

Melissa M. Wilcox, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2000** University of California at Santa Barbara, Religious Studies
Dissertation: *Two Roads Converged: Religion and Identity Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Christians*. Analyzes processes of identity negotiation and self-representation among current and former members of two Metropolitan Community Church congregations.
Field Exams: Sociology of Religion/Congregational Studies; History of American Religion, 1865-Present; History of Religions/Gender and Queer Theory
Graduate Committee: Wade Clark Roof (Committee Chair), Catherine L. Albanese, Richard D. Hecht, Beth E. Schneider
- M.A. 1996** Claremont Graduate School, Women's Studies in Religion
Thesis: *'She Changes Everything She Touches': The Confluence of Feminism and Wicca in the United States*. Explores the intersecting histories of second-wave feminism and Wicca in the U.S.
- B.S. 1993** Stanford University, Biological Sciences

POSITIONS HELD

- 2006-Present** Director of Gender Studies, Whitman College
2005-Present Assistant Professor of Religion and Gender Studies, Whitman College
2004-2005 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Whitman College
2003-2004 Johnston Visiting Professor of Religion, Whitman College
2002-2003 Faculty, U.C. Santa Barbara Fulbright Summer Institute on American Religion
2002-2003 Lecturer in Religious Studies, Women's Studies, Sociology, and Black Studies, University of California Santa Barbara
2000-2002 Faculty Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, U.C. Santa Barbara

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2007** Louis B. Perry Summer Research Award (For faculty-student teams)
2006 Adam Dublin Award for multicultural studies (For faculty-student teams)
2004 Abshire Research Award, Whitman College (For faculty-student teams)
2001 Faculty Research Grant, UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (Queer Visions Conference)
Individual Research Assistance Grant, American Academy of Religion
Faculty General Research Grant, UCSB Academic Senate
Faculty Research Grant, UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (LAWS Project)
Fichter Research Grant, Association for the Sociology of Religion
UCSB Residential Education Outstanding Faculty
Finalist, Lancaster Dissertation Award 1999-2001
- 2000** Professor Robert S. Michaelsen Award in American Religions
1999 Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, Graduate Division, UCSB
1998 Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, Graduate Division, UCSB
1996-2000 Regents' Special Fellowship, University of California Santa Barbara
1996-1997 Junior Research Fellow, UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center

PUBLICATIONS—BOOKS

Spirituality and Sex in the City: Queer Religiosities in Practice and Theory. Under revision for Indiana University Press.

Coming Out in Christianity: Religion, Identity, and Community. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Sexuality and the World's Religions, ed. with David W. Machacek. Goleta, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003.

PUBLICATIONS—FILM

Each Of Us (Directed). DVD, 54 min., 2006. Documentary about religion in the lives of lesbians, bisexual women, and transgendered people in Los Angeles.

PUBLICATIONS—JOURNAL ISSUES

Queer Perspectives on New Religious Movements. Special issue of *Nova Religio*, ed. with David W. Machacek. Forthcoming as Vol. 11, no. 4 (2008).

Queer Cultures and Religion. Special issue of *Culture and Religion*, ed. with Elizabeth Currans. Vol. 5, no. 2 (2004).

PUBLICATIONS—ARTICLES, CHAPTERS, AND REVIEWS

Refereed Articles

“Tiles in a Mosaic: Sexual Identities, Gender, and Religious Attendance.” Revised and under second review by *Sexualities*.

“Metanarratives and Margins: Toward Intersectional, Multifaceted Theory-Building.” Revised and under second review by *Sociology of Religion*.

“Introduction: Queering the Study of New Religious Movements.” Co-authored with David W. Machacek. *Nova Religio* Vol. 11, no. 4 (2008).

“Outlaws or In-Laws? Queer Theory, LGBT Studies, and Religious Studies.” *Journal of Homosexuality* 52, nos. 1/2 (2006).

“When Sheila’s a Lesbian: Religious Individualism among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Christians.” *Sociology of Religion* 63, no. 4 (2002).

“Murderers and Martyrs: Violence, Discourse, and the (Re)construction of Meaning.” *Culture and Religion* 2, no. 2 (2001).

“Of Markets and Missions: The Early History of the Metropolitan Community Church.” *Religion and American Culture* 11, no. 1 (2001).

Non-Refereed Articles

“Negotiating Social Power in the Classroom.” *CSSR Bulletin* 32, no. 4 (2003).

Invited Book Chapters

“Gender, Sexuality, and Children in Millennial Movements.” In *The Oxford Handbook on Millennialism*, ed. Catherine Wessinger. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Queering the Mainstream, Mainstreaming the Queer: LGBT People and Religion in the U.S.” In *American Faith: Changes, Challenges, and a New Spirituality*, ed. Charles H. Lippy. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2006.

