

**Margaret D. Kamitsuka**  
**Francis W. and Lydia L. Davis Professor Emeritus of Religion**  
**Oberlin College**  
**Oberlin, OH**

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## Education

Ph.D., Religious Studies, Yale University  
M.Phil., Religious Studies, Yale University  
M.A.R., Theology, Yale Divinity School, *summa cum laude*  
B.A., French, University of California, Berkeley, *Phi Beta Kappa*

## Teaching (Oberlin College)

Associate Professor, Gender and Religion, 2007—2019; promoted to Professor, 2019  
Chair, Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Institute 2012—2014  
Assistant Professor, Gender and Religion, 2002—2007  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, 2000—2002  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, 1999—2000  
Visiting Instructor of Gender and Women’s Studies, Spring 1999  
Visiting Instructor of Religion, Spring 1997, Fall 1997, Spring 1998

## Books

*Desirable Belief: A Theology of Eros* (Minneapolis: Fortress, forthcoming fall, 2024)

*Unborn Bodies: Resurrection and Reproductive Agency* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2023)

Co-editor (with Rebecca Todd Peters), *T & T Clark Reader in Abortion and Religion: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives* (London: T&T Clark/Bloomsbury, 2023)

*Abortion and the Christian Tradition: A Prochoice Theological Ethic* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2019)

Editor: *The Embrace of Eros: Bodies, Desires, and Sexuality in Christianity* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010)

*Feminist Theology and the Challenge of Difference* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)

## Essays and Book Chapters

“Challenging the Notion of Presumptive Motherhood,” in *Searching for Future in the Past Reclaiming Feminist Theological Visions*, ed. K. Christine Pae and Kathy Talvacchia (T&T Clark, forthcoming fall, 2024).

“The Precarity and Moral Obligations of Pregnancy,” in *Theologies from the Inside Out: Critical Conceptions of Pregnancy and Birth*, ed. Karen O’Donnell and Claire Williams (SCM, forthcoming summer 2024)

“Vulnerability, Recognition, and the Ethics of Pregnancy: A Theological Response,” *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 39, no. 2 (May 2024)

“The Traumatization of Reproductive Loss in Christian Pro-life Discourse and Rituals,” in *Bearing Witness: Intersectional Perspectives on Trauma Theology*, ed. Karen O’Donnell and Katie Cross (SCM, 2022)

“The Resurrection and Unborn Beings: The Seeds of a Materialist Emergence Proposal,” *Theology Today* 78, no. 2 (2021): 170-181, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00405736211004903>

“Disabled Bodies on Earth and in Heaven: Eschatology and the Ethics of Selective Abortion,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 49, no. 2 (July 2021): 358-80—special issue on reproductive ethics, for which I was the editor and wrote the introduction: “Women’s Reproductive Authority in Religious Ethics,” <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jore.12355> (the latter article awarded Wiley certificate for “one of the most downloaded during its first 12 months of publication”)

“Pro-life Christian Romance Novels: A Sign That the Abortion-as-Murder Center is Not Holding?” *Christianity & Literature: special issue on literature of/about the Christian Right* 69, no. 1 (2020): 36-52, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/752347>

“Unwanted Pregnancy, Abortion, and Maternal Authority: A Prochoice Theological Argument,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 34, no. 2 (Fall 2018): 41-57, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/703388/pdf>

“Sexual Pleasure” (pp. 505-522), in *The Oxford Handbook of Theology, Sexuality and Gender*, ed. Adrian Thatcher (Oxford University Press, online 2014; print 2015), <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199664153.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199664153-e-010?rskey=sFyeS5&result=3>

“Feminist Scholarship and Its Relevance for Political Engagement: The Test Case of Abortion in the U.S.,” *Religion and Gender* 1, no. 1 (2011): 18-43, <http://www.religionandgender.org/index.php/rg/article/view/2>

“Introduction” (pp. 1-12) and “Sex in Heaven? Eschatological Eros and the Resurrection of the Body” (pp. 261-275), in *The Embrace of Eros: Bodies, Desires, and Sexuality in Christianity*, ed., Margaret D. Kamitsuka (Fortress Press, 2010)

“Sin and Power: Poststructuralist and Postcolonial Theories” (pp. 153-57) and dialog boxes: “Critiques of Poststructuralism” (p. 159) and “Sin as Social or Structural” (p. 134) in *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*, ed. Serene Jones and Paul Lakeland (Fortress Press, 2005), <https://fortresspress.com/product/constructive-theology-contemporary-approach-classical-themes>

