

COURTNEY BENDER

Department of Religion
80 Claremont Avenue Room 103
New York, New York 10027

cb337@columbia.edu
Tel. 212.851.4134

POSITIONS

Professor. Columbia University, Department of Religion. 2013-
 Courtesy appointment, Department of Sociology, Columbia University
Associate Professor. Columbia University, Department of Religion. 2006-2013
Assistant Professor. Columbia University, Department of Religion. 1999-2006
Adjunct Assistant Professor. Columbia University Department of Sociology. 1997

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton New Jersey. 1991-1997
 Ph.D. conferred November 1997. Sociology
 M.A. with Distinction, October 1993. Sociology

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore Pennsylvania. 1987-1991
 B.A. with Honors. Religion and Sociology & Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

2010. *The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Religious Imagination*. University of Chicago Press.

Winner, 2010 American Publishers Awards for Professional & Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Awards) in Theology/Religious Studies.
Winner, 2011 Distinguished Book Award. American Sociological Association Section on Religion.

Published reviews: Anne Duncan, *Journal of American Academy of Religion*, January 2011; David Yamane, *Hedgehog Review*, July 2011, Nancy Ammerman, *Sociology of Religion*, July 2011, Marion Goldman *American Journal of Sociology* 2011.

The Immanent Frame <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/category/the-new-metaphysicals/>

Reviews by: Robert Orsi, Michael Saler, Andrew Perrin, David Smilde, Joel Robbins, Pamela Klassen, Kathryn Lofton, Finbarr Curtis, John Lardas Modern, Leigh Eric Schmidt

2003. *Heaven's Kitchen: Living Religion at God's Love We Deliver*. University of Chicago Press.

Selected published reviews: John Bartkowski, *American Journal of Sociology* 109 (2004): 987-988; Bryan S. Turner, *Sociology* 38 (2004): 195-202; Steven M. Tipton, *Contemporary Sociology* 33 (2004): 460-2; Gerardo Martí, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43 (2004): 151-2; Fred Kniss, *Journal of Religion* 84 (2004): 282-284; Penny Edgell, *Social Forces* 84 (2005): 1318-1319; Michele Dillon, "Religion Contextualized" *Contemporary Sociology* 41 (2012): 561-570.

Edited volumes

2013. *Religion on the Edge: New Directions in the Sociology of Religion*. Co-editor with Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt and David Smilde. Oxford University Press.

2012. *What Matters? Ethnographies of Value in a Not So Secular Age*. Co-editor with Ann Taves. Columbia University Press.

2010. *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement*. Co-editor with Pamela Klassen. Columbia University Press.

Articles and chapters

In preparation. "Every Meaning Will Have its Homecoming Festival": A Secular Age and the Senses of Modern Spirituality. For the volume *Working with A Secular Age*. Edited by Florian Zemmin, Colin Jager, and Guido Vanheeswijck. DeGruyter Publishers.

2015. "Spirit," for the volume *Rethinking Therapeutic Culture* edited by Trysh Travis and Timothy Aubry. University of Chicago Press.

2014. "The Power of Pluralist Thinking" for *After Religious Freedom*, edited by Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Saba Mahmood, and Peter Danchin. University of Chicago Press.

2013. "Pluralism and Secularism," for the volume *Religion on the Edge: New Directions in the Sociology of Religion* edited by Courtney Bender, Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde. Oxford University Press.

2012. "Things of Value," coauthored introductory chapter to *What Matters? Ethnographies of Value in a Not So Secular Age* edited by Courtney Bender and Ann Taves., Columbia University Press.

2012. "Things in their Entanglements," for the volume *The Post-secular in Question* edited by Philip S. Gorski, John Torpey and David Kyuman Kim. New York University Press.

2012. "Practicing Religion," chapter nine of *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies* edited by Robert Orsi. Cambridge University Press.

2011. "Past Practices – Ethnography and American Religion" *Religion and American Culture* 21: 259-278.

2010. "Habits of Pluralism," coauthored introductory chapter to *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement* edited by Courtney Bender and Pamela Klassen, Columbia University Press.

2008. "How Does God Answer Back?" *Poetics: A Journal of Empirical Research on Culture, the Media and the Arts* 36: 476–492.

