

RACHEL JOY WHEELER

CURRICULUM VITAE
APRIL 2022

TEACHING

- 2017- Assistant Professor, Department of Theology
University of Portland, Portland, OR
- Courses Taught: *Bible, Past and Present*; *Christian Spirituality* (graduate course); *Spirituality in a Time of Ecological Crisis* [renamed *Ecological Spirituality*]; *Contemplative Traditions*; *Introduction to Christian Spirituality*; *Spirituality and the Arts*; *Responding to God: An Introduction to Spiritual Practice*; *Bible, Past and Present* (honors course); *Desert Spirituality* (honors course); *Bible, Past and Present* (scheduled for 2022 Salzburg summer-abroad program)
- 2016-2017 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Theology
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 for graduate course: *Desert Spirituality*
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
- 2013 Teaching Assistant for graduate course: *Gender and Mysticism*
Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley, CA (now of Oceanside, CA)

EDUCATION

- 2016 Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Doctor of Philosophy in Theology and Religious Studies (Area: Christian Spirituality)
Dissertation: *Holy Feigning: A Study in the Spirituality of the Apophthegmata Patrum*
- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Ecospirituality: An Introduction. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2022.

Desert Daughters, Desert Sons: Rethinking the Christian Desert Tradition. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2020.

- Awarded “Honorable Mention” in the category of classical/spirituality books from the Catholic Media Association, June 2021.
- Finalist for the 2021 Borsch-Rast Prize from the Graduate Theological Union.

Articles and Book Chapters

“In Love with the Desert,” *Acta Theologica Supplementum 33* – Festschrift for Kees Waaijman (2022) [forthcoming]

“Reading the Tradition Closely: Women, Identity, and Authority in the Early Church.” In *Religion, Women of Color, and the Suffrage Movement: The Journey to Holistic Freedom*, edited by Simon Ahiokhai. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. [forthcoming]

“The Expansive Table: Food as Formative and Transformative,” *Liturgy* 36, no. 4 (2021): 34-40.

“The Revelatory Tide: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Water Crises,” *Spiritus* 20, no. 2 (Fall 2020): 176-193.

“Of Trash and Treasure: Implications of Zero Waste for the Spiritual Life.” *Spiritus* 19, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 81-101.

“Holy Feigning in the *Apophthegmata Patrum*,” *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 72, no. 4 (2016): 1-6.

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

Reviews

Children and Family in Late Antique Egyptian Monasticism. By Caroline T. Schroeder. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021. In *Reading Religion*, March 21, 2022
<https://readingreligion.org/9781107156876/children-and-family-in-late-antique-egyptian-monasticism/>

Saint Benedict’s Wisdom: Monastic Spirituality and the Life of the Church. By Luigi Gioia, OSB. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2020. In *Horizons* 48, no. 2 (December 2021): 506-507.

Animism Beyond the Soul: Ontology, Reflexivity, and the Making of Anthropological Knowledge. Edited by Katherine Swancutt and Mireille Mazard. New York: Berghahn Books, 2018. In *Religious Studies Review* 47, no. 3 (September 2021): 363.

Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis. Edited by Leah D. Schade and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2019. In *Religious Studies Review* 47, no. 1 (March 2021): 81.

The Great Conversation: Nature and the Care of the Soul. By Belden C. Lane. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019. In *Spiritus* 20, no. 1 (Spring 2020): 129-130.

In the Eye of the Animal: Zoological Imagination in Ancient Christianity. By Patricia Cox Miller. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018. In *Spiritus* 19, no. 2 (Fall 2019): 365-367.

The Way of the Hermit: Interfaith Encounters in Prayer and Silence. By Mario I. Aguilar. Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2017. In *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 54, no. 2 (2019): 231-236.