“Toward a Feminist Postmodern and Postcolonial Interpretation of Sin,” *Journal of Religion* 84, no. 2 (April 2004): 179-211, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/381210?journalCode=jr>

“Reading the Raced and Sexed Body in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*: Repatterning White Feminist and Womanist Hermeneutics,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 19, no. 2 (Fall 2003): 45-66

“Rejoinder: Dialogue Beyond First-Wave Feminism,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 19, no. 2 (Fall 2003): 75-77

## Conference Papers, Presentations, and Public Lectures

"Augustine and Austen on Blushing: A Foucauldian Analysis of Desire," Foucault and the Study of Religion Seminar, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio (Nov 20, 2023)

"Leveraging Heaven in Reproductive Discourses," Goodspeed Lecture Series, Denison University (March 21, 2023)

"A Vision for Reproductive Ethics" panel presentation, Society for Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Chicago (Jan 6, 2023)

"Vulnerability and Reproductive Trauma: A Theological Response," Societas Ethica Conference on Vulnerability and Integrity, University of Zürich, Switzerland (Aug 25, 2022)

"The Unborn and the Afterlife: Eschatology and Reproductive Ethics," Society for the Study of Theology Annual Conference, Warwick University, UK (March 30, 2022)

"When Moral Common Ground is Elusive: Using Parables to Cross Abortion Battle Lines," Searching for Common Moral Ground Conference, Protestant Theological University, Utrecht, The Netherlands (March 22, 2022—virtual)

"Precarity and Pregnant Bodies," Religion and Disability Studies Unit and Women and Religion Unit. American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio (Nov 21, 2021—virtual)

I presented on my book *Abortion and the Christian Tradition: A Pro-choice Theological Ethic* at the Women's Caucus Panel on New Books on Gender and Religion. American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio (Nov 20, 2021—virtual)

"Accountability and God's Providence After Prenatal Testing," Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture—Living Accountably Conference, Waco, Texas (Oct 29, 2021)

"Going on a Journey: How to Think about Abortion Christianly," Keynote address at the Faith Journeys with Reproductive Justice Conference, Corrymeela Center, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland (Sept 4, 2021—virtual)

"The Crisis of Hospitality at the Border: Theological Reflections on Immigration, Reproductive Justice, and the Good Samaritan," International Association of Practical Theology conference: Coping with Crisis, Leuven, Belgium (July 10, 2021—virtual)

"Immigration, Human Rights, and Reproductive Justice: How to be Hospitable at the Border," Society for the Study of Theology Conference, U.K. (April 15, 2021—virtual)

"Transformative Ritual Practices to Address Reproductive Loss," Religious Transformation and Gender Contestations Conference in the Study of Religion, Utrecht University, Netherlands (March 11, 2021—virtual)

"Disability Rights and Selective Abortion: An Ethical Conflict?" Society of Christian Ethics Annual Conference (Jan 11, 2021—virtual)

“Immigration, Human Rights, and Reproductive Justice: How to be Hospitable at the Border in an Age of Trump,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference (Dec 10, 2020—virtual)

“Motherhood—What Would It Mean to ‘Just Say No?’” invited plenary address at an interactive workshop on motherhood and religion, the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference (Nov 29, 2020—virtual)

“The Afterlife Understood from an Emergent Materialist Perspective,” Princeton Project in Philosophy of Religion Inaugural Conference, Princeton University (Oct 30, 2020—virtual)

“The Afterlife and Liminal Bodies,” Third International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life, University of Birmingham, England (July 22, 2020—virtual)

“Bodies in the Afterlife and Reproductive Bioethics in this Life,” Association of Practical Theology Biennial Conference, Houston, TX (May 2, 2020—virtual)

“Hospitality and the Fetus: A Prochoice Proposal on Good Samaritanism,” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Conference, Louisville, KY (Jan 4, 2019)

“Is Fetal Life Grievable,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, CO (Nov 19, 2018)

“A Feminist Ethics of Abortion: Grievability and the Limits of Hospitality,” Societas Ethica Conference on Feminist Ethics and the Question of Gender, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium (August 24, 2018)

“Abortion and the Maternal Authority to End Fetal Life,” Duquesne Women in Philosophy Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (March 24, 2017)

“Sex in Heaven? Eros, Abjection, and ‘Spiritual Bodies,’” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada (Nov. 8, 2009)