“LGBT Issues in New and Alternative Religions.” In Eugene V. Gallagher and W. Michael Ashcraft, eds., *New and Alternative Religions in the United States*. Westport, CT: Praeger/Greenwood, 2006.

“Discourse Bless America: Rebuilding the National Mythos after September 11.” In *Religion, Politics, and the American Experience: New Perspectives, New Directions*, ed. David S. Gutterman and Andrew R. Murphy. Lanham, Md.: Lexington, 2006.

- “A Religion of One’s Own: Gender and LGBT Religiosities.” In *Gay Religion: Innovation and Continuity in Spiritual Practice*, ed. Scott Thumma and Edward R. Gray. Walnut Creek, Calif.: Alta Mira, 2004.
- “Dancing on the Fence: Researching Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Christians.” In *Personal Knowledge and Beyond: Reshaping the Ethnography of Religion*, ed. James V. Spickard, J. Shawn Landres, and Meredith B. McGuire. New York: NYU Press, 2001.

Reference Articles

- “Women’s Roles in New Religions.” In *The Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender*, ed. Fedwa Malti-Douglas. New York: Macmillan, 2007.
- “Religion and Sexuality.” In *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, ed. George Ritzer. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.
- “Catholics and Catholicism”; “LGBTQ Churches, Temples, and Religious Groups”; “Perry, Troy.” In *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003.
- “Gay and Lesbian Congregations.” In *Reader’s Guide to Lesbian and Gay Studies*, ed. Timothy Murphy. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000.
- “Metropolitan Community Church.” In *Contemporary American Religion*, ed. Wade Clark Roof. New York: Macmillan, 1999.

Book Reviews

- “Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions.” Book review, *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (2005).
- “Queer Theory and the Jewish Question” and “The Queer God.” Book reviews, *Nova Religio* 8, no. 3 (2005).
- “Expressions of Ethnography: Novel Approaches to Qualitative Methods.” Book review, *Contemporary Sociology* 33, no. 5 (2004).
- “Weathering Change: Gays and Lesbians, Christian Conservatives, and Everyday Hostilities.” Book review, *Sociology of Religion* 65, no. 4 (2004).
- “The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism.” Book review, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 70, no. 4 (2002).
- “Que(e)rying Religion: A Critical Anthology.” Book review, *Sociology of Religion* 63, no. 1 (2002).

PAPERS PRESENTED

- “Religion and Same-Sex Marriage in Canada and the U.S.,” co-authored with Erin Flaucher. Presented at the annual meeting, Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, N.Y., August 2007.
- “Religion: Opiate of the Queers?” Panel presentation, annual meeting, Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, Calif., 2007.
- “‘A Spiritual Being Having a Human Experience’: Spirituality, Identity, and Practice among Queer Women.” Presented at the annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, Ore., October 2006.
- “Identity Factors in Contemporary Religious Patterns: A Theoretical Consideration.” Presented at the annual meeting, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, Penn., August 2005.
- “Queer Diversities: Implications for Activists, Religious Organizations, and Public Policy.” Presented at the annual meeting, Eastern Sociological Society, Washington, D.C., March 2005.
- “Assessing and Developing LGBT Studies and Queer Theory in Religion.” Presented at the annual meeting, WECSOR/AAR-Western Region, Tempe, Ariz., March 2005
- “Subject, Object, Sacred, Profane: Kristeva and Otto as Tools for Theorizing Religion and Social Power.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection group, San Antonio, Tex., November 2004.

- “Gender and the Religion Gap: Queering the Patterns of Religious Affiliation.” Presented at the CLGS Lecture Series, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Cal., October 2004
- “Queer Seekers: Religion and Identity Negotiation in Los Angeles.” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, Cal., August 2004.
- “Teaching Toward Justice: Dilemmas of Pedagogical Activism.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion section, Toronto, Ont., November 2002.
- “Core Issues in the Ethnography of Religion.” Panel presentation, annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2002.
- “Discourse Bless America: Rebuilding the National Mythos after September 11.” Presented at the annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2002.
- “Where Have All the Women Gone? Gender and Lived Religion in Queer L.A.” Presented at the annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2002.
- “From Social Margin to Center Stage: Individualism, Queer Congregations, and the ‘Homosexuality’ Debates.” Presented at the annual meeting, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Anaheim, Calif., August 2001.
- “Rights of Passage: Celebrating Queer Women’s Lives.” Keynote talk, tenth anniversary celebration of the Women’s Studies in Religion program, Claremont Graduate University, April 2001.
- “When Sheila’s a Lesbian: Religious Individualism among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Christians.” Presented at the annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Houston, Tex., October 2000.
- “Voicing the Silence: The AIDS Quilt, the Shower of Stoles, and Freedom of Symbolic Speech.” Presented at the annual meeting, American Academy of Religion, Nashville, Tenn., November 2000.
- “Saint Matthew: Remaking the World after the Death of a Gay Man.” Presented at the annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, Mass., Nov. 1999.
- “The Making of a Martyr: Religious Responses to the Death of Matthew Shepard.” Presented at the Western Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, Calif., March 1999.
- “‘Come to the Water’: Christianity and Sexual Identity in the Metropolitan Community Church.” Presented at the annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Montreal, Quebec, November 1998.
- “Uppity Religion: Z. Budapest and Dianic Witchcraft.” Presented at the Western Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Berkeley, Calif., March 1997.

