

## DEBORAH F. WHITEHEAD

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Senior Research Fellow, Center for Media, Religion,  
and Culture, University of Colorado, Boulder 2015-present  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder 2007-2015

### EDUCATION

Harvard University Divinity School, Th.D., Religion, Gender, and Culture 2006  
Florida State University, M.A., Religious Studies 1997  
Florida State University, B.A., Philosophy and Religion, magna cum laude 1994

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

*William James, Pragmatism, and American Culture*. Indiana University Press, American Philosophy series, January 2016.

*Christian Evangelicals and Digital Media: The Mediated Gospel in America*. Under contract with Routledge Research in Religion, Media, and Culture Series.

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Secrets of a Food Storage Mom: Mormonism, Motherhood and the Mainstreaming of Emergency Preparedness.” In *Mothers and Food: Negotiating Foodways from Maternal Perspectives*, ed. Florence Pasche Guignard and Tanya M. Cassidy. Toronto, ON: Demeter Press, forthcoming April 2016.

“The Evidence of Things Unseen: Emotional Fraud and Authenticity in the Christian Mommy Blogosphere,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 83 no. 1 (March 2015): 120-150. DOI: 10.1093/jaarel/lfu083.  
\*Most cited JAAR article for April 2015

“The Story God Is Weaving Us Into: Narrativizing Grief, Faith and Infant Loss in U.S. Evangelical Women’s Blog Communities,” Special Issue: Online Memorial Culture, *The New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia* 21 nos. 1-2: 42-56. DOI: 10.1080/13614568.2014.983559.

“Bridging the Chasm: The Medium, the Mystic, and Religion as Mediation in the Work of William James,” *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 35 no. 2 (May 2014): 129-152.

“When Religious ‘Mommy Bloggers’ Met ‘Mommy Porn’: Evangelical Christian and Mormon Women’s Responses to *Fifty Shades of Grey*,” *Sexualities* 16 no. 8 (Dec. 2013): 915-931.

#### Co-Authored Articles, Peer Reviewed

“Reading the Religious Romance: Sexuality, Spirituality, and Motherhood in the Bible and Today.” Co-authored with Mark Roncace. Pgs. 113-28 in *Mother Goose, Mother Jones, Mommy Dearest: Biblical Mothers and Their Children*. Edited by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan and Tina Pippin. *Semeia Studies* 61. SBL, 2009; Brill, 2010.

#### Contributions to Edited Volumes

“Religion,” in the *Ashgate Research Companion to Nineteenth Century American Law and Culture*, eds. Nan Goodman and Simon Stern. Ashgate Research Companion Series, Ashgate Publishing, forthcoming 2016.

“Gender,” in *Key Words in Material Religion*, ed. S. Brent Plate. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.

“Mom Blogs and the Religion of Everyday Life,” in Jeffrey Mahan, *Media, Religion, and Culture: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge, 2014, 47-48. (Sidebar contribution)

(In Preparation) “Faith, Doubt, and the Search for Truth in the Mommy Blogosphere.” For a volume provisionally entitled *Third Spaces*, ed. Stewart Hoover and Nabil Echchaibi.

**Articles, Non Peer-Reviewed**

- “Scope Bacon, Twtr Hoaxes, and Joel Osteen’s Big Reveal: Hoaxes and Authenticity in an Online World,” *Religion Dispatches*, 6 May 2013, [http://www.religiondispatches.org/archive/culture/7080/scope\\_bacon\\_twtr\\_hoaxes\\_joel\\_osteen\\_s\\_big\\_reveal/](http://www.religiondispatches.org/archive/culture/7080/scope_bacon_twtr_hoaxes_joel_osteen_s_big_reveal/) (2900 wds)
- “Case Study: Faith, Doubt, and the Search for Truth in the Mommy Blogosphere,” *Finding Religion in the Media Work in Progress on the “Third Spaces of Digital Religion,”* Working Paper 2.0, Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2012. (5500 wds)
- “Feminism, Religion, and the Politics of History,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 27, no. 2 (fall 2011): 3-9. (3275 wds)
- “Roundtable: Negotiating Feminist and Gender Studies,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 26, no. 1 (spring 2010): 135-37. (1200 wds)

**Edited Journal Issue**

Special Issue of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* in Honor of Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 25, no. 1 (spring 2009). Co-edited with Nami Kim. With substantive “Editors’ Introduction: Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and Feminist Theologies/Studies in Religion” (Ibid., 1-18).

