

## MARGARITA SIMON GUILLORY

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### EDUCATION

RICE UNIVERSITY Ph.D. Religious Studies	2011
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS Master of Theological Studies	2005
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Teacher Certification in Physical Sciences	2001
EMORY UNIVERSITY B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in African-American Studies	1995

### FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

James P. Wilmot Assistant Professorship (Univ. of Rochester), 2017-2018  
Alumni Flame Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research (Rice University), 2017  
Mary McLeod Bethune Faculty Award (Univ. of Rochester), 2017  
Humanities Center Research Fellowship (Univ. of Rochester), 2017  
G. Graydon and Jane W. Curtis Award for Nontenured Faculty Teaching (Univ. of Rochester), 2016  
Abraham Karp Award for Teaching Excellence (Univ. of Rochester), 2015  
Society for the Study of Black Religion, Inducted Member, 2012  
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2010-2011

### GRANTS

Lead Investigator, Public Theologies of Technology Grant (funded through the Henry Luce Foundation) in support of the *Africana Religions in the Digital Age* Project, \$10,000, awarded 2018.

Lead Investigator, PumpPrimer II Grant, awarded by Arts, Sciences and Engineering at the University of Rochester in support of the *Digitizing Rochester Religions* Project, \$24,384, awarded 2017.

**UNIVERSITY-LEVEL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*BOSTON UNIVERSITY*

Boston, MA

Associate Professor of Religion

9/2018-Present

African Diaspora Religion  
African American Religious History  
Religion and Hip Hop Culture  
Digital Religion

*UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER*

Rochester, NY

Assistant Professor of Religion

7/2011-6/2018

African Diaspora Religion  
African American Religious History  
Religion and Hip Hop Culture  
Religion in the Digital Age

*UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CLEARLAKE*

Houston, TX

Adjunct Faculty in Human Sciences and Humanities  
Basic Texts in the Western Tradition

8/2009 - 5/2010

*RICE UNIVERSITY*

Houston, TX

Teaching Assistant in Religious Studies Department  
Religion and Hip Hop (with Dr. Anthony Pinn)

Fall 2009

Teaching Assistant in Religious Studies Department  
Africana Philosophy (with Dr. Elias Bongmba)

Spring 2009

Teaching Assistant in Religious Studies Department  
Introduction to the Study of Religion (with Dr. William Parsons)

Spring 2008

Teaching Assistant in Religious Studies Department  
Sexuality and Early Christianity (with Dr. April Deconick)

Spring 2007

**SECONDARY-LEVEL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL*

Houston, TX

Lead Teacher in Meteorology/Space Science Magnet Program

8/1999 - 7/2006

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

*Africana Religion in the Digital Age*, under contract with Routledge (Series: Routledge Studies in Religion and Digital Culture).

*Spiritual and Social Transformation in African American Spiritual Churches: More Than Conjurers*. New York: Routledge, 2017.

### CO-EDITED AND CO-AUTHORED BOOKS

*Esotericism in African American Religious Experience: There is a Mystery*, co-edited with Stephen Finley and Hugh Page, Jr. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

*Breaking Bread, Breaking Beats*, CERCL Project Writing Collaborative, contributing co-author and member. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

### ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Can I Be *Both?*: Blackness and the Negotiation of Binary Categories in Kendrick Lamar’s *Section 80*,” Kendrick Lamar and the Making of Black Meaning, edited by Chris Driscoll, Monica Miller, and Anthony Pinn (New York: Taylor & Francis Limited, 2019): 25-36.

“A Search for Gnostic and Countercultural Elements in Zora Neale Hurston’s Hoodoo in America,” GNOSIS: Journal of Gnostic Studies, Volume 1 (July 2016): 310-327.

“Searching for Self: Religion and the Creative *Quest* for Self in the Art of Erykah Badu,” Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping the New Terrain in the US, edited by Monica R. Miller, Anthony B. Pinn, and Bernard “Bun B” Freeman (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2015), 11-23.

“Intersecting Points: The ‘Erotic as Religious’ in the Lyrics of Missy Elliot,” Culture and Religion, Volume 10, Number 1 (March 2009): 81-96. Re-print, Religion and Hip Hop Reader, edited by Monica Miller and Anthony Pinn (New York: Taylor & Francis Limited, 2015), 102-114.

