

Fall 2013

RANDALL STYERS

University of North Carolina
Department of Religious Studies
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Education

Duke University, Graduate Program in Religion
Ph.D., Religion and Culture, 1997

Yale Divinity School
M.A.R., 1984, Magna Cum Laude

Yale Law School
J.D., 1984

Duke University
A.B. in English, 1980, Summa Cum Laude

Academic Employment

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Department of Religious Studies
Department Chair, 2013 to present
Associate Professor of Religion and Culture, 2007 to present
Acting Assistant Dean for Honors, Spring 2013
Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Associate Professor, 2008-2013
Director of Graduate Studies, 2007-2013
Assistant Professor of Religion and Culture, 2001-2007
Department of Communication Studies, Adjunct Associate Professor, 2009 to present
Curriculum in Women's Studies, Affiliated Faculty
Curriculum in International and Area Studies, Affiliated Faculty
Program in Sexuality Studies, Affiliated Faculty

Union Theological Seminary, New York
Acting Academic Dean, Spring 2001

Assistant Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, 1997-2001

Scholarships, Awards, and Honors

University Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction,
UNC Chapel Hill, 2012

Institute for the Arts and Humanities Academic Leadership Fellow, UNC Chapel Hill,
2012-2013

Office of Undergraduate Curricula Course Development Grant, UNC Chapel Hill, Summer
2006

Institute for the Arts and Humanities Spray-Randleigh Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill,
Spring 2004

University Research Council Grant, UNC Chapel Hill, Summer 2003

Spray-Randleigh Research Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill, Summer 2002

Williamson Course Development Grant, UNC Chapel Hill, Summer 2002

National Endowment for the Humanities Dissertation Grant, 1995-96

Honorary Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1995-96

Duke University Graduate School Dissertation Year Fellowship, 1995-96 (declined)

Kearns Fund Fellowship, Duke University Graduate Program in Religion, 1994-95

Graduate School Fund Fellowship, Duke University Graduate Program in Religion, 1993-94

James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University, 1990-93

Tew Prize for Scholastic Excellence, Yale Divinity School, 1984

Phi Beta Kappa, Duke University, 1979

Angier B. Duke Memorial Scholarship, Duke University, 1978-80

National Merit Corporate Scholarship, 1976-80

Opel Memorial Scholarship for study abroad, Duke University, 1978-79

Selected Publications

Books

Edward Bever and Randall Styers, eds., *Magic in the Modern World: Strategies of Repression and Legitimization* (under review at press)

Armin Lange, Eric M. Meyers, Bennie H. Reynolds III, and Randall Styers, eds., *Light Against Darkness: Dualism in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and the Contemporary World*, *Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplements*, vol. 2 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2011)

Making Magic: Religion, Magic, and Science in the Modern World, American Academy of Religion Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004)

Assistant editor, *Women and Religion: The Original Sourcebook of Women in Christian Thought*, rev. ed., ed. Elizabeth Clark and Herbert Richardson (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996)

Articles and Book Chapters

“Bad Habits: How Superstition Disappeared in the Modern World,” in *Magic in the Modern World: Strategies of Repression and Legitimization*, ed. Edward Bever and Randall Styers (under review at press)

Theory/Religion/Critique: Classic and Contemporary Approaches, ed. Richard King (New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming):

“David Hume”

“Classical Anthropological Theories of Religion”

“Contemporary Continental Philosophy and the ‘Return of the Religious’”

“Magic,” in *The Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*, ed. Kocku von Stuckrad and Robert Segal (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming)

“Religion and Cultural Theory,” *Critical Research on Religion* 1(1) (2013): 72-79

“Magic and the Play of Power,” in *Defining Magic*, eds. Bernd Otto and Michael Stausberg, *Critical Categories in the Study of Religion* (Sheffield, England: Equinox Publishing, 2013), 255-62

“Mana and Mystification: Magic and Religion at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” *WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly* 40:3/4 (Fall/Winter 2012): 226-43

“Displacements and Proliferations: Moves Beyond Dualism in Contemporary Continental Thought,” in *Light Against Darkness: Dualism in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and the Contemporary World*, ed. Armin Lange, Eric M. Meyers, Benjamin Reynolds, and Randall Styers (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2011), 325-347

