

Curriculum Vitae

M. Gail Hamner

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRENT POSITION

- 2015 Affiliated faculty in Film and Screen Studies (S.U.)
2013 Full Professor, Department of Religion, Syracuse University
2008 Affiliated faculty in Women's and Gender Studies (S.U.)
2005-2013 Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Syracuse University
1998-2005 Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Syracuse University

FORMER POSITION

- 1997-1998 Lecturer, Duke University, Religion Department

EDUCATION

- 1997 Ph.D., Religion, Duke University
1989 M.T.S., Philosophical Theology, Boston University School of Theology
1985 B.S., Biology, Duke University

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Committees

- Appointment and Promotions Senate Subcommittee, 2016-2017
Faculty Senate, 2016-2017, 2005-2007
University Curriculum Committee, 2005-2007

University Classroom Committee, Fall 1998-Spring 2001

Events

Career Services panel, “Managing your Advisor” (9/10/2015, Daniel Olson-Bang)

Religion, Science Health Symposium, invited participant (Fall 2008)

COLLEGE SERVICE

Appointments

Affiliated Faculty to Film and Screen Studies, spring 2015

Affiliated Faculty to the Women’s and Gender Studies Department, spring 2008

Advising

Freshman Forum Leader, Fall 2004

Freshman Lower Division Advising, Fall 2000, Fall 2004

Honor’s Thesis advisor:

Spring 2011-12 (Margaret Spinosa)

Spring 2010 (Lauren Stansbury)

Spring 2009 (Sally Waggoner)

Spring 2005 (Matt Gamara)

Spring 2002 (two undergraduates, co-advisor)

Spring 2001 (one undergraduate, co-advisor)

Summer Advising, 2004

Thesis advisor for English and Textual Studies student, Spring 2008 (Snodgrass)

Committees

Coronat Scholars Selection Committee, 2006-2009, 2012

Faculty Council for Arts and Sciences, 2014-2016

Freshman Forum Committee, Spring 2005 (Sue Wadley, Chair)

Honor’s Capstone Prize: Committee for the Humanities (Spring 2008)

Honor’s Thesis committee 2005 (Gareth Manwaring); 2010 (Meghan Rinn)

Humanities Center Faculty Advisory Board (Fall 2008-Spring 2010, 2015-2016)

Humanities Center Planning Committee, 2003-2004

Humanities Council, Fall 2005, 20003-2004

Instructional Committee, 2004-2005 (Sue Wadley, Chair)

Mary Marshall Prize Selection Committee, Spring 2008

New Humanities Project, Co-Founder and Co-Organizer (with Robert Gates and three other faculty members), grant awarded by the Vision Fund, 2000-2002

Outstanding TA selection committee, 2009

Promotion Committee for Vivian May, 2015

Events

Graduate School FPP panel, “10 tips for getting an academic job” (5/14/2015, Glenn Wright)

Graduate School FPP panel, respondent with Amanda Winkler to Prof. Russell Berman’s Lecture on graduate education reform (10/ 21/ 2014, Glenn Wright)

Ray Smith Symposium grant awarded by the A&S Humanities council for the 2-day conference “The Place of Religion in Film,” March 30-April 1, 2017. \$17,000 budget. Participants from ten countries and ten U.S. states.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Ad-hoc committees:

Review of Chair, Fall 2008

Personnel Relations, Spring 2004

Review of Chair, Fall 1998

Advisor to Ph.D. candidates:

Dissertation advisor (defense complete): J. Adams (2014), C. Martin (2007), A. Beall (2010), P. Morris (2016), K. Geldmeier (2016)

Dissertation adviser (pre-defense):

- A. Cake
- W. DeBoer
- R. Moody
- C. O’Dell-Chaib
- H. White

Dissertation committee member:

2016: L. Decker (ENG)

2015: J. Caplan, D. Heifetz, P. Katz (ENG), Karen Maacke (SOC)

2014: S. Doles (ENG)
2012: P. Prescott (PHL), F. Sanzaro
2011: D. Schaefer
2010: J. Jackson (Newhouse)
2009: D. Quigley, B. Stahlberg; D. Lausa (ENG)
2006: J. Clark
2005: M. Conroy, G. McVey; M. McKeon (PHL)

Advisor to MA students:

M.A. Thesis Advisor:

D. Newman (2012-13)
D. Finer (2010)
R. Moody (2009)

M.A. Thesis Committee: Dan Mosesson (2011); Chris Grey (Rhetoric, 2010); Josh Snodgrass (ENG 2008)

Affect Studies Reading Group: 2012-present

Critique/Image/Politics Reading Group: 2016-present

Director of Graduate Studies, 2013-2015

Executive Committee, 2004-2006; 2007- Spring 2010, Fall 2013-present

Faculty Colloquia, organized and ran parallel to REL 601 as a means of introducing new graduate students to Department Faculty: 2014-2016

FPP presentations: CV Update (2016), pedagogy (2014), Conference attendance (2015)

Future Professoriate Program, Director, Fall 2007-2012

FPP Pilot c.v. review and mock interview process, Spring and Fall 2005

Graduate Committee (including graduate admissions), 2007-present

Religion and Theory Reading Group for Faculty and Graduate Students:

Organizer and Facilitator, 1998-2008

Religion Theory Group Facilitator (organized by graduate students), 2008-2014

Religion Majors and Minors Association (MAMA), co-organizer, 1998-1999, Fall 1999

Search Committee for Assistant Professor (CIP), 2016-2017

Search Committee for Assistant Professor, 2000-2001

Search committee for Senior Professor, 2002-2003

Search committee for Religion Dept. Chair (selected by the Dean), spring 2009
Search committee for Junior position in Continental Philosophy of Religion, 2010

Tenure review of undergraduate teaching for M. Robinson, Fall 2008

Theory-Method Speaker Series (conceived, organized and facilitated):

Constance Furey (Indiana), Jason Josephson (Williams): spring 2015

Jay Geller (Vanderbilt), Deborah Whitehead (Colorado): fall 2015

Donovan Schaefer (Oxford UK): spring 2016

Thomas A. Lewis (Brown), Joseph Winters (Duke): fall 2016

Third-year review of undergraduate teaching for G. Fisher, Spring 2011

Theta Chi Beta (Religion Honor Society), Secretary of the S.U. Chapter, 2002-2004

Undergraduate Committee member, Fall 2000 and 1998-1999

Undergraduate Studies, Coordinator, Fall 2004- Spring 2006

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Academy of Religion:

Co-Chair, "Religion and Media Workshop", an associated event with the American Academy of Religion's national meeting, Fall 2014-present.

Co-Chair, "Religion, Affect and Emotion Group" (with SU Alum, D. Schaefer), 2012-present.

Co-Chair, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group: 2001- 2004; 2006- 2009

Member, AAR Program Unit Steering Committees:

Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group (Fall 2000);

Pragmatism and Empiricism Group (2005-2008);

Theology and Continental Philosophy (2011-2015)

Member, Standing Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, American Academy of Religion, 2006-2009

Member, *Capacious: The Journal for Emerging Affect Inquiry* editorial board, 2016-present

Member, Religion Compass editorial board (Blackwell Publishing), 2007-2009

Organizing Committee member to bring the International Association of Philosophy and

Literature (IAPL) to Syracuse University and LeMoyne College in May, 2004: Fall 2002-
Fall 2003

Organized with T. Brockelman (PHL, Le Moyne College): “Encountering Religion After the
Death of God (again): Lacan, Hegel, and Emergent Materialisms,” April 21, 2012.

Plenary speakers: Marc de Kesel, Adrian Johnston, Joan Copjec. Half-funded by S.U.
Humanities Center.

Organizing a “Foucault Gedankentag” with Ellen Armour, Nitzan Lebovitch and Saeed Khan for
April 14, 2013.

Article Reviews:

Religions (2016)

Religion Compass (2015)

Journal of Religion and Film (2015): 2 articles

Journal of Religion and Film (2014)

Hypatia (2013): 2 articles

Cinema and Philosophy (2013)

Hypatia (2012): 2 articles

Journal of Religion (2012)

Journal of the American Academy of Religion (2009)

Journal of Culture, Religion and Theory (2009)

Book Manuscript Reviews

Farleigh Dickinson University Press (Emerson and Moral Sentiment) (2017)

Chicago University Press (Christian Reformation history and poetry) (2016); blurb used by press

New York University Press (film textbook: revision) (2016)