“The Creative Individual: Identity Construction and Individuality in African American Spirituality,” Spiritual Discourse in the Academy: A Globalised Indigenous Perspective, edited by Njoki Wane (New York: Peter Lang, 2014), 191-206.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

### ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS CONTINUED

“Portraying Portraits: An Exploration of Art and Self-Reflexivity in the Nahziryah Monastic Community,” co-authored with Aundrea Matthews, Esotericism in African American Religious Experience: There is a Mystery, edited by Stephen Finley, Margarita Simon Guillory, and Hugh Page, Jr. (Leiden: Brill, 2014), 262-276.

“Spiritually Repressed: Exploring the Historical Repression of African American Women in Rochesterian Spiritualism,” The Spiritualist Movement: Speaking with the Dead in America and Around the World, edited by Christopher M. Moreman (Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2013), 218-239.

“Conscious Concealment: The Repression and Expression of African American Spiritualists,” Histories of the Hidden God, edited by April DeConick and Grant Anderson (Durham: Acumen Publishing, 2013), 281-297.

“Therapeutic Enterprise: A Psychological Exploration of Healing Elements in a Local African-American Spiritualist Church,” Pastoral Psychology, Volume 59, Number 1 (February 2010), 65-77.

“That Girl is Poison: White Supremacy, Anxiety, and the Conflation of Women and Food in the Nation of Islam,” co-authored with Stephen Finley, Women and New and Africana Religions, edited by Lillian Ashcraft-Eason, Darnise Martin, and Oyeronke Olademo (Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2010), 3-27.

### ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

Church of Christ Holiness, Encyclopedia of African-American Religious Culture: Volume 1, edited by Anthony B. Pinn (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 145-148.

Fire Baptized Holiness Church, Encyclopedia of African-American Religious Culture: Volume 1, edited by Anthony B. Pinn (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 185-190.

Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ, Encyclopedia of African-American Religious Culture: Volume 1, edited by Anthony B. Pinn (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 218-221.

Spiritualism, Encyclopedia of African-American Religious Culture: Volume 2, edited by Anthony B. Pinn (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 380-386.

Universal Hagar’s Spiritual Church, Encyclopedia of African-American Religious Culture: Volume 2, edited by Anthony B. Pinn (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 412-420.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

### BOOK REVIEWS

Review of The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Religion, edited by Peter B. Clarke, Religious Studies Review, Volume 44, Number 2 (June 2018): 171-172.

Review of Religion in the Kitchen: Cooking, Talking, and the Making of Black Atlantic Traditions, by Elizabeth Pérez, Religious Studies Review, Volume 43, Number 1 (March 2017): 46.

Review of Digital Methodologies in the Sociology of Religion, edited by Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor and Suha Shakkour, Religious Studies Review, Volume 42, Number 4 (December 2016): 268.

Review of Talking to the Dead: Religion, Music, and Lived Memory Among Gullah/Geechee Women, by LeRhonda S. Manigault-Bryant, Religious Studies Review, Volume 42, Number 3 (September 2016): 192.

Review of Crossing the Water and Keeping the Faith: Haitian Religion in Miami, by Terry Rey and Alex Stepick, Religious Studies Review, Volume 41, Number 4 (December 2015): 179.

Review of The Mount of Vision: African American Prophetic Tradition 1800-1950 by Christopher Z. Hobson, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Volume 83, Number 2 (June 2015): 582-585.

Review of Divine Callings: Understanding the Call to Ministry in Black Pentecostalism by Richard N. Pitt, American Journal of Sociology, Volume 119, Number 2 (September 2013): 551-553.

Review of More Than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion by Manuel A. Vásquez, Religious Studies Review, Volume 38, Number 3 (September 2012): 141.

Review of Durkheim's Sociology of Religion: Themes and Theories by William S. F. Pickering, Religious Studies Review, Volume 38, Number 3 (September 2012): 140-141.

Review of Creativity, Spirituality, and Mental Health by Kelley Raab Mayo, Religious Studies Review, Volume 36, Number 4 (December 2010): 267-268.

Review of Creative Exchange: A Construction Theology of African American Religious Experience by Victor Anderson, Religious Studies Review, Volume 35, Number 4 (December 2009): 298.

