

Shanell T. Smith, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, Hartford Seminary

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, N.J., May, 2012

Graduate Division of Religion, New Testament and Early Christianity; Women's Studies
Certificate

Dissertation: "Empire, Gender and Ambivalence: Toward a Postcolonial Womanist
Interpretation of the Woman Babylon in the Book of Revelation"

Dissertation Committee Chair: Stephen D. Moore

Master of Philosophy, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, N.J., 2010

Comprehensive examinations (qualified with three grades of distinction)

Examination Subjects:

Literature of the New Testament;

History and Formation of Early Christianity;

Postcolonial, African American, and New Testament Studies;

Womanist Biblical Interpretations: Historical Analysis and Future Perspectives

Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 2006

Bachelor of Arts, Rutgers University – Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ, 1998

Biological Sciences

LANGUAGES (for biblical studies)

Koine Greek

Biblical Hebrew

German, reading proficiency

French, reading proficiency

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY

Travel Seminar to Greece and Turkey, January 2010

GRANTS AND ACADEMIC HONORS

Wabash Center Peer Mentoring Grant, "Listening From Within: From Surviving to Flourishing
in Academia," April 2018

The Association of Theological Schools, Midcareer Faculty Meeting, April 2018

Wabash Center Summer Research Fellowship, "Reading Ambivalently: (Re)-Discovering the
Self in Biblical Interpretation," Summer 2015

Wabash Center Workshop for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty 2014-15
Rabbi Dr. Sheldon J. Weltman Prize for the Best Dissertation in Biblical Studies, 2012
Wabash Center Annual Dinner for New Teachers, Invited Guest, 2012
Fund for Theological Education - Dissertation Fellow, 2011-2012
Fund for Theological Education - North American Doctoral Fellowship, 2009-2010
Fund for Theological Education - Doctoral Fellowship, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009
Drew University – Graduate Division of Religion Merit Scholarship, 2007-2011
Fund for Theological Education – National Recruitment Conference, “Nurturing the Next
Generation of Scholars,” Participant 2005
Princeton Theological Seminary – Jagow Preaching Prize, 2006
Rutgers University – Academic Achievement Award, Spring 1996
Rutgers University – Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, 1993-1998

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
July 2017 – present

Search Committee, President of Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
May 2017 – June 2017

Search Committee Chair, Professor of Jewish Studies at Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
July 2016 – January 2017

Faculty Trustee, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
May 2015 – June 2017

Director, Cooperative Master of Divinity Program, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
January 2015 - present

Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
July 2012 – June 2017

Coordinator, International Ph.D. Program, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut
August 2012 – December 2014

Instructor, Drew University
Spring 2011: BIBST-116-003, New Testament Exegetical Skills
Spring 2010: BIBST 116-002, New Testament Exegetical Skills
(I had sole responsibility for designing and teaching this Master’s-level course.)

Teaching Assistant, Drew University
Fall 2010: BIBST-101, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Dr. Kenneth Ngwa
Spring 2010: BIBST-111, Introduction to the New Testament, Dr. Melanie Johnson-
DeBaufre

Teaching Assistant, Princeton Theological Seminary

Fall 2005, Spring 2006: Introductory Greek

Other Academic Work Experience

Research Assistant, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture Project, Madison, NJ

Fall 2008 – Spring 2010

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

TOUCHED: What Not To Say To Someone Who's Been Sexually Abused in the Church (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, forthcoming).

“2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Ash Wednesday,” *WJK Connections: Commentary 1* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming).

“1 Peter 3:18-22, First Sunday in Lent,” *WJK Connections: Commentary 1* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming).

“Romans 4:13-25, Second Sunday in Lent,” *WJK Connections: Commentary 1* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming).

“I Want to Be Your Mentor. We Want to Be Your Mentor!” in *The FTE Guide to Doctoral Education for Scholars of Color in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies*, eds. Dr. Teresa Delgado and Dr. Patrick B. Reyes (Atlanta, GA: Forum for Theological Exploration, 2018).