**Book Reviews**

(In preparation) Martin Halliwell and Joel D.S. Rasmussen, eds., *William James and the Transatlantic Conversation: Pragmatism, Pluralism, and Philosophy of Religion* (Oxford, 2014). For *The Expository Times*.

**Blogs**

- “How the Haters and Atheists Stole Christmas (and what to do about it),” Third Spaces Blog, 19 January 2015, <https://thirdspacesblog.wordpress.com/2015/01/19/how-the-haters-and-atheists-stole-christmas-and-what-to-do-about-it/> (2100 wds)
- “Real Religion? Questions of Authenticity in ‘Meet the Mormons,’” Third Spaces Blog, 15 December 2014, <http://thirdspacesblog.wordpress.com/2014/12/15/real-religion-questions-of-authenticity-in-meet-the-mormons/> (1475 wds)
- “Everywhere Is Resistance: Social Media and the Turkey Protests,” Third Spaces Blog, 10 June 2013, <http://thirdspacesblog.wordpress.com/2013/06/10/everywhere-is-resistance-social-media-and-the-turkey-protests/> (2375 wds)
- “Joel Osteen Is Not Losing His Religion (and What This Tells Us About Authenticity and Hoaxes Online),” Third Spaces Blog, 8 May 2013, <http://thirdspacesblog.wordpress.com/2013/05/08/joel-osteen-is-not-losing-his-religion-and-what-this-tells-us-about-authenticity-and-hoaxes-online/> (1280 wds)

**LECTURES, CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**Invited Lectures

“What’s ‘American’ about American Pragmatism?: William James and the Origins of the Pragmatist Tradition.” Department of Religion, Syracuse University, October 20, 2015.

Conference Papers and Presentations Accepted by Blind Peer Review

- “Secrets of a Food Storage Mom: Motherhood and Food Storage Practices in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Religion and Food Group, Atlanta, November 2015.
- “Joel Osteen, Evangelicalism, and the Negotiation of Religious Authority,” International Society for Media, Religion and Culture Conference, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, August 6, 2014.
- “Mediation as Religious Practice: Reading Evangelical Approaches to New Media,” International Communications Association (ICA) Pre-Conference on Religion and Media, Seattle, May 22, 2014.
- “The Story God Is Weaving Us Into: Narrativizing Grief, Faith, and Infant Loss in U.S. Women’s Religious Blog Communities,” Death Online Symposium, Durham, UK, April 10, 2014.