2007. "American Reincarnations: What the Many Lives of Past Lives Tells us About Contemporary Spiritual Practice." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75/3: 589-614.

2007. "Touching the Transcendent: On the Status of Religious Experience in the Sociological Study of Religion" Pp. 201-218 in Nancy T. Ammerman, ed. *Everyday Religion: Observing Modern Religious Lives*. Oxford University Press.

2006. "From Alleged Buddhists to Unreasonable Hindus: Assessing The Impact of Post-1965 Religious Pluralism on First Amendment Jurisprudence." with Jennifer Snow. Pp. 181-208 in Stephen Prothero, ed. A Nation of Religions: The Politics of Pluralism in Multireligious America. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (First author)

2006. "Constructing Buddhism(s): Interreligious Dialogue and Religious Hybridity." with Wendy Cadge. Sociology of Religion 67/3: 229-247. (Equal co-author)

2004. "Yoga and Rebirth in America: Asian Religions are Here to Stay" with Wendy Cadge. Contexts 3/1: 45-51. February 2004. (Equal co-author).

Reprinted in *The Contexts Reader*. Jeff Goodwin and James Jasper, editors. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2007.

2004. "Religious Innovations Among New York's Muslim Taxi Drivers." with Elta Smith. Pp. 76-97 in Tony Carnes and Fenggang Yang, eds. Asian American Religions: Borders and Boundaries. New York: New York University Press. (First author)

1998. "Bakhtinian Perspectives on Everyday Life Sociology." In Michael M. Bell and Michael Gardiner, eds. Bakhtin and the Human Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

1997. "Place, Process and Practice: Perspectives on Changes in the Character of Mennonite Spirituality." Pp. 123-130 in Stephen Longenecker, ed. The Dilemma of Anabaptist Piety. Bridgewater, VA: Forum for Religious Studies.

1994. "Praying for the Saints: Single Mennonite Charismatics and the Conundrum of Community." Pp. 225-50 in Robert Wuthnow, ed. I Come Away Stronger: How Small Groups are Shaping American Religion, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

1992. "Mennonites and the Worship Center: Community Change and a Charismatic Context in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1968 to 1990." Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage 15/4: 17-29.

Reviews and other publications

2013. "Hallucinations/Getting it Right." *Practical Matters*. Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

2012. Book review of *Digital Jesus: The Making of a New Christian Fundamentalist Community on the Internet*. Contemporary Sociology.

2012. "Mapping a Field: Why and How to Study Spirituality." Co-authored with Omar McRoberts. Social Science Research Council Working Paper.

2008. "... And Every Meaning Shall Have Its Homecoming Festival": *Secularism* in an Enchanted Age." Unpublished essay.

2007. "Religion and Spirituality: History, Discourse, Measurement." Social Science Research Council Forum: The Religious Engagements of American Undergraduates. <http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/>

2006. Book review of *Sacred Circles, Public Squares: the Multicentering of American Religion*. Arthur Farnsley, N.J. Demerath, Etan Diamond, Mary Mapes and Elfriede Wedam. American Historical Review. 111/5: 1537.

2006. Book review of *Elusive Togetherness*. Paul Lichterman. Social Forces. 84/3: 1850-1852.

2006. Book review of *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianities*. R. Marie Griffith. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. 45: 300-1.

2005. Book review of *Religion in America Since 1945*. Patrick Allitt. Church History 74: 419-21.

2005. Book review of *Congregations in America*. Mark Chaves. Social Forces. 83/4: 1785-1786.

2004. "Spiritual Sisters? Catholic and Buddhist Nuns in Interreligious Dialogue" Executive Report to the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue. With Wendy Cadge.

2004. Book review of *Thin Politics, Thick Moralities: Social Integration Across Communities of Belief*. Benjamin Gregg. Contemporary Sociology 33/3: 371-2.

2003. Book review of *Feminist Narratives and the Sociology of Religion*. Nancy Nason-Clark and Mary Jo Neitz, eds. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. 42/3: 489.

2002. "Mennonite" entry in the New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements. Stanley Burgess, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

2000. "'You Meet So Many Different People Here': Deciphering Volunteer Appraisal of Diversity and its Consequences." Program on Non-Profit Organizations Working Paper No. 259. New Haven: Yale University.

