

CURRICULUM VITAE
Molly Bassett
Department of Religious Studies
Georgia State University

EDUCATION

- 2009 University of California, Santa Barbara, Ph.D., Religious Studies
2004 Harvard University, M.Div.
2001 Marshall University, B.A., Spanish and Basic Humanities (Classical Studies)

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Georgia State University

- Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, 2009-present
Director of Graduate Studies, 2010-present
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Latin American and Latino/a Studies, 2010-present
Faculty Affiliate, Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, 2010-present

**Instituto de Docencia e Investigación Etnológica de Zacatecas /
Zacatecas Institute for Teaching and Research in Ethnology**

- Research Associate, 2006-present

University of California, Santa Barbara

- Lead Teaching Assistant, 2006-2007
Teaching Assistant, 2006-2008

SCHOLARSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Books

- The Fate of Earthly Things: Aztec Gods and God-Bodies*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015.
– A Recovering Languages and Literacies of the Americas Mellon Initiative Book
Sainthood and Race: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh. Edited with Vincent Lloyd. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Chapters in books

- “Introduction,” coauthored with Vincent Lloyd in *Sainthood and Race: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh*.
Edited by Molly Bassett and Vincent Lloyd. New York: Routledge, 2014.
“The Pre-Racial Saint? Ma(r)king Aztec God-Bodies,” in *Sainthood and Race: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh*.
Edited by Molly Bassett and Vincent Lloyd. New York: Routledge, 2014.
“Coloring the Sacred in the New World,” coauthored with Jeanette Favrot Peterson in *The Materiality
of Color: The Production, Circulation, and Application of Dyes and Pigments, 1400-1800*. Edited
by Andrea Feeser and Beth Fowkes Tobin. London: Ashgate, 2012. 45-64.

Articles in refereed journals

- “Wrapped in Cloth, Clothed in Skins: Aztec *Tlaquimilolli* (Sacred Bundles) and Deity Embodiment,”
History of Religions, May 2014.
“Meeting the Gods: Apotheoses and Exchanges of the Early Encounter,” *Material Religion*. 8:4.
London: Berg, 416-438, December 2012.

Other articles & essays

- “Reading at Its Best,” in *Teaching Theology & Religion*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, July 2012.
- “Indigenous Religions, Global,” in *The Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World*. London: Sage, March 2011. 741-744.
- “Aztec Concepts of the Human Body: Nahuatl Metaphors,” at Mexicolore.com, March 2009.
- “Aztec Concepts of the Human Body,” at Mexicolore.com, March 2008.
- “Religion in Mesoamerica: A Case for Comparative Religious Studies” in *Religious Studies Review*, 33:3 (July) 193-199.

Book reviews

- Review of David Tavárez’s *The Invisible War: Indigenous Devotions, Discipline, and Dissent in Colonial Mexico*, for *Colonial Latin American Review*, December 2013.
- Review of Mu-chou Poo’s *Rethinking Ghosts in World Religions for Religion*, for *Religion*, March 2012.
- Review of Emily Cousin’s edition of Joseph Epes Brown’s *Teaching Spirits for Practical Matters*, March 2011.
- Review of David Carrasco’s edition of Bernal Díaz del Castillo’s *The History of the Conquest of New Spain* for *Religious Studies Review*, December 2010.
- Review of Thomas Hart’s *The Ancient Spirituality of the Modern Maya* for *Religious Studies Review*, June 2009.
- Review of Martin Austin Nesvig’s *Local Religion in Colonial Mexico* for *Religious Studies Review*, June 2009.
- Review of David Carrasco and Scott Session’s *Cave, City & Eagle’s Nest: An Interpretive Journey through the Mapa de Cuauhtinchan No. 2* for *Religious Studies Review*, March 2009.
- Review of Jongsoo Lee’s *The Allure of Nezahualcoyotl: Pre-Hispanic History, Religion, and Nahuatl Poetics* for *Religious Studies Review*, March 2009.