“Post-Colonial Theory and the Study of Christian History,” *Church History* 78:4 (December 2009): 849-54

“Gianni Vattimo and the Return of the Sacred,” *Annali d’Italianistica* 25 (2007): 47-75, special issue on “Literature, Religion, and the Sacred”

“The Cleansing Flood: Capital Punishment, Atonement, and the Christian Right,” *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 18(3) (Fall 2007): 97-127

"Slaughter and Innocence: The Rhetoric of Sacrifice in Contemporary Arguments Supporting the Death Penalty," in *Human Sacrifice in Judeo-Christian and Other Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, ed. Karin Finsterbusch and Armin Lange, Numen Book Series Vol. 112 (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2006), 321-51

"Liberal Values and the Public Classroom: A Response to Stephen Webb," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 70(1) (March 2002): 159-68

"Protestant Perspectives on Justice and Zealous Representation," *Fordham Urban Law Journal* 28(4) (April 2001): 1047-55

"The 'Magic' of 'Science': The Labeling of Ideas," in *Labeling: Pedagogy and Politics*, ed. Glenn M. Hudak and Paul Kihn (London and New York: RoutledgeFalmer, 2001), 235-49

Women and Religion: The Original Sourcebook of Women in Christian Thought, rev. ed., ed. Elizabeth Clark and Herbert Richardson (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996):

Chapter 7, "Woman as Witch: Witchcraft Persecutions in the Old and New Worlds," 119-43

Chapter 12, "Movements for Religious and Social Reform in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century America," 237-64

Chapter 13, "Twentieth-Century Sexual Issues: Contraception, Abortion, and Homosexuality," 265-305

Chapter 14, "Feminist Liberation Theologies," 306-37

Selected Scholarly Presentations and Conference Participation

Presiding, "Religious Change and Technological Mediation in Modern America," American Academy of Religion (North American Religions Section), November 2013

"Concluding Remarks," Late Antiquity Made New Symposium: A Celebration of the Career of Elizabeth A. Clark, Duke University, April 2013

Keynote address, "What Is Religious Studies?," Religious Studies and Rabbinics: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue, The University of Virginia, February 2013

Facilitator, "Time, Space, and Difference," American Academy of Religion (Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group), November 2012

Respondent, "Religious Exchanges and Transactions in North America," American Academy of Religion (North American Religions Section), November 2012

Panelist, "Social Theory and Religion, 2013-2015," American Academy of Religion (Social

Theory and Religion Cluster), November 2012

Presiding, “The Centenary of *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*: The Enduring Analytical Impact of Émile Durkheim,” American Academy of Religion (Social Theory and Religion Cluster), November 2012

“Analytical Research in the Eye of a Normative Claims Storm,” American Academy of Religion (The Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline Workshop: The Analytical Handling of Norms and Values in the Study of Religion), November 2012

“Faithful Discourse: Religion in American Political Advocacy,” Ethically Formed?: An American Religion, Law, and Politics Symposium, The Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, Durham, NC, September 2012

Panelist, “Editors Meet Critics: Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Robert A. Yelle, and Mateo Taussig-Rubbo, eds., *After Secular Law*,” North American Association for the Study of Religion, November 2011

Presiding, “Industrial Effervescence: Manufacturing Economic Selves and Producing Religious Collectivity in American History,” American Academy of Religion (North American Religions Section), November 2011

Moderator, “Religious Freedom, Sacred Sites, and Land Rights,” American Indian Land Rights and Religious Freedom Symposium, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, April 2011

“Superstition and Scientific Progress,” Rhetorics of Progress: Science and Technology in the Making of American Religions, American Academy of Religion (North American Religions Section), November 2010

Respondent, “Bodies and Law: Torture, Sex Change, and Same Sex Marriage,” American Academy of Religion (Law, Religion, and Culture Group), November 2010

Presiding, “‘Religion’ in the Making: Social, National, and Global Formations,” American Academy of Religion (Cultural History of the Study of Religions Group), November 2010

Panelist, “Remembering Mary Daly: A Reflection on Her Life and Work,” Duke Divinity School, February 2010

“The Turn to Religion,” UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication Studies Colloquium, January 2010