1999. Book review of *Congregation and Community* Nancy Ammerman, Arthur Farnsley et al. Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. 28/1: 100-102.

1999. Book review of *Women Against the Good War; Conscientious Objection and Gender on the American Home Front*. Rachel Goossen. Mennonite Quarterly Review 73/2.

1998. Book review of *Disquiet in the Land: Cultural Conflict in American Mennonite Communities*. Fred Kniss American Journal of Sociology. 104/2: 530-1.

1995. "The Meals are the Message: The Growth and Congestion of an AIDS Service Organization's Mission in Multiple Institutional Fields." Program on Non-Profit Organizations Working Paper No. 221. New Haven: Yale University.

1995. Book review of *Vanishing Boundaries: the Religion of Mainline Protestant Baby Boomers*. Contemporary Sociology 24/ 2: 183-4.

Digital media (occasional contributor)

"Reverberations" forums.ssrc.org/ndsp

"The Immanent Frame" www.ssrc.org/immanentframe

"Trans/Missions" www.uscmidiareligion.org/

Frequencies <http://frequencies.es/>

"Rethinking Religion" <http://ircpl.org/category/rethinking-religion/>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2011-2015. "New Directions in the Study of Prayer." Advisory Committee Chair. Social Science Research Council supported by the John Templeton Foundation.

2008-2010. "Spirituality, Political Engagement and Public Life." Working Group co-chair. Social Science Research Council and the Ford Foundation.

2006. Small Project Grant. "Teaching and Researching New York City Religions." Wabash Center for Theological Inquiry.

2006. MacDonald Summer Fellow. Columbia University.

2006-08. Faculty Fellow. Cognitive and Textual Methods Project. Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. PI: Robert Wuthnow.

2005-06. Young Scholars in American Religion Fellow. Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI.

2004. Research Grant. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. "Spiritual Sisters? Catholic and Buddhist Nuns in America"

2003. Chamberlain Fellowship for Junior Faculty. Columbia University.

2002. Junior Faculty Development Leave. Columbia University.

2002. Junior Faculty Summer Research Grant. Columbia University.

2001. Seed Grant. Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy. Columbia University.

1998-2001. Visiting Fellow. Yale University Program on Non-Profit Organizations.

1998-2000. Research Grant. Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University. PI: Richard Wood.

"Religion and Public Life in an Era of Institutional Transformation." Funded by the Lilly Endowment.

1999. Ursula M. Niebuhr Lectureship in American Religion. Barnard College.

1998. Research Grant. Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University. PI: Peter Dobkin Hall. Funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

1995-1996. Dissertation Fellowship. Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture. Louisville, KY.

1995. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Graduate Fellow. Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University. New Haven, CT.

1992-1995. Graduate Research Fellow. Center for the Study of American Religion, Princeton University.

1992. Research Grant. Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, Wheaton Illinois. For the project "Pentecostal Currents in the Mainstream Church." Funded by the Lilly Endowment.

1991. Jesse Holmes Prize in Religion, Swarthmore College.

PRESENTATIONS

2013. "The Prayers of Tomorrow: Building the Temple of Religion at the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair" Presentation at the conference *Prayer, Architecture, History*. Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin.

2013. "Secular Temples." Presentation to the Princeton University Sociology workshop in Culture and Inequality.

2013. "What's Old and Social about the New Spirituality – and Why it Matters to Sociology" Invited thematic panel. American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, New York.

2013. "Secular Temples." Centre for Religion and Contemporary Society, University of Kent.

2013. "Secular Temples: Some Preliminary Observations." Workshop on Religion and its Others. Programme for the Study of Religion and Non-Religion. London School of Economics.

2012. "The Power of Pluralist Thinking: How the Idea of Religious Freedom Persists." Osgoode School of Law, York University. Toronto.

2011. "Spirituality in the American Grain: From Shoveling Fog to Power Spots." Northwestern University Department of Religion.

2011. "Spirituality in the American Grain: From Shoveling Fog to Power Spots." Franklin and Marshall College, Annual Kahn Lecture.

