

## VINCENT L WIMBUSH

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**Institute for Signifying Scriptures**  
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## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D.	1983	Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (The Study of Religion)
A. M.	1981	Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (The Study of Religion)
M. Div.	1978	Yale University Divinity School (Divinity)
B.A.	1975	Morehouse College, <i>magna cum laude</i> (Philosophy)
—	1973–74	University of California, Berkeley (Philosophy)

## HONORS, AWARDS, SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, 2015-16

Honorary Professor, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, 2014-2019

President (by nomination/election), Society of Biblical Literature, 2010

Achievement Award, Fund for Theological Education, Inc., 2010

President, Mid-Atlantic Region, SBL, 1997-98

Vice-President, Mid-Atlantic Region, SBL, 1996-1997

Outstanding Young Man of America, 1983  
 Dissertation Fellowship, Fund for Theological Education, 1982–83  
 Distinguished Alumnus Award, United Negro College Fund, Connecticut chapter, July 1979  
 Doctoral Fellowship, Fund for Theological Education, 1978–79  
 Two Brothers Fellowship, Yale Divinity School (Graduating Senior Academic Award), 1978  
 Protestant Fellowship, Fund for Theological Education, 1975–78  
 Phi Beta Kappa, Induction, Delta of Georgia, Morehouse College, 1975  
 Crown Zellerbach Foundation Scholarship (year of study at University of California at Berkeley), 1973–74

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Blais Faculty Research Grant, \$7,000, Claremont Graduate University, 2012  
 Ford Foundation Three-Year Research Grant, in support of the Institute for Signifying Scriptures (\$600,000), Claremont Graduate University, June 2008  
 Henry W. Luce Foundation Three-Year Grant, in support of the Institute for Signifying Scriptures (\$300,000), Claremont Graduate University, March 2006  
 Ford Foundation Three-Year Research Grant, for establishment of the Institute for Signifying Scriptures (\$600,000), Claremont Graduate University, October 2003  
 Ford Foundation Research Grant, transition year for Institute on Sacred Texts and Social Textures (\$95,000), Claremont Graduate University, October 2002  
 Ford Foundation Research Grant, two-year planning for major research project on Society, Culture and Sacred Texts: Africa and the African Diaspora (\$79,000), November 2000  
 Ford Foundation Research Grant: African Americans and the Bible: Contemporary Ethnography Project (\$108,000), October 1998  
 Lilly Endowment Three-Year Research Grant: African Americans and the Bible: The History and Dynamics of an Interaction (\$341,000), September 1996  
 Society of Biblical Literature Research Grant, research project and conference on Asceticism and the New Testament (\$2000), Spring 1996  
 Henry W. Luce III Fellowship in Theology (Historical Studies), sabbatical year, 1995–96  
 Louisville Institute Award, in support of International Conference on Asceticism, Union Theological Seminary, New York City (\$5000), April 1993  
 American Council of Learned Societies Travel Grant, Spring 1990 (for travel to Society of Biblical Literature International Conference, Vienna, Austria, July 1990)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers, Princeton University (Afro-American Religious History), Summer 1986

Younger Scholars Award, American Council of Learned Societies, Fall 1985

### **MAJOR ONGOING ORGANIZATIONAL/PROGRAMMATIC PROJECT**

(Founding) Director, Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont CA, February 27-28, 2004--

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Williams College  
Croghan Visiting Professor, Department of Religion  
Spring 2017

Drew University Theological School  
Visiting Professor, God-Talk For Black Thinkers Project:  
African Americans and the Bible: Sites of Formation, Sites of Performance,  
Fall 2016

Claremont Graduate University, Religion Department  
Professor of Religion, July 2003–December 2014

Intercollegiate Department of Africana Studies, Claremont Colleges  
Affiliate Faculty, 2003--2014

Illiff School of Theology, Denver CO  
Visiting Professor  
Summer Session, 1999

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley CA  
Visiting Professor  
Summer Session, 1997

Columbia University  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Classics  
Fall 1996–2003

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Visiting Professor of Religious Studies and Afro-American Studies  
September 1995–June 1996

Columbia University  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Religion

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
December 1992–2003

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York  
Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins  
January 1991–June 2003

Harvard University Divinity School  
Visiting Associate Professor of New Testament  
Fall 1989

Claremont Graduate School  
Assistant Professor of Religion  
Fall 1983–Spring 1986  
Associate Professor of Religion  
Fall 1986–Fall 1990

School of Theology at Claremont  
Assistant Professor of New Testament  
Fall 1983–Spring 1986  
Associate Professor  
Fall 1986–Fall 1990

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Scripturalectics: The Management of Meaning* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Editor, *Refractions of the Scriptural: Critical Orientation as Transgression* (Routledge, 2016)

Editor, *Scripturalizing the Human: The Written as the Political* (Routledge, 2015)

Editor, *MisReading America: Scriptures and Difference* (Oxford University Press, 2013)

*White Men's Magic: Scripturalization as Slavery* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012;  
pbk, 2014)

Editor, *Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon* (Signifying  
[on] Scriptures Book Series; New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2008)

*The Bible and African Americans: A Brief History* (Facets Series; Fortress Press, 2003)

Editor, with the assistance of Rosamond Rodman, *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred  
Texts and Social Textures* (New York: Continuum International, 2000; pbk, 2001)

Editor, *The Bible and the American Myth: A Symposium on the Bible and the Constructions of Meaning* (Studies in American Biblical Hermeneutics 16; Macon: Mercer University Press, 1999)

Co-editor, with Leif Vaage, *Asceticism and the New Testament* (New York: Routledge, 1999)

Co-editor, with Richard Valantasis, *Asceticism: Papers Presented at the International Conference on The Ascetic Dimension in Religious Life and Culture, 25–29 April 1993*, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995; pbk, 2002)

Editor, *Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity: A Source Book* (Studies in Antiquity and Christianity; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990)

Editor, *Discursive Formations, Ascetic Piety and the Interpretation of Early Christian Literature, Semeia 57 and 58* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1992)