Respondent, “The Buddha’s Stand-ins: Living Saints and the Powerful Dead in Buddhist Southeast Asia,” American Academy of Religion (Religion in Southeast Asia Consultation),

Montreal, Quebec, November 2009

Presiding, "Negotiating the Legal Boundaries of Religion," American Academy of Religion (Joint Session of the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group and the Law, Religion, and Culture Group), Montreal, Quebec, November 2009

"Postcolonial Theory and the Study of Christian History," American Society of Church History Spring Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, April 2009

"Teaching Religious Diversity and Conflict," Conference on Education, Innovation, and Discovery: The Distinctive Promise of the American Research University, The Reinvention Center, Washington, D.C., November 2008

Panelist, "Mark DeWolfe Howe, *The Garden and the Wilderness*," American Academy of Religion (Law, Religion, and Culture Group), November 2008

Presiding, "Class Revisited," American Academy of Religion (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group), November 2008

"Bad Habits: How Superstition Disappeared in the Modern World," Magic: Frontiers and Boundaries, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, June 2008

Panelist, "God and Country: *Differences* Journal Salon," Cultural Studies Association U.S., May 2008

Presiding, "Trans-Atlantic Perceptions of Christianity," American Society of Church History, January 2008

"Gender Theory and the Study of Religion," "Sexuality and the Politics of Magic," and "Gender and Sexuality in Western Christianity," National Sexuality Resource Center 2007 Summer Institute on Sexuality, Inequality and Health, San Francisco State University, July 2007

Panelist, Roundtable Discussion with Gianni Vattimo, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC Chapel Hill, November 2006

Panelist, "Memory, Transformation and Religion after September 11, 2001," Symposium on the Future of September 11, Hofstra University and World Trade Center Family Center, September 2006

Respondent, "Science and Religion in the Early Modern Period," Shakespeare Association of America, April 2006

Panelist, "Disempowered Voices in Legal Academia," Yale Law School, March 2006

Respondent, Graduate Research Colloquium, UNC Charlotte Department of Religious Studies, April 2005

"*Mana* and Mystification," Religion and Agency: Theoretical Issues and Historical Cases, North American Association for the Study of Religion, November 2004

Presiding, "Religion, Spirituality, and Modernity," American Academy of Religion (Religion and Popular Culture Group), November 2004

Presiding, "'I Am No Prophet': Functions of Prophecy in Holy Books and Beyond," UNC Chapel Hill, October 2004

"'The Disclaimer of His Sex': Theories of Magic, Modernity, and Desire," Sexuality After Foucault, Centre for the Study of Sexuality and Culture, University of Manchester, England, November 2003

"Modern Irrationality: Western Theories of Superstition Following the Enlightenment," Society of Biblical Literature (Late Antiquity in Interdisciplinary Perspective Section), November 2003

"Displacements and Proliferations: Moves Beyond Dualism in Contemporary Continental Thought," Light Against Darkness: Dualism in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and the Contemporary World, UNC Chapel Hill, June 2003

Panelist, "Light Against Darkness: Dualism in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and the Contemporary World," UNC Chapel Hill, June 2003

"Magic, Desire, and the Making of the Modern Subject," Barnard College, March 2003

Respondent, "'Virtual Practices: De/Reterritorializing Identities and the Internet," American Academy of Religion (Religion and the Social Sciences Section), November 2001

"Magic in the Definition of Religion and Science," Science and Religion in the Age of Capital and Empire, University of Michigan, November 2001

"Protestant Perspectives on Zealous Representation," CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Institute for Dispute Resolution, New York, January 2001

Panelist, "Ellen T. Armour's *Deconstruction, Feminist Theology, and the Problem of Difference* and Thomas A. Carlson's *Indiscretion: Finitude and the Naming of God*," American Academy of Religion (Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group and Theology and Continental Philosophy Group), November 2000

Presiding, "Create the Common Good: A Symposium on Theological Education and American Public Life," Union Theological Seminary and Auburn Theological Seminary (sponsored by the Lilly Endowment), September 2000

"Postmodernism and the Interpretation of Texts," Bible/Church/World: The Challenge of Scripture to Changing Cultures, A Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders, Auburn Theological Seminary, June 2000

