

KATHLEEN ROBERTS SKERRETT

Curriculum Vitae

Associate Dean of the College
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

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EDUCATION

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| 1993 | Ph.D. Religion and the Modern West
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA |
| 1984 | Called to Bar
Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| 1982 | Bachelor of Law (LL.B.)
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada |
| 1979 | Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada |

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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|--------------------------|---|
| 2004-
present | Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA |
| 1998 -
2004 | Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA |
| Jan. 1993 –
Dec. 1997 | Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
McGill University, Montreal, PQ |

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

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| 2007-
present | Associate Dean of the College, Grinnell College, Grinnell IA |
| 2006-
present | Chair, Gender and Women's Studies Concentration, Grinnell College |
| 1994-1997 | Faculty Director of Gardner Hall, McGill University. Supervised residence staff and new student orientation. |
| 1995-1996 | Chair, University Task Force on First Year Experience. McGill University. |

AWARDS

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| 2005-2006 | Visiting Fellow Center for Religion and Media, New York University |
| 2005-2006 | Faith and Life Grant, Louisville Institute (funded sabbatical leave) |
| 2000-2001 | Co-Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, Re-visioning the Introduction to Religious Studies |

1994	Royal Bank Teaching Innovation Award
1992	Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
1991	Mellon Dissertation Research Fellowship
May 1990	Harvard general exams passed, with distinction
1979-1980	Queen's Law School Scholarship
1976-1979	Mount Allison University Scholarship
1977	Hibbert C. Lawrence Prize

TEACHING EXPERTISE

Christian Tradition, Christian Classics, Contemporary Religious Thought, Gender Studies in Religious Studies, Theory in Gender and Women's Studies, Gender and U.S. Law, Religion and Politics, Religion and Political Theory

ESSAYS

Interview, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (forthcoming 2009)

"Beyond consent: David Mamet's *Oleanna* and a hostile environment for souls," *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. (forthcoming 2009)

"[Consuetudo Carnalis in Augustine's Confessions: Confessing Identity/Belonging to Difference](#)," *Journal of Religious Ethics*. (2009) 37.3: 495-512.

"Radical Democracy and Ordinary Time: Reflections on Hauerwas and Coles," *Theology Today* 66.1 April 2009, 74-80.

"[Sex, Law, and Other Reasonable Endeavors](#)," *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* vol. 18, no.3 (2007) 81-96.

"[Practice and Improvise: A Christian Response to the Politics of Morality](#)," *Expositions*, Vol. 1, no. 2 (2007) 3-16.

"Homosexuals, Heretics and Practices of Freedom," *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 6 (4) (Fall/Winter 2005).

"[Political Liberalism and the Idea of Public Reason: A Response to Jeffrey Stout's Democracy and Tradition](#)," *Social Theory and Practice*, Vol. 31, no. 2, (April 2005) pp. 1-18. This is a special issue on Religion and Politics.

"[The Indispensable Rival: William Connolly's Engagement with Augustine of Hippo](#)," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 72, no. 2, (June 2004) pp. 487-506. Response by William E. Connolly in the same volume.

"[Desire and Anathema: Mimetic Rivalry in Defense of Plenitude](#)," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (December 2003) pp. 793-809.

"[To Be a Soul in Time](#)," *The Liberal Arts and Vocation: Three Faculty Scholars' Convocations*. A publication of Grinnell College with support from the Lilly Endowment (2002).

"[When No Means Yes: The Passion of Carter Heyward](#)," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 12-1 (Spring 1996) pp. 71-92.

REVIEWS

Kristen Deede Johnson. *Theology, Political Theory, and Pluralism: Beyond Difference and Tolerance*. *Politics & Religion*, vol. 1, no. 3 (2008), 14-16.

Kimerer LaMothe, "Nietzsche's Dancers," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. 75, No. 2, June 2007, pp. 484-487.

David L. Eng and David Kazanjian, eds., "Loss: The Politics of Mourning," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 74.1 (Spring 2006).

- Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini's "Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 71-3 (September 2003) pp. 695-698.
- Ariel Glucklich's "Sacred Pain," *Journal of Religion*, 82-4 (October 2002) pp.681-682.
- Thomas Ryan's "Prayer of Heart and Body," *Montreal Catholic Times* (January 1995).