Conference presentations

- “The Bundles of *Earthly Things*,” Visual and Textual Dialogues in Colonial Mexico and Europe: The Florentine Codex, UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies, the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library and the Getty Research Institute, April 17-18, 2015.
- “Huitzilopochtli’s Tlaquimilolli, No Ordinary Thing,” The Moses Mesoamerican Archive, Harvard University, October 31, 2014.
- “Wrapped in Cloth, Clothed in Skin: Aztec *Tlaquimilolli* (Sacred Bundles),” Northeastern Group of Nahuatl Studies Conference at Yale University, May 11, 2013.
- “Learning Outcomes: Teaching the Intangibles,” with Rhodora Beaton, a Teaching Religion Section Roundtable at the American Academy of Religion, November 2012.
- “Divining Order: Collecting & Classifying the Aztec Gods,” College Art Association, February 2012.
- Maps: Orientations & Disorientations, respondent, American Academy of Religion, November 2011.
- “Coloring the Sacred in the New World,” Native American & Indigenous Studies Association, May 2011.
- “Animate Conversations & Careful Comparisons: Modern Nahuatl’s Contributions to the Study of Mexica-Aztec Religion,” Native American & Indigenous Studies Association, May 2010.
- “Earthly Things: The Place of ‘the Sacred’ in Nahuatl Worldviews,” American Academy of Religion, November 2008.
- “Modern Nahuatl and Aztec *Teteo*: An Ethnolinguistic Approach to Precontact Central Mexican Art History,” Conference on Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America & the Caribbean, University of California, San Diego, May 2008.
- “Dressing Cortés: Ritual Appeasement or Apotheosis,” College Art Association, February 2006.

Invited presentations

- “Teosinte and Tlacatl: Corn and People in Aztec Religion,” Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum, January 27, 2015.

- “Turquoise and Greenstones in Mesoamerica and South America,” with Rebecca Stone, Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum, February 28, 2013.
- “2012 Millennialism: A Scholarly Perspective,” Department of Religious Studies, Connecticut College, September 2012.
- “The Skin(ny) on (and off of) Aztec Gods,” Department of Religious Studies, Connecticut College, September 2012.
- “Divining Classification: Aztec Gods and God-Bodies,” Getty Research Institute, July 2012.
- “The Skin(ny) on Mexica Gods: Divine Embodiment in Aztec Religion,” The Racial Saint Workshop, Syracuse University, December 2011.
- “On the Importance of Appearances: Mesoamerican Religion,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, November 2011.
- “The Fate of Earthly Things: Mexica-Aztec Deities and Their Representations,” Religious Studies Colloquium, University of California Santa Barbara, 2009.
- “Modern Nahuatl and Aztec Teteo: A Search for an Autochthonous Methods of Deity Identification,” Ancient Borderlands Research Focus Group, UC Santa Barbara, May 2008.
- “De(i)fyng Classification: Challenges in the Study of Aztec Deities,” Americanists’ Meeting, University of California, Santa Barbara, January 2007.

Works in progress

The (Super)natural in Aztec Religion, a book manuscript

“It’s Right Because: Thinking About Exam Answers,” an article on critical thinking in Religious Studies

Grants

Wabash Colloquy for Writing the Scholarship of Teaching, 2014-2015

Georgia State University Special Research Initiative: Time for Professional Work, 2013

Professional Activities Grant, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, Georgia State University 2013

Digital Champions Grant, Georgia State University, 2012-2013

PAWS Junior Work Release, Georgia State University, 2013

Wabash Scholarship on Teaching and Learning Group Fellowship, 2012-2014 (declined)

Wabash Fellowship, 2012

Professional Activities Grant, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, Georgia State University, 2011

Summer Fellowship, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library & Collection, 2011 (declined)

Teaching & Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty in Colleges & Universities, Wabash Center, 2011-2012

Cleon C. Arrington Research Initiation Grant, Georgia State University, 2010-2011

Chancellor’s Fellowship, University of California, 2004-2009

University of California Institute for Mexico & the United States, Dissertation Research Grant, 2007-2009

Summer Research Grant, University of California, 2005, 2007

Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship, US Department of Education, 2006

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Thesis Research Grant, 2003

Honors & Awards

Charles H. Long Award for Academic Achievement, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2008

Chair’s Distinguished Service Award, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2007

Edward Hopkins Shareholder, The Divinity School, Harvard University, 2003

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion
 Native American & Indigenous Studies Association
 College Art Association
 American Society for Ethnohistory