"Religion, Magic and Deviance: Foucault and the Bounds of Piety," Michel Foucault: Religious Explorations, A Scholars Colloquium Sponsored by the Visiting Jesuit University Professorship, Loyola University of Chicago, April 2000

"Law, Education, and Public Sphere Activisms," Whose Millennium?: Religion, Sexuality, and the Values of Citizenship, The City University of New York, April 2000

Respondent, "Engaging Communities: Union's Curriculum, Urban Realities: A Curriculum Symposium funded by the Carpenter Foundation," Union Theological Seminary, March 2000

"Do Religion and Lawyering Really Have Anything To Do With Each Other?", Religious Values and the Practice of Law: A Continuing Legal Education Course, Fordham University School of Law, March 2000

Participant, "Symposium on the Relationship between the News Media and Mainline Protestantism," The Aspen Institute Faith and Public Policy Program, Washington, D.C., June 1999

Panelist, "Public Curriculum and Religious Liberties: Accommodating Religious Points of View in the Public Curriculum," Public Curriculum, Private Choice: Cultural Liberties, Religious Liberties and Public Education Policy: A Symposium on Religion, Democracy and Public Education, New York University School of Law, March 1999

Panelist and moderator, "The Role of the Lawyer in a Situation of (Inter and Intra) Religious Controversy," Conference on Rediscovering the Role of Religion in the Lives of Lawyers and Those They Represent, Fordham University School of Law, December 1998

Respondent, "The Politics of Religious Illegitimacy," American Academy of Religion (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group), November 1998

"Philosophy of Religion and Its Other," American Academy of Religion (Philosophy of Religion Section), November 1997

"Orientalism and the Geographies of Magic," American Academy of Religion (Comparative Studies in Religion Section), November 1996

Presiding, "Where is Religion Going?: Twentieth-Century Evolutionary Theories of Religion," American Academy of Religion (History of the Study of Religion Group), November 1995

"Overlapping Consensus and Its Limits: The Relation of the Religious to the Political in the Recent Work of John Rawls," American Academy of Religion (Religion and the Social Sciences Section), November 1994

"Michael Taussig and the Experience of the Other," American Academy of Religion (Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group), November 1992

Panelist, "Discovering Religion or Inventing It?: The Context of Contact," American Academy of Religion (Religion and the Social Sciences Section), November 1992

Selected Public Lectures

"What Magic Means in the Modern World," The Mary Renault Society, Raleigh, NC, March 2013

Respondent, Philip Goff, "Politics and the Election," Duke Divinity School, October 2012

"Religion," Carolina United Retreat, UNC Chapel Hill, August 2012

Panelist, "Remembering Adrienne Rich: Readings and Reflections," Duke University, April 2012

Panelist, "Till Death Do Us Part: Marriage in the United States," The Parr Center for Ethics, UNC Chapel Hill, April 2012

Presenter, "Religious Difference in the Classroom," Teaching So Everyone Learns: Managing Culturally Difficult Topics and Situations in the Classroom, UNC Chapel Hill, August 2011

"Gender and Religion," Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill, NC, June 2011

Panelist, "David Wojnarowicz, 'A Fire in my Belly': Versions, Debates, Implications," Ackland Art Museum, UNC Chapel Hill, January 2011

"Global Christianity Today," Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC Chapel Hill, December 2010

"The Proposed Islamic Cultural Center at Ground Zero: How Do We Discuss the Issue?," Carolina on the Road Conversation Series, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC

Chapel Hill, New York, November 2010

"Visions of Life After Death," Ackland Art Museum, UNC Chapel Hill, November 2010

"Religious Freedom and the Modern World," Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle, Chapel Hill, NC, September 2010

Facilitator, "Facilitating Difficult Dialogues in the Classroom," Teaching So Everyone Learns: The Inclusive Curriculum Workshop, UNC Chapel Hill, August 2010

"Spinoza and the Origins of Religious Freedom," Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC Chapel Hill, April 2010

"Religious Freedom," RELIC Forum, UNC Chapel Hill, February 2010

Panelist, "Marriage and Family Rights: Who's Allowed and Who Decides?," The Parr Center for Ethics, UNC Chapel Hill, April 2009