## **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED**

### **BOOK REVIEWS CONTINUED**

Review of Ritual and Its Consequences: An Essay on the Limits of Sincerity by Adam B. Seligman, et al., Religious Studies Review, Volume 35, Number 4 (December 2009): 235.

Review of Dirt, Greed, and Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today by L. William Countryman, Religious Studies Review, Volume 35, Number 3 (September 2009): 165-166.

Review of Mexican American Religions: Spirituality, Activism, and Culture by Gastón Espinosa and Mario T. García, editors, Religious Studies Review, Volume 35, Number 3 (September 2009): 197.

## **PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

### **BOOK LENGTH PROJECTS**

*A History of African American Spiritualism, 1848-1948*, proposal in preparation.

### **ARTICLES**

“Got My Mojo Working: Ritual Performance Materiality in Africana Conjure Traditions,” draft in preparation.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS**

“Playing with Voodoo Dolls: Race, Africana Religion, and Representation in Digital Games,” Public Theologies of Technology and Presence Conference, Berkeley, CA, October 2019.

“Music, Magic, and Mad Science,” Respondent, Religion and the Strange Graduate Conference, Boston, MA, September 2019

“What was Hip Hop?”, Panelist, BU African American Studies Program, Boston, MA, February 2019.

“The Internet, Selfie, and Ritual: The Purple People’s Use of Digital Technology in Past Life Regression Rituals,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO, November 2018.

“Virtual ROAD to Intimacy: Using an Africana Religious Mobile App to Foster Relationships,” Public Theologies of Technology and Presence Conference, Berkeley, CA, October 2018.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS CONTINUED**

“The Classroom Without Borders: Teaching Religion in the Digital Age,” Public Theologies of Technology and Presence Conference, Berkeley, CA, October 2018.

“Tools of Religious Experience,” Respondent, Religion and Technology Graduate Conference, Boston, MA, September 2018.

“Mutable Flesh: Mysticism, Bodies, and Boundaries,” Moderator, American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 2017.

“African American Churches and the Black Lives Matter Movement,” Rochester Urban Fellows Seminar, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, May 2017.

“Beyond the Racialized Ego: Race, Depth Psychology, and Self-Representation in the Nahziryah Monastic Community,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

“Launching Academic Careers at Rochester,” Panelist, UR Year One, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, August 2016.

“Artistic Self-Expression in the Nahziryah Monastic Community,” Panelist, Society for the Study of Black Religion, Boston, MA, March 2016.

“Student Discussions with 2016 MLK Commemorative Speaker Marc Morial,” Moderator, Douglass Leadership House, Rochester, NY, February 2016.

“Race, Gender, and Body Policing,” Panelist, Black Student Union, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, February 2016.

“Rochester Knockings: University Panel on the Fox Sisters,” Panelist, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, November 2015.

“Gnostic Hoodoo: Material Counterculture in Zora Neale Hurston’s Hoodoo in America,” Faculty Research Seminar, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies, Rochester, NY, October 2015.

“Faith Communities and Urban Civic Life,” Rochester Urban Fellows Seminar, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, June 2015.

“African American Religion and the Karios Palestine Document,” Panelist, Society for the Study of Black Religion, Savannah, GA, March 2015.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS CONTINUED**

“African Diaspora Religions: How Far Have We Come?” Panelist, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2014.

“Buying and Selling Blackness,” Moderator, Post Blackness Symposium, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, April 2014.

“New Directions Symposium,” Moderator, Frederick Douglass Institute, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, February 2014.

“The Meaning of Methods: Religion in Hip-Hop Meets the Social Sciences,” Panelist, American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“*A Piece of Me: A Winnicottian Exploration of Self, Religion, and Creativity in Graffiti Writing*,” American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“Esotericism, Gnosticism, and Mysticism in African American Religion,” Respondent, American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November 2012.

“Creating an Inclusive Research Climate,” Panelist, Diversity Research Conference, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, November 2012.

“Post Family Papers Digitalization Launch,” Panelist, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, September 2012.

“Out of Place Objects: The Use of ‘Ready-mades’ on the Altars of African American Spiritual(ist) Churches in New Orleans,” Ford Fellows Conference, Irvine, CA, October 2010.

