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Department of Religious Studies  
Case Western Reserve University  
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## **EDUCATION**

PhD, Systematic Theology, **Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York**, 2006.  
MDiv, **Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary**, 1993.  
JD/MA, Public Policy and Management, **The Ohio State University**, 1990.  
BA, Philosophy, **Indiana University**, 1987.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Interim Vice President, Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, Case Western Reserve University, July 2019-present.  
Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Religious Studies, 2014-present.  
Founding Director, African and African American Studies, 2018-present.  
Program Faculty, Women's and Gender Studies, 2009-present.  
Program Faculty, Ethnic Studies, 2008-present.  
Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Religious Studies, 2008-2014.  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Department of Religious Studies, 2007-08.  
Adjunct Professor, Fordham University, 2006-07; 1997-2000.  
Program Coordinator, Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center, 2004-2005.  
Executive Director, African American Task Force on Violence against Women, New York City 2002-2004. Faith-Based Coordinator, 2001-2002.  
Instructor, Auburn Theological Seminary, Fall 1996; Fall 1999.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Case Western Reserve University**

Nord Grant, 2019.  
CWRU Faculty Diversity Award, 2018.  
Travel Grant, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Spring 2018; Spring 2012; Spring 2013; Spring 2014; Spring 2015.  
W.P. Jones Presidential Faculty Fund Award, Spring 2010; Spring 2014.  
Faculty Seminar Grant, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, 2013.  
Advance Opportunity Grant, Spring 2010.  
Learning Fellowship, The University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education, Fall 2009.  
Library Opportunity Fund Award for African American Religious Studies, 2008.  
Service Learning Fellowship, 2008-09.

### **External Awards**

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Summer Fellowship, 2010.  
Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Workshop for Pre-Tenure Faculty of African Descent, 2009-2010.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books and Edited Works**

*Performing Black Gods: Religion, Ritual, and Resistance in Black Popular Culture*. New York:

Routledge (Forthcoming in 2020).

*Black Religious Landscaping in Africa and the United States*. Joy R. Bostic, Tamelyn

Tucker-Worgs and Itumeleng Mothoagae, Editors. New York: Peter Lang (Forthcoming in 2020).

*Black Religion and Spirituality: Creativity, Adaptation, and Resistance: Souls Journal* (16:1-2).

Bostic, Joy and Tamelyn Tucker-Worgs, Editors. Philadelphia, PA: Taylor and Francis, 2014.

*African American Female Mysticism: Nineteenth-Century Religious Activism*. New York:

Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

### **Articles, Essays, and Chapters**

“Plurals, Hybrids and Nomads: Spirituality and Religious Practice at the Intersections.” *Being Spiritual but not Religious*. William Parsons, ed. New York: Routledge, 2018.

“From Selma to Ferguson: Embodied Performance, Social Change and Political Organizing Within the United States.” *Religion, Culture and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora*, eds. William Ackah, Jualynne E. Dodson and R. Drew Smith. New York: Routledge, 2017.

“African American Visual Art.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and the Arts*, Timothy Beal, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

“Justice-making and the Beloved Community: Mapping Emancipatory Landscapes and the Public Role of Theologians and Religious Scholars.” *Scriptura: International Journal of Bible, Religion and Theology in Southern Africa*. Vol. 114, p. 1-10, May. 2015. ISSN 2305-445X. Stellenbosch, SA: University of Stellenbosch.

“*Ashe to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery*” (Exhibit Review). In “Black Religion and Spirituality: Creativity, Adaptation, and Resistance.” *Souls Journal* (16:1-2). Philadelphia, PA: Taylor and Francis, 2014.

“Weaving the Spider’s Web: Nineteenth-Century African American Female Mysticism.” In “Black Religion and Spirituality: Creativity, Adaptation, and Resistance.” *Souls Journal* (16:1-2). Philadelphia, PA: Taylor and Francis, 2014.

“Teaching African American Mysticism.” In *Teaching Mysticism*, William Parsons, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

“‘Flesh That Dances’: A Theology of Sexuality and the Spirit in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” In *Eros and the Christian Tradition: Theological Reflections on Sexuality*, Margaret Kamitsuka, ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

“Mystical Encounter, Radical Subjectivity, and Activism in the Religious Traditions of African American Women.” In *Mysticism and Social Transformation*, Janet Ruffing and Robert J. Egan, eds. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2001.

“It’s a Jazz Thang: Interdisciplinarity and Critical Imagination in the Construction of a Womanist Theological Method.” In *Women’s Studies in Transition: The Pursuit of Interdisciplinarity*, Kate Conway-Turner, Suzanne Cherrin, Jessica Schiffman and Kathy Doherty Turkel, eds. Newark, Delaware: University of Delaware Press, 1998.

### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS**

#### **Papers and Presentations**

“The Lemonade Class, Kendrick Lamar and Afrofuturism from P-Funk to Get Out: Emancipatory Pedagogies and Black Cultural Production.” Paper presentation at the Africa & the Global Atlantic World Conference. Kent State University. April 2018.

“Hip Hop and the Spiritual but not Religious.” Invited paper presentation at the Spiritual but not Religious: Past, Present, Future(s) Conference. Harvard University. April 2018.

“Plurals, Hybrids and Nomads: Spirituality and Religious Practice at the Intersections.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion’s Annual Meeting. November 2017.

“From Selma to Ferguson: Embodied Performance, Social Change and Political Organizing within the United States.” Paper presented at the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race. Birkbeck University of London. London, England. July 2015.

“Religious Aesthetics and African American Protest Cultures in the Black Struggle for Freedom.” Paper presented at the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race. University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa. July 2014.

- “Resistance, Education and Mobilization: Black Churches Organizing against Voter Suppression.” Paper presented at the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race conference Black Churches and 21st Century Captivities. Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Accra, Ghana. July 2013.
- “Look at What You Have Done’: Rebecca Cox Jackson, Sacred Power, and Re-imagining the Divine.” Paper presented for the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society session at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 2012.
- “Movement and Memory: Activism, Sacred Geographies, and Mapping the Underground Railroad.” Paper presented at the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore’s Ethnology of Religion Working Group Conference “Motion and Migration in Religion.” University of Szeged, Hungary. September 2012.
- “Justice-Making and the Beloved Community: The Power of Diversity in University Circle.” Invited presentation for the Power of Diversity Lecture Series sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity. Case Western Reserve University. April 2012.
- “Activism, Sacred Geographies, and Mapping the Underground Railroad.” Presentation for the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Works-in-Progress Series. Case Western Reserve University. February 2010.
- “‘Flesh that Dances’: Spirituality and the Body in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” Paper presented at the Heart’s Day Conference. Howard University. February 2009.
- “Spirituality and Community Activism in the Lives of Urban Black Women.” Paper presented at the Women and Spirituality Symposium. Cleveland State University. March 2009.
- “Hybridization and Healing in African American Family Systems: A Case Study.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 2008.
- “Dancing Naked under Palm Trees’: Erzulie, the Virgin Mary and Black Women’s Care for Self and Community.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 1998.
- “Mystical Encounter, Radical Subjectivity, and Activism in the Religious Traditions of African American Women.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 1997.
- “Can We Dance to the Blues and Be Saved? Jazz as a Framework for an African American Theological Method.” Paper presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. March 1996.
- “It’s a Jazz Thang: Interdisciplinarity and Critical Imagination in the Construction of a Womanist Theological Method.” Paper presented at a conference on Interdisciplinarity and Identity commemorating the twentieth anniversary of women’s studies. University of Delaware. April 1994.

### **Invited Lectures**

- “Longing for Freedom: Love, Suffering and African American Mystical Praxes.” University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany. July, 2015.
- “Imagery and the Bible in the African Diaspora: Marronage, Resistance, and Re-formations in African American Visual Arts.” University of South Africa. September 2013.
- “Justice-Making and the Beloved Community: Religious Scholarship and the Public Role of Theology in Giving Voice to the Voiceless.” University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana. September 2013.
- “Race, Gender and the Shaker Community: Rebecca Cox Jackson’s Visionary Activism.” Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. October 2013.

### **Panels, Colloquies and Consultations**

- “Pedagogies of Community Engagement.” Leadership Team Member for Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion mid-career colloquy. 2015-2017.

- "Plurals, Hybrids and Nomads: Spirituality and Religious Practice at the Intersections." Being. Invited to present at the Spiritual but Not Religious symposium at Rice University, Houston, Texas. March 18-20, 2016.
- "God, Power, and Revolution: Politics of Liberation Theology." Moderator for panel discussion sponsored by the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University. February 2011.
- "Albert Ayler: Music, Spirituality and Freedom." Moderator for panel discussion sponsored by the Baker-Nord Center and Cleveland Museum of Art at Case Western Reserve University. March 2011.
- "Teaching into the Difficult: Racial Ethnic Women Professors Wabash Consultation." Invited participant in consultation at Texas Christian University. May 2008.
- "Salt Eaters and the Development of Ritual: Jazz as a Framework for Creating New Theological Syntheses." Lecture presented at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. December 2001.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **Case Western Reserve University**

#### **Departmental**

Abba Hillel Silver Search Committee

Academic Representative for the Department of Religious Studies, 2012-2014.

Coordinator, "Introduction to Religious Studies," CWRU departmental workshop led by Consultant Eugene Gallagher, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, May 2010.

