

COURTNEY BENDER

Department of Religion
Columbia University
80 Claremont Avenue Room 103
New York, New York 10027

cb337@columbia.edu
Tel. 212.851.4134

POSITIONS

Associate Professor. Columbia University, Department of Religion (2006-
 Courtesy appointment, Department of Sociology, Columbia University
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. conferred November 1997. Sociology
 M.A. with Distinction, October 1993. Sociology

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2012. *What Matters? Ethnographies of Value in a Not So Secular Age*. Co-editor with Ann Taves. Columbia University Press.

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

2010. *The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination*. University of Chicago Press.

 Winner, 2010 American Publishers Awards for Professional & Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Awards) in Theology/Religious Studies.
 Winner, 2011 Distinguished Book Award. American Sociological Association Section on Religion.

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

Articles and chapters

2012. "Things of Value," introductory chapter to Courtney Bender and Ann Taves, eds., *What Matters? Ethnographies of Value in a Not So Secular Age*. Columbia University Press.

2012. "Practicing Religion," chapter nine of *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies*. Robert Orsi, editor. Cambridge University Press.

2012. "Things in their Entanglements," for the volume *The Post-secular in Question* edited by Philip S. Gorski, John Torpey and David Kyuman Kim. New York University Press.
2011. "Past Practices – Ethnography and American Religion" Religion and American Culture 21: 259-278.
2010. "Habits of Pluralism," coauthored introductory chapter to Courtney Bender and Pamela Klassen, eds., *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement*. Columbia University Press.
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

Under review. *Religion on the Edge: New Directions in the Sociology of Religion*. Co-editor with Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt and David Smilde. Oxford University Press.

Articles and Chapters

Under review. "Pluralism and Secularism." For the volume *Religion on the Edge: New Directions in the Sociology of Religion*.

In preparation. "Spirit." For the volume *Re-thinking Therapeutic Culture*. Edited by Timothy Aubry and Trysh Travis, University of Chicago Press.

Reviews and other publications

Forthcoming. Book review of *Digital Jesus: The Making of a New Christian Fundamentalist Community on the Internet*. Contemporary Sociology.

2011. "Mapping a Field: Why and How to Study Spirituality." Report to the Ford Foundation. Co-authored with Omar McRoberts.

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.

Digital media

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

"Trans/Missions" www.uscmidiareligion.org/

Frequencies <http://freq.uenci.es/>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2011-2015. "New Directions in the Study of Prayer." Advisory Committee Chair. Social Science Research Council and the John Templeton Foundation.

2008-2010. "Spirituality, Political Engagement and Public Life." Working Group co-chair. Social Science Research Council and the Ford Foundation.

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

2006. MacDonald Summer Fellow. Columbia University.

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

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."

2003. Chamberlain Fellowship for Junior Faculty. Columbia University.

2002. Junior Faculty Development Leave. Columbia University.

2002. Junior Faculty Summer Research Grant. Columbia University.
2001. Seed Grant. Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy. Columbia University.
- 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.
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.
- 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.
- 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.

PRESENTATIONS (last ten years)

2011. "Spirituality in the American Grain: From Shoveling Fog to Power Spots." Northwestern University Department of Religion.
2011. "Spirituality in the American Grain: From Shoveling Fog to Power Spots." Franklin and Marshall College, Annual Kahn Lecture.
2010. *The New Metaphysicals* book panel. Panelists: Kathryn Lofton, Leigh Schmidt, J. Terry Todd. Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion.
2010. *After Pluralism* book panel. Panelists: Craig Calhoun, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, J. Terry Todd, Janet Jakobsen, Rosemary Hicks.
2010. "When (and How) Did Spirituality Become Autonomous?" Brandeis University Department of Sociology.
2010. "Locating Contemporary Spirituality." Duke University Department of Religion.
2009. "Locating Contemporary Spirituality." Boston University Department of Sociology.
2009. "Things in Their Entanglements." Yale University Macmillan Center conference "Exploring the Postsecular."
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.
2005. "Wonder." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Rochester, New York.
2003. "Interpretive and Relational Practices in Contemporary Spirituality." University of Chicago Divinity School. (invited lecture)
2003. "Religion in Events." Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. (invited lecture)
2002. "The Position of the Sacred in Contemporary Alternative Medicine." Center for the Study of Science and Religion, Columbia University. (invited lecture)
2002. "Visions of the Moral Life." Paper presentation at the *Festschrift* for Donald K. Swearer and J. William Frost. Swarthmore College Department of Religion, Swarthmore Pennsylvania. (invited lecture)
2002. "The Elusive Subject: Studying Religion in Non-Religious Institutions" American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto.
2002. "New York's South Asian Muslim Taxi Drivers as Religious Innovators: The Challenges of Daily Practice and Their Challenge to the Study of New Immigrant Religions" Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meetings, Chicago.
2001. "Hints Followed by Guesses: Interpreting Religious Talk in Daily Life." Loyola University of Chicago. (invited lecture)
2001. "You Meet So Many Different People Here': Deciphering Volunteer Appraisal of Diversity and its Consequences." New York Non-profit Network. Rockefeller Brothers Fund Offices, New York New York. (invited lecture)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviews and Editorial

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

Monographs (last five years): University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Columbia University Press, New York University Press, Harvard University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Routledge Publishers

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

Consultant and advisory boards

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

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.

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

American Society for the Study of Religion. Elected to membership 2010.