

MEREDITH WHITNAH
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Westmont College
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EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
Dissertation: “Faith and the Fragility of Justice: Religious Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.”
Committee: Mary Ellen Konieczny (chair), Robert Fishman, Paul Kollman, Christian Smith, Lyn Spillman.
Comprehensive Exams: Cultural Sociology (with distinction), Social Theory.
- 2010 M.A., Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
Thesis: “American Evangelical Gender Ideology and Intimate Partner Violence.”
- 2007 B.A., Pike Honors Program: Gender Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*, Gordon College.
Honors Research Thesis (Sociology): “The Construction of Masculinity in American Evangelical Christianity.”

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2023-present Associate Professor of Sociology, Westmont College
- 2015-2023 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Westmont College

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Meredith Whitnah. “Evangelical Organizations’ Responses to Domestic Violence: How the Cultural Production of Religious Beliefs Challenges or Enshrines Patriarchy.” *Review of Religious Research* 64(3):427-450.
- 2018 Meredith Whitnah. Book review of *Getting to Church: Exploring Narratives of Gender and Joining* by Sally Gallagher (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017) in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 57(2):413-414.
- 2013 Christian Smith, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Nancy Tatom Ammerman, Jose Casanova, Hilary Davidson, Elaine Howard Ecklund, John H. Evans, Philip S. Gorski, Mary Ellen Konieczny, Jason A. Springs, Jenny Trinitapoli, and Meredith Whitnah. “Twenty-Three

Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology: A Mellon Working-Group Reflection.” *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*, 81(4): 903-938.

2010 Meredith Whitnah. Book review of *Material Culture and Popular Religion* by Frances King (New York: Routledge, 2009) in *Sociology of Religion*, 72(1):118-9.

In Progress

Monograph

Faith and the Fragility of Justice: Religious Anti-Apartheid Organizations’ Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa. (Under contract with Rutgers University Press)

Articles

“Evangelical Organizations’ Responses to the #ChurchToo Movement”

“Symbol and Materiality in Cultural Production: The USAFA Cadet Chapel, Monumentality, and Religious Pluralism.” (Originally co-authored with Mary Ellen Konieczny, who passed away in 2018).

RESEARCH SUPPORT, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS

- 2023 Bruce & Adaline Bare Teacher of the Year Award, Social Sciences. Westmont College.
- 2023 Professional Development Award: Sabbatical Leave. Westmont College.
- 2023 Professional Development Grant: Sabbatical Research. Westmont College.
- 2021 Professional Development Grant: Summer Stipend. Westmont College.
- 2017 Book Leave Fellowship. Global Religion Research Initiative, funded by Templeton Religion Trust and administered by University of Notre Dame.
- 2016 Professional Development Grant: Summer Stipend. Westmont College.
- 2015 Professional Development Grant: Writing Group. Westmont College.
- 2014 William V. D’Antonio Outstanding Graduate Student in Religion Award. Center for the Study of Religion & Society. University of Notre Dame.
- 2013 Kellogg Institute Dissertation Year Fellowship. University of Notre Dame.
- 2013 Dissertation Semester Fellowship (deferred to summer 2013). Department of Sociology. University of Notre Dame.

- 2012 The Graduate School Zahm Research Fund. University of Notre Dame.
- 2012 Center for the Study of Religion & Society Student Research Fund. University of Notre Dame.
- 2012 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Professional Development Grant. University of Notre Dame.
- 2011 Kellogg Institute Graduate Student Research Grant. University of Notre Dame.
- 2011 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Research Award. University of Notre Dame.
- 2009 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Summer Research Stipend Grant (with Mary Ellen Konieczny). University of Notre Dame
- 2009 Center for the Study of Religion and Society Student Research Fund. University of Notre Dame.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Sociology of Race & Ethnicity; Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective; Introduction to Ethnic Studies; Religion & Society; Introduction to Sociology; Sociological Theory; Social Problems; Senior Research Capstone (Westmont College).

Foundations of Social Theory (University of Notre Dame).

Student Mentoring

- 2021 Chair, Major Honors Thesis: Kate Overton, Sociology & Anthropology Department (Westmont College). “‘They Think They Own This’: Everyday Harassment as Doing Gender.”
- 2020-2021 Chair, Major Honors Thesis: Brendan Fong, Sociology & Anthropology Department. (Westmont College). “Higher Education as a Mechanism for the Reproduction of Race.”
- 2016-2017 Chair, Major Honors Thesis: Emma Robins, Sociology & Anthropology Department (Westmont College). “‘#SayHerName’: News Media Erasure of Black Women’s Victimization.”
- 2015-present Supervisor, Research Assistants: Kyra Coleman, Siena Keck, Sherry Luo, Emma Robins, Bryanna Rivera, Magnolia Smith, Michelle Vera, Mackinzie Warne-McGraw (Westmont College).

2008-2014 Supervisor, Research Assistants: Allison VanderBroek, Sara Middendorf, Shannon Noonan (University of Notre Dame).