“Return of the Repressed: A Historical Exploration of the Repression and Expression of African American Spiritualists in Modern American Spiritualism,” Hidden God, Hidden Histories Rockwell Religious Studies Symposium, Rice University, Houston, TX, April 2010.

“Untapped Resources: An Interpretation of Female Rap Lyrics on the Erotic as Religious Through a Hermeneutic of Life Meaning,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2007.

## **INVITED TALKS**

“This is Our Story: The Role of African American Women in Modern American Spiritualism,” Lily Dale Assembly, Lily Dale, NY, August 2019.



**INVITED TALKS CONTINUED**

State of Black Religion Keynote Address, “Silence Filled the Room: Combatting Historical Repression in African American Religious Studies,” Society for the Study of Black Religion, Richmond, VA, April 2019.

“Fade to Black: Race, Repression, and Resistance in Boston’s Spiritualist Movement,” Department of Religion Annual Lecture, Boston University, February 2019.

“Let the Women Speak: Using Ethnography to Explore Intersections of Race and Gender in African American Spiritual Churches,” Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN, November 2018.

“Digitizing Rochester’s Religions: Special Collections, Digital Humanities, and the Documentation of Local History,” Friends of the University of Rochester Libraries Association, June 2018.

“African American Spiritual Churches: A Politico-Spiritual Approach to Social Activism,” Keynote Address, Susan B. Anthony Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Rochester, February 2018.

“Got My Mojo Working: Ritual Performance and Materiality in Africana Conjure Traditions,” Boston University, February 2018.

“Faith Without Works Is Dead: Race, Christianity, and Social Justice,” Interfaith Banquet, University of Rochester, April 2016.

“William Cooper Nell and the Politics of Religion in the Colored Conventions Movement,” Colored Convention Symposium, University of Delaware and the Delaware Historical Society, April 2015.

“The Secret is in the Sand: Material Magnetism in Louisianan Hoodoo Rituals,” GEM (Gnosticism, Esotericism, Mysticism) Rockwell Symposium, Rice University, March 2015.

“I am Hip Hop: Religion and Identity Construction in the Music of Erykah Badu,” Institute for Popular Music, University of Rochester, January 2014.

“The Religiosity of Hip Hop: Exploring the Relationship Between Religion and Hip Hop Culture,” Meliora Weekend’s Inside Today’s Classroom, University of Rochester, October 2014.

“Family Resemblances: Exploring Shared Traits of Functionality in Religion and Hip Hop Culture,” Hobart and William Smith Colleges, November 2012.

### **INVITED TALKS CONTINUED**

“Holy Water: The Multivariate Use of Water in African American Spiritual(ist) Rituals,” URCC and Frederick Douglass Institute, University of Rochester, December 2011.

“Missing Pieces: Employing the Post Family Newspaper Collection to Form a Fuller Picture of American Spiritualism,” Spotlight Speaker Series, University of Rochester, November 2011.

“African American Religions,” Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance Lecture Series, Congregation Beth Israel, February 2010.

“Proven International Presence: Women, Religion, & Hip Hop Around the World,” Rice University, November 2009.

“Locating Agency within the Religious Sensibilities of Female Rap Artists’ Lyrical Content”, Rice University, October 2009.

“Gender Politics in Christian Hip Hop,” Rice University, September 2009.

“African American Spiritualist Churches: History, Beliefs, and Rituals,” Rice University, February 2008.

“Sexism and Heterosexism in the Black Church,” Rice University, November 2007.

“Intersections: An Introduction to Black and Womanist Theology,” University of Houston (Central Campus), February 2007.

“Historical Formation of Black Theology,” Rice University, February 2007.

“We Have a Voice: Historical Formation, Ideas, and Methodological Frameworks in Womanist Scholarship,” Rice University, March 2007.

“The Religious Sensibilities of Women in Hip-Hop,” Rice University, November 2006.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

“Nurturing Inquiry: Exploring Special Collections Research,” Instillation, Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Rochester, November 2013-February 2014.

### **INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA PRESENTATIONS**

“CAS Professor Lectures on Overlooked African American Contribution to Spiritualism,” *The Daily Free Press*, February 8, 2019.

## **INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED**

“The Witches of Baltimore: Black Women Leaving Christianity Embracing African Witchcraft in Digital Covens,” *The Atlantic*, November 5, 2018.