*Paul the Worldly Ascetic: Response to the World and Self-Understanding According to 1 Corinthians 7* (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1987)

#### Special Projects/Events

Foreword, *The Bible, Centres and Margins: Dialogues Between Postcolonial African and UK Biblical Scholars*, ed. Johanna Stiebert and Musa Dube (Bloomsbury, 2018)

Interview, *Behind the Key*, Phi Beta Kappa Society, February 2018  
<https://www.pbk.org/Vincent-L-Wimbush>

Contributor, “Room for Debate” (“Natural Disasters or ‘Acts of God?’”), *New York Times*, November 18, 2013 <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/11/18/natural-disasters-or-acts-of-god/why-we-want-to-see-disasters-as-acts-of-god>

“Interview” (by Adele Reinhartz), *Oxford Biblical Studies Online*, 2013

Introduction (David Clines), SBL Presidential Address Plenary Session, New Orleans, November 2009 (*Journal of Biblical Literature* [Vol.129.1, Spring 2010])

Executive Producer, Documentary Film, “Finding God in the City of Angels” (Institute for Signifying Scriptures, 2009)

Guest Editor, “Signifying (on) Scriptures: Text(ure)s and Orientations,” *Spotlight on Teaching: Religious Studies News*, vol 23, no. 3 (American Academy of Religion, May 2008)

“My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?,” *Echoes from Calvary: Meditations on*

*Franz Joseph Hayden's Seven Last Words of Christ*, ed. Richard Young (Lanham MD: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2005)

Executive Producer, Documentary Film, “Reading Darkness, Reading Scriptures: African Americans and the Bible” (Institute for Signifying Scriptures, 2004)

Editor, *Rhetorics of Resistance: A Colloquy on Early Christianity as Rhetorical Formation*, *Semeia* 79 (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999)

Guest Editor, “The Sexual Politics of the Ascetic Life: A Comparative Reader,” *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 48, nos. 3–4, 1994/95 (1996)

Foreword, in *Old Ship of Zion: The Afro-Baptist Ritual in the African Diaspora*, by Walter F. Pitts, (New York: Oxford University, 1993), x–xvi

*Renunciation Toward Social Engineering: An Apologia for the Study of Asceticism in Greco-Roman Antiquity* (Occasional Papers, no. 8; Claremont, CA: Institute of Antiquity and Christianity, October 1986)

#### Articles & Essays

“The ‘Donation’ of King James: MisReadings of the Black Atlantic,” in “*With Root About My Person*”: *Charles H. Long & New Directions in the Study of Religion*, ed. Jennifer Reid and David Carrasco (University of New Mexico Press, 2020)

“Mormonism and the Limits of Scripture,” *Mormon Studies Review* vol 7 (2020) 8-20

“‘Talkin’ ‘bout Somethin’’: Scripturalization—Or, A Transgressive Politics of the Word,” in *Reading in These Times*, ed. Tat-Siong Benny Liew and Francisco Segovia (forthcoming, SBL Press)

“Race, Scriptures, and the Postcolonial World,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Biblical Criticism*, ed. R. S. Sugirtharajah (Oxford University Press. Online May 2019)

“‘If the President does it, its’ not Illegal...’: The Modern Nation/State as the Scriptural,” in *The Abeng: A Journal of Transdisciplinary Criticism* 2.1 (2018)

“‘I Wish [We] Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free’: The Subjunctive Mood,” in *The Abeng: A Journal of Transdisciplinary Criticism* 1.1 (2017)

“Introduction: Scriptures and Transgression,” in *Refractions of the Scriptural: Critical Orientation as Transgression*, ed. V. L. Wimbush (Routledge, 2016)

“Ripping the Veil, Weaving Meanings: The Textures of Therapeutics of African Diaspora

- Formation,” *In the Beginning: The Martin Luther King, Jr., International Chapel at Morehouse College*, ed. E. Nix, Jr. (Mercer University Press, 2015)
- “Introduction: Scripturalizing: Analytical Wedge for a Critical History of the Human,” in *Scripturalizing the Human: The Written as the Political*, ed. V. L. Wimbush (Routledge, 2015)
- “‘The Name the Peckerwoods Gave It’: St. Paul’s Spiritual Holy Temple and the Scriptural Formation of the Black Atlantic,” with Rosamond C. Rodman, in *Art Religion and Power in the Global Countryside: Washington Harris and the Saint Paul Spiritual Holy Temple*, ed. Judith McWillie (forthcoming)
- “Per-forming Scriptures: Text(ure)s of African Diaspora Formation,” in *Fight On: A Visual Interpretation of African American Spirituals*, ed. Aaron F. Henderson (forthcoming)
- “It’s Scripturalization, Colleagues!” Review Essay, *Journal of Africana Religions* (2015)
- “Signifying on the Fetish II: Outlines for a New Critical Orientation,” *Theologische Literaturzeitung* 138 (2013) 9
- “Signifying on the Fetish: Mapping a New Critical Orientation,” *The Future of the Biblical Past: Envisioning Biblical Studies on a Global Key*, ed. Roland Boer and Fernando F. Segovia (Society of Biblical Literature, 2012)
- “Response to: D. Max Moerman, *The Death of the Dharma: Buddhist Sutra Burials in Early Medieval Japan*.” *The Religion & Culture Web Forum*. The Martin Marty Center of the Advanced Study of Religion. March 2011.  
<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/webforum/archive.shtml>
- “Interpreters—Enslaving/Enslaved/Runagate,” in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 130, no. 1 (2011) 5-24
- “Scriptures”. In *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Biblical Studies*. 1-Aug-2011.  
 DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780195393361-0055.  
<http://oxfordbibliographiesonline.com/view/document/obo-9780195393361/obo-9780195393361-0055.xml>
- “Ex-Centric Reading: A Case for Critical Reorientation,” in *Foster Biblical Scholarship: Essays in Honor of Kent Harold Richards on the Occasion of His Retirement*, ed. Frank R. Ames and Charles W. Miller (Society of Biblical Literature, 2010)
- “The Work We Make Scriptures Do For Us: An Argument for Signifying on Scriptures as Intellectual Project,” in *Transforming Graduate Biblical Studies*, ed. Elisabeth Schuessler Fiorenza and Kent H. Richards (Society of Biblical Literature, 2010)
- “African Americans and The Bible,” *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, ed. Daniel Patte (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