Routledge Press (philosophy and religion) (2015); blurb used by press

Stanford University Press (political theory) (2015)

Taylor and Francis Press (2014)

Columbia University Press (2012); blurb used by press

Oxford University Press (2008)

Promotion and Tenure Reviews:

Promotion case for University of Indiana (2016)

Tenure and promotion case for Bowdoin College (2008)

Third year review case for Trinity College (2015)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Panel discussion of Ayad Akhtar's *Disgraced*, Syracuse Stage (January 2017)

Fielded question about the appropriateness of a Jewish choir singing for a Washington DC production of Luke Hnath's *The Christians* (Rae Grad, July 2015)

Lectured on Luke Hnath's *The Christians* for Syracuse Stage (April 2015)

Invited to consult with Syracuse's Interfaith Works about using film to engage the community on interfaith dialogue, Fall 2009. Gave them a list of religion films, Spring 2010.

Invited participant in the Syracuse Stage's panel discussion of "Doubt: A Parable" (chaired by Prof. Robert Van Gulick), March 2, 2008

Interviewed by Adam Graham of *Detroit News* and Chris Wagner of *Dallas Morning News* about Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of Christ*, February 2004.

Interviewed by Chris Wager of *Dallas Morning News* about "The Passion." February 16, 2004.

Interviewed by Tom Sime from the *Dallas Morning News* about nuns in film, March 24, 2004.

PUBLICATIONS

Book in progress: *Public Affect: The Affective Dynamics of Religion in our Global 'public sphere' as felt through the Sci-Fi Feminine.*

Book: *Imaging Religion in Film: The Politics of Nostalgia*, in "New Theories of Religion and Power." Palgrave: December 2011.

Book: *American Pragmatism: A Religious Genealogy*, Oxford University Press, 2002.

Book chapters:

- "No Country for Old Men: Between Time and Eternity." In Elijah Siegler, ed., *The Coen Brothers' Religion: Mythology, Morality and the American Landscape*, Baylor University Press, 2016.

- “Transcendence in *The Man Who Wasn’t There*.” In Siegler, ed., *The Coen Brothers’ Religion* (heavily redacted version of a chapter from *Imaging Religion in Film*)
- “Remember Who you Are: Imaging Life’s Purpose in *Knight of Cups*.” In Christopher Barnett and J. Elliston Clark, ed.s. *Theology and the Films of Terrence Malick*, Routledge, 2016.
- “Affect Theory as a Tool for Analyzing Religion Documentaries.” In John Corrigan, ed., *Feeling Religion*, in press, Duke University Press.
- “Scorsese’s Women as Bearers of Modernity’s critique”, invited by Christopher Barnett for a volume on Scorsese under contract with Brill’s *Studies in Religion and the Arts* series. Due September 2017.
- “Mask and Materiality in Ousmane Sembene’s *La Noire de...*”, submitted April 2017 to Sérgio Dias Branco for possible inclusion in an Edinburgh University Press volume on Sembene.

Articles:

“Askesis and the Logic of the Spiral,” in *Theology and Sexuality*. Special issue responding to Lynne Huffer, “Strange Eros.” Accepted for publication in 2018.

“Sensing Religion in Alfonso Cuarón’s *Children of Men*, in *Religions* 2015, 6 (4), 1433-1456.

“Work and Life in the Balance,” short ‘round-table’ contribution to *Religious Studies News*, spring 2015.

“Filming Reconciliation: Affect and Nostalgia in *The Tree of Life*,” in *The Journal of Religion and Film*, spring 2014.

“Acting in Common: How the Flesh of Multitude can become Incarnate Words against Empire”, in *Evangelicals and Empire: Christian Alternatives to the Political Status Quo*, ed. B.E. Benson and P. Heltzel (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008), pp. 43-53.

“What is an Act?: Reflexive Action in Pragmatism and Praxis Philosophy,” *PoLAR: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, November, 2003.

“The Work of Love”, in *Opting for the Margins: Postmodernity and Liberation in Christian Theology*, ed. Joerg Rieger, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Entry:

“Cultural Saints” for *The Encyclopedia of Religion and American Cultures*, ed. Luis León and

Gary Laderman (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2003). Revised, 2014.

Reviews

Maurine Sabine, *Veiled Desires: Intimate Portrayals of Nuns in Postwar Anglo-American Film*, in *Theology and Sexuality*, 20 (2), 2014.