- “Pragmatism’s Manifest Destiny: Narrative, Nationalism, and American Identity in the Pragmatist Tradition,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, Baltimore, November 25, 2013.
- “The Ties That Bind and Break: Emotional Fraud and Community Formation in Religious Mom Blogs,” Panel on Third Spaces, Religion, and Spirituality in the Digital Age, Association of Internet Researchers (AOIR) IR Conference 14.0, Denver, October 25, 2013.
- “Vulnerable Subjects: Technologies of the Self in Women’s Religious Blog Communities,” In/Vulnerabilities and Social Change: Precarious Lives and Experimental Knowledge, Centre for Research on Economic and Social Change (CRESC) Annual Conference, SOAS/University of London, London, September 4, 2013.
- “Social Media and Religious Identity: Evangelical Blogs as Third Spaces,” Media, Religion and Culture Conference 2012, Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey, July 9, 2012.
- “Religion Out of Place: ‘Tebowing’ as Conspicuous Religious Practice,” Religion in the Digital Age: Media, Performance, and “Spectacular Activism,” Annual Conference for the Mediating Religion Network, NYU Center for Religion and Media, New York University, New York, NY, June 25, 2012.
- “James, Gender, and the Academic Study of Religion,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, Atlanta, GA, November 1, 2010.
- “The Evidence of Things Unseen,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Media, Religion, and Culture Group, Atlanta, GA, October 31, 2010.
- “James’s Middle Way: Beyond Pragmatism,” Session on Religion: Spirituality and Culture, “In the Footsteps of William James: A Symposium to Honor—and Make Use of—James’s Ideas,” Conference organized by the William James Society in cooperation with the Houghton Library at Harvard University, Chocorua, NH, August 14, 2010.
- “Continuing the Argument: Pluralism, Continuity, and Conflict in Bernstein’s ‘Engaged Pragmatism,’” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, San Diego, CA, November 2007.
- “Feminism, Religion, and Democracy in the American Pragmatic Tradition,” Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, November 2002.
- “The Gender of Pragmatism: Exploring Rhetoric, Gender, and Religion in the Writings of William James,” Forum on Gender across the Disciplines, Harvard University, April 2002.

#### Invited

- Respondent, Panel on Nineteenth Century Women and Religious Reform, Quaker Studies Group and Women and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2015.
- Led graduate seminar on William James, for Theory and Method in the Study of Religion, Department of Religious Studies, Syracuse University, October 2015.
- Panelist, “Religion and the Master Narrative” Conference, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, October 2015.
- Respondent, Panel on Pragmatism and Ethics, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 25, 2014.
- Panelist, “Issues and Future Directions for Studying Mediated/Mediatized Religion,” ISMRC Post-Conference Workshop, Canterbury, UK, August 7, 2014.
- Roundtable on Brad Gregory’s *The Unfinished Reformation*, Center for Medieval and Modern Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, April 1, 2014.
- Roundtable on Post-Holocaust American Judaism with Shaul Magid (Indiana University), Program for Jewish Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, March 6, 2014.
- Panelist for “Third Spaces, Religion and Spirituality in the Digital Age,” International Conference on Religion: The Global View, Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, January 11, 2014.
- “Blogging the Truth: Authenticity, Mediated Faith and Doubt in U.S. Evangelical Christian Digital Cultures,” Media and Religion Workshop, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, February 10, 2012.
- “Reflections on the Ethics and Aesthetics of ‘Authentic’ Religion in a New Media Age,” International Conference on Digital Religion, Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, January 14, 2012.

- “The Evidence of Things Unseen: Faith and Authenticity in the Blogosphere,” presentation given at the Finding Religion in the Media Research Symposium, Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, October 21, 2011.
- “Seeing and (Not) Believing: Religious Faith and Authorial Credibility in the Blogosphere,” Media Spaces, Religion Networks, and Social Change: A Transatlantic Collaborative Workshop organized by Mediating Religion International Research Network, London, June 27, 2011.
- “The Seen and the Unseen,” presentation given to the Workshop on Digital Religion, sponsored by the CMRC, University of Colorado Boulder, March 2-3, 2011.
- Organizer, faculty member, and panelist at “Feminist Theologies: Heritage and Future,” Summer Forum sponsored by FSR Inc. and WATER and funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, Washington, DC, June 15-20, 2008.
- “Generational Issues in Third Wave Feminist Theology and Feminist Studies in Religion,” Teaching for Change: Creating Knowledges, Transforming Institutions, Conference sponsored by *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* and funded by the Wabash Center, Ford Foundation, and Luce Foundation, Cambridge, MA, June 2005.
- “William James and Teresa of Avila,” Conference on Philosophy, Religious Experience, and Feminist Critique, Harvard Divinity School, April 1999.

