

COURTNEY BENDER

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POSITIONS

Associate Professor. Columbia University, Department of Religion (2006-
Courtesy appointment, Department of Sociology, Columbia University
Faculty Fellow, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia

Assistant Professor. Columbia University, Department of Religion (1999-2006)

Adjunct Assistant Professor. Columbia University Department of Sociology (1997)

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton New Jersey. 1991-1997
Ph.D. awarded November 1997. Sociology
M.A. in Sociology with Distinction, October 1993

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore Pennsylvania. 1987-1991
B.A. with Honors in Religion and Sociology & Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2010. *Worlds of Experience: Contemporary Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination*. University of Chicago Press.

2010. *After Pluralism: Reimagining Models of Religious Engagement*. Co-editor with Pamela Klassen. Columbia University Press.

2003. *Heaven's Kitchen: Living Religion at God's Love We Deliver*. University of Chicago Press.

Published reviews:

John Bartkowski, *American Journal of Sociology* 109 (2004): 987–988. (Lead review)
Bryan S. Turner, *Sociology* 38(2004): 195-202. (Group review)
Steven M. Tipton, *Contemporary Sociology* 33 (2004): 460-2.
Gerardo Martí, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43 (2004): 151-2.
Fred Kniss, *Journal of Religion* 84 (2004): 282–284.
Penny Edgell, *Social Forces* 84 (2005): 1318-1319.
Rhys Williams, *Social Movement Studies* 5 (2006): 83-89. (Group review)

Articles and chapters

2008. "How Does God Answer Back?" Poetics: A Journal of Empirical Research on Culture, the Media and the Arts. 36: 476-492.
2007. "American Reincarnations: What the Many Lives of Past Lives Tells us About Contemporary Spiritual Practice." Journal of the American Academy of Religion. 75/3: 589-614.
2007. "Touching the Transcendent: On the Status of Religious Experience in the Sociological Study of Religion" Pp. 201-218 in Nancy T. Ammerman, ed. Everyday Religion: Observing Modern Religious Lives. Oxford University Press.
2006. "From Alleged Buddhists to Unreasonable Hindus: Assessing The Impact of Post-1965 Religious Pluralism on First Amendment Jurisprudence." with Jennifer Snow. Pp. 181-208 in Stephen Prothero, ed. A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multireligious America. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (First author)
2006. "Constructing Buddhism(s): Interreligious Dialogue and Religious Hybridity." with Wendy Cadge. Sociology of Religion. 67/3: 229-247. (Equal co-author)
2004. "Yoga and Rebirth in America: Asian Religions are Here to Stay" with Wendy Cadge. Contexts 3/1: 45-51. February 2004. (Equal co-author).
Reprinted in *The Contexts Reader*. Jeff Goodwin and James Jasper, editors. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2007.
2004. "Religious Innovations Among New York's Muslim Taxi Drivers." with Elta Smith. Pp. 76-97 in Tony Carnes and Fenggang Yang, eds. Asian American Religions: Borders and Boundaries. New York: New York University Press. (First author)
1998. "Bakhtinian Perspectives on Everyday Life Sociology." In Michael M. Bell and Michael Gardiner, eds. Bakhtin and the Human Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
1997. "Place, Process and Practice: Perspectives on Changes in the Character of Mennonite Spirituality." Pp. 123-130 in Stephen Longenecker, ed. The Dilemma of Anabaptist Piety. Bridgewater, VA: Forum for Religious Studies.
1994. "Praying for the Saints: Single Mennonite Charismatics and the Conundrum of Community." Pp. 225-50 in Robert Wuthnow, ed. I Come Away Stronger: How Small Groups are Shaping American Religion, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
1992. "Mennonites and the Worship Center: Community Change and a Charismatic Context in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1968 to 1990." Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage 15/4: 17-29.

Manuscripts in preparation

Books

Religions in America Since 1965. Blackwell Publishers.

In preparation. *What Matters? Ethnographies of Value*. [working title] Co-editor with Ann Taves.

Articles and Chapters

In draft. "Opportunities on the Edge: De-centering and Re-centering the Sociology of Religion" working paper, with Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt and David Smilde.

In draft. "Things in their Entanglements" For the volume *Exploring the Post-Secular* edited by Philip S. Gorski, John Torpey and David Kyuman Kim.

In preparation. "Practicing Religion," chapter nine of *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies*. Cambridge University Press. Robert Orsi, editor.