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.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS

2021-2023	Brigham Young University Humanities Center Grant for the Research Group "Spirituality and Imagination"
2019-2020	Dundon-Berchtold Institute Fellowship in Applied Ethics
2019	Faculty Writing Retreat, Silver Creek Falls, OR. May 8-11, 2019
2019	Travel funds from the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN to attend the annual Madeleva Lecture and New Voices Seminar, April 25-26, 2019
2015	Travel Grant from the Graduate Theological Union to present paper at the SSCS Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa (May 2015)
2014	Newhall Teaching Fellowship from the Graduate Theological Union to teach <i>Desert Spirituality</i> (Fall semester)
2014	Travel Grant from the Graduate Theological Union to present paper at the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, MI (May 2014)
2014	Newhall Research Fellowship from the Graduate Theological Union to research Women in Religious Leadership (Spring semester)
2013	Travel Grant from the Graduate Theological Union to present paper at the SSCS Conference at Notre Dame, IN (July 2013)
2012-2014	Presidential Scholarship from the Graduate Theological Union
2010-2012	Agnes M. Steil Scholarship from Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary

PRESENTATIONS

"Desert Spirituality: Challenge and Consolation in a Time of Loneliness," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2021

“In Love with the Desert: Erosion, Mirage, and Oasis in the Early Christian Contemplative Tradition,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2021

“Desert Spirituality and the Self in Formation in Undergraduate Education,” Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference, “Resourcing, Reconnection, and Reemergence: Centering Contemplative Practices in our Work and in our Healing,” November 5-7, 2021

“Reading Luce Irigaray for an Elaboration of the Shared as Ascetic Practice,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 24, 2019

“The Revelatory Tide: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Water Crises,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 23, 2019

“Ecospiritual Practices: Asceticism in Response to Social and Ecological Injustice,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19, 2018

“Rival Functions of Motherhood in the Christian Desert Tradition,” Northwest Early Christian Studies Seminar, 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

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

“Greening the Desert: Reading the Desert Fathers and Mothers in a Time of Ecological Crisis,” University of Portland Theology Department’s Theology Thursday, Portland, OR, February 15, 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 Syncletica*,” 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

Presentation on Ecospirituality, Willamette University, Portland Campus, Fall 2022 [scheduled]

Presentation on Ecospirituality, NE (Northeast Portland) Vicariate Environmental Enrichment Series, May 4, 2022 [scheduled]

“Emerging Forms of the Study of Spirituality,” Shared Spaces and Shifting Contexts: A Conference on the Study of Spirituality and Spiritual Formation, Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX, November 19, 2021

Session for Day of Reflection for the National Pastoral Musicians, Portland Chapter, September 25, 2021

Session on Creation Care for the Saint Andrew Catholic Church, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, October 4, 2020

Session on Christian Spirituality for the Saint Andrew Catholic Church, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, January 12, 2020

Adult education session on “Contemplative Advent: Savoring the Season,” Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Scappoose, OR, December 8, 2019

Session on the Holy Spirit for the University of Portland Campus Ministry, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, November 17, 2019

Day of Reflection for the National Pastoral Musicians, Portland Chapter at Ascension Catholic Church, Portland, OR, November 9, 2019

Session on Contemplative Life and Monasticism for the Saint Andrew Catholic Church, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, March 3, 2019

Session on Prayer for the University of Portland Campus Ministry, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, December 2, 2018

Session on Discernment for the University of Portland Campus Ministry, Discernment Retreat. Camp Tilikum, Oregon. October 15, 2018

Session on Christian Spirituality for the University of Portland Campus Ministry, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, November 12, 2017

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

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certificate in Ecopsychology through the Pacifica Graduate Institute, January-April 2022 [in progress]

Ecotherapy and the Work That Reconnects, six-week course with Adrián Villasenor-Galarza, PhD, through The Earthbody Institute, September-November 2021

Leadership Fellows Formation Program, Fall 2021

Contemplative Environmental Practice Workshop, July 16-18, 2021

Collegium Colloquy, June 21-25, 2021

Becoming a Spiritually-Grounded Compassionate Warrior: How Catholic Teachings Can Augment our Anti-Racist Allyship. Workshop with Dr. David W. Campt, Saint Andrew Catholic Church, Portland, OR, August 25, 2019