“Philippians 2:5-11, Liturgy of the Passion,” *WJK Connections: Commentary 1* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming).

“1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Holy Thursday” *WJK Connections: Commentary 1* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming).

“Hebrews 10:16-25 and Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9,” Good Friday *WJK Connections: Commentary 1* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming).

“‘She Did That!’: Female Agency in New Testament Texts – A Womanist Response” in *Handbook of Gender and Sexuality in the New Testament*, ed. Ben Dunning (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

“Seeking Hope and Beauty: Both Now and In the Forevermore,” *Presbyterians Today*. Bible Explorations, November/December 2015.

“In the Meantime: Present Suffering and Future Glory,” *Presbyterians Today*. Bible Explorations, July/August 2015.

“Identifying and Defeating the Beasts: No Ifs, Ands, or Buts About It,” *Presbyterians Today*. Bible Explorations, June 2015.

“Divisive Standards,” *Presbyterians Today*. Bible Explorations, May 2015.

“Revelation at First Blush: ‘Surely I Come Quickly,’” *Presbyterians Today*. Bible Explorations, April 2015.

The Woman Babylon and the Marks of Empire: Reading Revelation with a Postcolonial Womanist Hermeneutics of Ambivalence (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014).

“Reading Spiritually,” in *Reading Theologically*, ed. Eric Barreto (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014).

“Luke 12:1-12,” in *Feasting on the Gospels: A Feasting on the Word Project*, eds. E. Elizabeth Johnson and Cynthia Jarvis (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014).

“Luke 12:13-34,” in *Feasting on the Gospels: A Feasting on the Word Project*, eds. E. Elizabeth Johnson and Cynthia Jarvis (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014).

“Luke 12:35-48,” in *Feasting on the Gospels: A Feasting on the Word Project*, eds. E. Elizabeth Johnson and Cynthia Jarvis (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014).

“The Construction of Gender in Revelation,” in *Global Perspectives on the Bible*, edited by Mark Roncace and Joe Weaver (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2013), pp. 340-341.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited panelist for the Womanist Hermeneutics Bible Conference, “I Am Babylon: A Postcolonial Womanist Interpretation of the Woman Babylon in the Book of Revelation,” New York Theological Seminary, November 2018.

Invited panelist for the American Academy of Religion Presidential Panel, “Recolonizing the Academy under a Trump Presidency,” Annual Meeting, Boston, MA November 2017.

Invited panelist for the Society of Biblical Literature unit, Bible and Cultural Studies, on the theme “Apocalyptic Scripturalization, Ambivalence, and the Utopian: Pasts and Futures of Minoritized Feminist and Womanist Criticism,” Annual Meeting November 2016.

Invited panelist for the Kathleen O’Brien Wicker Endowment Lecture on Revelation, postcolonial studies, and feminist identities, Scripps College, March 2016.

“Pressin’ Paul’s Way,” Keynote Address, Black Ministries Program Graduation Banquet, Hartford Seminary, May 2015.

“Doubly Marked in the American Empire,” Invited lecturer for Black Heritage Month at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, February 25, 2015.

“I Am Babylon,” Invited lecturer to discuss my first monograph, *The Woman Babylon and the Marks of Empire: Reading Revelation with a Postcolonial Womanist Hermeneutics of Ambivalence*, Yale Divinity School, November 13, 2014.

Invited panelist for the Society of Biblical Literature unit, Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation, on “Readings of Revelation 18,” Annual Meeting November 2013.

Invited panelist for the Society of Biblical Literature unit, Bible and Cultural Studies, on “Non-traditional/Collaborative Hermeneutics,” Annual Meeting November 2013.

“The Marks of Empire: Remembering our Past, Recognizing our Present, Reshaping our Future,” Invited Lecturer on the Intersection of Postcolonialism and African-American Oppression, Mount Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport, CT, October 2012.