TEACHING, INCLUDING ADVISINGCourses Taught

RELS 8210: Graduate Seminar - Idols, Icons & Amulets: Material Religion
 RELS 8210: Graduate Seminar - Approaching Indigenous Religions in the Americas
 RELS 8210: Graduate Seminar – Becoming Professionals in the Study of Religions
 RELS 8950: Directed Reading in Native American Religions
 RELS 4080/6080: Religious Dimensions in Human Experience: Narrative, Identity & Analysis
 RELS 4080/6080: Religious Dimensions in Human Experience: Between Animals & Gods
 RELS 3270: Survey of World Religions
 RELS 2001: Introduction to World Religions
 PERS 2001: Comparative Cultures/Religious Diversity: Gods, Ghosts & Ancestors

Doctoral Dissertations (Committee Member)

Kristi Peterson, “Consumption and Construction: Devotional Images and the Place of Empire in Postclassic Mexico, 1325-1521,” Art History, Florida State University (in process)

Masters Theses (Director)

Natalie Barber, “Irish Fairies: Myth, Landscape and Nation,” (April 2014)
 Kathryn Yates, “Flesh as Text[ile]: How Toci's Embodiment in Ochpaniztli Provides an Alternative Reading of Aztec Gender,” Department of Religious Studies (Spring 2013)
 Bethanie Harsh, “Redescribing Agency through Sport and Ritual: Considering an Alternative Approach,” Department of Religious Studies (Summer 2011)

Masters Theses (Committee Member)

Clare Van Holm, untitled (in progress)
 Lauren Cooper, untitled (in progress)
 Karli Robinson-Myers, “Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*: Ritual, Culture, and Communitas,” Department of Religious Studies (in progress)
 Suzanne Degnats, “Dispositional Religiosity: Religion in the Context of Life Narratives,” Department of Religious Studies (Fall 2013)
 James Webb, “How to Weaponize a Philosopher: Hobbes' Deadly Arsenal,” Department of Religious Studies (Summer 2013)
 Nicholas Newell, “A Reception History of Gilgamesh as Myth,” Department of Religious Studies (Summer 2013)
 Ilani Blanke, “Bad Religion: How Ex-Mormon Fiction Reinforces Normative Views of American Religion,” Department of Religious Studies (Fall 2012)
 Megan Dunkelberg, “River Deep, Mountain High: How the Ancient Philosophy of Huang-Lao Taoism Can Plant the Seeds of an Educational Transformation Today,” Education Policy Studies (Summer 2012)
 Sarah Levine, “The Birth of Tragedy out of the Spirit of Dance: Nietzschean Transitions in Nijinsky's Ballets,” Department of Religious Studies (Summer 2012)
 Suzanne Tryon, “Sacrilege in the Sanctuary: Thucydidean Perspectives on the Violation of Sacred Space during the Peloponnesian War,” Department of Religious Studies (Fall 2011)
 Kelly O'Riley, “Hagiography, Teratology, and the 'History' of Michael Jackson,” Department of Religious Studies (Summer 2011)

Gavin Cooper, "Raising the Voice for Communion and Conquest: Hymn Singing in Contact among the Brainerd Missionaries and the Cherokees, 1817-1838," Department of Religious Studies (Summer 2011)

Honors Theses (Director)

Lauren Cooper, "'The Five Lessons,' A Study in Science Fiction and Religion," Departments of Religious Studies and English (April 2014)

SERVICE

Department

Director of Graduate Studies, 2011-present
 Interim Director of Graduate Studies, 2010-2011
 Tenure Track Search Committee, 2010, 2011-2012, 2014
 Committee Co-chairperson, 2014
 VI/VL Search Committee, 2011, 2012
 Executive Committee, 2010-2013
 Curriculum Committee, 2010-present
 Committee Chairperson, 2014-2015
 Program Committee, 2010-2011
 Library Liaison, 2010-2013
 Religious Studies 2001 Task Force, 2014

College & University

Graduate Council, 2010-present
 Recruitment Subcommittee, 2015-present
 New/Junior Faculty Support Group Facilitator, 2010-2012
 First Year Faculty Panel, New Faculty Orientation, 2010, 2011, 2012
 Welch Death Symposium, Interdisciplinary Faculty Committee, 2012
 Writing Across the Curriculum Certification, 2012

Profession

Teaching Religion Section Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2011-present
 –Co-chairperson, 2015-present
 Stand-Alone MA Programs in Religion Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2012-2015
 Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2012-present
 Manuscript reviewer for:
 Teaching Theology and Religion, 2013
 Ethnohistory, 2013
 History of Religions, 2012
 The Canadian Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council, 2011
 Abya Yala Committee for the Inclusion of Indigenous Scholars, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, 2010-2011