

ELIZABETH URSIC

Mesa Community College – Religious Studies
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Education:

Ph.D., Religious Studies, Arizona State University, 2010

Concentrations: Women and Religion, Religion in the Americas

M.Div., Yale Divinity School, Yale University, 2003

Concentration: Religion and Art

M.A./M.B.A., International Relations, University of Pennsylvania, 1986

B.A./B.S., Communications/ Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 1981

Academic Appointments:

Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ 2003 – present

Faculty - Religious Studies, Humanities, Women Studies, Human Resources
World Religions; Women and Religion; Ideas and Values in Humanities
Study Abroad Britain, China, and Ireland

California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, 2011 – present

Adjunct Faculty – Women, Gender, Religion Studies
Women and World Religions, Embodying the Present: Women's Spirituality

Book/ Chapters

“Metaphor.” *Oxford Handbook of Music and Christian Theology*. Oxford Press (forthcoming)

“Janet McKenzie: A Sacred Artist's Life of Creative Activism.”

Claiming Notability for Women Activists in Religion. ATLA Press 2020.

Women, Ritual, and Power: Placing Female Imagery of God in Christian Worship.

SUNY (State University of New York) Press, 2014.

Articles

“Sustainable Tourism and the Cross at Umm el-Jimal.”

Insights. American Center of Research, Amman Jordan. 2021.

“Book Review: Mary and the Early Christian Church.”

CrossCurrents. Journal, Volume 71 Issue 1 University of North Carolina Press. 2021.

“Sound, Music and Ecofeminist Theology.”

Journal of Feminist Theology. Vol 29 Issue 3 2021.

“Christian Feminist Theology and the Arts.”

Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion and the Arts in the West. Oxford Press. 2020.

“Imagination, Art, and Feminist Theology.”

Journal of Feminist Theology. Volume 25 Issue 3 2017.

“The New Normal: WGS Programs and Professionally-Driven Students.”

Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal, Volume 2 2017.

“Across Generations: Interview with Carol P. Christ.”

Journal of Feminist Study of Religion, Volume 33 Issue 1 2017.

“Book Review: Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology.”

Journal of Feminist Theology, Volume 25 Issue 3 2017.

“Bi the Way: Gender Theory and Rethinking Categories of Religious identity.”

International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society, Volume 3 Issue 4 2014.

Conference Papers and Invited Academic Presentations:

“Women and Leadership in Critical Times.”

American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio 2021

“When the Metaphor Sings: Engaging Sonic Metaphors.”

International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Cordoba, Spain 2021

“Teaching World Religions with Today’s College Students.”

Stanford University, California 2019

“Women, Ritual and Power: An Interdisciplinary View.”

California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco 2019

“A Global View of Women in Religion Today.”

Parliament of World Religions, Toronto 2018

“The Unacknowledged yet Essential Role of Imagination in Theology-Making.”

University of Winchester, England 2017

“Blurring Boundaries: The Transformation of Feminist Scholarship.”

American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio 2016

“Metamorphosis: Allowing Our Sacred Images to Transform.”

University of Winchester, Britain and Ireland School of Feminist Theology, 2016

“Making Things Rite: The Importance of Ritual in Feminist Liberation Theologies.”

American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Atlanta 2015

“The Rub of Gender Theory, Practice, and Power: A View from Ritual Studies.”

Symposium: Can or Should We Still Use the ‘F’ Word?, University of Chester, England 2015

“Seeing is Believing: Theological Implications of Gender in Christian Ritual.” 2014

American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

“Weeding and Seeding: The Role of the Scholar in Gender-based Violence and Activism.” 2014

Moderator, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

“Taking Root: Emerging Themes and Publishing New Books on Gender and Religion.” 2014

American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

“Confronting the Cross and Confucius: Comparing Women’s Movements in the U.S. and China.” 2014

Shanghai Women’s Association. Shanghai, China

“Strategic Emplacement of Female Imagery in Christian Worship.” 2013

Keynote, Feminist Theology Facing Tradition Conference, University of Liverpool-Hope, England