2010. *The New Metaphysicals* book panel. Panelists: Kathryn Lofton, Leigh Schmidt, J. Terry Todd. Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion.

2010. *After Pluralism* book panel. Panelists: Craig Calhoun, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, J. Terry Todd, Janet Jakobsen, Rosemary Hicks.

2010. "When (and How) Did Spirituality Become Autonomous?" Brandeis University Department of Sociology.

2010. "Locating Contemporary Spirituality." Duke University Department of Religion.

2009. "Locating Contemporary Spirituality." Boston University Department of Sociology.

2009. "Things in Their Entanglements." Yale University Macmillan Center conference "Exploring the Postsecular."

2008. "'... And Every Meaning Shall Have Its Homecoming Festival': *Secularism* in an Enchanted Age." Symposium on Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*. Yale University. (invited lecture)

2008. "Things in their Entanglements: Rethinking Contemporary American Spirituality." Samuel D. Maloney Lectures in Religion and Society, Davidson College. (invited lectureship)

2007. "Becoming Mystics: Experience and Account in Contemporary American Spirituality" University of California San Diego Department of Sociology. (invited lecture)

2006. "Religion and Spirituality: History, Discourse, Measurement." Social Scientific Research Council Seminar Series, New York, New York. (invited lecture)
2006. "Wild-Type Religion." Thematic session, "Identifying Boundaries in Social Research." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal.
2006. "American Reincarnations." Harvard University Religion and Ethnography Group. (invited)
2006. "Revisiting Religious Experience." Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Boston.
2005. "Wonder." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Rochester, New York.
2003. "Interpretive and Relational Practices in Contemporary Spirituality." University of Chicago Divinity School. (invited lecture)
2003. "Religion in Events." Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. (invited lecture)
2002. "The Position of the Sacred in Contemporary Alternative Medicine." Center for the Study of Science and Religion, Columbia University. (invited lecture)
2002. "Visions of the Moral Life." Paper presentation at the *Festschrift* for Donald K. Swearer and J. William Frost. Swarthmore College Department of Religion, Swarthmore Pennsylvania. (invited lecture)
2002. "The Elusive Subject: Studying Religion in Non-Religious Institutions" American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto.
2002. "New York's South Asian Muslim Taxi Drivers as Religious Innovators: The Challenges of Daily Practice and Their Challenge to the Study of New Immigrant Religions" Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meetings, Chicago.
2001. "Hints Followed by Guesses: Interpreting Religious Talk in Daily Life." Loyola University of Chicago. (invited lecture)
2001. 'You Meet So Many Different People Here': Deciphering Volunteer Appraisal of Diversity and its Consequences." New York Non-profit Network. Rockefeller Brothers Fund Offices, New York New York. (invited lecture)
2000. Deciphering Volunteer Appraisal of Diversity and its Consequences." Yale University Program on Non-Profit Organizations.
1999. "You Meet So Many Different People Here: What Volunteering Might Mean For Citizenship in the Twenty-first Century." Thematic Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.
1997. "Food is Love? The Hazards of Calling Cooking for People with AIDS Religious Practice." Paper presentation at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, San Francisco.
1997. "Religion, Spirituality and Practice: Beyond the Institutional/Individual Divide." Paper presentation at the American Sociological Association Meetings, Religion Section Session, Toronto.
1996. "Contagion and Contamination: Practical and Methodological Hazards of Defining Cooking for People with AIDS a Religious Practice." Paper presentation at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Nashville, TN.

1996. "Social Movement Organizations and Cultural Congestion: The Case of God's Love We Deliver." Paper presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Culture Section Roundtables. New York, NY.

1996. "God is in the Details: Religion, AIDS, and Daily Practice." Presentation at the Faculty Lunch Series, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA. (invited lecture)

1995. "Whatever Work I Do Here -- It's as Though I'm Praying" Paper presentation at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MI.

1995. "Work is Prayer': Religion, AIDS, and Daily Practice. " Paper presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Regular Session, Religion. Washington D.C.

1994. "Interpreting Stories in Two Mennonite Charismatic Congregations." Presented at the conference, Pentecostal Currents in the American Church. Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals.

