

Dr. Wendy Petersen Boring
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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
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Willamette University, 2005-2006

Publications

Books

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

Peer-reviewed articles

“Seeking Ecstasy: Wonder and Cognitive Arrest in Bonaventure’s *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*,” *Medioevo* 28, 2023 (forthcoming).

“Alongside Aaron,” *Contemplation in Higher Education*, 2023 (under review).

“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

“Identities and Inheritances: Reimagining Food Landscapes in the Pacific Northwest,” with co-author Katy Giombolini, *Good Eats! 32 Writers on Eating Ethically*, eds. Jennifer Cognard-Black and Melissa Goldthwaite, NYU Press, January 2024.

“Claiming God at the Intersection of Ethics and Climate Change,” *Claiming God: Papers in Honor of Marilyn McCord Adams*, Wipf & Stock, 2022

“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.

Select online publications 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](#)

Grants

Center for Inclusion and Belonging, Belonging Innovation Fellowship, *Conversation and Civic Engagement at Willamette University*, Co-PI with Dr. David Gutterman, 2022-2023.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Project Grant, *Connecting in the Classroom: Lessons from Community-Based Organizations*, 2020-2022, Co-PI with David Gutterman; collaborators, Andrew Dreitcer and Frank Rogers (Claremont School of Theology).

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

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 Conversation Project: Infusing Contemplative Practices Across the Curriculum to Support Dialogue Across Difference and Decrease Polarization On College Campuses,” International Society for Contemplative Research Conference, San Diego, February 2023.

“Ideas in Motion: Facilitating Dialogues Across Difference,” National Humanities Conference, Los Angeles, November 2022. Workshop co-presented with four Willamette faculty colleagues.

“The Inner Life of Activism and the Conversation Project: Alternative Contemplative Pedagogies to Revitalize Higher Education,” Contemplative Studies Unit – Contemplation, Ecology, and the Post-Human, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, November 2022.

“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.

“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. Together with community organization partners (Marion Polk Food Share) and Willamette students.

“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 and Presentations

“Empathetic Teaching in Complicated Times,” keynote address, together with David Gutterman, Baylor University Summit in Empathetic Teaching, March, 2021.

“Embodiment and Interdisciplinary Creativity,” together with David Gutterman, St. Mary’s Maryland, November 2019.

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

“St. Bonaventure’s ‘doctrine of illumination:’ an Artifact of Modernity,” Seeing is Believing? Representation, Identity, Illusion: A Trans-disciplinary 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.

Teaching

Awards

Jerry E. Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching, May 2021

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

Classes

Interdisciplinary Studies

The Conversation Project
Climate/Race/Economy: New Systems Thinking
The Inner Life of Activism
Food Justice
Working with the Land
What is Embodiment?
Cascadia: Reimagining a Bioregion
From Consumer to Citizen: Developing an Ethics of Place
Creating Stories for Social Change
Humanities Senior Seminar: Dante's Divine Comedy
Pilgrimage in Ireland: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern (at NUIG Ireland)

History, Women and Gender Studies, Religious Studies

Western Civilization and Sustainability: Nature, Climate, Ethics in the West to 1750
Medieval Europe
Women and Gender in Medieval Europe
Love and Reason in the Middle Ages
The Crusades
Popular Culture in Medieval and Early Modern Europe
Historiography
Bodies, Medieval and Modern

University Service Positions

Curriculum and Academic Positions Committee (elected), 2020-2023
Search Committee, University Chaplain, Spring 2021
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
General Education Revision Working Group
Chair, Department of History, 2014-2017
Institutional Marketing Committee, 2016-present

Admissions Committee, 2016-2017
Sustainability Advisory Board, Willamette University, 2013-present
Mellon CLA Faculty Place-based Teaching and Learning Workshop, Coordinator, 2014
Zena Farm Planning Committee, 2014-2019
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, April. 2007
Search Committee, Classics and History Search, 2007-2008
Admissions Committee, 2007-2009

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association
American Academy of Religion
International Society for Contemplative Research
Medieval Association of the Pacific