

PAULA L. MCGEE, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of African American Church Studies
Memphis Theological Seminary
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Women's Studies in Religion (August 2012)

Claremont Graduate University—Claremont, CA
Academic Focus: Theology, Ethics, and Culture

2009 Fund for Theological Education Dissertation Fellow

Dissertation: *The Wal-Martization of African American Religion—T.D. Jakes and Woman Thou Art Loosed*
Copy (pdf) and Video of Dissertation Defense available at: http://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgu_etd/70/

Master of Arts in Hebrew Bible (1994-1998)

Vanderbilt University—Nashville, TN
Thesis: *An Ideological Critique of the Hagar Stories*

Master of Divinity in Hebrew Bible (1991-1994)

Interdenominational Theological Center—Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

University of Michigan-Flint—Flint, MI

Industrial Engineering Major

University of Southern California—Los Angeles, CA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of African American Church Studies (Fall 2016 – Present)

Memphis Theological Seminary

Christian Beliefs: Introduction to Theology
Sermon Workshop: Introduction to Preaching
Introduction to the Old Testament
Biblical Hermeneutics from the Margins: Reading the OT for Liberation

Lecturer (Spring 2013)

University of California-Riverside

Women and Religion
I taught the class for both Women's Studies and Religious Studies departments.

La Sierra University—Riverside, CA (September 2008)

Homiletics II Class
I taught 3 classes out of the 10 week course on sermon preparation and sermon delivery.

Instructor/Teaching Assistant (Spring 2007)

Claremont School of Theology—Claremont, CA
Vocational Discernment
I taught second-semester of (MA Track)
A required course for students interested in pursuing academic careers in theology and religion.

Teaching Assistant (Spring 2007)

Pomona College—Claremont, CA

Engendering and Experience: Women in the Islamic Tradition

I was a teaching assistant. The class assists undergrads in understanding the intersections of religious experience, gender, and patriarchy in Islam.

Instructor/Teaching Assistant (Fall 2006)*Vocational Discernment*

Claremont School of Theology—Claremont, CA I designed and taught the first semester of Master of Arts Track.

Adjunct Professor (Fall 2006)

University of LaVerne—LaVerne, CA

International/Intercultural Experience

I designed and taught the required general education course. Students were required to participate in a cultural or ethnic group other than their own (full immersion-15 hours).

Associate Instructor of Religious Studies (Spring 2006)

Victor Valley Community College—Victorville, CA

Religion in America and Introduction to the Old Testament.

I taught both courses in the same semester. The class had a combination of traditional and returning students.

SUMMARY of COURSES TAUGHT*Christian Beliefs: Introduction to Theology**Introduction to Theology**Sermon Workshop**Vocational Discernment**Religion in America**Introduction to Old Testament**Biblical Hermeneutics: Reading for Liberation***ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS****Brand® New Theology: The Walmartization of T.D. Jakes and the New Black Church**(Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2017) *Forthcoming Spring 2007.*Sermon: *Divine Divas* Text: 1 Kings 10:1-13**The Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center** XXI, no. 1 and no. 2

(Fall 2003/Spring 2004): 207-2014

Sermon: *Divine Divas* Text: I Kings 10: 1-13**The African American Pulpit** 6, no. 3 (Summer 2003): 68-71.*Feminist Theology, Identity, and Discourse: A Closer Look at the ‘Coming Out of Sheryl Swoopes’***Feminist Theology** 19, no.1 (2010): 54-72.Book Review: *The Angry Christian: A Theology for Care and Counseling* by Andrew Lester (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003).**International Journal of Practical Theology** 9, no. 1 (2005): 172-173.Abstract for Barbara Stengel, “Why Whitehead? Toward a Pedagogy of the Truly Personal,” in *Philosophy of Education Yearbook* (2002): 378-81.**Process Studies** 33, no. 2 (Fall-Winter 2004): 366.**PUBLICATIONS POPULAR***“Donald Sterling, Racism, the Social Construction of REALITY, and the Power of WORDS”***Feminism and Religion.com** May 7, 2014<http://feminismandreligion.com/2014/05/07/donald-sterling-racism-the-social-construction-of-reality-and-the-power-of-words-by-paula-l-mcgee/>