- “Abstinence,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol 1, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et al (Walter de Gruyter, 2009)
- “Equiano’s Interesting Narrative: Re-Reading a Modern Scriptural Story,” in *Caught Reading Again: Scholars and Their Books*, ed. R. S. Sugirtharajah (SCM Press, 2009)
- “Scriptures for Strangers: the Making of an Africanized Bible,” in *Postcolonial Interventions: Essays in Honor of R. S. Sugirtharajah*, ed. Tat-siong Benny Liew (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009)
- “‘...no modern Joshua...’: Nationalization, Scriptures, and Race,” in *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings: Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Early Christianity*, ed. Elisabeth Schuessler Fiorenza and Laura Nasrallah (Augsburg Fortress Press, 2009)
- “The Bible as a Text in Cultures: African Americans,” in *The Peoples’ Bible*, ed. Curtiss P. De Young, et al (Augsburg Fortress, 2009)
- “Introduction: TEXTureS, Gestures, Power: Orientation to Radical Excavation,” in *Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon*, ed. V. L. Wimbush (Signifying [on] Scriptures Book Series; New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2008)
- “‘Naturally Veiled and Half Articulate’: Scriptures, Modernity, and the Formation of African America,” in *Still at the Margins*, ed. R. S. Sugirtharajah (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2008), 56-68.
- “Race and Religion,” in *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* (MacMillan, 2008)
- “We will Make Our own Future Text: A Proposal for an Alternate Interpretive Orientation,” in *True to our Native Land: African American New Testament Commentary*, ed. Brian Blount, et al (Philadelphia: Fortress, 2007), 43-53
- “Asceticism,” in *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon, 2006)
- “Afrocentric Interpretation,” in *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon, 2006)
- “Signifying on Scriptures: An African Diaspora Proposal for Radical Readings,” in *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, ed. Kathleen O. Wicker, et al. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005)
- “Asceticism,” in *Westminster Handbook to Origen*, ed. John McGuckin (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003)
- “In Search of a Usable Past: Reorienting Biblical Studies,” in *Toward a New Heaven and New Earth: Essays in Honor of Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza*, ed. Fernando Segovia (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2003), 179–98
- “Response,” in *Reading the Bible in the Global Village*, ed. Justin S. Ukpong, et al. (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2002) 173ff



- “Introduction: Reading Darkness, Reading Scriptures,” in *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Textures*, ed. V. L. Wimbush, with the assistance of R. C. Rodman (New York: Continuum International, 2000, 2001)
- “Bible: African Americans,” in *Dictionary of Third World Theologies*, ed. Virginia Fabella and R. S. Sugirtharajah (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2000)
- “The Hellenistic World in the First Century,” in *Oxford Companion to Christian Thought*, ed. Adrian Hastings, et al. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)
- “Asceticism,” in *Oxford Companion to Christian Thought*, ed. Adrian Hastings, et al. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)
- “Case, Adelaide Teague,” *American National Biography*, ed. J. A. Garraty and M. C. Carnes, vol. 4 (Oxford University Press, 1999): 530–31
- “Interrupting the Spin: What Would Happen Were African Americans to Become the Starting Point for Biblical Studies,” *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 52, nos. 1–2 (1998): 61–76
- “*Contemptus Mundi* Means ‘...Bound for the Promised Land...’: Religion from the Site of Cultural Marronage,” in *The Papers of the Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology*, vol. 2, ed. Jonathan Strom (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997), 131–61
- “*Contemptus Mundi—Redux*: The Politics of an Ancient Rhetoric and Worldview,” in *Power, Powerlessness, and the Divine: New Inquiries in Bible and Theology*, ed. Cynthia L. Rigby (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997), 263–80
- “Past as Present, Present as Past: Freedom to Read the Self and the World,” in *Baptists in the Balance: The Tension Between Freedom and Responsibility*, ed. Everett C. Goodwin (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1997)
- “Religious and Theological Studies as Religious Criticism: A Future for Biblical Studies” in *Putting Body and Soul Together: Essays in Honor of Robin Scroggs*, ed. Virginia Wiles, et al. (Trinity Press International, 1997), 294–310
- “The Bible and African Americans,” in *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* (rev. ed.; San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1996)
- “‘Not of This World’: Early Christianities as Rhetorical and Social Formation,” in *Reimagining Christian Origins: A Colloquium Honoring Burton L. Mack*, ed. E. Castelli and H. Taussig (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1996), 23–36
- “The Ecclesiastical Context of the New Testament,” in *The New Interpreter’s Bible*, Volume VIII (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995), 43–55
- “The Influence of the Bible in African American Culture,” in *The Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History*, ed. J. Salzman et al. (Macmillan Library Reference USA; Macmillan, 1995)
- “Reading Texts as Reading Ourselves: A Chapter in the History of African American Biblical Interpretation,” in *Reading From This Place: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation*, ed. Fernando F. Segovia and Mary Ann Tolbert (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1995), 95–108