“The Abortion Controversy,” panel presentation at the Constructive Theology Workgroup meeting, Nashville, TN (April 19, 2008)

“Foucault and Empire: A Poststructuralist Model for Doing Feminist Theology in a Postcolonial Age,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Washington, DC (Nov. 18, 2006)

## **Interviews and Public Engagement**

“Abortion and Religion, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives: An Interview with Rebecca Todd Peters and Margaret Kamitsuka,” *The Commons*, (Feb 20, 2024), <https://www.aprilonline.org/abortion-and-religion-jewish-christian-and-muslim-perspectives-an-interview-with-rebecca-todd-peters-and-margaret-kamitsuka/>

“How to Think about Abortion Christianly,” podcast, Chester Cathedral, UK (Nov 1, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxK2wcQR8AE>

“The Possibility of Reproductive Agency,” panel presentation, Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago Divinity School (Apr 20, 2023). <https://martycenter.org/series/religion-and-reproductive-politics-audio-series/panel-5-the-possibility-of-reproductive-agency>.

“Just Talk Live: Reproductive Justice,” podcast for Unbound: A Faith and Justice E-magazine and Media, PC USA (Feb 7, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiaPj5s2meQ&list=PLW17p4HZh1ATKCUDDgPL7ZH4OXW12AwXe&index=1>.

“Abortion and Christian Ethics?” interview on A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast (Dec 15, 2022), <https://amatteroffaith.buzzsprout.com/1648090/11872946-santa-abortion-and-christian-ethics-w-margaret-kamitsuka>.

Panelist, “Post-Roe Reproductive & Economic Justice: Thinking Theologically,” webinar series on Reproductive and Economic Justice in a Post-Roe Landscape: Changing the Conversation in Christian Communities, Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice (Oct 30, 2022), <https://www.religionandjustice.org/post-ro-series>.

Panelist, “Religion and Reproductive Rights, Freedoms, and Justice in a post-Roe World,” virtual event, Whittier College (Oct 11, 2022), <https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/media/8/>.

“New Abortion Laws Say It's Clear When Life Starts. Biology Can't Agree,” *Newsy* (June 22, 2022), <https://www.newsy.com/stories/new-abortion-laws-biology-don-t-agree-on-when-life-starts/?jwsourc=cl>.

Sarah McCammon, “When does life begin? Religions don't agree,” *National Public Radio* (May 8, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/08/1097274169/when-does-life-begin-religions-dont-agree>

## Reviews

*Under the Bed of Heaven: Christian Eschatology and Sexual Ethics*, by Richard W. McCarty, in *Reading Religion* (Sept 2023)

*Othering: The Original Sin of Humanity*, by Charles K. Bellinger, in *Reading Religion* (April 2022)

*Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining*, by Shelly Rambo, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (Jan 2012)

*Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*, by Serene Jones, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (Jan 2011)

*Postcolonialism, Feminism and Religious Discourse*, ed. Laura Donaldson & Kwok Pui-lan, in *Journal of Religion* 83, no. 2 (April 2003)

## Academic and Professional Service

Editor, Academy Series, American Academy of Religion, 2017-2021; reappointed 2022-2026.

The Academic Series publishes revised dissertations in partnership with Oxford University Press: <https://www.aarweb.org/publications/new-academy-series-editor>

Director, Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Institute, Oberlin College, 2012-2014

Associate Director, Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Institute, Oberlin College,

2010-2011  
Memberships  
American Academy of Religion  
Society of Christian Ethics  
Societas Ethica  
Participant in the Constructive Theology Workgroup, 2000-2017

### **Honors, Prizes and Fellowships**

John and Vera Diekhoff Fund, Oberlin College, 2023  
Senior Research Scholar Award, Oberlin College, 2021  
Coolidge Fellow, *Cross Currents* Research Colloquium, Auburn Seminary, New York City, July 2019  
The Francis W. and Lydia L. Davis Chair in Religion, Oberlin College, 2014—2019  
Research Status, Oberlin College, 2011-12  
B. Wade and Jane B. White Fellowship, Oberlin College, 2005-06  
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2000-02  
*Summa cum laude*, Yale Divinity School  
Julia A. Archibald High Scholarship Prize, Yale Divinity School  
Religion and Arts Prize, Yale Divinity School  
Day Fellowship, Yale Divinity School  
*Phi Beta Kappa*, University of California, Berkeley