Gerard Loughlin, *Alien Sex: The Body and Desire in Cinema and Theology*, in *Journal of Religion*, July 2005.

Book note on N.J. Allen, W.S.F. Pickering, and W. Watts Miller, ed.s, *On Durkheim's Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (New York: Routledge, 1998), for *The Religious Studies Review*, July, 2000.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2016

Nov “Genealogy of Affect and Technologies of Mediation” for *Got Genealogy* session of the Cultural History and the Study of Religion Group, AAR San Antonio, November.

2015

Feb “Affect Theory as a Tool for Examining Religion Documentaries.” John Corrigan’s AAR Grant Symposium on Religion and Affect. National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, NC.

Oct “Justice and Forgiveness, Wombs and Strangers: A Response to Claire Katz” *Psychology and the Other* Conference, Cambridge, MA

Oct “Affect and Religion Documentaries”. *Worldings/Tensions/Futures*, Affect Theory Conference. Lancaster PA.

Nov “Eros and Ascesis: A Response to Lynne Huffer.” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA (Social Theory and Religion Group)

Nov “Secularity, Sacrifice, Impasse”. American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA (Philosophy of Religion Section)

2014

April “Mask and Materiality in Sembene’s *Black Girl*”, International Conference on Religion and Film, Omaha Nebraska, April 10-12.

Interviewed by Kristian Petersen for his New Books in Religion podcast on my

book *Imaging Religion in Film*

September, “Light as Eternity: The Temporal Dynamics of *No Country for Old Men*”,
International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, Leuven Belgium, Sept
18-20.

November, *The American Academy of Religion*, National Meeting, San Diego, CA

1. “Mediated Affect”, for the Religion and Media Workshop, Nov. 21
2. “Foucault, Affect, and Social Power”, for the Critical Theories and Discourses
on Religion Group, Nov. 22

2013

April Invited public lecture on Alfonso Cuarón’s *Children of Men* at Haverford College

November, *The American Academy of Religion*, National Meeting, Baltimore, MD

1. “Religion as anti-consumerism in the Coens’ *The Man Who Wasn’t There*” for
the Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group
2. “Affect and Religion,” for the Theology and Religious Reflection Group

2012

June 7 “Eating from the Tree of Life: On Terrence Malick’s *Tree of Life*”, *Christian
Scholars Conference*, Lipscomb University, Nashville TN (Conference June 7-9)

November, *The American Academy of Religion*, National Meeting, Chicago, IL

- “Religion in the Public Sphere: The Image-Flesh Assemblage of our National
Imaginary” as part of a Wildcard session on Religion and Affect.
- “Aching for Redemption: Affect and Nostalgia in Malick’s *Tree of Life*”, for
the Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

2011

November, invited panelist for the Theology and Religious Reflection’s panel,
Postcolonialism and Poststructuralism in the United States during the American
Academy of Religion’s 2011 annual meeting in San Francisco.

April, “Bodies—Mediation—Knowing—Speciation,” a response to Dr. Kimerer
LaMothe, presented at “Anatomies of Affect: Perspectives on Embodied
Emotion,” a S.U. Humanities Center Symposium organized by Donovan
Schaefer.

2010

April, "Looking for Religion in all the Wrong Places", REL Graduate Student conference at Linklaen House, Cazenovia.

"The Force of Religion", Humanities Center Conference on Religion in Scholarship.

Lecture on the Coen brothers' film, *The Man Who Wasn't There* for the mini-film series at Le Moyne College, "Thinking at the Movies"

July, "Witnessing Witness: The Relations of Space and Gaze in Ousmane Sembene's *Guelwaar*", 3rd Annual Deleuze Conference, Amsterdam.

2008

March, "The Risks of Embodied Scholarship", invited paper given to the Syracuse Religion Graduate Student Organization's Spring conference on "Embodiment"

April, "Innocence and Agency: Negotiating the Sublime and the Grotesque in Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*", for the Le Moyne Religion and Literature Forum on the Sublime and the Grotesque.

July, "Images, Epigenetics, and Religious Affect", invited paper for a panel titled, "The Local and its Discontents" (chaired by Kenneth Surin, Duke University), IAPL, Melbourne, Australia.