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2024 “Theological Cultures and the Fragility of Gender Justice in Anti-Apartheid South African Organizations.” Presenter at the Sociologists for Women in Society Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2023 “Pursuing Justice: How Theology & Race Intersect to Shape Organizations’ Actions against Apartheid.” Presenter at the Race & Religion Symposium at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Theory in Practice: Reimagining ‘Sociological Theory.’” Presenter at the Teaching & Learning Symposium at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 “Evangelical Organizations’ Responses to the #ChurchToo Movement.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2022 “Gender, Religion, and Power.” Session co-organizer and convener at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 “Religion, Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism.” Session co-organizer and discussant at Sociology of Religion Section Paper Session at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, virtual.
- 2017 “‘Women, A Power for Change’? The Fragility of a Prophetic Voice against Injustice and Violence” Faculty Address at the “Engaging Violence: An Interdisciplinary Response” Conference of the Balkans Semester of the Study of War and Peace, Zagreb, Croatia.
- 2016 “Anti-Apartheid Religious NGOs’ Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.” Presenter at “Feminist and Intersectional Approaches to Social Movements” Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements Paper Session at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Faith and the Fragility of Justice: Religious Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Newport Beach, CA.
- 2014 “Empowering Women: Faith-Based NGOs, Legacies of Apartheid, and the Role of Gender in Development.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.

- 2014 “Religion and Intimate Partner Violence among Emerging Adults.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 “Religion and Gender in Global Perspective: The Fragility of Justice in South Africa.” Presenter at “Religion in Global Perspective” Section on Sociology of Religion Paper Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “From Race to Gender: Faith-Based Organizations and the ‘New’ South Africa.” Presenter and Convener at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2013 “Combating Legacies of Inequality: Religious Organizations and Gender in South Africa.” Presenter at African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 “Symbol and Materiality in Cultural Production: The USAFA Cadet Chapel, Monumentality, and Religious Pluralism.” Presenter with Mary Ellen Konieczny at “Theorizing Materiality” General Session of the Theory Section, American Sociological Association, New York City, NY.
- 2012 Dissertation Workshop. Participant, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2011 “Evangelical Organizations, Gender, and the Construction of Intimate Partner Violence.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2010 “American Identity, Religion, and the Sacred: The Case of the Construction of the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel.” Presenter with Mary Ellen Konieczny at Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2010 “American Evangelical Gender Ideology and Intimate Partner Violence.” Presenter at American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA.
- 2009 “Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings: Gender, Religion, and Education in the Hook Up Cultures.” Presenter with Hilary Davidson at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2009 “Material Culture, American Interests and the Sacred: The Construction of the United States Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel.” Presenter with Mary Ellen Konieczny at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2009 “Gender Issues in Religion.” Convener at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

2009 “Authority and Anglicanism: A Weberian Perspective on a Contemporary Debate.” Presenter at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Roundtable, San Francisco, CA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional Service to Westmont College

2022-2023 Co-Advisor, Ethnic Studies Minor
Member, Ethnic Studies Advisory Group
Member, Gender Studies Advisory Group
Co-advisor, White Students for Racial Justice Intercultural Organization
Member, Diversity Committee
Facilitator, “Deeper Thinking on Abortion” Public Lecture by Tricia Bruce
Liturgist, Department Chapel
Participant, Understanding Society General Education Assessment

2021-2022 Co-Advisor, Ethnic Studies Minor
Member, Ethnic Studies Advisory Group
Member, Gender Studies Advisory Group
Co-advisor, White Students for Racial Justice Intercultural Organization

2020-2021 Co-advisor, Ethnic Studies Minor
Member, Ethnic Studies Advisory Group
Member, Gender Studies Advisory Group
Co-advisor, White Students for Racial Justice Intercultural Organization
Member, Professional Development Committee
Presenter, “What is Race and Racism?” Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies Panel
Facilitator, “Jesus and John Wayne” Public Lecture by Kristin Kobes DuMez
Facilitator, “Brown Church” Public Lecture by Robert Chao Romero
Member, Diversity ILO Assessment Team

2019-2020 Co-advisor, Ethnic Studies Minor
Member, Ethnic Studies Advisory Group
Member, Gender Studies Advisory Group
Co-advisor, White Students for Racial Justice Intercultural Organization
Presenter, Teach-In on Climate Change
Member, Planning Committee for “Still Dreaming: Race, Ethnicity, and Liberal Arts Education” Conference on the Liberal Arts, Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts
Invited Lecturer, “Making Sense of the #MeToo Movement,” Westmont Downtown Lecture

2017-2018 Member, Planning Committee for “Knowledge in Crisis” Conference on the Liberal Arts, Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts
Co-Advisor, Racial Equality & Justice Intercultural Organization

Member, Institutional Review Board Committee
Organizer and Presenter, Teach-In on Charlottesville
Faculty Presenter, Intercultural Programs “Connect” Retreat

- 2016-2017 Member, Institutional Review Board Committee
Presenter, “What Is Gender?” Gender Studies Panel
Co-Advisor, Racial Equality & Justice Intercultural Organization
Organizer, Department Chapel
- 2015-2016 Presenter, “The Next Step” Program with Intercultural Programs
Facilitator, “Exploring Whiteness” Program with Intercultural Programs
Presenter, Teach-In on Syrian Refugee Crisis
Presenter, “Faith and the Fragility of Justice,” Gender Studies Lecture Series
Organizer, Department Retreat
Organizer, Department Chapel
Presenter, “Faith and the Fragility of Justice,” Department Brown Bag Series

Other Professional Service

- 2009-present Manuscript Reviewer: *American Sociological Review*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *Gender & Society*; *Mobilization*; *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*.
- 2013-2014 Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2012-2013 Mellon Working Group for “Religion Across the Disciplines,” Sociology, University of Notre Dame Office of the Provost.
- 2010-2011 Chicago Ethnography Conference Planning Committee (2011 Keynotes: Elijah Anderson and Paul Lichterman), Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010-2011 Graduate Studies Committee, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010-2011 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010 Committee for Internal Review of Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
(Member: Sex and Gender, Theory, Culture, Religion, Racial and Ethnic Minorities Sections)
Association for the Sociology of Religion

Religious Research Association
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Sociologists for Women in Society