“Gender Theory and Rethinking Categories of Religious Identity.” 2013

3rd International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Phoenix, Arizona

“The Divine Feminine: Gender Claims in Conceptions of Divinity.” 2013

Arizona State University Religious Studies Faculty Forum, Tempe, Arizona

“Feminist Pedagogy in Online Religious Studies Teaching.” 2012

Women's Caucus at American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago, 2012
"The Motherhood of God in Church of Scotland Worship." 2012
Women, Language and Worship Colloquium, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
"Gender Theory and Female Imagery in Christian Worship." 2012
University of Edinburgh Femjoy Reading Group, Edinburgh, Scotland
"Interdisciplinary Challenges in Religious Studies." 2012
University of Edinburgh Religious Studies Roundtable, Edinburgh, Scotland
"Representing a Feminine Divine on American Christian Altars." 2011
American Academy of Religion Regional Conference, Whittier, CA
"Reimagining Sexual Desire and Spiritual Longing in Sacred Texts." 2011
Expanding the Circle Conference, San Francisco, CA
"The Bible as Literature: Myth versus History." 2010
Teachers College of Beijing Union University, Beijing, China
"Identity, Images of the Sacred, and the Spiritual Quest." 2010
Expanding the Circle Conference, San Francisco, CA

Grants, Fellowships:

CAORC-ACOR, *Faculty Development Seminar* – Amman, Jordan. 2020
MCCCD Summer Research Grant, "*Nones and Dones – New Trends in Religiosity.*" 2019
MCLI Learning Grant, *Innovation: Creative Pedagogies and Critical Thinking.* 2018 - 2019
U.S. State Department Cultural Grant - *Give Women a Voice.* China, 2017
Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction – Learning Grant, *Contemplative Pedagogies.* 2016
PARC Fellow – *Faculty Development Seminar*, Jerusalem and West Bank, 2015
MCCCD Summer Research Grant, *Assessing Ritual Participation of College Students.* 2015
MCCCD- U. Guanajuato, *Aztec Influence on Our lady of Guadalupe Iconography.* Mexico 2014
MCCCD Summer Research Grant, *Approved Religions in Community China.* 2014
Teagle Grant, MCC, *Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow.* 2013-14
Yale Institute for Sacred Music, Fellow. 2000 – 2003
Lauder Institute of International Studies, Fellow. 1984 - 1986

Awards and Honors:

BEAMS online live concert series, Arizona State University Kerr Cultural Center, 2020
Commissioned Musical Piece and Opening Keynote Lecture, University of Winchester, England 2017
Visiting Scholar, Sarajevo Interfaith Center, Bosnia, 2012
Visiting Scholar, University of Edinburgh New College, 2012
Visiting Scholar, Aurobindo Intercultural Centre, Auroville, India, 2012
Norton Scholar for Women's Studies in Religion, 2006 – 2007
Louise H. MacLean Scholar, Yale Institute for Sacred Music 2002 - 2003

Service:

American Academy of Religion (AAR)/ Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

Women's Caucus - Co-Chair, 2013 - present
Religious Studies Instructional Council – Maricopa Community College District 2014 – present
Religious Studies Articulation Transfer – Lead – Maricopa Community College District 2010 - present
Parliament of World Religions – Trustee and Chair of Women's Task Force – 2015 - 2018
World Academy for the Future of Women Facilitator, SIAS University, Xinzheng, China 2017
Women and Gender Studies Committee – Chair, Mesa Community College 2014 – 2016
The President's Interfaith Community Service Campus Challenge – MCC Lead Faculty, 2013 – 2014
World Academy for the Future of Women Facilitator, SIAS University, Xinzheng, China 2014
Evening Chair, Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, Mesa Community College 2009-2011

Affiliations:

American Academy of Religion – Member
American Academy of Religion/ Society Biblical Literature – Women's Caucus Co-Chair
Arizona Interfaith Movement – Interfaith Council Member