Reviews and other publications

2007. "Religion and Spirituality: History, Discourse, Measurement." Social Science Research Council Forum: The Religious Engagements of American Undergraduates. <http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/>

2006. Book review of *Sacred Circles, Public Squares: the Multicentering of American Religion*. Arthur Farnsley, N.J. Demerath, Etan Diamond, Mary Mapes and Elfriede Wedam. American Historical Review. 111/5: 1537.

2006. Book review of *Elusive Togetherness*. Paul Lichterman. Social Forces. 84/3: 1850-1852.

2006. Book review of *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianities*. R. Marie Griffith. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. 45: 300-1.

2005. Book review of *Religion in America Since 1945*. Patrick Allitt. Church History 74: 419-21.

2005. Book review of *Congregations in America*. Mark Chaves. Social Forces. 83/4: 1785-1786.

2004. "Spiritual Sisters? Catholic and Buddhist Nuns in Interreligious Dialogue" Executive Report to the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue. With Wendy Cadge.

2004. Book review of *Thin Politics, Thick Moralities: Social Integration Across Communities of Belief*. Benjamin Gregg. Contemporary Sociology 33/3: 371-2.

2003. Book review of *Feminist Narratives and the Sociology of Religion*. Nancy Nason-Clark and Mary Jo Neitz, eds. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. 42/3: 489.

2002. "Mennonite" entry in the New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements. Stanley Burgess, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

2000. "'You Meet So Many Different People Here': Deciphering Volunteer Appraisal of Diversity and its Consequences." Program on Non-Profit Organizations Working Paper No. 259. New Haven: Yale University.

1999. Book review of *Congregation and Community* Nancy Ammerman, Arthur Farnsley et al. Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. 28/1: 100-102.

1999. Book review of *Women Against the Good War; Conscientious Objection and Gender on the American Home Front*. Rachel Goossen. Mennonite Quarterly Review 73/2.

1998. Book review of *Disquiet in the Land: Cultural Conflict in American Mennonite Communities*. Fred Kniss American Journal of Sociology. 104/2: 530-1.

1995. "The Meals are the Message: The Growth and Congestion of an AIDS Service Organization's Mission in Multiple Institutional Fields." Program on Non-Profit Organizations Working Paper No. 221. New Haven: Yale University.

1995. Book review of *Vanishing Boundaries: the Religion of Mainline Protestant Baby Boomers*. Contemporary Sociology 24/ 2: 183-4.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2009-2010. "Spirituality, Political Engagement and Public Life." Working group co-chair. Social Science Research Council.

2006. Small Project Grant. "Teaching and Researching New York City Religions." Wabash Center for Theological Inquiry. \$1430.

2006. MacDonald Summer Fellow. Columbia University. \$3000.

2006-08. Faculty Fellow. Cognitive and Textual Methods Project. Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. PI: Robert Wuthnow. \$24,000.

2005-06. Young Scholars in American Religion Fellow. Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI.

2004. Research Grant. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. "Spiritual Sisters? Catholic and Buddhist Nuns in America" \$1500.

2003. Chamberlain Fellowship for Junior Faculty. Columbia University.

2002. Junior Faculty Development Leave. Columbia University.

2002. Junior Faculty Summer Research Grant. Columbia University. \$3000.

2001. Seed Grant. Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy. Columbia University. \$6000.

1998-2001. Visiting Fellow. Yale University Program on Non-Profit Organizations.

1998-2000. Research Grant. Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University. PI: Richard Wood. "Religion and Public Life in an Era of Institutional Transformation." Funded by the Lilly Endowment. \$2,000.

1999. Ursula M. Niebuhr Lectureship in American Religion. Barnard College.

1998. Research Grant. Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University. PI: Peter Dobkin Hall. Funded by the Kellogg Foundation. \$15,000.

1995-1996. Dissertation Fellowship. Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture. Louisville, KY.

1995. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Graduate Fellow. Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University. New Haven, CT. \$3300.

1992-1995. Graduate Research Fellow. Center for the Study of American Religion, Princeton University.

1992. Research Grant. Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, Wheaton Illinois. For the project "Pentecostal Currents in the Mainstream Church." Funded by the Lilly Endowment. \$3200.

PRESENTATIONS (last five years)

2009. "Locating Contemporary Spirituality." Boston University Department of Sociology. (invited lecture)

2009. "Things in Their Entanglements." Yale University Macmillan Center conference "Exploring the Postsecular." (invited lecture)

2008. "When (and How) Did Spirituality Become Autonomous?" Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting. Boston.

