

Jennifer Grace Bird
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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Ph.D., New Testament (2007)

Graduate Department of Religion

Directors: Professor Fernando Segovia – main director, Elisabeth Schüssler
Fiorenza, Daniel Patte, Ellen Armour, Robert Barsky (French and Italian)

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

Master of Divinity, May 2001

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, May 1994

Education minor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Instructor – Koine Greek (Fall 2006 – present)

- Teaching the content of the chosen grammar, for a class of 27 students
- Creating methods that appeal to various learning styles for students to engage the material

Teaching Fellow – New Testament Introduction (Spring 2005, 2006)

- Facilitated weekly discussion sections, some direct teaching involved
- Graded exams and papers

Teaching Fellow – Pauline Christianity: Paul's Letter to the Romans (Fall 2003)

- Facilitated weekly discussion section, encouraging students to comprehend interpretations other than their own

Institute for Reading Development, Nashville, Tennessee; Huntsville, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana

Instructor – Ages 4 – 65 (Summer 2004)

- Taught eight different age appropriate reading courses, 15-30 students per class
- Monitored and instructed individuals according to their needs

Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Paul and his Writings (Fall 2001, 2002)

- Taught one class a semester, unobserved by the Professor

Graduate Teaching Assistant – New Testament Survey (Fall 2001, 2002; Spring 2002)

- Constructed and taught weekly review sessions
- Taught 1-2 classes a semester
- Tutored students one-on-one

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (Fall 2000-Spring 2001)

- Team-taught two precepts—the third class meeting per week
- Clarified weekly content, answered homework questions
- Reviewed for and graded all exams

Department of Mathematics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia

Student Teacher – Giles High School, Pearisburg, Virginia; Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Advanced Algebra 2 & Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus (Fall 1993)

- Prepared all lesson plans, graded all papers
- Implemented cooperative learning techniques

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant to Daniel Patte, Chief Editor of the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity* (Fall 2003 to present)

- Editing entries
- Finding authors for entries and crafting the letters inviting their involvement
- Actively involved in writing the templates used by all authors to ensure consistency

Interim Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Summer 2002-Summer 2003)

- Directed Youth Ministry, including weekly bible studies and Sunday programs
- Lead two Sunday worship services as liturgist, once a month as preacher
- Visited hospitalized members

Seminary Student Intern, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York (Fall 1999-Spring 2000)

- Involved weekly in leading worship, familiarized with leading all aspects
- Created and taught a four-week adult education class on the Synoptic Gospels
- Lead an evening Bible study for young adults
- Taught confirmation classes

Youth Pastor, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York (Spring semester 1999)

- Taught weekly meetings for high school students, commuters from all parts of the city and surrounding areas
- Lead their annual mission trip to Maine, working on homes

ADVISING

- Susan Hall. D.Min. Dissertation Project, "Getting a Foot in the Door: Introducing Feminist Theologies to Evangelical Women." San Francisco Theological Seminary, Fall 2006 to present.
- Bridget Culpepper. "Feminist and Post/colonial reframing of Biblical story for children." Practicum II, Marylhurst College, fall 2006.
- Bridget Culpepper. "Introduction to Feminist Theology." Practicum I, Marylhurst College, presented March 2006.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Joseph Marchal. *Hierarchy, Unity, and Imitation: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Power Dynamics in Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. Review of Biblical Literature (forthcoming).
- Caroline Vander Stichele and Todd Penner. *Her Master's Tools? Feminist and Postcolonial Engagements of Historical-Critical Discourse*. Bible & Critical Theory (pending).
- Carolyn Osiek and Margaret Y. MacDonald, with Janet H. Tulloch. *A Woman's Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. Bible & Critical Theory 2/2 (2006).
- Athalya Brenner. *I Am: Biblical Women Tell their Own Stories*. Bible & Critical Theory 1/4 (2005).
- Kathy Ehrensperger. *That We may be Mutually Encouraged: Feminism and the New Perspective in Pauline Studies*. Bible & Critical Theory 1/2 (2005).
- C. Clifton Black. *The Rhetoric of the Gospel*. Koinonia XVI (2004): 190-3.

ARTICLES / BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Circumscribed Symptomatic Symbolism: A Feminist Materialist Critique of 1 Peter." *Marxist Feminist Criticism of the Bible*. Roland Boer and Jorunn Økland, editors. Sheffield Phoenix Press, pending.
- "Ephesians." In Fernando F. Segovia and R. S. Sugirtharajah, eds., *A Postcolonial Commentary of the New Testament Writings*. London-New York: T & T Clark International, forthcoming: 2007.
- "Reading the Readers Ideologically: Prolegomena to a Study of 1 Peter." *Bible & Critical Theory*. 3/2 (2006).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Speaking at the "June Ramsey Class," First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee (Fall 2006)
- "Imperial Echoes," Second Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee (Spring 2005)
- "Finding Our Way through the Wilderness," St. George Episcopal, Nashville, Tennessee (Spring 2004)
- "Ephesians," First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Spring 2003)
- "Synoptic Gospels," First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Fall 2002)
- "Why Should We Care about the Apostolic Fathers?" First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Fall 2002)
- "Women in the New Testament," First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Spring 2002)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Membership:

- Society of Biblical Literature* (Spring 2001 – present)
- American Academy of Religion* (Spring 2006 – present)

Presenting:

- "Paul Wants You!: A Re-Interpretation of the Letter to the Philippians." Critical Theory and Biblical Interpretation. ISBL, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2006.
- "Circumscribed Symptomatic Symbolism of 1 Peter's *Haustafeln*." Ethical and Hermeneutical Issues in New Testament Studies. SECSOR Regional Meeting, Atlanta, 2006.
- "Reading the Readers: Representation and Ideology as Communicated through 1 Peter." Bible and Social Location Section. ISBL, Groningen, The Netherlands, 2004.

Presiding:

- Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (2006)
- Methods in New Testament Studies. ISBL, Edinburgh, Scotland (2006).
- Violence and Representation of Violence among Jews and Christians Consultation. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (2005)

- On-campus Student Representative for the Student Advisory Group:*** Vanderbilt University. December, 2005 – present. One year position.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS and SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships and Fellowships:

Graduate Department of Religion. Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Fall 2003, 2006;
Spring 2005, 2006, 2007.

Vanderbilt University Graduate Studies Department. University Tuition Scholarship and
University Fellowship. Fall 2003 – present.

Travel Grants:

Vanderbilt University Graduate Studies Department. ISBL Conference Travel Grant.
Edinburgh, Scotland (2006); Groningen, Netherlands (2004).

Vanderbilt University Graduate Studies Department. Southeastern Regional SBL
Conference Travel Grant. Atlanta, 2006.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

New Testament and Early Christianity

Critical Ideological Methods: feminist, postcolonial, materialist; general literary and
cultural studies

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge: Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek; French and German

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Fernando Segovia, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Daniel Patte, Ellen Armour, Robert
Barsky

REFERENCES

Fernando Segovia

Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity

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Choon-Leong Seow

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