- “*Contemptus Mundi*: The Power of an Ancient Rhetoric and Worldview,” *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 47:1–2 (1994): 1–13
- “Reading Texts Through Worlds, Worlds Through Texts,” *Semeia* 61 (1993): 129–40. Also in *Black and Catholic: The Challenge and Gift of Black Folk*, ed. Jamie T. Phelps, O.P. (Marquette University Press, 1998), 59–73; and *Biblical Studies Alternatively: An Introductory Reader*, ed. Susanne Scholz (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003)
- “African American Traditions and the Bible,” *Oxford Companion to the Bible*, ed. Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 12–15
- “The Ascetic Impulse in Early Christianity: Some Current Methodological Challenges,” *Studia Patristica XXV: Papers Presented to the Eleventh International Conference on Patristic Studies Held at Oxford* (Peeters Press: Louvain, 1993), 462–78
- “The Ascetic Impulse in Ancient Christianity: A Cultural Critical Investigation,” *Theology Today* 50, no. 3 (1993): 417–28
- “Ascetic Behavior and Color-ful Language: Stories About Ethiopian Moses,” *Semeia* 58 (Fall 1992): 81–91
- “Introduction,” *The New Testament: Books That Changed the World* (Norwalk, CT: The Easton Press, 1992), vii–xiv
- “Influence of Feminist Scholarship on My Theological Work,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 7, no. 1 (1991): 125–26
- “African Americans and the Bible: Outline of An Interpretive History,” in *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Hermeneutics*, ed. Cain Felder (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1991), 81–97; also in *Theological Interpretations of Scripture: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, ed. Stephen E. Fowl (Blackwell Readings in Theology, 1997)
- “*SOPHROSYNE*: The Greco-Roman Origins of a Type of Ascetic Piety,” in *Gnosticism and the Early Christian World: Volume Two of Essays on Antiquity and Christianity in Honor of James M. Robinson*, ed. Jack T. Sanders et al. (Sonoma, CA: Polebridge Press, 1990), 89–102
- “Revelation,” in *Harper’s Encyclopedia of Religious Education*, ed. Iris V. Cully and Kendig Brubaker Cully (New York: Harper & Row, 1990), 558–60
- “Resurrection,” in *Harper’s Encyclopedia of Religious Education*, ed. Iris V. Cully and Kendig Brubaker Cully (New York: Harper & Row, 1990), 556–57
- “1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus,” in *The Books of the Bible*, ed. Bernhard W. Anderson (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1989)
- “Historical/Cultural Criticism as Liberation: A Proposal for an African American Biblical Hermeneutic,” *Semeia* 47 (1989): 43–55
- “Historical Study as Cultural Critique: A Proposal for the Role of Biblical Scholarship in Theological Education,” *Theological Education* vol. 25, no. 2 (1989)
- “Joining the Debate,” *Roads Not Taken: Proceedings: Forum on Church and Land*, vol. 2, ed. C.

Dean Freudenberger and Carol Ann Seckel (Claremont, CA: School of Theology at Claremont, 1987)

“Biblical-Historical Study as Liberation: Toward an Afro-Christian Hermeneutic,” *Journal of Religious Thought* 42, no. 2 (1986): 9–21; also in *African American Religious Studies: Selected Documents*, ed. Gayraud S. Wilmore (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1989), 140–54

“‘Rescue the Perishing’: The Importance of Biblical Scholarship in Black Christianity,” *Reflections* 80 (1983); also in *Black Theology: A Documentary History, Volume Two: 1980–1992*, ed. James H. Cone and Gayraud S. Wilmore (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993), 210–15

### Book Reviews

Nancy Klein Maguire, *An Infinity of Little Hours: Five Young Men and Their Trial of Faith in the western World’s Most Austere Monastic Order* (Public Affairs, 2007). In *The Historian* (70:4, Winter 2008)

Randall C. Bailey, ed., *Yet With A Steady Beat: Contemporary U.S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003). In *Review of Biblical Literature* 6 (2004)

Brian K. Blount, *Then the Whisper Put on Flesh: New Testament Ethics in an African American Context* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2001). In *Interpretation* 57, no. 1 (2003): 88–92

Musa W. Dube, ed., *Other Ways of Reading: African Women and the Bible* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001). In *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 21, no. 3 (2003): 167–169

Daniel Boyarin, *Dying for God: Martyrdom and the Making of Christianity and Judaism* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1999). In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 69, no. 4 (December 2001): 912–13

Lee I. Levine, *Judaism and Hellenism: Conflict or Confluence* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1998). In *Interpretation* 54, no. 3 (2000): 322–23

Elizabeth A. Clark, *Reading Renunciation: Asceticism and Scripture* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999). In *Theological Studies* 61, no. 3 (2000): 548–49

Columba Stewart, *Cassian the Monk* (Oxford Studies in Historical Theology; New York: Oxford University Press, 1998). In *Journal of Religion* (1999): 660–61

Geoffrey Galt Harpham, *The Ascetic Imperative in Culture and Criticism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992pb [first published in 1987]). In *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion: Journal of the North American Association for the Study of Religion* 8, no. 4 (1996): 385–88

William R. Baker, *Personal Speech-Ethics in the Epistle of James* (Wissenschaftliche

- Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 2. Reihe 68; Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr [Paul Siebeck], 1995). In *Theological Studies* 57, no. 2 (1996): 343–44
- Theophus H. Smith, *Conjuring Culture: Biblical Formations in Black America* (New York: Oxford University Press). In *Theological Studies* 56 (1995): 380–81
- Margaret M. Mitchell, *Paul and the Rhetoric of Reconciliation: An Exegetical Investigation of the Language and Composition of 1 Corinthians* (Louisville KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991). In *Journal of Religion* 74 (October 1994): 558–560
- Itumeleng J. Mosala, *Biblical Hermeneutics and Black Theology in South Africa* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1989). In *Theology Today* 47, no. 4 (1991)
- Frederick B. Craddock, *Luke* (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1990). In *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 13, no.2 (1992): 251–52
- Christopher Rowland, *Radical Christianity* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1988). In *Theology Today* 47, no. 2 (July 1990): 182–83
- Roland A.N. Kydd, *Charismatic Gifts in the Early Church: An Exploration Into the Gifts of the Spirit During the First three Centuries of the Christian Church* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984). In *Second Century: A Journal of Early Christian Studies* (1990)
- Lloyd Gaston, *Paul and the Torah* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1987). In *Theology Today*, vol. 45, no. 4 (January 1989)
- Herbert Hirsch and Jack D. Spiro, eds., *Persistent Prejudice: Perspectives on Anti-Semitism* (Fairfax, VA: George Mason University Press, 1988). In *Religious Education*, vol. 84 (Spring 1989): 298–99
- Gerhard A. Krodel, *Acts* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986) and Robert C. Tannenhill, *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts, vol. 1* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986). In *Circuit Rider* (1989): 14–15
- Cain H. Felder, *Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class and Family* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1989). In *Theology Today* 46, no. 3 (October 1989): 345–46, 348
- Norman R. Petersen, *Rediscovering Paul* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985). In *Religious Studies Review* 14 (1988): 121–124