2007

June, "Universality in Hegel and Irigaray: Prelude to a Work on Love", IAPL, Nicosia, Cyprus

2006

June 5-10, panel on "Art, Philosophy and Terror" for the IAPL, Freiburg, Germany.

2005

November, "Badiou, fidelity, and mother intellectuals", invited panel, American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.

April "Hobbes and Transcendence", Sovereignty and Subjectivity Workgroup, Trieste, Italy

June 2-9, "Chiasmatic Invisibilities in Frears' *Dirty Pretty Things*", IAPL, Helsinki University, Helsinki Finland.

- November, member with Creston Davis, Amy Hollywood, Graham Ward, and Slavoj Zizek of panel “Gender, Politics, and the Return to Religion” for joint session with Theology and Continental Philosophy Group and Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2004
- October 6, “Stout, Hauerwas and the problem with Liberalism”, presented to the SU Fine Arts Colloquim.
- November 20, “Whatever Happened on the Road to Belfast,” panel response to Jeffrey Stout’s *Democracy and Tradition*, Pragmatism and Empiricism Group of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX
- 2003
- March 29, “What is an Act?”: Reflections on theory and practice in American Pragmatism and Continental praxis philosophy”, *Ethnography in the Realm of the Pragmatic, A Conference Sponsored by the Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture and Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Cornell University (invited speaker).
- November 7, “Subjectivity and theories of (religious) liberation in the films of Abbas Kiarostami”, *Re-Thinking Marxism*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, (invited presenter).
- 2002
- April 11, “Akira Kurosawa and the Question of teaching Religion and Film”, *Religion and Society* lecture series, Syracuse University
- November 23, “The Test Case of Psychology: The Idea of the University in the Nineteenth Century”, Nineteenth-Century Group of the American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Toronto, ONT
- November 24, Respondent to the panel “Le Toucher: Derrida on Jean-Luc Nancy,” American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Toronto, ONT
- 2001

- April 3, "Anger Disguised and Complex: On The Gladiator and Almost Famous,"
Religion Honor Society Annual Meeting, LeMoyne College, Syracuse
- 2000
- September 21-24, "Singularity is Collectivity, Or: How the Labor of the
Multitude is the Work of Love," Re-Thinking Marxism 2000, University of
Massachusetts, Amherst
- June 24, "The Work of Love in Luce Irigaray: Feminist Politics and the Strategy
of Love," Gendering Ethics/The Ethics of Gender Conference, University of
Leeds, UK
- June 23, Invited respondent to the session, "Images of the Self: Contemporary Sci-Fi
TV/Cinema and the Deployment of Subjectivity," The Third Annual Crossroads
in Cultural Studies Conference, Birmingham University, UK
- April 7, "Apocalyptic Fear and Scientific Commonsense: A Ghost (Spirit) in the
Machine," AAR-EIR 2000, Syracuse University
- February 19, Respondent to the session, "Why Religious Studies?," Religious
Studies and Cultural Engagement: First Annual Alumni and Graduate Student
Conference, Syracuse University
- 1999
- November 22, "That Pesky 'And': Studying Religion and Popular Culture",
American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA
- February 25, "The Work of Love in Luce Irigaray," The Working Papers in
Gender Studies Lecture Series, Syracuse University
- 1998
- October, "The Work of Love in Donna Haraway and Kaja Silverman," given as the new
faculty lecture, Department of Religion, Syracuse University
- 1995
- November, "The Sign of God in the Burning Bush: Peircean Pragmatism and
Continental Postmodernism," American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994
- November, respondent to the Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group,
American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL

February 18-19, respondent to Hayden White, guest speaker of the Graduate Program in Religion, Duke University

1993

April 29-30, respondent to Katie G. Cannon, guest speaker of the Graduate Program in Religion, Duke University

March, “The Twos and Threes of Pragmatics: Deleuzian Dualities, Peircean Triads, and the Politics of the Inbetween,” The Second Interdisciplinary Colloquium: The Work of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, Duke University

TEACHING AREAS

Religion and Film

Continental Philosophy

Feminist theory and Feminist theology

Marxian Theory

Pragmatism and North American Religious Thought

Religion and Nature

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP and ACTIVITIES

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Merleau-Ponty Circle

AWARD FOR TEACHING

Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award (2008)