COURSES TAUGHT: Whitman College

- Introduction to Gender Studies.* Lower-division: Spring 2006.
- Senior Seminar in Gender Studies.* Upper-division: Fall 2005.
- Antiquity and Modernity.* First-year core seminar: Fall 2005/Spring 2006.
- Religion and Society.* Introductory: Fall 2004.
- Women in World Religions.* Lower-division: Fall 2003.
- Women and Religion in American History.* Lower-division: Spring 2004, Fall 2004.
- Queer Religiosities.* Lower-division: Fall 2003, Spring 2005.
- Religion, Oppression, and Resistance.* Upper-division: Fall 2003.
- Gender, Body, and Religion.* Upper-division: Spring 2004, Fall 2004.
- Religious Intolerance in the Contemporary U.S.* Upper-division: Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005.
- Feminist and Liberation Theologies.* Upper-division: Spring 2005.
- Transgender Studies.* Independent Study: Fall 2004.
- Queer Theory.* Independent Study: Spring 2005.
- Contemporary Feminist Theory.* Independent Study: Fall 2005.

COURSES TAUGHT: University of California, Santa Barbara

Sociology of Sexual Politics. Upper-division: Summer 2003.
Feminist Research and Practice. Upper-division: Spring 2003.
Queer Religiosities. Upper-division: Spring 2003.
Women, Politics, and Power. Upper-division: Winter 2003.
Ethnography, Religion, and Gender. Graduate seminar: Winter 2003.
Religion, Oppression, and Resistance. Upper-division: Summer 2002, Spring 2003.
Gender, Body, and Religion. Upper-division: Spring 2001, 2002; Summer 2003.
Religious Tolerance and Intolerance in the Contemporary U.S. Upper-division: Spring 2001, 2002.
Women and Religion in America. Upper-division: Winter 2001, 2002.
Introduction to the Study of Religion. Lower-division: Fall 2000, Winter 2002.
Women's Studies: Issues in the Humanities. Lower-division: Fall 2000, Summer 2002, Fall 2002, Winter 2003.
Women, Religion, and Spirituality. Upper division: Fall 1999.
Women, Spirituality, and the Religious Community. Upper division: Spring 1999.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
(Founding chair, Consultation on Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion; member, Task Force on LGBT Issues in the Field)
Association for the Sociology of Religion (Editorial board member, *Sociology of Religion*)
American Sociological Association
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (Member, Student Travel Grant Committee)

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Administration, Committees, Consultations, and Juries

AAR Task Force on LGBT Issues in the Field, 2007-present
SSSR Student Travel Grant Committee, 2007-present
Member, Whitman College Student Affairs Council, 2007-present
Member, President's Advisory Council on Diversity, 2007-present
Director of Gender Studies, Whitman College, 2006-present
Editorial board member, *Sociology of Religion*, 2006-present
Founding Chair, AAR Consultation on Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion, 2005-present
Jury member, LGBT Religious History paper award, 2005-present
Advisory Committee member, LGBT Religious Archives Network (LGBT-RAN), 2001-present
Member, Whitman College Action Against Hate Committee, 2006-2007
Invited participant, Consultation on Religion and Sexuality, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2005
Founding Chair and Webspinner, Whitman College Action Against Hate Committee, 2004-2006
Nord Award committee (for student work in LGBT studies), Whitman College: 2004, 2005
Committee member, Student Initiated Outreach Program, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2002-2003
Participant, Graduate Advisors' Consultation, Wabash Center, 2002
Invited participant, Lived Religion workshop, Boisi Center, Boston College, 2002
Organizer and grant writer, "Queer Visions in the Americas: A Conference on LGBT/Q Studies in Religion." U.C. Santa Barbara, 2002
Founder and faculty organizer, Women, Gender, and Religion focus group, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2001
Member of search committee for director of Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2001