Book Series: Editorial Supervision:

Semeia Studies Monograph Series (Scholars Press)

Yehoshua Gitay, ed., *Prophecy and Prophets* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997)

E. Theodore Mullen, Jr., *Ethnic Myths and Pentateuchal Traditions* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997)

Roland Boer, *Jameson and Jeroboam* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996)

John G. Cook, *The Structure and Persuasive Power of Mark: A Linguistic Approach* (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995)

#### Signifying (on) Scriptures Book Series

V. L. Wimbush, ed., *Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon* (Rutgers University Press, 2008)

James Bielo, ed., *The Social Life of Scriptures: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Biblicalism* (Rutgers University Press, 2009)

Velma E. Love, *Divining the Self: A Study in Yoruba Myth and Human Consciousness* (Penn State University Press, 2012)

Jennifer Reid, *Finding Klusap: A Journey into Mi'kmaw Myth* (Penn State University Press, 2013)

Isra Yazicioglu, *Understanding the Qur'anic Miracle Stories in the Modern Age* (Penn State University Press, 2013)

Leif E. Vaage, *Borderline Exegesis* (Penn State University Press, 2014)

Aurélien Mokoko Gampiot, *"The Spurned Race is God's Chosen": Kimbanguism, an African Understanding of the Bible* (Penn State University Press, 2017)

#### **LECTURES/ADDRESSES; VARIED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITY**

'Backgrounded by Savagery': Black Flesh as Scripture," Presentation, Scripture and Literature Workshop, University of Virginia (Religious Studies Department), Charlottesville VA, June 11-13, 2019; The Johns Hopkins University (English Department), March 6-8, 2020

"Discourse is a Violence We Do to Things': Scripturalization as Slavery," Religious Studies and Central American Studies, California State University, Northridge, April 12, 2018

"Scriptures, Slavery, and Freedom," Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society/Department of Religion and Theology, Seminar Presentation, University of Western Cape, Capetown, South Africa, August 15, 2017

“‘Discourse [Is] a Violence We Do To Things’: Scripturalization as Mimetic Pathologies,”  
Lecture I, Croghan Visiting Professor of Religion, Williams College, MA, April 20, 2017

“Scriptures, Slavery, Freedom,” Lecture, Second Hour, First Congregational Church,  
Williamstown, MA, April 23, 2017

“‘Even the Bible Was Made Over to Suit Our Vivid Imagination’: Scripturalizing as Mimetic  
*Patho*-Logics,” Lecture II, Croghan Visiting Professor of Religion, Williams College, MA,  
April 27, 2017

Visiting Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa (Lectures: Scripturalization; American/African American  
Society and Culture)  
Texas Christian University; University of Georgia; Morehouse College; Rhodes College;  
University of Missouri, Columbia; Rockford University; University of Madison, Wisconsin;  
Case Western University; Carleton College, 2015-16

“*Contemptus Mundi*: The Dialectics of Formation,” Keynote Paper, Norm and Exercise: Form  
and History of Christian Asceticism in Late Antiquity, International Colloquium at the  
University of Turin, Italy, June 22-24, 2015

Discussant, Workshop, “Negotiating Cultural Capital,” University of Oslo, Faculty of Theology,  
21-22 September 2013

“Scripturalization as Violence,” Plenary Keynote Address, Philosophy and Religion  
Department/B. Frank Hall/Megivern Interfaith Conference (“God of Abraham: God of  
Peace? God of War?”), University of North Carolina, Wilmington, 11 April 2013

“White Men’s Fetish: The Black Atlantic Reads King James,” paper, Society of Biblical  
Literature International Meeting/Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship, Kings College,  
London, England, July 6; Rhodes College, November 11; and SBL Annual Meeting, San  
Francisco, November 2011

“White Men’s Fetish,” paper, Society for Anthropology of Religion, Santa Fe NM, April 30,  
2011

“Making Do with the Fetish: Scriptures and Vernaculars II,” Paper, Iconic Book Project  
Symposium III, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY, October 2 2010

“Ripping the Veil, Weaving Meanings: The Textures and Performativity of African Diaspora  
Religious Formation,” Lecture, California African American Museum, I Am America  
Project, Los Angeles CA, 28 February 2010

Review Panel, Burton Mack’s *Myth and the Christian Nation*, Society of Biblical Literature  
Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 2009

- “Knowing Ex-Centrics/Ex-Centric Knowing,” Opening Lecture, National Conference, “Reading Scriptures, Reading America: Interruptions, Orientations, and Mimicry Among U.S. Communities of Color,” Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA, October 15, 2009
- “African Americans, Sacred Texts, and the Quest for Social Power,” Lecture, Humanities Honors Program, California State University Dominguez Hills, CA, 21 April 2008
- “Making Scriptures, Making Worlds,” Keynote Lecture, Urban Ministries Conference, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh PA, 4 April 2008
- Panelist/Discussant, Symposium, “Retrieving Texts, Recasting Traditions: Scriptures, Ethiopian Christian Origins and ‘World’ Christianities,” Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School NY, 4 March 2008
- “Reading Scriptures: A Comparative Critical Approach,” Claremont Mormon Studies Students Association, Claremont Graduate University, 11 February 2008
- “Making Do with the Fetish: Scripturalization and Vernaculars,” Keynote Speaker, Symposium on Iconic Texts, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY, 19 October 2007
- “...no modern Joshua...’: Nationalization, Scripture, and Race,” Conference on Race, Ethnicity Gender and Early Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge MA, March 2007
- “Black Religion,” Keynote Speaker, “After the Storm: Art, Culture, and Politics after Katrina” Conference, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore MD, October 2006
- “Ripping the Veil, Weaving Meanings: The TEXTures, Performativity, and Therapeutics of African American Religion,” Plenary Address, Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, March 2005
- “Ripping the Veil, Weaving Meaning: The Textures of African American Expressive Culture,” Claremont Colleges Discourse Lectures, Honnold Library, Claremont CA, 9 March 2005
- “Excavating Darkness: The Textures of African American Expressive Culture,” Michaelsen Endowed Visiting Scholar, Religious Studies Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, 30 November 2004
- “TEXTureS, Gestures, and Power: Orientation to Radical Excavation,” Plenary address, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, 20 November 2004
- “Study of Scriptures as Humanistic Challenge,” Lecture, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, 14 September 2004