### RECENT HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Ronald Stump Colorado Creed Award, CU Gold, University of Colorado	2015
ASSETT Development Award, University of Colorado	2014
NEH Summer Institute Participant, “Problems in the Study of Religion,” University of Virginia	2014
Kayden Research Grant, University of Colorado	2014
Dean’s Fund for Excellence Award, University of Colorado	2013
Schwalbe Travel Grant, Center for Humanities and the Arts	2013
Graduate Council for the Arts and Humanities Visiting Scholar Grant	2013
ASSETT Award of Excellence, Outstanding Teacher for Technology in Teaching	2013
Nomination, Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Faculty Award, University of Colorado	2011-2012
Dean’s Fund for Excellence Award, University of Colorado	2010
ASSETT Development Award, University of Colorado	2010
Wabash Center Summer Research Fellowship	2010
Fellow, Wabash Workshop for Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities	2009-10

### TEACHING AND ADVISING

#### Courses at CU

- RLST 5030 Contemporary Issues in the Study of American Religions, Spring 2016
- RLST 4820/5820 Religion, Media and Culture, Fall 2014
- RLST 4030/5030 Religion and the Rhetoric of Authenticity, Fall 2011, Fall 2013
- RLST 2500 Religions in the U.S., Spring 2016, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Spring 2009, Fall 2007
- RLST 2500 Religions in the U.S. Honors, Fall 2014.
- RLST 3000 Christian Traditions, Spring 2011, Spring 2008
- RLST 4830 Senior Seminar: Circumscribing a Discipline: Exploring the Boundaries of the Academic Study of Religion, Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013
- RLST 4830 Senior Seminar: Conversion, Spring 2012, Spring 2011
- RLST 4030/5030 Pragmatism, Religion, and American Culture, Fall 2010 (\*with separate weekly graduate meetings)
- RLST 4030/5030 Religion and the American Pragmatist Tradition, Spring 2007
- RLST 4030/5030 Christianity and Culture, Fall 2012, Fall 2009 and Fall 2007
- RLST 4820/5820 Gender and Religion, Spring 2008
- RLST 4030/5030 Christianity and Democracy, Spring 2009

#### Prior Teaching Experience

Instructor, Introduction to Religion, Florida State University, Summer 1996, Fall 1996, Summer 1997

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE****Profession**

- Organizer, International Conference on Media, Gender, and Religion, Center for Media, Religion and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, January 7-10, 2016.
- Co-Chair, Women and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion, 2012-present.
- Steering Committee, Religion, Media and Culture Group, American Academy of Religion, 2015-present.
- Steering Committee, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion, 2011-present.
- Chair, Panel on Evangelicalism and Media, Conference: Media, Gender and Religion, Center for Media, Religion and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, January 2016.
- Chair, Panel on Sites of Christianity in Digital Media, Conference: Media and Religion: The Global View, Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, January 10, 2014.
- Chair, "The Quest for Justice: Strategies and Resources for Women's Religious Activism," Women and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2012.
- Chair, "Revisiting Our Right to Choose After Thirty Years: Abortion and Reproductive Justice Issues in the Twenty-First Century," Women and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 19, 2012.
- Chair, "Affordances of Authority in Digital Religious Space," International Conference on Digital Religion, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, January 15, 2012.
- Chair, "Cornel West and Prophetic Pragmatism," Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 19, 2011.
- Chair, Session on Culture: Politics and Pluralism, "In the Footsteps of William James: A Symposium to Honor—and Make Use of—James's Ideas," Conference organized by the William James Society and the Houghton Library at Harvard University, Chocorua, NH, August 15, 2010.
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 2004-present.
- Reviewer, *New Media and Society*, *Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture*, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*; book reviewer for Routledge
- Secretary/Clerk of Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc., a 501c3 educational nonprofit, 1997-present.
- Web Board, Feminism in Religion Forum, <http://www.fsrinc.org>, 2006-present.
- Conference Co-organizer, "Teaching for Change: Creating Knowledges, Transforming Institutions," Conference sponsored by *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* and funded by the Wabash Center, Ford Foundation, and Luce Foundation, Cambridge, MA, June 2005.
- Managing Editor, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 1998-2003.