"A Call for Prayer for the Preachers of LA"

Academy of Preaching and Celebration January 27, 2014

<http://cpx.cts.edu/preaching/blog/preaching/2014/01/27/a-call-for-prayer-for-the-preachers-of-la>

"Reflections on "Preachers of LA" and the Prosperity Gospel"

Center for Religion and Civic Culture October 25, 2012

<http://crcc.usc.edu/blog/news/reflections-on-preachers-of-la-and-the-prosperity-gospel/>

"Title IX and Our Future Leaders and Activists"

Feminism and Religion.com June 8, 2012

<http://feminismandreligion.com/2012/06/08/title-ix-and-our-future-leaders-and-activists-by-paula-l-mcgee/>

"It is the Best of Times. It is the Worst of Times: an Athlete Looks at Her Life and Title IX"

Feminism and Religion.com January 12, 2012

<http://feminismandreligion.com/2012/01/07/it-is-the-best-of-times-it-is-the-worst-of-times-an-athlete-looks-at-her-life-and-title-ix-by-paula-mcgee/>

"Pastor or CEO? The New Black Church Leaders,"

NBV: The National Baptist Voice 5, no. 3 (Summer 2006): 64-65.

Book Review: *Power in the Pulpit: How America's Most Effective Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*, edited by Cleophus LaRue (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002)

NBV: The National Baptist Voice 3, no. 2 (Spring 2004): 44.

"Is Your Career Your Calling?" (Cover Story)

Black Enterprise 33, no 7 (February 2003): 96-102.

Wrote the feature article and was featured on the cover.

"Who Raped Whom in the Kobe Bryant Affair?"

The Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

March 13, 2005 Opinion Section A 17

"Should We Pray for Kobe?"

Africana.com (Blackvoices.com)

The website specialized in African American cultural issues and later became AOL Black Voices.

Contributed to **Soul Beginnings: 8 Strategies for Overcoming Life's Challenges** by Shellie Anderson-Tazi (New York: Berkley Books, 2004)

Prayer, Patience, and Process, p. 11-13.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, p. 86.

The Law of the Equal Harvest, p. 144-145.

Contributed to **Shattering the Glass: The Remarkable History of Women's Basketball** by Pamela Grundy and Susan Shackelford (New York: The New Press, 2005). Consulted and helped conceptualize the sections on USC in the chapter: *Dazzling Moves, Spinning Wheels*.

Contributed to **Your Brain Is A Muscle: How Student Athletes Succeed in College and in Life** by Vince Fudzie and Andre N. Hayes (New York: Amistad, 2001). Consulted on *Date Rape and Gender Violence* sections in chapter entitled: *He Said, She Said*, p. 138-146.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

5th Annual Popular Culture Conference—via SKYPE (April 2016)

Conference Theme: Empire and Popular Culture

College of St. Joseph—Rutland, Vermont

America's Prosperity Gospel: From Governor John Winthrop to T.D. Jakes

Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture (November 2015)

Conference Theme: The Spirit of Sports

Baylor University—Waco Texas

Gender and Sports Panel

Preacher, Scholar, Athlete: My Life as a Lived Text

Rac(e)ing Justice in Big Time Sports Panel

Reading Sheryl Swoopes and Reading Ourselves: A Closer Look at the 'Coming Out' of Sheryl Swoopes

American Academy of Religion— Western Region (March 2014)

Regional AAR Conference— Los Angeles, CA

Pan-African/Womanist Section

Theme: Womanist and Pan African Voices of the African Diaspora

Preachers of LA: The Wal-Martization of African American Religion

American Academy of Religion (November 2013)

Annual Conference—Baltimore, MD

Women's Caucus Roundtable: Truth-Telling T.A.B.L.E.S. of Multiplicity

Trayvon Martin, Paula Deen, the New Jim Crow, and White Privilege

International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) (October 2012)

Regional Annual Conference—San Diego, CA

Theme: Shifting Definitions of the Scholar: Integrating Reflective Practice into Dissertation Boot Camp