- “TEXTureS of African American Culture,” conference in Honor of P. Sterling Stuckey, History Department, University of California, Riverside, 22 May 2004
- Plenary address, Pacific Region, Society of Biblical Literature, Whittier College, Whittier, CA, March 2004
- Panelist, Special Session: “In Honor of Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza: Looking Back and Looking Forward,” Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 24 November 2003
- Reviewer, Philip Jenkins’s *The Next Christendom*, History of Christianity Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 22 November 2003
- Panelist, “Exploring the Contours and Seam of Asian American Biblical Interpretation,” Asian and Asian-American Hermeneutics Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2003
- “Signifying on Scriptures,” Keynote Address, Conference on Global Future of Feminist New Testament Studies, Scripps College, Claremont CA, 24-25 April, 2003
- Panelist, “Early Church History and New Testament Studies,” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 8 January 2003
- Lectures: “Not word, but worlds: a proposal for the study of the Bible in the 21st century”; “African Americans and the Bible: a history of a quest for social power,” Wheeler Lectures, Convocation, “The Bible, the Church, and the World: Reflections on a Spiritual Journey,” Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa OK, Jan 15-17, 2002
- “‘Like a Ship that’s Tossed and Driven’: The Ascetics of Social Formation,” Lecture, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge MA, 1 October 2001
- “Not Word but Worlds: A Proposal for a Future for Biblical Studies,” Keynote address, Conference, University of Frankfurt am-Main, Germany, April 19–21, 2001
- “Ascetics of Social Formation,” paper read, conference on “Psyche, Soma and Spirit: A Question of Healing,” Rice University, 30 March 2001
- “African Americans and the Bible,” speaker, Martin Luther King, Jr. Chapel Convocation Luncheon, Morehouse College, 29 March 2001
- Presenter, “Study of Bible and Ethnography Project,” special session on new research projects, World Congress on Religion, Cape Town, South Africa, July 2000
- Lecturer, Black History Celebration, St. Meinrad Abbey and Seminary, St. Meinrad, IN, February 2000
- Organizer/Presenter, special session on African Americans and the Bible, International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Helsinki/Lahti, Finland, 15–21 July 1999
- Lecturer, Philosophy and Religion Department, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA, 15 February 1999
- Lecturer, Philosophy and Religion Department, Lafayette College, Easton, PA, 10 February 1999
- Lecturer/Discussant, class on multi-cultural interpretation of the New Testament, Garrett-



Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, 21 May 1996

“African Americans and the Bible: The History and Dynamics of an Interaction,” lecture in celebration of American religious history at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, 19 March 1996

“African American Religion,” lecture, Afro-American Studies 100, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 28 November 1995

Panelist/Reviewer, Women in the Biblical World Section, “Rethinking The Woman’s Bible: The State of the Art,” review of The Woman’s Bible and Searching the Scriptures: A Feminist Commentary, vols. 1 and 2, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA 19 November 1995

“Religious Criticism (II): A Challenge for Doctoral Programs in Religious and Theological Studies,” Paper, Doctoral Programs Consultation (Session 3), Auburn Theological Seminary New York, NY, 20-23 October 1995

“The African Presence in Early Christianity,” Geddes Hanson Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 10 April 1995

“Blacks and Blackness in Early Christian Discourse: The Stories about Ethiopian Moses,” lecture, Drew University Theological School, Madison, NJ, 6 April 1995

“On Being Ambivalent about Ambivalence,” review essay of Wayne Meeks’s The Origins of Christian Morality (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), Conference on New Testament Ethics, Duke University Divinity School, Durham, NC, 31 March–2 April 1995

“Biblical Studies as Cultural Criticism,” paper read, Conference on the Future of Biblical Studies, McGill University, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 7 May 1993

“Reading Worlds Through Texts, Texts Through Worlds,” paper read, Black Catholic Conference, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago IL, 11 March 1993

“A History of African American Readings of the Bible,” Iliff Week of Lectures, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO, 25-28 January 1993

“Reading Texts as Reading Ourselves: A Chapter in the History of African American Biblical Interpretation,” paper read, National Conference: “Reading From This Place: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation,” Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, 22–24 January 1993

“‘Not of This World...’: Early Christianity as Rhetorical and Social Formation,” Public Lecture, “More on the Core,” Columbia College Contemporary Civilization and Literature-Humanities Lecture Series, 28 October 1992

“Augustine,” presentation to leaders of Core Curriculum, Columbia University, New York, NY, 9 October 1992

“The Study of Religion as Religious Criticism: A Future for Doctoral Programs in Theological and Religious Studies,” paper read, Conference on Theological Education, Auburn Theological Seminary, New York, NY, June 1992