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "Sovereignty and Sadness: Ambiguities of Power and Love," Saint Augustine: Reconsiderations III Conference, Villanova University, September 19, 2009
- "From Instrumental to Liturgical Relations: Radical Democracy and Radical Ordinary," American Political Science Association, Toronto Canada, September 5, 2009
- "John Rawls, Sovereignty and the Suspension of Anathema," Canadian Theological Society, May 25, 2009, Ottawa, Canada
- "Augustine on Public Theology", Respondent to three papers, Canadian Theological Society, May 25, 2009
- "God and Country," Panelist, Cultural Studies Association, New York, May 22, 2008
- "Radical Ordinary; Radical Democracy: Stanley Hauerwas and Romand Coles in Conversation, Society for Christian Ethics, Atlanta GA, January 6, 2008
- "Freedom and Docility: A Response to Saba Mahmood's Politics of Piety" Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, November 17, 2007
- "Time for Liberal Theology? Towards an Eschatology of Ordinary Time," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Liberal Theologies Consultation Washington, D.C (November 19, 2007).
- "Sexual Invective and the Politics of Morality" Body Counts/Bodies Count Conference, Center for Religion and Media, New York University, (May 4, 2006).
- "New Natural Law Theory: A Rational Basis for U.S. Marriage Law," Bridging Seminar, Center for Religion and Media, New York University, (April 7, 2006).
- "An Agonistic Basis for the Principle of Reciprocity" Sex, Secularism and Other Religious Matters Working Group, New York University, (March 10, 2006).
- "Practice and Improvise: The Discipline of Democratic Pluralism" Augustine and Politics Conference, Villanova University, (February 24, 2006).
- "How might human life be shaped in a Christian way?" Louisville Faith and Life Consultation, Indianapolis, (February 9-10, 2006).
- "Imagining Political Spaces in Feminist Perspective," Respondent. Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Philadelphia, (November 20, 2005).
- "Democratic Tradition and Fundamental Liberties: From Bowers v. Hardwick to Lawrence v. Texas," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Philadelphia, (November 20, 2005).
- "Eric Santner and the Condition of Love," Respondent. Canadian Theological Society, London Ontario (May 31, 2005).
- "Rethinking the Alliance between Feminism and Secularism," Respondent. Roundtable on Contemporary Trends in Feminist Theory, Center for the Humanities, Grinnell College (April 15, 2005).
- "Christian Theology, Secularism, and Our Technological Destiny," Midwest American Academy of Religion, Chicago (April 9, 2005).
- "Suffering Agency: Reading Masculinity in Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Religion and Men's Studies Section, San Antonio (November 21, 2004).
- "Reciprocity and Agonistic Democracy," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Pragmatism and Empiricism Section, San Antonio, TX (November 20, 2004).

- "Jeffrey Stout on John Rawls: The Idea of Public Reason Revisited—Again," Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba (May 30, 2004).
- "Rhetorics of Motherhood," Respondent. American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA (November 2003).
- "Towards a More-Than-Secular Liberalism: The Political Theories of William E. Connolly and Rowan Williams," Canadian Theological Society, Halifax, NS (May 2003).
- "Freedom of Conscience and Freedom of Sexual Expression: A Response to *Love the Sin* by Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Toronto (November 2002).
- "A Theoretical Approach to Pain as a Strategy of Religious Formation," Canadian Theological Society/Society for the Study of Religion, Toronto (May 2002).
- "Ideas of Freedom in the Feminist Hagiography of Christian Women Ascetics," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference, Nashville, TN (November 2000).
- "Hadewijch's Disconcerting Thought: Diaphorescence and the Storm of Love (Orewoet)," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference (November 1994).
- "By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept: For Love is Strong as Death" New England Regional American Academy of Religion Conference (April 1993).
- "The Rhetoric of Pain in Late Medieval Christian Mystics," Annual American Academy of Religion Conference (November 1991).