Shifting Definitions of the Scholar: Integrating Reflective Practice into Dissertation Boot Camp

My Story of Dissertation Boot Camp: Surviving as an African American-Working Class -First Generation Graduate Student

American Academy of Homiletics (December 2011)

Annual Conference—Austin, TX

Theme: Preaching and the Future

Theology and Preaching Section

New Black Church Preachers and a New Definition for Prosperity Theology

The Western Commission for the Study of Religion (WECSOR) (March 2009)

Regional AAR Conference— Santa Clara, CA

Pan-African/Womanist Section

Theme: New Methods/New Visions—Liberation Theology for the Twenty-first Century

Liberation Theology, Identity and Discourse: A Closer Look at the 'Coming Out' of Sheryl Swoopes

The Western Commission for the Study of Religion (WECSOR) (March 2008)

Regional AAR Annual Conference—Pasadena, CA

Pan-African/Womanist Section

Theme: Performing Power in the African American Church

Gender, Consumerism, Liberation and Transformation

Worship as Public Transcript—African American Women and Gender Performance

American Academy of Religion (November 2007)

Annual Conference—San Diego, CA

Feminist Theology and Reflection Section

Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society (Joint Session)

Theme: Pedagogy and Power—

Teaching toward Transformation in Feminist and Womanist Theory and Theology

Pedagogy and Power—Claiming Power in the Womanist/Feminist Religion Classroom

The Western Commission for the Study of Religion (March 2007)

Regional AAR Annual Conference—Berkeley, CA

Pan-African/Womanist Section

Theme: Singing Our Song in a Strange Land

Why the Black Church Can't Talk About Homosexuality

The Western Commission for the Study of Religion (March 2006)

Regional AAR Annual Conference—Claremont, CA

Religion and Literature Section

Theme: Poetics and Religious Subjectivity

What is Literature? Whose Literature is It? Poetic Expression in a Postmodern Context

Poem: Here We Go Again

Pan-African/Womanist Section

Theme: The New Black Church: Prosperity Prayers, Secular Spirituals and the Joys of “Bling”

The New Black Church—“I Bling Because I am Happy” and the Traditional Refuge Model of the Black Church

American Academy of Religion (November 2004)

Annual Conference—San Antonio, TX

Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group (Respondent on Panel)

Theme: *A Real Woman with a Dollar in Her Shoe—Black Women and Theologies of Prosperity*

SELECTED CLASSROOM LECTURES

University of Tennessee—Knoxville, TN (April 2013)

Religion and Sport in Global Society (via Skype)

Spiritual and Holistic Care for Athletes: A Division 1 Survivor

Scripps College—Claremont, CA (March 2011) Gender Politics and Public Policy Class

Reading Sheryl Swoopes— Identity, Discourse, and Representations in Media

La Sierra University—Riverside, CA (January 2010)

Theology and Practice of Preaching Class

Preaching that Makes a Difference

Claremont School of Theology—Claremont, CA (April 2009)

The American Prophetic Tradition Class

The New Black Church: “I Bling Because I am Happy!”

Fuller Theological Seminary—Pasadena, CA (May 2007) Doctor of Ministry Class

Prosperity Preachers—Pastoral Leadership and the Ethical Principle of Enough-ness

University of Southern California—Los Angeles, CA (January 2006)

Marshall School of Business Social Entrepreneurship Class

Christian Capitalism: Prosperity Preachers and the Ethical Challenges

University of Southern California—Los Angeles, CA (April 2006)

Social Problems (Sociology) Class

Gender, Race, and Title 9

Fullerton Community College—Pomona, CA (March 2005)

Introduction to World Religions Class

Protestant Christianity

Berea College—Berea, KY (September 2004)

Women in Religion Class

Gender, Power, and the Biblical Text

Samford University—Birmingham, AL (February 2004)

Introduction to Preaching Class

Preaching for Liberation

Women in Vocational Leadership Class

Leadership for the 21st Century in the Church and Beyond

Vanderbilt University—Nashville, TN (March 2002)

The Black Church Religion Class

Women, Gender, and the Biblical Text

SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

A Week at College of St. Joseph with Rev. Dr. Paula McGee—Rutland, Vermont (September 2015)

Spiritual Reflections

Homily: Who Answers God's Prayers?