**University of Colorado, Boulder**

- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, 2016-present.
- Department Honors Representative and College of Arts and Sciences Honors Council, 2013-present.
- ASSETT Development Award Review Committee, Spring 2016.
- BFA Faculty Representative, Fall 2014-present.
- BFA Faculty-Student Mentor Program Volunteer, 2014-15.
- Department of Religious Studies, Search Committee for Islamic Studies, 2014-15.
- Department of Religious Studies, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2014-present.
- Department Representative for Admitted Student Day, April 2014 and April 2015.
- Department of Religious Studies, Summer FIRST Scholar Grant Liaison, 2014.
- Member, Jenn Hlavacek Prize Committee for Outstanding Senior Thesis in Religion and Society, 2014-present.
- Department Representative, Undergraduate Majors Fair, February 20, 2014.
- Organizer, "A History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects," lecture by S. Brent Rodriguez-Plate, Sept. 30, 2013. Won GCAH Visiting Scholar Grant. Co-sponsored with Center for Religion, Media, and Culture.
- Organizer, "Sinners, Saints, and Gamers: Religion and Video Games," lecture event featuring Rachel Wagner (Ithaca College) and Jason Anthony (Time Magazine), co-sponsored with the Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, April 15, 2013.
- Merit Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, April 2013.
- Respondent, Faculty Book Event, Department of Religious Studies, March 14, 2013.
- Community Committee, Department of Religious Studies, 2012-13.
- Website co-redesigner and coordinator, Department of Religious Studies, 2010-2014. Complete overhaul of departmental website and ongoing maintenance, <http://rlst.colorado.edu>.

Organizer, Panel Discussion on “Digital Religion” with Heidi Campbell (Texas A&M University), Piotr Bobkowski (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), and Chris Helland (Dalhousie University), Department of Religious Studies, March 3, 2011.

Organizer, Department of Religious Studies Annual Lester Lecture, Amy Hollywood (Harvard Divinity School), “Love and the Heretic,” Sept. 17, 2009; and “Roundtable Discussion: Ritual in the Academic Study of Religion” with Professor Hollywood, Sept. 18, 2009.

Presentation on “Religion and Community in Colorado,” University of Colorado President’s Leadership Class Experiential Weekend on “Religion and Community,” Feb. 23, 2008; March 9, 2009; Sept. 26, 2009; Nov. 6, 2010.

Member and author of report, Cluster Group D (Critical Interpretation and Evaluation of Texts), College of Arts and Sciences, Feb. 2009.

Merit Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, 2008-09.

### **Community**

Panelist for talkback discussion of "Handler," play by Robert Schenkkan, produced by Dragonfly Arts and Christa Ray, directed by Jeremy Williams. Dairy Center for the Arts, Boulder, CO, Feb. 4, 2009. Provided expertise on subject of play, snake-handling religion in rural Appalachia.

### **MEDIA RELATIONS**

Consultant for 9News Denver, “The People Planet: The Search for God,” 23 April 2015, <http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/features/2015/04/21/the-people-planet/26110255/>.

Consultant for 9News Denver, “A Look at the State of Religion in Colorado,” 5 April 2015, <http://www.9news.com/story/life/2015/04/05/a-look-at-the-state-of-religion-in-colorado/25330497/>.

Consultant for BBC Trending Report, “The Man Who Says He Can ‘Destroy’ Evolution,” BBC, 3 June 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXup50UjI8&feature=youtu.be>.

Consultant for Alan Prendergast, “There’s Nothing Holier-Than-Thou About Gil Jones,” *Denver Westword News*, 22 August 2013

Consultant for Magdalena Wegryzn, “Megachurch Populations Swell, Despite Some Backlash,” *Longmont Times-Call*, 5 February 2010.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
 William James Society  
 International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture  
 International Communication Association  
 Association of Internet Researchers