Peer Reviewer/Referee

Sexuality Research and Social Policy
The Sociological Quarterly
Sexualities
American Sociological Review
Sociology of Religion
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Review of Religious Research
Social Problems
Qualitative Sociology

Rutgers University Press
New York University Press
Wadsworth

Public Lectures, Interviews, and Campus Events

Interview on transsexuality and evangelical Christianity with Kelli Kennedy, Associated Press, 2007
Interview on transgender issues in Christianity with Daniel Burke, Religion News Service, 2007 (Story link: <http://religionnews.com/ArticleofWeek101807.html>)
Interview on MCC church defections, with Jim Haug, *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, 2007 (story link: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/EastVolusia/evIREL01EAST100907.htm>)
Interview on evangelicals and homosexuality with Eric Gorski, *Denver Post*, 2006
Invited speaker, Academic Recognition Banquet, Whitman College, 2005
Visiting educator, Pacific Lutheran University, 2005
“Connecting Whitman” public forum: “Religion in the November Elections,” 2004
Public forum (sponsored by Feminists Advocating Change and Empowerment): “The Brandon Teena Story,” 2004
Public lecture: “Sexual Orientation, Christianity, and Identity Negotiation.” Presented at Shalom United Church of Christ, Richland, Wa., 2004
Guest lecture: “Religion and the Sociology of Gender,” Walla Walla College, 2004
Interview with Peter Monaghan for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*’s “Verbatim” column (published 5/21/04)
Public lecture: “Drag Nuns, Gender-Crossing Gods: Gender Diversity in Religious Studies.” Presented through Lyman Hall lecture series, Whitman College, 2004
Public lecture: “LGBT Issues in Christianity.” Presented at First Congregational Church, Walla Walla, Wa., 2004
Interview on religion and same-sex marriage, KEPR (Tri-Cities, Wa.; aired 3/15/04)
Interview on gay and lesbian ordination, *Chicago Sun-Times*, 2003
Public lecture: “Queer Religiosities.” Presented through the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2003
Workshop leader: “Power and Privilege in the Classroom.” Presented as part of the Feminist Pedagogy Series, Women’s Studies Program, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2003
Panel participant: “Reconciling Religion and Sexual Orientation.” Presented through the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2002
Public workshop: “Queering the Bible.” Presented through the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2001
Public lecture: “Sociological Perspectives on Sexual Orientation and Religion” (presented through the Queer Resource Center, U.C. Santa Barbara), 2000
Public lecture with Nancy Ramsey Tosh: “Mothers and Goddesses: Women in Search of the Feminine Divine.” Presented through the UCSB Affiliates, 2000

Continuing Education and Skill Development

Participant, Evaluator Workshop, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, 2007
Participant, "Gender, Sexuality, and the Return of Religion" conference, Syracuse University, 2007
Participant, Conference on Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at the Liberal Arts Colleges, St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges, 2007
Successfully completed Stop the Hate's "Train the Trainer" certification in hate crime/hate incident prevention and education, Portland, Or., 2004
Distance education: Taught a videoconferencing section of "Religion, Oppression, and Resistance" through U.C. Santa Barbara's Ventura Center, 2003

Service at Conferences

Session convener, "Gender Politics," Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting, Philadelphia, Penn., 2005
Roundtable session convener, "Interactions of Religion and Sexuality: Theories and Methods," American Sociological Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, Penn., 2005
Session convener, Cultural Turn-III Conference, U.C. Santa Barbara, 2001

Campus Service (Non-committee)

"Reading Luke and Romans as Complicit Texts," presentation to Whitman College Core Faculty, 2007
Organized Labor Day teach-in at Whitman College, 2005
Faculty advisor, Whitman College Coalition Against Homophobia, 2004-2006
Major advising and thesis advising, Gender Studies and Religious Studies, 2004-present
Mentor, Whitman College Intercultural Center, 2003-2005
Mentor, U.C. Santa Barbara LGBT mentoring program, 2002-2003
Informal advising and mentoring, undergraduate and graduate, 2000-present
Panel participant on name change for U.C. Santa Barbara's Queer Resource Center, 2000

CURRENT PROJECTS

In addition to shepherding my recently completed manuscript (*Spirituality and Sex in the City*) through the publication process, I am in the beginning phases of two new projects. One is a national, quantitative study of religiosity among LGBT people. The other, which I expect to be my next book project, is a comparative study of the roles of religion in the same-sex marriage debates in the U.S. and Canada.