“Balancing Family and Scholarship,” Panelist, Society of Biblical Literature Student Advisory Group, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

“Jesus the (*Androgynous*) Slain Lamb: A Womanist Analysis of the Construction of Gender in Revelation,” African American Hermeneutics Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2009.

OTHER INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Academic Ladder Interactive Workshop, “*Moms and Dads Who’ve Made It*,” Conference Call led by the Academic Writing Club, May 20, 2014.

Biblical Reflector, Craigville Theological Colloquy, Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, July 15-19, 2013.

“A Perspective on Revelation: The Slain Lamb and the Woman Babylon,” February 29, 2012, invited facilitator, with Stephen D. Moore, Unveiling Revelation Course, Drew University Theological School.

ONLINE WRITING

“Reflections of a Caretaker” *Ongoing Contributor to Personal Column: “Ponderings: Things That Make You Go Hmm...”* Presbyterian Church (USA), No pages, Cited 23 September 2015. Online: <http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/today/2015/9/23/ponderings/>

“WAR ROOM: Proceed, but with CAUTION” *eJournal of Feminist Studies of Religion (eFSR)*
No pages, Cited 10 September 2015. Online:
<http://www.fsrinc.org/blog/%E2%80%9Cwar-room%E2%80%9D-proceed-caution>

“Therapy Ain't for Black Folk?!” *Ongoing Contributor to Personal Column: “Ponderings: Things That Make You Go Hmm...”* Presbyterian Church (USA), No pages, Cited 27 August 2015. Online: <http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/today/2015/8/27/ponderings/>

“Christian Band-Aids” *Ongoing Contributor to Personal Column: “Ponderings: Things That Make You Go Hmm...”* Presbyterian Church (USA), No pages, Cited 24 June 2015. Online: <http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/today/2015/6/24/ponderings/>

“Gatekeepers of Redemption: Conservative Evangelicals on the Death Penalty (1 Corinthians 9:16-23)” *ONScripture*. No pages, Cited 2 February 2015. Online: <http://bit.ly/1Kvi0H2>

“What If the Earth Was God’s Vineyard? (Matthew 21:33-46)” *ONScripture*. No pages. Cited 29 September 2014. Online: <http://bit.ly/1uCcmQb>

“Whose Banquet is it Anyway? (Luke 14:1, 7-14)” *ONScripture*. No pages. Cited 1 September 2013. Online: <http://bit.ly/17hBcWh> (This article was selected as the “Link of the Week” on Textweek.com, the largest aggregator of lectionary resources in the world - 1.2 million page views per month.)

TELEVISION APPEARANCES

“On Fatherlessness and Forgiveness,” Invited and interviewed by WFSB News Anchor and Co-Host of Better Connecticut, Kara Sundlun to reflect on my experience and expertise on said topic. WFSB-TV CBS Hartford, CT, November 17, 2014. Online: <http://bit.ly/1Kvk7dH>

RADIO APPEARANCES

“Newtown Anniversary Special Broadcast: Remembrance, Call In, and Memorial Music,” Invited to join John Dankosky and Colin McEnroe for an hour of reflection and remembrance. Hartford, CT, December 14, 2013.

“The Colin McEnroe Show on WNPR: ‘Are We Born Moral,’” Invited to present a theological perspective on morality in a discussion with Yale University Professor of Psychology, Paul Bloom, about his work, *Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil*. Hartford, CT, November 14, 2013.

