

Dr. Wendy Petersen Boring
History, Religious Studies, Women and Gender Studies
Willamette University
Salem, OR 97301
wpeterse@willamette.edu

Education

Yale University, Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2004
Yale Divinity School, M. A. R., *magna cum laude*, 1995
Willamette University, B.A., History, *cum laude*, 1989

Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Department of History, Willamette University, 2012-present
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Willamette University, 2006-2012
Associate Professor, Zena Forest and Farm, Institute in Sustainable Agriculture,
Willamette University, 2010-2014
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Willamette University, 2005-
2006

Publications

In progress:

Book manuscript: *Seeing (W)holes: Situated and Embodied Mysticism*

“Claiming God at the Intersection of Ethics and Climate Change,” forthcoming in
Festschrift, *Claiming God: Papers in Honor of Marilyn McCord Adams*.

“The Inner Life of Activism: Reflections on Teaching Contemplative Studies to
Student Activists,” co-authored with Dr. Karen Wood, written for *The Journal
Contemplative Inquiry*

Books

Teaching Sustainability: Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences. Wendy
Petersen Boring and William Forbes, eds. SFA Press/Texas A&M Press,
2014.

Online Publication and Press

“Resources of the Spirit in the Race Against Climate Change,” [Millennial Alliance for
Humans and the Biosphere](#) June 12, 2019.

“Teaching to the Existential Experience of Climate Change,” and “Student
Perspectives” [Millennial Alliance for Humans and the Biosphere](#) June 19,
2019

“Climate Anxiety is Real, but there is something you can do about it,” [CNN Health,
May. 7, 2019](#)

Peer-reviewed articles

“Western Civilization and Sustainability: Reflections on Cross-Pollinating the
Humanities and Environmental Science.” *Environmental History* (2010) 15 (2):
288-304.

- “Revising our approach to ‘Augustinian illumination:’ a reconsideration of Bonaventure’s *Quaestiones disputatae de scientia Christi IV*, Aquinas’s *Summa theologiae* Ia.84, 1-8, and Henry of Ghent’s, *Summa quaestionum ordinarum*, Q. 2, art. 1, 2. *Franciscan Studies* (2010) vol. 68: 39-81.
- “A Maternal Body and a Body with AIDS: Reflections on Carnal Knowledge of the Incarnate God,” *Theology and Sexuality*, vol. 10, March 1999: 8-15.

Invited manuscripts

- “Historical Consciousness in an Age of Climate Change,” and “Introduction,” *Teaching Sustainability: Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences*, eds. Wendy Petersen Boring and William Forbes, SFA Press/Texas A&M Press, 2014.
- “Bonaventure’s ‘doctrine of illumination’: an artifact of modernity.” *Dreams and Visions*, ed. Nancy Van Deusen (Leiden: Brill), 2009.
- Essays for *St. Bartholomew’s World: An Introduction to Medieval Scholasticism for Students of Latin*, an online, interactive, NEH-funded, Stanford University initiative (2013-2015):
- [“Bonaventure, Introduction”](#)
 - [“On the Necessity of Being”](#)
 - [“Is the Human the Image of God?”](#)
 - ["On Sensation and the Microcosm"](#)
- “Reason/Passion,” in *Dictionary of Feminist Theologies*, eds. Letty Russell and J. Shannon Clarkson. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996.

Grants

Mellon Liberal Arts Research Collaborative (LARC), Willamette University: Integration of Research Across the Curriculum, *Cascadia: Sustaining a Bioregion*, 2014-2015.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Project Grant, *Connecting in the Classroom: Lessons from Community-Based Organizations*, 2020-2022, together with David Gutterman (Politics), Andrew Dreitcer (CST) and Frank Rogers (CST): <https://willamette.edu/news/today/past-issues/2020/07/15/wabash-center-funds-dialogue-across-difference.html>

Mellon Curriculum Development Grant, Willamette University. Designed and facilitated faculty workshop, *Place-based Teaching and Learning*, 2014.

Willamette University Hewlett Grant, *The History Workshop: Enhancing the “hands-on” component of historical training at Willamette*, 2013.

President’s Fund for Innovation, Willamette University, *Integrating Experiential, Place-Based Learning and Field Research Across the Colleges at Zena Forest and Farm*, 2012.

Mellon Liberal Arts Research Collaborative (LARC), Willamette University, *Ritual, Sustainability, and Community*, 2012.

Center for Sustainable Communities Curriculum Development Grant, Willamette University, "Sustainability in the West: Historical Sources, Perspectives, and Narratives," 2008.