- “The Ascetic Impulse in Ancient Christianity: A Cultural Critical Investigation,” Alexander Thompson Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 9 March 1992
- “The Ascetic Impulse in Early Christianity: The Methodological Implications of a Shift in Assumptions,” master theme, Eleventh International Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford, England, 22 August 1991
- “The Bible and African Americans: A Proposal for an Interpretive History,” Fred O. Francis Lecture, Chapman College, Orange, CA, November 1990
- “The Study of Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity: Gains and Prospects,” main paper, Special Session on Asceticism, International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, 6 August 1990 (Response by Professor Susanne Heine, University of Vienna)
- Panelist/Reviewer, Cain Felder, *Troubling Biblical Waters* (1989), Annual Meeting, Society for the Study of Black Religion, Chicago, IL, March 1990
- “Early Christian Responses to the World: 1 Corinthians as Case Study,” Princeton Theological Seminary Continuing Education Course, Princeton, NJ, 6–8 December 1989
- Panelist/Reviewer, book forum in honor of L. William Countryman, *Dirt, Greed & Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988), Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA, 8 May 1989
- “African American Religious History,” lecture, course on African American history, Scripps College, Claremont, CA, 27 April 1989
- “Uses of Scripture in Afro-American Religion,” lecture, Tenth Anniversary Lecture Series, Department of Classics, Philosophy and Religion, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA, 13 April 1989
- “*APATHEIA*: The Greco-Roman Origins of a Cultural Orientation,” paper read, Western Regional Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Claremont, CA, March 1989
- “Historical Study as Cultural Critique: A Proposal for the Role of Biblical Scholarship in Theological Education,” paper read, Summer Colloquium on Commitment and Inquiry, Association of Theological Schools, Santa Barbara, CA, June 1988
- “The Bible and African Americans: An Interpretive History,” lecture, Religious Studies Department, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 10 May 1988
- “Paul and the Rise of Worldly Asceticism,” public lecture series, Institute for Antiquity and Christianity, Claremont, CA, 24 April 1988
- “Self-Restraint in the Exercise of Male Dominance: Isolating a Type of Ascetic Piety in Greco-Roman Antiquity,” paper read, Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity Group, Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, December 1987
- “‘The Bible Sez’: A History of African Americans,” paper read, Conference of African American Biblical Scholars, St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN, July 1987
- “The Bible and the Response to the Creation,” lecture, Conference on the Church and the Land, Boise, ID, June 1987

- “Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas,” paper read, Conference on Hermeneutics (“Conversations”), Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, May 12, 1987
- “Historical Study as Cultural Criticism: An Apologia for the Study of Asceticism,” opening plenary paper read at Asceticism Conference I, Monastery of Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA, 19-21 November 1986
- Discussant, Interfaith Dialogue (Jewish, Christian, Muslim devotees and scholars), led by philosopher of religion John Hick, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont CA, 1985–86
- “Responses to the World as Religious Self-Understanding: The Early Christians,” Palmer Lectureship, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, October 1985
- “Renunciation as Social Engineering: Delimiting a Model of Asceticism in Greco-Roman Antiquity,” paper read, International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Amsterdam, Holland, August 1985
- “*MERIMNAN TA TOY KYRIOU*: The Pauline Application of a Model of Asceticism in Greco-Roman Antiquity,” paper read, Western Regional Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, March 1985
- “The Bible and Ethics,” paper read, Philosophy of Religion Conference, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA, January 1985
- “Against Denominationalism: The African American Religious Heritage,” lecture, Colby College, Waterville, ME, February 1985
- Respondent, “The History of ‘World’ as Grid for Hermeneutics,” Biblical Hermeneutics Session, Liberation Theology Working Group, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Dallas, TX, December 1983
- Respondent/Discussant, “Religions of the Oppressed Revisited,” Annual Meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and Religious Research Association, Knoxville, TN, November 1983

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

Panelist, “Ashe to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery,” Symposium, Museum of Biblical Art, New York City, March 2, 2012

Judge, Textual Studies Category, American Academy of Religion Book Awards, 2007—2010  
 Officially Appointed Delegate, Society of Biblical Literature, to American Council of Learned Societies, 2003–2007

Panelist, “Current Research,” Annual Meeting, American Council of Learned Societies, Washington, D.C., 7 May 2003

- Keynote Address, Fund for Theological Education, Conference of Minority Ph.D. students, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 9 June 2001
- Co-chair, Faculty Forum (Curriculum Revision), Union Theological Seminary, October 2000–May 2001
- Panelist, “Futuring the Scriptures: The Bible for Tomorrow’s Publics,” American Bible Society, New York City, 6 February 1999
- Keynote Speaker, Racial-Ethnic Minorities Recruitment Conference; sponsored by American Academy of Religion, Association of Theological Schools, and Society of Biblical Literature; Vanderbilt Divinity School, 25 September 1998
- Panelist, “Reversing the Direction: How Teaching Affects Scholarship,” Special Topics Forum, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, 23 November 1997
- Reviewer/Consultant, Programs in Philosophy and Religion, Florida A&M University, as part of Florida State University System Reviews, Tallahassee, FL, 8–11 October 1995
- Facilitator/Panelist, Seminar for New Faculty, Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Sheraton Square Station, Pittsburgh, PA, 8–10 October 1995
- Member, Divine Power and Powerlessness Theological Discussion Group, 1993–1995
- Chair (Special Council Appointment), Society of Biblical Literature Ad Hoc Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, January 1991–1995
- Panelist, Issues on Research in Theological Education, Association of Theological Schools Conference, San Francisco Holiday Inn, Union Square, 3–6 January, 1991
- Discussant/Respondent, Consultation on Emerging Issues in Theological Education, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, 6–8 April 1990
- Treasurer, Society for the Study of Black Religion, March 1989–93
- Member, Selection Committee, Jacob Javits Fellowships (U.S. Department of Education), Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, February 1989; University of South Alabama, March 1990
- Selection Committee, Association of Theological Schools Faculty Grants, 1988–1992, 1994
- Member, Executive Committee, Society of Biblical Literature, 1988
- Discussant, Workshop on Participatory Bible Study, World Council of Churches Unit on Biblical Studies, Chateau de Bossey (Geneva), Switzerland, 2–21 June 1987
- Member, Council, Society of Biblical Literature, 1986–88
- Member, Organizing Committee, Conference of African American Biblical Scholars, Institute for Cultural and Ecumenical Research, St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN, 18–22 June 1986; 8–14 July 1987
- Co-chair, Pauline Epistles and Apocalypse Section, Western Regional Meeting, Society of

Biblical Literature, 1985–89

Workshop leader, “Teaching Peace,” Annual Meeting, National Religious Education Association, Anaheim, CA, October 1983