“Rich Answers Radio Show,” Interview regarding Hartford Seminary and my work on the Woman “Babylon” in the Book of Revelation with The Rev. Dr. Shelley Best, President and CEO of Conference of Churches, Hartford, CT., April, 18, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature
American Academy of Religion

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

Chair, Forum for Theological Exploration, Doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, 2018 to present

Forum for Theological Exploration, Doctoral Cohort Faculty, Doctoral Summit, November 2018
Co-Chair, Committee for Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession,

Society of Biblical Literature, 2016-2017

Forum for Theological Exploration Christian Leadership Forum, Faculty, Summer 2015, 2017

Forum for Theological Exploration Christian Leadership Forum, Design Team, 2014-2017

Fund for Theological Exploration, Mentoring Consortium, Founding Member, 2013-present

eFSR Board (Electronic and Social Media presence of Feminist Studies of Religion, Inc.), 2014-2016

Travel Grant Committee, Society of Biblical Literature, 2013-2014

Committee for Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, Society of Biblical Literature, 2012-present

African American Biblical Hermeneutics Program Unit, Steering Committee Member, Society of Biblical Literature, 2011

Graduate Student Representative, Committee on Academic Standing, The Theological School, Drew University, 2010-2011

Co-Chairperson, Graduate Division of Religion Student Association, The Theological School, Drew University, 2009-2010

ECCLESIASTICAL CREDENTIALS

Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in Presbyterian Church USA, 2013

Ordained as Elder in Presbyterian Church USA, January 2000

Candidate for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament, Newark, New Jersey Presbytery, March 2005

ECCLESIASTICAL PUBLICATIONS

Today's Prayer: Volume Two – In Jesus' Name (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, Incorporated, 2004).

Roseville Times, Roseville Presbyterian Church Quarterly Newsletter, Newark, New Jersey, February 2003.

GrapeVine Magazine (Spiritual Poetry Submissions): "30 Seconds and Counting"; "The Birth of a Calling"; "Open the Book!" edited by Mary Thurmond (East Orange, New Jersey), Winter/Spring 2003.

Today's Prayer: Volume One (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, Incorporated, 2004).

GrapeVine Magazine: Book review of *Today's Prayer – Volume One*, “One for the Active Stack,” September 2002.

GrapeVine Magazine: “My Calling”; “Get Fired Up!”; “I Got a Love Jones,” Summer/Fall 2002.

GrapeVine Magazine: “Order My Steps”; “I Don’t Care, Stare!”; “The Power of Prayer,” Winter/Spring 2002.

GrapeVine Magazine: Review of S.E.L.A.H. Expressions (Serve, Edify, Love, and Adore Him) (Artistic Calligraphy Expressions of Scripture written backwards), April 2002.

Lenten Season 2001 “A Prayer for Wednesday,” Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ.

Third Quarter 2001 The Racial Ethnic Torch, “This Must Be What Heaven Is Like” (A review of the R.E.Y.Y.A.L. [Racial Ethnic Youth and Young Adult Leadership Conference]), Presbyterian Church, USA.

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Presbyterian Mission Agency of PC(USA)

2015-Present *Presbyterians Today*, Creative Team

Conference of Churches, Hartford, CT

2013-2015 Board Member

Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ

2003 Founder of Roseville Presbyterian Church’s Youth Explosion

2003 Director of Vacation Bible School

2000-2003 Co-Chair of Christian Education Committee

2000-2003 Young Adult Sunday School Teacher

2000 Chair of Roseville Teen Summit

Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ

2004-2005 Children and Adult Sunday School Teacher

Other Ministries

2000-2006 Founder of Women of Vision (Bible study prayer group)

1999-2002 Founder of “Today’s Prayer” Internet Ministry

ECCLESIASTICAL PRESENTATIONS

Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford, CT

2016 “Daring to Deplete”

Union of Black Episcopalians Scholarship Luncheon: Keynote
2014 “Do It For The Vine!”

St. Stephen’s Episcopal (Anglican) Church, Bloomfield, CT
2013 “The Post-Harvest Syndrome”

Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ

2013 “Runnin’ on E”

2010 “The Jonah Syndrome”

2009 “Get Up! Get Ready! Get Busy!”

2008 “God’s Chosen Servant – O.B.A.M.A.”

2006 “A Leap of Faith”

2006 “Change Clothes and Go!”

2006 “Caught in a Backward Glance”

2005 “How Deep Is Your Ditch?”

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Chaplain, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ, 2005

Seminary Intern, Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, 2005