1993. "Mennonites and Charismatics: Exploring Locations of Power in Congregations." Presented at the conference, Anabaptists and Power: Its Use and Abuse, Elizabethtown College, PA.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviews and Editorial

Journals (last five years): *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Poetics*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Religion*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*

Monographs (last three years): University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Columbia University Press, New York University Press, Harvard University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Routledge Publishers, University of California Press

Editorial Boards: *Religion in the Americas*; *Sociological Theory*

Consultant and advisory boards

Mentor. Young Scholars in American Religion Program. Center for the Study of Religion in American Culture, IUPUI. 2013-2015.

Advisory Council. Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion. 2009-. Chair, 2013.

Consultant (2005-07); Advisory Board (2007-2010). "Ecologies of Learning," New York Theological Seminary/Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Consultant. "Mobilizing the Black Church in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS," Columbia School of Applied Public Health. Funded by the National Institutes of Health PI: Joyce Moon-Howard. 2005-06.

Consultant. "Practicing Christian Faith: Interpreting the Contexts-Strengthening the People" Louisville Institute 1997.

Consultant. Lilly Endowment Initiative on Christian Faith and Life in Contemporary America. Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism in American Culture. 1995.

Conference organizer

"New Directions in the Study of Prayer." Two-day conference at Columbia University sponsored by the Social Science Research Council. February 2015.

"Spirituality, Political Engagement and Public Life: The State of the Field." Two-day conference at Columbia University sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Social Science Research Council. Co-organized with Omar McRoberts. Columbia University. June 2011.

"After Pluralism: Imagining Models of Interreligious Engagement." Three-part conference at the University of Toronto and Columbia University, 2007-2008. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/afterpluralism>

"Opportunities at the Edge: Expanding the Boundaries of the Sociology of Religion" Two-day conference at Princeton University. Jointly organized with Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde, and sponsored by the Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. November 2008.

Invited public panelist

- Panelist: "Religion and Society: Disciplinary Perspectives in Religious Studies." Stanford University Department of Religious Studies (May 2014).
- Panelist: Respondent to Robert Wuthnow "Polls Surveys and the Shaping of American Religion" Princeton University Danforth Lecture (December 2013).
- Public Panel: "I'm So Spiritual." Battle of Ideas and the NY Salon (October 2012).
- Book panel: *Spirits of Protestantism* by Pamela Klassen. Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University (February 2012).
- "Spirituality in America." Panel at the University of California Santa Cruz, Department of History. (2011).
- "Changing Contours of American Religiosity." Public panel with Claude Fischer and John Torpey at the Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center. (February 2010).
- "Religious Liberty and the American Creed." Fulbright Institute on the Civilization of the United States. New York University. (June 2007, 2009, 2010).
- "Rethinking Secularism: A Series of Public Dialogues." Public panel at NYU, with Ann Taves and Craig Calhoun. Sponsored by NYU and SSRC. (March 2008).
- "Sacred Landscapes." Presentation to the University Seminar on New Media Teaching and Learning. (February 2008).
- "Religion, Secularism and Higher Education." Public panel at Vassar College, with Rajeev Bhargava and Neil Gross. Sponsored by the Teagle Foundation and SSRC. (September 2007)
- "Are We Living in a Post-Secular World? A Working Meeting on Social Science and the 'Return' of Religion." Sponsored by CUNY Graduate Center and the Social Science Research Council. New York (June 2007).
- "Can There Be a Social Science of Spirituality? A Working Meeting on Religion, Secularity and Spirituality." Sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the School for Advanced Research. Santa Fe, New Mexico. (May 2007).
- "Summer Institute on Religion in U.S. History" sponsored by the United States Information Agency and the Fulbright Commission. New York University (1999).

Association membership and activities

American Academy of Religion:

Academic Relations Committee 2012-2015

"Religion and Cities Consultation" steering committee 2006-2011

"Sociology of Religion" steering committee 2012-

American Sociological Association:

Section on the Sociology of Culture Council Member 2007-2010

Section on the Sociology of Religion Distinguished Book Award Committee, 2006-08

Religion Regular Sessions Organizer, 2006

Section on Religion Nominations Committee, 2000-2001

American Society for the Study of Religion. Elected to membership 2010.

Executive Committee 2014-2017