Institutional/Program Reviewer for: Florida A & M University, Religious Studies; Graduate Theological Union, Ph. D. Programs; Morehouse College, King International Chapel

Manuscript Reviewer for:

Oxford University Press; Fortress Press; University of Georgia Press; New York University Press; University of Florida; Duke University Press; Scholars Press; Liturgical Press; Journal of American Academy of Religion; Journal of Biblical Literature; Routledge; Princeton University Press; Worldview: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology; Penn State University Press; Harvard University Press; Bloomsbury; Journal of Africana Religions; Current Anthropology

Tenure/Promotion Reviewer for:

Case Western Reserve University (3); Tulane University; Pacific School of Religion/Graduate Theological Union; Barnard College; Swarthmore College; University of Wisconsin; Howard University; Western Michigan University; Colgate Rochester Divinity School; Fuller Theological Seminary; St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto; Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Hartford Seminary; University of North Carolina, Wilmington; University of California, Santa Barbara; Garrett- Evangelical Theological Seminary; University of Virginia; University of Toronto (2); Pitzer College; University of Notre Dame; University of Michigan; Princeton Theological Seminary

## **LEADERSHIP IN ACADEMIC-PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVES & PROJECTS**

Organizer/Convener, Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Tenth Anniversary Forum, Claremont, CA, January 25, 2014

Organizer/Convener, Scripturalizing the Human Collaborative Research Project, Claremont, Fall, 2012

Creator/Founding Chair, Critical Comparative Scriptures Graduate Program, Claremont Graduate University, 2009

Organizer/Convener, “Reading Scriptures, Reading America,” National Conference, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA, October 2009

Director, Scriptural Ethnologies Collaborative Research Project, Institute for Signifying

Scriptures, 2006—2009

Organizer, Institute for Signifying Scriptures Distinguished Speaker Series, Inaugural lecture, Claremont Graduate University, Wole Soyinka, 17 January 2007

Organizer/Co-chair, Signifying on Scriptures Program Unit, American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, 2005–07

Organizer/Convener, International Conference, “Theorizing Scriptures,” Inaugural Conference, Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA, February 27–28, 2004

Founding Director, Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA, February 2004--

Organizer/Convener, International Conference, Africans Americans and the Bible: Social-Cultural Formation and Sacred Texts, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 8–11 April 1999 (over 60 participants; 200 attendees)

Organizer, Panel Discussion, “African Americans and the Bible: Announcing and Discussing Some Implications of an Interdisciplinary Research Project,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, 23 November 1997

Founding Director, African Americans and the Bible Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Project, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, September 1996–2003

Organizer/Convener, Society of Biblical Literature Racial and Ethnic Minority Undergraduate Recruitment Conference, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 11–13 October 1996

Co-convener, Conference on Asceticism and the New Testament, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, Canada, 3–6 October 1996

Organizer/Co-chair, The Ascetic Impulse in Religious Life and Culture Group, Program Unit, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, 1993–1995

Convener, “The Ascetic Dimension in Religious Life and Culture,” An International Conference held at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 25–29 April 1993 (58 participants; over 150 total conferees)

Organizer, Asceticism Conference V, New Orleans, LA, November 1990

Organizer, Asceticism Conference IV, Center for Spiritual Development, Orange, CA, 15–17 November 1989

Organizer, Asceticism Conference III, The Fullerton Cenacle, Chicago, 16–18 November 1988

Organizer, Asceticism Conference II, Convent of the Sisters of St. Margaret, Duxbury, MA, 2–5 December 1987

Principal Organizer, Asceticism Conference I, Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA, for approximately twenty participants in connection with Research Project on Asceticism in Greco-Roman Antiquity, 19–21 November 1986

Chair, Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity Consultation/Group, Program Unit of the

Society of Biblical Literature, 1986–1993

Organizer/Moderator, Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity Consultation, “Ascetic Behavior as Response to Greco-Roman World,” National Meeting, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, 25 November 1986

Director, Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity Research Project, Institute for Antiquity and Christianity, Claremont Graduate School, 1985—1990

Organizer/Professor, All–Claremont Colleges Humanities Seminar, Afro-American Religious History, Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies, Fall 1985

## **EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

Editorial Board, *Religions*, (July) 2020--

Founding Editor, *The Abeng* (Journal, Institute for Signifying Scriptures), 2016—

Editorial Board, *Journal of Africana Religions*, 2011--

Founding Editorial Board Member, Oxford Bibliographies Online: Biblical Studies, 2011

Founding Editor, Signifying (on) Scriptures book series: in connection with Rutgers University Press, 2006–08; Penn State University Press, 2008--2020

Editorial Board, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2001–2007

Editor, *Semeia Studies* book series, January 1994–1996

Member, Editorial Board, Biblical Interpretation Series, E.J. Brill Publishers, 1993–2012

Associate Editor, *Semeia Studies* book series, 1990–1993

Associate Editor, *Semeia*, 1989–1996

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

### **(Claremont Graduate University/School/Department of Religion)**

#### Committee Service:

Faculty Executive (2003, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011); Appointments Promotion and Tenure (2004-07; including service as alternate); Affirmative Action (2007-08); Curriculum (2006-08: REL); Search (REL: 2006-07; 2010); Research (2009, 2010, 2011); Five-Year Review, Chair (2010); Search (REL: 2010); Tenure and Promotion chair, REL (2011-2012)

Member, Faculty Team: REL 314, Module 5: “Race-ing Religion,” Comparing Religions

Seminar (SOR), 2005

Organizer/Convener: History of Religions Seminar (SOR; Claremont Colleges and Regional Institutional Participation), Fall 2004

Lead, Conceptualization/Coordination/Implementation of: New Graduate Program: Critical Comparative Scriptures, 2009-2011

**PH.D. SUPERVISION (CHAIR)**

25+ STUDENTS

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Institute for Signifying Scriptures

Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora

Modern Language Association

North American Association for the Study of Religion

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Society for the Study of Black Religion

Society of Biblical Literature

*Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (membership by nomination and election)