Contemplative Environmental Practice Workshop, Lama Foundation, San Cristobal, New Mexico, August 7-13, 2019

Compassionate Listening Intensive Workshop: Healing the World from the Inside Out, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR, May 17-19, 2019

New Voices Seminar, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN, April 25-26, 2019

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Secretary of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, elected November 2019 for three-year term

Moderator, The Study of Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Theology: Evolving Methodologies, SSCS Biennial Meeting, Rome, Italy, September 27, 2019

Chairperson of the Founders' Circle Prize Committee, for the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, March-November, 2019

Co-chair of Exploratory Session, Critical Studies in Asceticism at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018-November 2019

Co-facilitator of the Emerging Scholars Group of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, November 2018-November 2019

CAMPUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Joined the UP Strategic Plan Subgroup to address Strategic Plan Theme 2 re: Holy Cross principles and traditions/faith, formation, and flourishing, Spring 2022

Joined the Liberal Arts Advantage Task Force, Spring 2022

Appointed to Clark Library Advisory Committee, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022

Appointed to Presidential Advisory Committee on Sustainability, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022

Guest lecturer in ENV200 classes for Dr. Norah Martin and Dr. Kali Abel. October 19, 2020, November 7, 2019, and October 11, 2018

Faculty mentor in UP Honor Program, beginning spring 2020

Participant accompanier for the Moreau Center's Portland Environmental Justice Immersion, Portland and Hood River, OR, March 1-6, 2020

Facilitated centering prayer practice in UP staff workshop, October 18, 2019 and October 19, 2018

Co-facilitated workshop for Faculty Development Day, "Communicating Compassionately with Students About Climate Change," May 7, 2019

Appointed to Engage UP Sub-committee for Faith Outcomes, Fall 2018

Facilitated weekly and biweekly centering prayer and mindfulness meditation sessions during 2018/19 academic year

Guest lecturer on Food and Religion for Dr. Heather Carpenter's ENV class. April 28, 2018

Guest lecturer on Desert Christians for Dr. Michael Cameron's THE class. March 27, 2018

Participant accompanier for the Moreau Center's Collegiate Challenge Habitat for Humanity Service-Learning Project, Tacoma, WA, March 11-17, 2018

Contributed to revision of Environmental Studies program, representing ecospirituality within environmental humanities, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019

Contributed to development of new program in Integral Health and helped formulate the learning outcomes for the program's "spiritual health" thread during 2016/17 academic year

OTHER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Presider at Morning Prayer for the National Pastoral Musicians Portland Chapter Workshop, April 30, 2022 [scheduled]

Consultant for Creation Care program at the Church of the Madeleine with Fr. Mike Biewend, Portland, OR. 2021

Preacher at Lake Park United Methodist Church in Oakland, CA, March 7, 2021

Preacher at Christ Episcopal Church in Eureka, CA, February 21, 2021

Companion for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Reckoning with Racism cohort, working with Presbyterian churches in Redmond and Ashland, OR, January-March 2021

Liturgy Committee Member and Pastoral Council Secretary, Sophia Christi Catholic Community, 2020-present

Ecojustice Team Member, Saint Andrew Catholic Church, 2019-present

Cattery assistant at the Oregon Humane Society, Portland, OR, August 2018-March 2020

Preacher in regular rotation at Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Portland, OR: March 15, 2020; October 27, 2019; July 7, 2019; March 24, 2019; December 23, 2018; September 23, 2018; February 18, 2018; August 13, 2017

Preacher at Camas Friends Church in Camas, WA: April 24, 2022; March 17, 2019; May 22, 2016

MEMBERSHIPS

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality (SSCS)

International Network for the Study of Spirituality (INSS)

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education (ACMHE)