2008. "... And Every Meaning Shall Have Its Homecoming Festival': *Secularism* in an Enchanted Age." Symposium on Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*. Yale University. (invited lecture)

2008. "Things in their Entanglements: Rethinking Contemporary American Spirituality." Samuel D. Maloney Lectures in Religion and Society, Davidson College. (invited lectureship)

2007. "Becoming Mystics: Experience and Account in Contemporary American Spirituality" University of California San Diego Department of Sociology. (invited lecture)

2006. "Religion and Spirituality: History, Discourse, Measurement." Social Scientific Research Council Seminar Series, New York, New York. (invited lecture)

2006. "Wild-Type Religion." Thematic session, "Identifying Boundaries in Social Research." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal.

2006. "American Reincarnations." Harvard University Religion and Ethnography Group. (invited)

2006. "Revisiting Religious Experience." Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Boston.

2003. "Interpretive and Relational Practices in Contemporary Spirituality." University of Chicago Divinity School. (invited lecture)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviews and Editorial

Competitive grants: Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture, National Endowment for the Humanities.

Journals (last three years): *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*

Monographs (last five years): University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Columbia University Press, New York University Press, Indiana University Press

Editorial board: *Religion Compass: Religions in the Americas*

Consultant and advisory boards

Advisory Council. Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion. 2009 – 2013.

Advisory Committee. Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University. 2008-

Consultant (2005-07); Advisory Board (2007-). "Ecologies of Learning," New York Theological Seminary/Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Consultant. "Mobilizing the Black Church in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS," Columbia School of Applied Public Health. Funded by the National Institutes of Health PI: Joyce Moon-Howard. 2005-06.

Consultant. "Practicing Christian Faith: Interpreting the Contexts-Strengthening the People" Louisville Institute 1997.

Consultant. Lilly Endowment Initiative on Christian Faith and Life in Contemporary America. Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism in American Culture. 1995.

Conference organizer

"After Pluralism: Imagining Models of Interreligious Engagement." Three-part conference at the University of Toronto and Columbia University, 2007-2008.
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/afterpluralism>

"Opportunities at the Edge: Expanding the Boundaries of the Sociology of Religion" Two-day conference at Princeton University. November 2008. Jointly organized with Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde, and sponsored by the Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University.

Invited panelist

- “Religion and American Culture Conference.” Panelist. Center for Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN (June 2009).
- “Rethinking Secularism: A Series of Public Dialogues.” Public panel at NYU, with Ann Taves and Craig Calhoun. Sponsored by NYU and SSRC. (March 2008).
- “Sacred Landscapes.” Presentation to the University Seminar on New Media Teaching and Learning. (February 2008).
- “Religion, Secularism and Higher Education.” Public panel at Vassar College, with Rajeev Bhargava and Neil Gross. Sponsored by the Teagle Foundation and SSRC. (September 2007)
- "Are We Living in a Post-Secular World? A Working Meeting on Social Science and the 'Return' of Religion." Sponsored by CUNY Graduate Center and the Social Science Research Council. New York (June 2007).
- "Religious Liberty and the American Creed." Fulbright Institute on the Civilization of the United States. New York University. (June 2007).
- "Can There Be a Social Science of Spirituality? A Working Meeting on Religion, Secularity and Spirituality." Sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the School for Advanced Research. Santa Fe, New Mexico. (May 2007).
- "Exploring Everyday Intersections of Sacred and Secular: A Consultation." Institute for the Study of Economic Culture, Boston University (2003).
- "A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multireligious America." Institute for the Study of Economic Culture, Boston University (2002-03).
- Lived Religion Workshop. Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life. Boston College (2002).
- "Healing and the Care of the Patient. Academic and Clinical Colloquium on Spirituality, Religious Wisdom, and the Care of the Patient." St. Vincent's Cancer Center, New York NY (2002).
- "Summer Institute on Religion in U.S. History" sponsored by the United States Information Agency and the Fulbright Commission. New York University (1999).

Occasional contributor

"The Immanent Frame" www.ssrc.org/immanentframe

Association membership and activities

American Sociological Association:

Section on the Sociology of Culture Council Member 2007-2010

Section on the Sociology of Religion Distinguished Book Award Committee, 2006-08

Religion Regular Sessions Organizer, 2006

Section on Religion Nominations Committee, 2000-2001

American Academy of Religion:

Steering Committee member, "Religion and Cities Consultation" 2006-

Association for the Sociology of Religion:

Executive Council Member 2006-2009; Membership Committee Chair 2006-08