Member, Dissertation Committee for Cliff Rosenbohm, "Perceptions and Experiences of BSW Students with Religion and Spirituality in Social Work Education and Practice," CWRU Mandel School of Applied Sciences, 2010.

#### **College of Arts and Sciences**

Dean Search Committee, co-chair, 2019.

Executive Committee, June 2017-present.

Medical Humanities and Social Medicine Advisory Committee, 2014-present.

Committee on Educational Programs, 2013-present (Chair Fall 2015).

Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Steering Committee Member, 2008-2013.

Review Committee, CWRU Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Studies, 2011-2016.

Member, "Albert Ayler: Music, Spirituality and Freedom," CWRU Baker-Nord Center/Cleveland Museum of Art Planning Committee, 2010-2011. Advisor, CWRU Women in Liberal Arts, 2009-2011.

#### **University**

Faculty Senate, 2015-2016.

Cleveland Humanities Collaborative Planning and Oversight Committee, 2014-present.

SAGES Fellow and Anisfield-Wolf Fellows Search Committee, Spring 2015.

Member, CWRU Share the Vision Committee, 2009-2010.

Service Team Leader, CWRU Center for Civic Engagement and Learning Alternative Spring Break, 2009.

#### **External**

"Pedagogies of Engagement," Mid-Career Colloquy at Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Team Leader.

Research and Publications Committee, African and African Diaspora Women in Theology and Religion Conference, 2012-present.

Peer Review Panel, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipends Program, Fall 2012.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Lectures and Presentations**

Books@Work Seminar with From Lemons to Lemonade Program. East Cleveland Municipal Court. Fall 2015.

Books@Work Seminar for Mentors of the Intergenerational School and Harvey Rice Elementary School.

Rice Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Winter 2015.

"Religious Influences in Cornelius L. Bynum's *A. Philip Randolph and the Struggle for Civil Rights*." Lecture for the National Institute for Restorative Justice. Cleveland, Ohio. April 2012.

"Christian Protest Culture and African American Spirituals." Adult Education presentations at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Church of the Covenant, and Plymouth United Church of Christ. Cleveland, Ohio (and vicinity). 2012-2013.

"And Still We Groan: Themes of Social and Environmental Justice in Romans 8 and Beasts of the Southern Wild." Sermon delivered at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. Cleveland Heights, Ohio. October 2012.

"A Strange Freedom: Howard Thurman, Mystical Activism, and a Vision of Just Society." Adult Education lecture series at Plymouth Church. Shaker Heights, Ohio. March 2010. "Entering the Hush Harbor: Juneteenth Celebrations among African Americans." Adult Forum lecture at Church of the Covenant. Cleveland, Ohio. January 2010.

"To Cry a Lament: Public Engagement as Spiritual Practice." Adult Forum lecture at Church of the Covenant. Cleveland, Ohio. January 2009.

"Taking Off Our Shoes: Hospitality and Interfaith Dialogue." Address at annual event sponsored by InterAct Cleveland, Notre Dame College. South Euclid, Ohio. November 2009.

"A Lenten Meditation of Solidarity: The Wilderness Strategies of the Biblical Hagar and Nineteenth-Century African American Women." Adult Forum lecture at Church of the Covenant. Cleveland, Ohio. February 2008.

"The Pot is Still Turned Upside Down: Crisis and Renewal in the History of the Black Church." Lecture presented at Trinity Baptist Church. Bronx, New York. March 1996.

**Consultations, Panels, and Conferences**

"Why She Had to Dance." Moderator for distance learning program on African American dance at Playhouse Square. Cleveland, Ohio. October 2011.

"We the People" Dialogue Series on Civil Religion and Religious Freedom." Panelist for discussion sponsored by InterAct Cleveland at Park Synagogue East. Cleveland, Ohio. October 2010.

"Womanism: An Intergenerational Dialogue." Panelist for video podcast discussion at Union Theological Seminary. New York, New York. February 2009.

"Mysticism in Religion." Panelist for discussion sponsored by Case Cooperation Circle at Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, Ohio. November 2007.

"Rape, Race, and Social Justice." Presentation at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. New York, New York. October 2003.

"Harlem: A Community Model." Workshop conducted for the Battered Women's Justice Project. Miami, Florida. October 2001.

"Dance and the Black Church." Presentation for panel discussion co-sponsored by 651 Arts Center and Cornerstone Baptist Church. Brooklyn, New York. November 1998.

**Committees and Organizations**

Cleveland Museum of Art African American Advisory Committee. July 2015-present.

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York Alumni/ae Council. Vice-chair, 2013 (member, 2010-2013).

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

Member, Society for the Study of Black Religion, 2013-present.

Member, American Academy of Religion, 2006-present.