Faculty Diversity Workshop

Another Look at Inclusion

Athlete Gathering

Winning on and off the Court!

Commencement Address College of St. Joseph—Rutland, Vermont (May 2015)

Find Your Game! Play Your Game and Play it Well!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Service—Knoxville, TN (January 2013)

Keynote Speaker

Theme: Education—Intelligence Plus Character

Time to Grow Up

USC Alumni Women's Leadership Conference —Los Angeles, CA (March 2012)

USC Galen Center

Luncheon Keynote Speaker

"It was the Best of Times. It was the Worst of Times."

Claremont United Methodist Church—Claremont, CA (January 2011)

Growing Christians Class

The Wal-Martization of African American Religion

Peace Games Regional Conference—Los Angeles, CA (April 2009)

Power of Peacemakers (Peace Games Schools)

Keynote Speaker

Bloom Where You Are Planted

Victor Valley College—Victorville, CA (April 2006)

Contemporary Perspectives in Religious Studies

Reading the Bible with New Eyes: Is the Bible Racist, Sexist, Homophobic, and Classist?

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND SPECIAL TRAINING

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Fellow (2007-2008)

Claremont Graduate University

I completed two semesters with a final class presentation on *Second Life* at the 2008 Lilly Conference.

Research Assistant (1992-1993)

Interdenominational Theological Center

I was responsible for editing and organizing the research for a book entitled: *Black Governing Bodies of the Presbyterian Church* by Dr. Darius Swann.

Research Assistant to Biblical Studies Division (Fall 1993)

Interdenominational Theological Center

I conducted library research for the professors in Biblical Studies.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Guest Teacher—Flint MI (August 2014 – June 2016)

Professional Education Service Group (PESG, LLC)

I was a Guest Teacher for K-12 and certified to teach various subjects in several districts for Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD). The classroom experience provided me an opportunity to mentor young women and students of color.

Winter Wonderland Empowerment and Spa Weekend for Homeless Women—Flint, MI (August 2015)
Carriage Town Ministries Women and Family Shelter
Harris Temple **C.O.G.I.C.**
Workshop: Owing the Room

Richfield Public School Academy—Flint, MI (February 2015)
Girls Empowerment Workshop: Walking and Speaking with Power

2011 NAACP National Conference Volunteer —Los Angeles, CA
I assisted with the coordination of special reception at the Rose Garden.

2009 House of Ruth Celebrity Basketball Game—Pomona, CA
Harlem Ambassadors vs. House of Ruth Hoopsters Fundraiser for Domestic Violence Shelter

Pan-African Seminarians Association Program Coordinator
Claremont School of Theology—Claremont, CA
2006 and 2007 Black History Month Celebration
The events that I coordinated included a dinner, lecture, film festival, and a coffee hour.
2008 Black Film Festival Coordinator

Volunteer (Reading and Motivational Speaking) Ranchview Elementary—Ontario, CA
2005/2006 Dr. Seuss Day and Sports Day
186th Street Elementary—Garden Grove, CA
2005/2006 Dr. Seuss Day Slumber Party and Academic Huddle
Peace Ambassador for 2013 Peace March

Executive Committee—Secretary (1999-2000)
United Way of Middle Tennessee—Nashville, TN

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Academy of Homiletics

CREDENTIALS AND LANGUAGES

Licensure (1993) Butler Street Baptist Church—Atlanta, GA
Ordination (1996) Pleasant Green Baptist Church—Nashville, TN

Italian (Almost Fluent), **Spanish** (Reading Knowledge)
Biblical Hebrew (Reading Knowledge)

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Back to Back **NCAA National Championships in Women's Basketball** at the
University of Southern California (1983 and 1984)
Two-Time **Kodak All-American in Women's Basketball** (1982-1983)
2006 **USC Sports Hall of Fame** Inductee
2012 **USC Retired Jersey** in Galen Center (#11)