LECTURES

- "Augustine and Politics" Atlantic School of Theology, Augustine Seminar, October, 2008
- "Practice and Improve: An Augustinian Response to the Politics of Morality" Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, January 22, 2007.
- "Sex, Law, and Other Reasonable Endeavors," Wednesday Lunch Series, Chicago University Divinity School, (April 19, 2006).
- "The Askesis of Community," Trinity House, St. George's Anglican Church, Halifax, NS (February 11, 2005).
- "Claiming Our Wisdom in a Dangerous Time," Keynote Speaker, Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education, Annual Meeting, Halifax, NS (February 11, 2005).
- "Religious Freedom in a Secular Society," Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines, Visiting Scholars' Program (November 15, 2004).
- "David Mamet's *Oleanna* and 'The Life of the Human Soul,'" Religious Studies and Performance Studies Forum, New York University, NYC (October 19, 2004).
- "Christian Theology and Post Secular Democracy," Dr. Allan Pollok Lectures, Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The series included four public lectures. (October 2003).
- "Pain and the Soul," John Sweeney Lecture on Current Issues in Healthcare, St. Jerome Centre, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario (October 2003).
- "Pain and the Care of the Soul: A Panel," St. Jerome's Centre, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario (October 2003).
- "To Be a Soul in Time," Alumni College, Grinnell College (May 2003).
- "To Be a Soul in Time," Scholars' Convocation, Lilly Series on Vocation and the Liberal Arts, Grinnell College (September 2002). This lecture was featured in Martin E. Marty's newsletter *Context*, vol. 36.7 Part B (July 2004).
- "On Love and Leave-Taking," Baccalaureate Address, Grinnell College (May 2001).
- "Desire, Discipline, and Freedom," Alumni College, Grinnell College (June 1999).
- "Radiant Grief: Mystical Theology of Desire and Loss," Alison Stewart-Patterson Memorial Lectures, Presbyterian College, Montreal, Canada (January 1997). This series included two public lectures on Augustine of Hippo and Gregory of Nyssa.

"First Witnesses: Women among Early Christian Missionaries," Plenary Speaker, Montreal Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society Retreat, Montreal (June 1995). Two plenary lectures.

"First Witnesses: Women in Early Christianity," Adult Education Lecture Series, Montreal Anglican Diocesan College (October 1994). This mini-course included five lectures.

"Adam and Eve before the Fall; or, Love in the Garden," University Sunday Sermon, Christchurch Cathedral, Montreal (October 1994).

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Rawls: On Persons, Reciprocity, and Force," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (revisions)

"Tragic Vision and the Evangelical-Capitalist Resonance Machine" (completed draft)

"Sex is not Socially Constructed: The Political Economy of Reproduction" (completed draft)

Shared Freedom: Christian Convictions in a Pluralistic Democracy, Roman & Littlefield (under contract)

COLLEGE SERVICE

2008- present	Grinnell Prison Education Program
2006-2010	Chair, Gender and Women's Studies Committee
2006-2007	Advisory Board, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies
2006-2007	Lilly PTEV Grant Self-Study Committee, Lead author of "The Lilly PTEV Grant at Grinnell College"
2004-2005	Tutorial Committee, Grinnell College
1998-2006	Gender and Women's Studies Committee, Grinnell College
2004-2007	Co-Founder, Co-Leader of Scholarly Women's Achievement Groups (Mellon funded)
2004-2005	Subcommittee on Diversity, Grinnell College, Co-author of "Statement on Diversity"
2004-2005	Lilly Committee on Theological Vocation and the Liberal Arts, Grinnell College
August 2003	Leader, Workshop to Review Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies, Grinnell College
2002-2004	Student Life Committee, Grinnell College
2001	Leader, Workshops for NEH Grant "Re-visioning the Introduction to Religious Studies"
2001-2002	Multi-Cultural Mentorship Program, Grinnell College
2001-2003	Co-Founder, Co-Leader of Junior Faculty Group
Spring 2000	Leader of Feminist Theory Reading Group (FemSem), Grinnell College
Fall 1998	Affirmative Action Committee, Grinnell College
1993-1997	McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, McGill University
1994-1997	Academic Policy and Planning, Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning, McGill University.

SELECTED TALKS AT GRINNELL COLLEGE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2009-2011	Workshop Staff, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
March 2009	External Reviewer, Review of First-Year Studies Program, Lake Forest College, IL
2003 - present	Steering Committee, Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection, American Academy of Religion
Peer Reviewer	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i> <i>Political Theology</i> , Fordham University Press, Duke University Press

CHILDREN

Madeleine (born in 1997), Emma (born in 1999) and William (born in 1999)