. August 13, 2017

Preaching at Camas Friends Church in Camas, WA. May 22, 2016

“The Desert Ammas and Negotiating Boundaries” at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, CA
January 6, 2016

“Poetry and the Eucharist” at Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA.
March 11, 2015

“Writing Your Own Psalms” at the Lutheran Church of Arcata in Arcata, CA.
February 2010

Guest and guest host on the radio show, *The Mad River Anthology*, for KHSU Humboldt State
University in Arcata, CA [archived at www.madriveranthology.wordpress.com]. 2008-2010

PUBLICATIONS

Book Review: *Psychology, Religion, and Spirituality: Concepts and Applications*. By Fraser Watts.
Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press, 2017. In *Spiritus* 18, no. 1 (Spring 2018): 112-13.

“Holy Feigning in the *Apophthegmata Patrum*,” *HTS Theologese Studies/Theological Studies* 72, no.
4 (2016).

“Growing Wings like Eagles: Women’s Bodies and Women’s Work in *The Life of Syncletica*,”
Magistra: A Journal of Women’s Spirituality in History 20, no. 1 (Summer 2014): 76-96.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS

2013-2015	Annual Travel Grants from the Graduate Theological Union to present papers at conferences: SSCS Conference at Notre Dame (7/13); Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo (5/14); and SSCS Conference in Johannesburg (5/15)
Fall 2014	Newhall Teaching Fellowship from the Graduate Theological Union to teach <i>Desert Spirituality</i>
Spring 2014	Newhall Research Fellowship from the Graduate Theological Union to research Women in Religious Leadership
2012-2014	Presidential Scholarship from the Graduate Theological Union
2010-2012	Agnes M. Steil Scholarship from Saint John’s School of Theology Seminary

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Contemplative Environmental Practice Workshop, Lama Foundation, San Cristobal, New Mexico. July 28-August 3, 2017

SERVICE

Participant accompanier for the University of Portland Collegiate Challenge Habitat for Humanity Service-Learning Project. Tacoma, Washington. March 11-17, 2018

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

History of Christian Spirituality, Desert Spirituality, Contemplative Studies, Ecological Spirituality, Sacred Activism, Asceticism, Monastic History and Spirituality, Comparative Spirituality, Mysticism, Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Practices, Benedictine Spirituality, Early and Medieval Christianity, Historical Theology, Practical Theology, Feminist Theology, Women's Studies in Religion, Poetry and Prayer

MEMBERSHIPS

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality (SSCS)
American Academy of Religion (AAR)
North American Patristics Society (NAPS)
American Weil Society (AWS)