Atkinson Faculty Development Award, 2007-2008, Willamette University

Conference Presentations

Competitively selected papers

- "The Middle Ages and the Anthropocene: Representing Medieval History as Relevant to Climate Change," *Medieval Association of the Pacific Conference*, Loyola Marymount University, March 17, 2017.
- "Greenhorns, Growers and Grains: Innovative Food Systems in the Willamette Valley, Oregon," *Yale Foods System Symposium*, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 2014. Co-presenters: Marshall Curry and Victoria Binning (Marion and Polk Food Share), students Sam Spengler and Kyle Batsky.
- "Innovative Pedagogies: Linking Learning to Communities," *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference*, Portland, 2014. Co-presenters: Dina El Mogazi, Paul Rosier, Milene Morfei, Richard Johnson, Suzanne Walther.
- "Curricular Innovation: Infusing Sustainability in the Curriculum as a Catalyst for Creativity," *Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference*, Portland State University, 2013.
- "Ecstasy and Annihilation: Cognitive Stances in Bonaventure's *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum* and Marguerite Porete's *Speculum simplicium animarum*," *International Medieval Congress*, Kalamazoo, 2012.
- "Catalysts for Change: Sustainable Agriculture at Zena Farm," with Marshall Curry and Jennifer Johns, *Sustainable Agriculture Education Association Conference*, Corvallis, OR, 2012
- "A Sustainable Ethics of the Self: Re-reading Canonical Texts in the Western Intellectual Tradition," *Sustainability and the Humanities: Links to the Global Campus*, *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference*, 2010.
- "Nature and the Academic Pilgrim in St. Bonaventure's *Soul's Journey Into God*," *Medieval Association of the Pacific Conference*, University of Puget Sound, 2010.
- "Ecstasy and Annihilation: Praxis and the Critiques of Reason in Bonaventure's *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum* and Marguerite Porete's *Speculum simplicium animarum*." *Medieval Association of Illinois Annual Meeting*, Chicago, 2010.
- "An Eco-critical reading of St. Bonaventure's *Soul's Journey Into God*." *Politics of Nature and Wilderness Panel*, *International Medieval Congress*, Kalamazoo, 2010.
- "Reflections on Pedagogy: Infusing Sustainability into the Western Civilization Curriculum." *Understanding Sustainability: Perspectives from the Humanities*. Portland State University, 2009.
- "Western Civilization and Sustainability: Interrogating the Narrative." *Villanova International Conference on Sustainability*, Villanova University, 2009.
- "St. Bonaventure's 'doctrine of illumination:' an Artifact of Modernity," *Annual International Medieval Congress*, Kalamazoo, May 2007.

“Between Dionysius and Derrida: Apophatic Reversal in the Writings of Saint Bonaventure,” Platonism and Neoplatonism Group, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Boston, 1999.

“A Maternal Body and a Body with AIDS: Theological Reflections on Carnal Knowledge of the Incarnate God,” co-presented with Stefano Penne, Theology and Religious Reflection Section, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, 1997.

Invited Papers

"Ecclesiology and Climate Change: Church at the Margins in the Anthropocene" Rutgers's University, Center for the Philosophy of Religion, *Pax et Bonum*: a workshop in honor of Marilyn McCord Adams, Newark, February 2018.

“God’s Self-Diffusing Goodness: Bonaventure, Evolutionary Biology, and Cosmic Order,” Society of Christian Philosophers, Festschrift in honor of Marilyn McCord Adams, *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Boston, November 2017

“St. Bonaventure’s ‘doctrine of illumination:’ an Artifact of Modernity,” *Seeing is Believing? Representation, Identity, Illusion: A Transdisciplinary Symposium*, Claremont Consortium in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, 2008

Roundtable Presentations

“Almost Out of Time: Science Fiction as Protest Literature,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Conference, Tempe, AZ, Nov. 2017

“Translation in Dante/Dante in Translation,” Dante Society of America Annual Meeting and Symposium, Eugene, OR, May 6, 2017.

University Service Positions

Search Committee, VP for Marketing and Communication, spring 2019

University Accreditation Team, 2018-2019

Admissions Committee 2019-2020

Chair, Admissions Committee, 2017- 2019

Zena Advisory Board, 2016-present

Humanities Major Redesign Working Group – Fall 2016-present

General Education Revision Working Group – May 2017-present

Chair, Department of History, 2014-2017

Institutional Marketing Committee, 2016-present

Admissions Committee, 2016-2017

Sustainability Advisory Board, Willamette University, 2013-present

Mellon-funded CLA Faculty Place-based Teaching and Learning Workshop, Coordinator, 2014

Zena Farm Planning Committee, 2014-present

Diversity Advisor, 2014 - present

Search Committee, Civic Communication and Media Position, 2014

Sustainability Advisory Board, 2013-present

Search Committee, Sustainability Director, 2013

Sustainability Council Co-Chair, 2009- 2012

Sustainability Council Member, 2008-2009
Conference co-coordinator, First Annual Northwest Sustainability Conference,
Creating Synergies: Community, University, and Business, April 20-22, 2007
Search Committee, Classics and History Search, 2007-2008
Admissions Committee, 2007-2009

Teaching

Awards:

Willamette University Award of Outstanding Student Organization Advisor, Zena Farm Club, 2017
Willamette Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching and Service, 2015
Willamette Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching, 2008
Mortar Board Professor of the Year, Willamette University, 2005-2006

Courses: The Inner Life of Activism; Food Justice; What is Embodiment; Western Civilization and Sustainability; Cascadia: Reimagining a Bioregion; From Consumer to Citizen: Developing an Ethics of Place; Creating Stories for Social Change; Medieval Europe; Women and Gender in Medieval Europe; Medieval Intellectual History; The Crusades; Popular Culture in Medieval and Early Modern Europe; Historiography; Bodies, Medieval and Modern; Humanities Senior Seminar: Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Public talks, podcasts

"Julian of Norwich: Feminist, Mystic," Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Corvallis, OR, Nov. 2018
"What is Food Justice?" KMUZ, Nov. 22, 2017
"What is the Anthropocene?" Institute for Continued Learning, Willamette University, Sept. 2017
"Augustine's Confessions," Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Corvallis, OR, May, 2017
"Popular Culture in Medieval Europe: Festivals and Rituals of Harvest and Planting," Big Questions Over Lunch," Chaplain's Office, Willamette University, Oct. 2017

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association
American Academy of Religion
Medieval Association of the Pacific
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education