Panelist, "*For the Bible Tells Me So: Religion in American Gender Politics*," UNC Chapel Hill, October 2008

"Believers and Infidels: When Religion Divides the World," Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Federation 2008 Ministers' Conference, Judea Reform Synagogue, Durham, N.C., February 2008

"Religion, Magic, and Science," College for Lifelong Learning, General Alumni Association, UNC Chapel Hill, November 2007

Panelist, "Who Deserves to Die?: The Ethics of Capital Punishment," The Parr Center for Ethics, UNC Chapel Hill, October 2007

Moderator, "*Jesus Camp* and American Religion," UNC Chapel Hill, March 2007

Panelist and Facilitator, "Feminist Ethics: Celebrating the Life and Teachings of Beverly Wildung Harrison," Holy Ground, First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, N.C., March 2007

"Christianity and the Right to Marry," UNC Chapel Hill, October 2006

Moderator, "Christian Diversity in Contemporary America," UNC Chapel Hill, October 2006

Panelist, "Contraception, Abortion, and World Religions," UNC Chapel Hill, March 2006

"Tough Religious Questions and Why You Should Be Asking Them," UNC Chapel Hill Carolina Crossfire, December 2005

"Justifying Executions: Current Theological Arguments in Favor of the Death Penalty," UNC Chapel Hill Religious Studies Department Seminar, October 2005

"Competing Freedoms? Balancing the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses," Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC Chapel Hill, July 2005

Panelist, "Debates over Same-Sex Marriage," UNC Chapel Hill, March 2004

"How Magic Makes Religion," North Carolina State University, November 2003

"The Idea of the Miraculous," North Carolina Renaissance Program, UNC Chapel Hill, May 2003

Panelist, "When Religions Go to Work," Triangle Society of Human Resources Management/ Raleigh-Wake County Human Resources Management Association Annual Joint Meeting, February 2003

"Magic and Religion in the Modern World," Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC Chapel Hill, October 2002

"God in Postmodern Thought," Columbia University, March 2002

"Perspectives on Divine Action," three-week study course, First Church of Christ Congregational, Redding Center, Connecticut, March-April 2001

"Perspectives on Divine Action," two-week study course, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, New York, December 2000

"Peacebuilding," presentation with Thomas Porter, Union Day, Union Theological Seminary, April 2000

"Miracles and Divine Action," six-week study course at The Riverside Church, New York, February-March 1999

Panelist, "Forming Theologies at Union: The Connective and Cutting Edge," Union Day, Union Theological Seminary, April 1998

"Miracles, Magic and Divine Action," First Congregational Church, Greenwich, Connecticut February 1998

Professional Service

Academic Journals and Administrative Leadership

**Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group,
American Academy of Religion**

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, 2009 to present

Member, Steering Committee, 2005 to present

**Social Theory and Religion Cluster,
American Academy of Religion**

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, 2011 to present

Member, Steering Committee, 2011 to present

**Law, Religion, and Culture Group,
American Academy of Religion**

Member, Steering Committee, 2007 to present

North American Association for the Study of Religion

Member, Executive Council, 2007-2010

**Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group,
American Academy of Religion**

Member, Steering Committee, 2007-2012

Association for Religion and Intellectual Life/*CrossCurrents*

Board of Directors, 2003 to present

Critical Research on Religion: An Interdisciplinary Journal

Member, Editorial Board, 2012 to present

Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft

Editorial Board, 2005 to present

Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Editorial Board, 1998-2004

Memberships in Professional Organizations

American Academy of Religion

North American Association for the Study of Religion

Societas Magica

New York State Bar (admitted 1985)

Legal Experience

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles and New York

Corporate associate, 1984-90, with experience including general corporate practice, project finance, mergers and acquisitions, general securities and financial institutions work, and certain labor matters; member of the firm Hiring Committee

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles

Summer associate, 1983

Cravath, Swaine & Moore, New York

Summer associate, 1982

New Haven Legal Assistance, New Haven, Connecticut

Research assistant in family and consumer law, 1981-82

Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Summer associate, 1981

North Carolina Institute of Government, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Research intern with the North Carolina Division of Prisons, Summer 1980