Podcast on “African American Spiritual Churches,” *The Religious Studies Project*, January 29, 2018.

“New Book Novelizes Rise and Fall of Rochester’s Infamous Mediums,” *University of Rochester News*, October 2015.

“Religion and Hip Hop Culture,” *MJWJ Global Radio Network*, September 2013.

“When It Comes to Infidelity, ‘The Devil Made Me Do It?’,” *TheGrio (NBC News)*, June 2013.

“A Conversation with Dr. Margarita Simon Guillory,” *Rochester Women Magazine*, March 2013.

“University of Rochester Creates Institute for Popular Music,” *Democrat and Chronicle*, December 2012.

“New Class Explores Religion and Hip Hop,” *Weekly Buzz*, October 2012.

“Online Archive Provides a Window on Abolition, Women’s Rights, and Other Progressive 19<sup>th</sup> Century Movements,” *University of Rochester News*, September 2012.

“Harlem Churches See Gospel Tourist Boom on Sundays,” *Associated Press*, March 2012.

“Faculty Spotlight,” *Faculty Development News*, 6(2), Spring 2012.

“Teacher Feature: Pursuing Multiple Passions at UR,” *Campus Times*, November 2011.

“Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance Lecture Series—African American Religion,” FOX 26 Public Affairs, February 2010.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Committee Member: Social Science Taskforce, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, January 2020-Present.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP CONTINUED**

UNIVERSITY SERVICE CONTINUED

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Department of Religion, Boston University, July 2019-Present.

Committee Member: Chad Moore, Ph.D. Research Field Exam in Christianity and Conservatism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States, Department of Religion, Boston University, December 2019.

Faculty Participant: “Professor Campus-Wide Office Hours,” Minority Connection Initiative, Boston University, November 2019.

Dissertation Committee Member: Amanda Napior, PhD Dissertation: “From the Inside: Personal Transformation and American Religion in Prison, September 2019-Present.

Committee Member: Chad Moore, Ph.D. Research Field Exam in American Religious History, Department of Religion, Boston University, July 2019.

Second Reader: Janice Hagerman, Senior Honors Thesis, “She Does, So I Do: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Women’s Vows to Saints and Deities,” Degree with honors granted, May 2019.

Dissertation Committee Member: Dan Gorman, PhD Dissertation: “Phantom Luminaries: Spiritualism and Paranormal Investigators in the Age of Disruption,” April 2019-Present.

Committee Member: Chad Moore, Ph.D. Research Field Exam in Religion and Social Theory, Department of Religion, Boston University, March 2019.

Committee Member: CAS Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Advisory Committee, Boston University, January 2019-Present.

Faculty Affiliate: American and New England Studies Program, January 2019-Present.

Faculty Associate: African American Studies, Boston University, September 2018-Present.

Committee Member: Amanda Napior, Ph.D. Research Field Exam in American Religious History, Department of Religion, Boston University, September 2018-January 2019.

Dissertation Committee Member: Gyasi Byng, PhD Dissertation: “Liminal Identities in African American Women’s Fiction,” Defended May 2019.

Faculty Participant: “Professor Campus-Wide Office Hours,” Minority Connection Initiative, Boston University, November 2018.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP CONTINUED**

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-Chair: American Academy of Religion, Mysticism Unit, January 2020-Present.

Steering Committee Member: American Academy of Religion, Religion, Media, and Culture Unit, January 2020-Present.

Reviewer: MIT Press, September 2019.

Editorial Board Member: Wipf and Stock Publishers, *Popology: Short Theological Engagements with Popular Music*, May 2019-Present.

Digital Historian: Society for the Study of Black Religion, March 2017-Present.

Steering Committee Member: American Academy of Religion, Mysticism Unit, November 2016-December 2019.

Consultant: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing: Religion in North America Digital Resource Project, November 2016-December 2018.

Reader: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Reviewer: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, December 2013-Present.

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, October 2012-Present.

Reviewer: *Religious Studies Review*, August 2010-Present.

Editorial Board Member: *Religious Studies Review*, June 2011-July 2019.

Editor: *Religious Studies Review* (Sociology and Anthropology of Religion section), June 2011-July 2019.

Assistant Editor: *Encyclopedia of African-American Religious Culture*, March 2007-2009.